



Galway Heritage Awards

Congratulations to Galway East Tourism group (see their excellent website on www.galwayeast.com) who have won the overall prize at the Galway County Heritage Awards for their 'Wayfinding Project'. This unique and innovative project explores the rich ecclesiastical and architectural heritage of east Galway (much of which lies in the Burren) using a range of media including MP3 audio files, satellite navigation technology, and PDF downloads from the project's website at www.galwayeast.com/wayfinding Congratulations also to the organizers of 'The Aughty Gathering' who won an award for their annual heritage conference focusing on the hidden heritage of the Slieve Aughty Mountains www.oughty.org

New Burren Geologist Appointed

Burrenbeo would like to welcome the recent appointment of geologist Dr. Maria McNamara to her new and exciting position in the Burren. Dr McNamara's work will involve raising awareness of, and respect for, the Burren's geological heritage, developing walking trails and visits to sites of geological significance, and also to engage in a consultation process with a wide range of Burren stakeholders with regard to the possible future designation of the Burren as a Geopark. This appointment has been jointly funded by the Geological Survey of Ireland, Clare County Council and Shannon Development and the post will be based at Clare Co. Co. offices in Ennistymon, Co. Clare.

Green light for Cliffs Park and Ride

Clare-based company Atlantis Development Ltd have received planning permission to build car parking for 385 cars and 10 coaches at Liscannor and 120 car and 3 coach parking spaces at Doolin. The parking facilities are intended to act as 'park and ride' bases for visitors to the Cliffs of Moher Centre. While the developers claim the works will create 30 new jobs, and that they will help ensure a greater spread of the benefits from the 1 million plus tourists who visit the Cliffs of Moher every year, there has been local opposition to the development and concern about its impact on the towns involved.

New publication: 'GROUND UP' - reconsidering contemporary art practice in the rural context

A new publication edited by Fiona Woods and featuring the work of artists such as Amanda Dunsmore, Deirdre O' Mahony, Aine Phillips and Therry Rudin, as well as essays by Maja and Reuben Fowkes, Matthew Lennon and Siobhan Mulcahy, will be launched on Wed. 17th September at 6.30 pm at the Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan. A Dublin-based launch will take place on Fri. 26th September at 6.30 pm at the Atrium, Temple Bar Gallery and Studios. The launches will include guest speakers, music and refreshments. Publication on sale, price €15. www.shiftingground.net

Earth & Stone: a Burren Odyssey.

An exhibition of new work by artist Manus Walsh will be on display in Glor, Ennis from Sept 5th to 27th. Manus Walsh is an artist based in Ballyvaughan who has worked as an artist for more than 40 years and has exhibited in Chile, Spain, Germany and Ireland. Walsh's work has been described as cubist, abstract, impressionist, surreal, naturalistic and romantic. His latest exhibition 'Odyssey: a long series of wanderings and adventures' is an adventure through a wide range of media - oils, acrylic, watercolor, and mixed media - and should prove to be an exciting exhibition.



Autumnal fruits of the fertile rock: Guelder rose (*Viburnum opulus*) and Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*)

Sea Search

A pioneering new initiative titled 'Sea search' which aims to map and conserve the sea life around the Irish coast was launched in Doolin recently. Organised by the Burren Sub Aqua Club, the course aims to help to give divers the skills required to assist in creating a map of the marine ecology of our coasts. Sea Search hopes to work with sports divers to record marine life in their particular areas and to build up a database with the long term goal of helping to preserve the marine environment into the future. For more information, contact the Burren Sub Aqua Club on 086 8180044.

Clare-Voyance Exhibition

A new series of wordscapes and landscapes of Clare by artist Sheena Meagher will be opened on Fri. Sept 12th by Clare Arts officer Siobhan Mulcahy at the Courthouse Gallery in Ennistymon. Runs until Sat. October 4th (Tues – Sat, 12-5pm).

Horse Collection at New Quay

A new art exhibition featuring the work of Debi O'Hehir, Susan Webb, JimMcKee, Christopher Banahan, Charles Harper, Gordon D'Arcy, Ken Hall, Joice Shee, Julie Douglas, Margaret Kent and Andy Russell will be on display at the Russell Gallery in New Quay until September 21st next. 'The Horse Collection' features both painting and sculpture. Open Monday to Sat., 10am - 6 pm, Sunday 12 - 6pm. For more info contact 065 7078185 or visit www.russellgallery.net

Digging Caherconnell

One of Ireland's best-preserved stone forts, Caherconnell Stone Fort in the heart of the Burren, had its second archaeological dig during National Heritage Week. The excavation is being led by Dr Michelle Comber of NUI Galway and archaeologist Graham Hull. The aim of the dig is to investigate and date what appears to be an underground passage known as a souterrain attached to the fort.

Key insights into the status and use of Caherconnell Stone Fort were unearthed in the 10-day archaeological excavation undertaken last year. The fort is 40m (131ft) in diameter compared to the average of 20m (66ft) in other forts. The thick stone walls rising to over 3m (9.9ft) in places "show that considerable resources, particularly labour, would have been needed to build the cashel" according to Dr Comber, who is researching early medieval settlements in the Burren. Finds during the first ever excavation of the site have highlighted the fort's importance. Artefacts uncovered included two disc-shaped quernstones of the rotary type, used to grind cereals. Also found was an iron arrowhead, three inches in length with barbs at its base, the only one of its type to be found in Britain or Ireland. Content © 2008 The Irish Times

Some flowers still in bloom in the Burren this Autumn:

Though the flowering season is largely complete and the cattle are preparing to take to the hills, there are still remnants of the summers rich flora to be seen. Also, its a great time for blackberries and hazel nuts! Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), Herb robert (*Geranium robertarium*), Bloody cranesbill (*Geranium robertarium*), Mountain avens (*Dryas octopetala*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Eyebrights (*Euphrasia* spp), Cats ear (*Hypochaeris radicata*), Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), Carlina thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*), Common Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), St. Johns wort (*Hypericum* spp.), Goldenrod (*Solidago virgaurea*), Common knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*). **Below (l-r) Bell Heather (*Erica cinerea*), Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*) and Devil's but scabious (*Succisa pratensis*).**



Declan O'Rourke Concert at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience

Declan O'Rourke plays an intimate concert at the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience in the Ledge Theatre. Wine bar will be open on the night. 200 seats are available and early booking is recommended. Tickets €37.50. For more info, please contact bookings@cliffsofmoher.ie or phone 065 7086145

Burren Market Saturdays

Ballyvaughan Farmers Market. 10am – 2pm at St John's Hall Car Park in the heart of Ballyvaughan. Fresh local baked goods, veg and Burren meat. Contact Tracey at 065 7076963 or email: ballyvaughanfarmersmarket@eircom.net

Doolin Market & Craft Fair with 20 local producers, 1pm-5pm at the Russell Centre. Doolinmarket@gmail.com

Burrenbeo Resource Centre

Burrenbeo will open from Wednesday – Sunday 10am – 5pm (Sunday 12 – 5pm) this September.

Featuring free Burren information, ENFO environmental information, Digital info Hub and much more.

Upstairs at Café Beo – the best coffee (fair trade) in the Burren, tasty homemade vegetarian lunches, free wireless broadband, a free Burren library to peruse, friendly staff (Dana!) and a wonderful ambience.

Tel 091-638096 or info@burrenbeo.com

Life in the Burren 200 years ago – a taste of things to come??

Extracts from Dutton, H. (1808). Statistical Survey of the County of Clare. Published by the Royal Agricultural Society, Dublin.

The inhabitants of Burrin are 'greatly distressed for firing, which must ever remain a bar to any great increase of population...many miles square frequently occurring with scarcely a tree to enliven the dreary scene, and in situations which, from their extreme rockiness, are fit for little else'. 'In many places, if protected from the ravages of sheep and goats, the natural growth of oak, ash, quicken, hazel, thorn etc. would in a very few years clothe these naked rocks with a luxuriant growth'. To ensure an adequate supply of fuel 'cows and other beasts are generally kept in the house in winter and fed with potatoes, usually boiled and mixed with bran, if the price is reasonable'

'This barony is extremely rocky, but produces a herbage fit for sheep of middling size and short clothing wool, of which immense numbers are annually reared, and usually sold at the fair of Ballinasloe in October, and from thence drove into Leinster to be fattened at three years old; a small part feeds store bullocks, and a much smaller fattens them for Limerick or Cork market'. 'The herbage, produced in those of the best quality, is of the most nutritive kind, and plentifully intermixed with yarrow, white clover, trefoil (medicago), birds foot trefoil, and fattens a few black cattle and immense numbers of sheep, the mutton of which is amongst the best in Ireland'.

'In hot dry summers, the grass of the rocky regions before mentioned becomes quite brown and withered, and the stock are put to their shifts but, shortly after a shower of rain falls, there is an astonishingly rapid change to a charming verdure, and the ground produces a fine bite, where a few days before they were almost perishing'.

'A few farmers near towns hire their cows to their tenants, whose wives retail the milk; farmers generally have from four to eight; scarcely a cottier without a cow, some two, besides their succession'. The cottages are 'almost universally built of stone without any cement' and roofed using 'ribberies or stretchers', crossed by small tree branches, and covered with thin tough sods into which a selection of straw, fern, heath, sedge, or even potato stalks are inserted using a 'dibble'... every cottier has a small garden, chiefly occupied with cabbages; some few sow onions, parsnips etc, but the standing and favourite dish is potatoes and milk'.

