

burrenbeo trust

open your eyes to the living burren



Burrenbeo Trust Monthly E-Newsletter May 2009

Burren in Bloom 2009 Celebrate the onset of another flowering season in the Burren with four jam-packed weeks of walks, talks and free events. Speakers include Susan Sex, Cillian Roden, Helen Goldie, Maria McNamara, Sharon Parr and others. Talks venue: Newtown Castle in Ballyvaughan. Weekend and weekday walks all across the Burren with local experts. Not to be missed - programme at www.ballyvaughanireland.com

Farmers' markets kick off in Ballyvaughan and Kinvara The grand opening of Kinvara Farmers' Market takes place on Friday 1st May at 10am in Johnston's Garden, behind the Hostel, Main St., Kinvara. It will then run every Friday from 10am to 2pm. All potential local producers or stallholders are asked to contact Rosaleen at 0872835425 or rosaleens@eircom.net Well worth a visit, your support will be greatly welcome.

Ballyvaughan Farmers' Market will reopen on Saturday 2nd May featuring a miscellany of quality local produce including fresh local fish. The market will trade at St John's Hall Car Park, opposite the Garda Station every Saturday from 10am till 2pm. Contact Tracey on 087 2911092 or ballyvaughanfarmersmarket@eircom.net.

'Arts and the Law' in the Burren The annual Burren Law School will take place this year over the May bank holiday weekend in Newtown Castle, Ballyvaughan, Co Clare and the theme this year is Arts and the Law. Featuring the former chair of the Arts Council of England Sir Christopher Frayling, writer Fintan O'Toole and former journalist Mary Kerrigan. Further details on www.burrenlawschool.org Bookings at 065 707 7200.

Pol an Ionáin Recently lodged plans to build a visitor centre at Doolin Cave in north Clare have run into opposition from An Taisce, the Pol an Ionáin Action Group and Ailwee Caves. Doolin couple John and Helen Browne opened the cave - which features the 8.3m-tall Pol an Ionáin stalactite - to the public three years ago. The Brownes say the cave is not viable without on-site facilities - visitors are currently bussed from Doolin.

Cliffs Award - The Cliffs of Moher were presented with the award for Best Irish Visitor Attraction at the inaugural Irish Consumer Travel Awards in the RDS on April 21st. The Cliffs are contending for a place amongst the finalists for the global vote to find the New 7 Wonders of Nature. Vote on www.new7wonders.com.

Art Camps - The Russell Gallery are organising Art Camps this Summer for kids age 6-12. Painting, pottery, drawing, mixed media, and puppet-making with Jole Bortoli, Andy Russell and Sarah Fuller. Mon. July 13th to Fri 17th, and Mon August 12th to Fri 16th. Cost: 95 euro for 5 days camp, 3 hours a day. info@russellgallery.net

Burren Slow Food 2009 Taking place in Lisdoonvarna from Friday May 15th to Sunday May 17th this year, the Burren Slow Food Festival promotes some of north Clare's finest food producers. www.slowfoodclare.com



Upcoming Burren Events <http://www.burrenbeo.com/news-eventscalendar.aspx?objID=May>

Burren National Park Sunday May 3rd. Burrenbeo Trust Monthly Walk Led by Jesmond Harding - *Butterflies of the Burren*. Meeting point - Gortlecka Crossroads, 2pm. Pre-booking required. Small fee applies to non-members of the Burrenbeo Trust. Info on www.burrenbeo.com or 091-638096.

Corofin Sunday May 3rd at 4pm The 10th Annual Stone Throwing Championship at Campbell's Yard, Main St, Corofin. Cost: € 5 in aid of the Christmas Lights Contact Anne Campbell 065 6837713 Email: anne_campbell_6@hotmail.com

Lisdoonvarna Friday May 1st - Monday May 4th. *Outdoor Landscape Painting Course* in the Burren with tutor Dorothee Roberts. Friday May 8th- Monday 10th - Botanical Painting in Watercolour with tutor Jill Winch.

Saturday May 23rd Outdoor Landscape Painting Competition. 065-7074208 or info@burrenpaintingcentre.com

Kilnaboy Sunday 3rd May, 12 - 2pm. *Himself, Himself and the Others*. Wexford-born artist Michael Fortune will be presenting video works and photographs at the X-PO. A body of work that reveals the overlooked, the commonplace, and the creative inventiveness inherent in the human condition, with both humor and empathy. Open Thursday: 2-5pm, Friday: 10.30am - 12.30pm, (Coffee Morning) and Sunday: 2 - 5pm.

Ennis Tuesday May 5th. *Biodiversity and Climate Change* A Lecture by Eanna Ni Lamhna President of An Taisce. Great Hall, Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis at 8pm. There will be exhibits and stands of like-minded voluntary organisations and entrance is free. Contact: KULYANA@iol.ie or 086-197 6104.

Ballyvaughan Tuesday 5th May onwards - Burren in Bloom Festival. A series of walks, talks and other events such as live music to celebrate the arrival of many of the Burren's botanical beauties and other elements of her natural history. For more information on the *Burren in Bloom* events check out www.ballyvaughanireland.com

Tubber Thursday May 7th Free Lecture: *Tony Diviney - The Holy Wells of Beagh Parish*. Final talk in the BurrenLIFE series of heritage education talks continues in the Community Hall, Tubber, Co. Clare. 8.30pm and free admission

Ballyvaughan Thursday May 21st *A Botanical Artist in the Burren - A lecture* by Susan Sex. Burrenbeo Trust in Conjunction with the Burren in Bloom Festival. Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan. Free Admission.

Kilfenora Friday May 22nd 8.30 pm. Book Launch: *The Burren and the Aran Islands - A Walking Guide*. Written by Tony Kirby and published by The Collins Press, this book will be launched by Burren farmer PatrickMc Cormack at the Burren Centre. Followed by live music and get-together to follow launch in Nagle's pub, Kilfenora.

New Quay Friday May 22nd *Moonlight To Midnight Walk At The Flaggy Shore* Sponsored walk in aid of The Clare Hospice at Cahercalla. For more info contact Joe Queally 087 6260301 Mary Moloney 087 6452611 10pm to Midnight (Full Moon). Assemble at the Flaggy Shore, New Quay at 9.30pm Ramble at 10pm sharp - approx 5 miles

Ballyvaughan Saturday May 23rd *The Clare Burren Marathon Challenge* is organising the full, half and mini-marathon departing from the village. For more information look up www.clareburrenmarathonchallenge.com

Burren Monday, May 25th- Sunday May 31st. *The Burren Rocks!* A week-long festival in celebration of the fantastic geology and landscape of the Burren. The festival is packed with over 15 events and activities to help you discover not only the geological secrets of the Burren, but also its flora, fauna, history and culture. www.burrenconnect.ie

Ennistymon Saturday May 30th-31st. The *North West Clare Agricultural Show* is held at the Falls Hotel. With showjumping, showing classes for horses, ponies, donkeys, cattle, sheep, home crafts, dogs, set dancing etc.



Flowering now: Mountain avens (*Dryas octopetala*), Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*) and Cat's foot (*Antennaria dioica*).

Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates

Monthly Walk: The Burrenbeo Trust held the third of its monthly walks on April 5th last. Over 50 Burren enthusiasts braved the spring showers to enjoy an excellent introduction to the Burren's amazing geological heritage courtesy of Dr. Maria McNamara of the Burren Geopark Project. The next walk of the Burrenbeo Trust will take place on Sunday May 3rd with butterfly expert Jesmond Harding. For more info. on this event, please contact info@burrenbeo.com or telephone 091-638096. Booking in advance is necessary.

Monthly Talk: British Lichenologist Ivan Pedley delivered a wonderful multimedia presentation on Lichens on April 23rd last. Armed with a collection of beautiful slides he managed to steer the audience through the wonderful and luscious world of lichens that exist in cemeteries. The next Trust talk will be on Thursday 21st May with Susan Sex. The talk '*A Botanical Artist in the Burren*' will be held at 8.30pm in the Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan.

Eco-Beo: Four schools (Ballyvaughan, Tierneevin, Lisdoonvarna and Doolin) with over 100 enthusiastic budding Burren experts are currently working on week 5 of this 20-week course. Already the children have heard from Dr. Brendan Dunford (*A Burren Introduction, Farming and Conservation*), Dr. Maria McNamara (*Geology of the Burren*) and Zena Hctor (*Burren in Prehistory, Burren History*).

Research and Advocacy: The Burrenbeo Trust, in conjunction with Burren IFA and with support from The Heritage Council held three public meetings for farmers from the 27th-29 April on the subject of: '*Looking Ahead - working to secure a brighter future for the Burren and its people*'. These key stakeholders who own most of the Burren and who have managed it for generations, want to have their voice clearly heard. The purpose of this survey was to identify the key needs, concerns and aspirations that farm families living in the Burren have for their farm and for the Burren in general. This information will be used to inform the work of the Burrenbeo Trust and the Burren IFA at what is a critical juncture for the future of the Burren. The survey findings will be published in the coming weeks

New Appointment: The Burrenbeo Trust are delighted to announce the appointment of Brigid Barry as Communications Officer with the Trust. Brigid previously worked as Biodiversity Officer with Clare County Council, and within other conservation organizations in England and further afield before joining the Trust in April.

Burrenbeo Resource Centre: The Burrenbeo resource centre and Café Beo in Kinvara are now open for business, Wed - Fri 10am - 4pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 12-5pm. Downstairs the Resource Centre contains loads of free information on the Burren - what to do, where to go, where to stay etc. Upstairs in Café Beo, you can get the best cup of coffee and vegetarian dishes served in the Burren. The Café is also a great place to get free Wi-fi, buy books on local and natural heritage, and catch up on what's new in Kinvara and the Burren.

Membership: Join us in the Burrenbeo Trust and play your role in the protection of the Burren by calling us on 091 638096/087 9689486, by e-mailing us on info@burrenbeo.com or by visiting www.burrenbeo.com

