

Burrenbeo Trust Monthly E-Newsletter April 2009



New Booklet on Limestone Habitats published.

A beautiful new booklet titled 'Our Limestone Heritage' has just been published by the Irish Wildlife Trust. With simple text and stunning images, this publication highlights the exceptional importance of limestone habitats in Ireland and the need to improve our appreciation and management of them. It is available to download from www.burrenbeo.com and is also available in hardcopy from the Irish Wildlife Trust on www.iwt.ie. Produced with support from The Heritage Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Burren in Bloom 2009

A stellar array of speakers and walk leaders has been assembled for this year's Burren in Bloom festival in Ballyvaughan which takes place over the month of May. These will include UK-based karst expert Helen Goldie, botanical artist Susan Sex and Irish lepidopterist Ken Bond as well as a great line up of local experts including Maria McNamara, Sharon Parr, Stephen Ward, Gordon D'Arcy, Cillian Roden, Colin Bunce, Jim Hyland, Emma Glanville and David Lyons. Most events are free of charge, and most talks take place at the Burren College of Art. Download programme from www.burrenbeo.com. Sponsored by The Heritage Council and Grogan's Castle Hotel.

Celebrating 100 years of the Kilfenora Céilí Band

A unique event in the music and social history of Ireland will take place in the Burren village of Kilfenora on April 23rd -26th next when the centenary of the Kilfenora Céilí Band will be celebrated. This band has its origins in a village fife & drum band stretching back into the 1870s. Its roots lie in a web of local families who have supplied many of its members over the century over which time it won the Fleadh Cheoil three years running on two occasions - 1954-6 and 1993-5. The festival itself will include a range of indoor and outdoor events including Céilís with the Kilfenora, Four Courts and Tulla bands, a lecture by band-member Garry Shannon on the history of the band, a gala concert, a Sean Nós and Step Dancing workshop for children, a mass to remember late members of the band over the decades, the unveiling of a memorial plaque, a launch of the Kilfenora's band's new CD "Century". For more info please go to www.kilfenoraceiliband.com or e-mail kilfenoracelebrations@hotmail.com

The Burren Law School 2009 - Arts & The Law - A Contemporary and Brehon Perspective.

Directed by Sean Braiden, this year's Burren law school features speakers such as Fintan O'Toole, Robert Ballagh, Garry Hynes, Alan Stanford and Michael O'Suilleabhain. It runs from Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd May at Newtown Castle, Ballyvaughan. Full programme and booking form on www.burrenlawschool.org

The 4th Annual Aughty Earth Day Gathering, Tuamgraney, April 18th.

The Slógadh Eachtaí will take place on the 18th April next at 9.30am in St Cronan's church Tuamgraney. The purpose is to celebrate the uniqueness of Slógadh Eachtaí - the followers or people of Aughty - and make connections between people and places around Sliabh Aughty, an upland area to the east of the Burren. Speakers include artist Áine Phillips, Clare Senior Planner Gordon Daly, Archaeologist Franc Myles, Terry O' Regan from Landscape Alliance Ireland, and Clare FM presenter Paula Carroll. Email: slogadheachtai@gmail.com or visit www.oughty.org

Burren Events Calendar April 2009

Fanore April 4th Burren Walk in Aid Of Sister Ethel Normoyle's Missionvale Care Fund. Walkers meet at 11am on Saturday at O'Donoghue's Pub in Fanore for a 12.5 km Walk or a 6 km Walk along a magnificent scenic route in the Burren. Cost 20 euro per walker. Children free.

Burren: April 5th Burrenbeo Trust Monthly Walk led by Dr. Maria McNamara - *Geology of the Burren*. Pre-booking required. Small fee applies to non-members of the Burrenbeo Trust. Information on www.burrenbeo.com or 091-638096. Supported by The Heritage Council Local Heritage Grants Scheme 2009.

Tubber Thursday April 9th Free Lecture. Tony Diviney - *The Holy Wells of Beagh Parish*. 8.30pm in Tubber Community Hall. Free admission, all welcome. Part of the BurrenLIFE Project (BLP) Series of Illustrated Talks. Further info on 065 708 9000/087 292 5487 or info@burrenlife.com

Tubber Thursday April 16th Free Lecture. Michael Keane (Burren Farmer) & James Moran (BLP/ Teagasc) - *Farming for Conservation in the East Burren*. 8.30pm in Tubber Community Hall. Free admission, all welcome. Part of the BurrenLIFE Project Series of Illustrated Talks. Further info on 065 708 9000 or info@burrenlife.com

Carron Friday April 17th Dr Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (NUI Galway) - The results of a recent excavation of the O'Davoren law school at Cahermacnaughten. Venue: Caherconnell Stone Fort visitor centre at 8pm. Admission free.

Ennistymon: April 17th. The Liosmorhaun Singers in concert with the Dublin Concert orchestra and the London Symphony Chorus. Venue: The Church of St. Michael, Ennistymon. Featuring one of the world's premier choral ensembles with 200 performers, also Naomi O'Connell and Peter O'Donoghue. In celebration of the 10th anniversary of the remarkable Liosmorhaun singers Choir. Tickets cost €40. Book on 065-7077200.

Tuamgraney Sat April 18th 9.30am. The 4th Aughty Earth Day Gathering. Hosted by East Clare Heritage in the Heritage Centre, St Cronan's church, Tuamgraney. The day is open to anyone agus ta failte le gach duine.

Doolin: Sunday 19th April. The 7th Annual Walk (5 mile) of the Michael Dunleavy Foundation starts at the Russell Centre at 1pm. In aid of The Irish Cancer Society. Contact Mary O'Connor on 087-9080412 for details.

Carron Thursday April 23rd Burrenbeo Trust Monthly Talk. Ivan Pedley - *Sanctuary, Resurrection & Hope* - A Talk about Lichens in Churchyards. Pre-booking required. Small fee applies to non-members of the Burrenbeo Trust. Info on www.burrenbeo.com or 091-638096. Supported by The Heritage Council. Michael Cusack Centre, 8.30pm.

Tubber Thursday April 23rd Free Lecture. Zena Hctor - *A Sense of Place in Time - documenting our local heritage*. 8.30pm in Tubber Community Hall. Free admission, all welcome. Part of the BurrenLIFE Project Series of Illustrated Talks. Further info on 065 708 9000/087 292 5487 or info@burrenlife.com

Tubber Thursday April 30th Free Lecture. Shane Casey (Burren Farmer) & Ruairí Ó Conchúir (BLP) - *Farming in a time of Social and Industrial Change across the wider Burren*. 8.30pm in Tubber Community Hall. Free admission, all welcome. BurrenLIFE Project Series of Illustrated Talks. Further info on 065 708 9000 or info@burrenlife.com

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

Lisdoonvarna May 1st - May 4th - Outdoor Landscape Painting Course in the Burren with tutor Dorothee Roberts. May 8-10th - Botanical Painting in Watercolour with tutor Jill Winch. May 23rd Outdoor Landscape Painting Competition. Details from Chris O'Neill on 065-7074208 or at info@burrenpaintingcentre.com



In flower: Rue-leaved saxifrage (*Saxifraga tridactylites*), Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) and Barren strawberry (*Potentilla sterilis*). Some of the first flowers to be seen in the Burren every year.

Burrenbeo Trust News & Updates:

Education & Learning: Four schools (Ballyvaughan, Tierneevin, Lisdoonvarna and Doolin) with over 100 enthusiastic budding Burren experts have by now completed four modules (8 weeks) of the 20 week Eco Beo course. Already the children have heard from Dr. Brendan Dunford, Dr. Maria McNamara and Zena Hoctor on topics such as geology, history and archaeology. For those not involved in the course, many of the resource materials are posted on the Burrenbeo website. In addition, a range of fantastic interactive learning games developed by Burrenbeo, with support from ENFO and Burren Connect, is available by visiting www.burrenlearning.org/ Get your hands on them now - hours of learning fun!



Research and Advocacy: Burrenbeo have completed an in depth survey of Burren farm families regarding their vision for the future of their landscape. The study, funded by the Heritage Council and run with support of Burren IFA, is being co-ordinated by Dr. Cathy Walsh. The survey findings will be presented to Burren farm families at two workshops in April. The results of this pioneering research will then be published - watch this space.

Burrenbeo Resource Centre:



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

Membership: Membership of the Burrenbeo Trust continues to grow steadily. Join us in the Burrenbeo Trust and play your role in the protection of the Burren. Have your say in how the Burren is managed through the Trust by sending us on your opinions, or by giving us feedback on various issues. Join and your resources and support will be invested directly in local educational initiatives, information dissemination (via our resource centre, website, factsheets etc) and consultation (e.g. with Burren farm families). You can join by calling us on (091) 638096 by e-mailing us on info@burrenbeo.com or by visiting www.burrenbeo.com

Monthly Talks and Walks: Dr. Maria McNamara of the Burren Geopark project delivered an excellent lecture on the geology of the Burren at our last event in Kinvara. Those present were left in no doubt as to the wealth and range of geological heritage to be found in the Burren, and were infused with Maria's enthusiasm for the subject. Maria will also lead the upcoming walk of the Trust on April 5th next. The next Trust talk will be on April 23rd when lichen expert Ivan Pedley will speak about 'Sanctuary, Resurrection & Hope' while artist Susan Sex will talk about a botanical artist in the Burren on May 21st in a joint venture with the Burren in Bloom Festival. The May walk will be led by butterfly expert Jesmond Harding on May 3rd and will focus on the butterflies of the Burren.



Spring Gentians back in bloom



The sighting of the first gentians (*Gentiana verna*) of the year are a welcome sign of the summer ahead and the promise of another spectacular flowering season in the Burren. Our first gentian sighting report this year came from Mary Howard and her daughter Aoife (a past graduate of the Eco-Beo course) from Lisdoonvarna who spotted their first gentians at Fanore dunes in the Burren on Sat. 28th March. They also saw some early purple orchids at Black head. Please send us any interesting floral sightings you come across this year.

