

## WELCOME

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**Welcome to the November Edition of the Burrenbeo newsletter,** which comes to you a little earlier than usual to accommodate the Winterage Weekend. The bank holiday weekend is shaping up to be a brilliant mixture of events celebrating the Burren's farming traditions. We expect big numbers over the weekend so if you're hoping to attend some of the pre-booked events be sure and get your booking in fast. The leaves are changing colour and falling from the trees and the Burren is starting to really take on its winter appearance – always a great time of the year to get out discovering the many interesting monuments and geological features in the area.

## BURREN NEWS

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### **Burren Winterage Weekend is next week!**

The annual Burren Winterage Weekend (27th-30th October) includes a conference on high nature value farming, walks, talks, farm demos, open farms and evening story telling with the weekend all culminating with the annual cattle drive. There is something for all the family so do come join us. Visit [www.burrenwinterage.com](http://www.burrenwinterage.com) for all the information needed on the event. The full programme for this spectacular event is included on the following two pages.



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH

Even though the nights are drawing in, the hills are alive with the sight and sounds of herds of outwintering cattle, busily munching their way through the remnants of this past summer's floral blooms.

The turloughs (seasonal lakes) are back, as are the flocks of overwintering wildfowl who love to inhabit these wondrous wetlands. Not so much fun for cattle though!



# Burren Winterage Weekend 27<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> October 2016

## PROGRAMME

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

**BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL** Theme: *'Working with nature – a farmer-centred approach'*  
**WHEN:** 7pm- 10pm **ADM:** Booking required on Eventbrite **WHERE:** KILFENORA Kilfenora Community Centre

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

**BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL** Theme: *'Working with nature – a farmer-centred approach'*  
**WHEN:** 9am- 5pm **ADM:** Booking required on Eventbrite **WHERE:** KILFENORA Kilfenora Community Centre

**SHARING@SAMHAIN** Community Gathering and music followed by the Bord Bia Origin Green Burren Farming for Conservation Awards 2016. Traditional music in Linnane's Pub afterwards.

**WHEN:** 7pm-10pm **ADM:** Free/ Bring a dish to share **WHERE:** KILFENORA Kilfenora Community Centre

### Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2016

**HERDSMAN'S WALK 1: Conversation with the Landscape** With Patrick McCormack - Fundraiser for Burrenbeo Trust with tea and scones afterwards at Glanquin House (aka Fr Ted's House).

**WHEN:** 10am-12.30pm **ADM:** Booking required €30(€20 Trust members) on Eventbrite

**WHERE:** Nr KILNABOY Glanquin Farmhouse

**FARM DEMO 1: Burren Winterage School @ Marrinan's Farm** With John Marrinan and The Burren Programme

**WHEN:** 10.30am-12.30pm **ADM:** Free for Winterage School attendees/ Booking required on Eventbrite €10

**WHERE:** Nr CARRON Clooncoose Green Road

**HERDSMAN'S WALK 2: Farming, Folklore & Famine Villages** With PJ O'Donohue - Fundraiser for Burrenbeo Trust

**WHEN:** 11am-1.30pm **ADM:** Booking required €25(€15 Trust members) on Eventbrite

**WHERE:** FANORE Fanore Church Carpark

**KILFENORA HERITAGE WALKS & TALKS** A series of events hosted by the local community on the heritage of the area

**WHEN:** 10.30am-late **ADM:** All events are free **WHERE:** KILFENORA Meet outside Burren Centre on square

**WHAT:**

- **WALK**(10.30am-12.30pm): *Ballykinvarga ringfort and stories from local holy wells* with archaeologist Michael Lynch, Fr Ned Crosby and Stephen Hegarty
- **WALK**(1-2pm): *Geology, Landscape and Farming around Kilfenora* with geologist Dr Eamon Doyle
- **DEMO** (3-4.30pm): *Visit a firing lime kiln and learn the old lime making traditions* with Michael Slattery and the Torphy family
- **TALK** (5-6pm): *History & heritage in Kilfenora Cathedral* with historian Dr Peter Harbison and James Kelly (Kilfenora Timeline)
- **MUSIC** (9pm-late): *Traditional music* in Nagle's pub

**OPEN FARM for all the family** Visit a traditional family farm with lots of traditional machinery and more.

**WHEN:** 12 noon-3.30pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** Nr CARRON @Daly's Farm (Take Cahercommaun rd for 4km towards the high commons) Scones, tea and soup available. **WHAT:**

- **DEMO** (12.30-1.30pm): *Dry stone wall building demo* with farmers Michael Collins, John Marrinan, Anthony Carrig, & Jenny the Donkey
- **DEMO** (12.30-1.30pm): *The story of Burren gates* with Pdraig Howley
- **DEMO** (12-3.30pm): *Butter churning* with Gerry Keane
- **DEMO** (12-3.30pm): *Wool spinning* with Liz O'Connor

**SHORTHORN MART** *Opportunity to see Burren shorthorn cattle on sale at local mart*

**WHEN:** 1pm-3pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** KILFENORA Mart

**FARM DEMO 2: Burren Winterage School @ Lynch's Farm** *With Michael Lynch, Michael O'Grady and The Burren Programme*

**WHEN:** 1.30pm-3.30pm **ADM:** Free for winterage school attendees/ Booking required on Eventbrite €10

**WHERE:** Nr CARRON Clooncoose Green Road

**FOOD FAYRE Workshops** *Different workshops and pop up café*

**WHEN:** 2pm-4.30pm (doors open at 12noon). **ADM:** €30 for 3 workshops. See Eventbrite for bookings.

Contact Oonagh (087 6877890) for more info. **WHERE:** LISDOONVARNA Spa Wells Hall

**TRAVELLING BARD'S SESSION** *Humorous verse and story-telling with well-known bards such as Jimmy Rafferty (the current Bard of Armagh) and local bard Paddy Hynes performing on the evening.*

**WHEN:** 9.30pm-late **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** CARRON Cassidy's Pub

## **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2016** \*\*Please note that clocks go back overnight

**KILFENORA HARVEST MASS** *Mass with offerings from the harvest. Bring something from the harvest or something made with human hands. Kilfenora choir will perform.*

**WHEN:** 10am **WHERE:** KILFENORA Church

**BURREN FOOD FAYRE** *Local food stalls and cookery demonstrations*

**WHEN:** 11am-5pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** LISDOONVARNA Pavillion

**WINTERAGE CATTLE DRIVE** *Follow local landowners (Nagle & O'Halloran families) & their cattle up to their winter pastures. This is a 10km roundtrip or there is shorter option for those that wish.*

**WHEN:** 11.30am-3pm **ADM:** Locally made walking sticks available in lieu of donation to Burrenbeo Trust.

**PART 1 long walk (10km):** 11.30am: meet at mart for tea & scones to leave at midday, walking with Nagles' cattle to Ballykinvarga. Then walk up onto Noughval Church to meet O'Halloran's cattle at 1pm for the cattle blessing and a walk to the winterage. As there is limited parking at Noughval please start at the mart if possible.

**PART 2 short walk (3km):** 12.30pm park cars in time for blessing of the cattle at 1pm, then walk on road to a local winterage. Walk mostly on quiet country roads. Bring good walking shoes, outdoor clothes. No dogs. **WHERE:** KILFENORA Mart

**CONCERT WITH SONIC STRINGS & SWEDISH DALAVIOLISTERNA ORCHESTRA** *A group of 40 young musicians will perform an informal concert including classical and traditional pieces.*

**WHEN:** 4pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** KILFENORA Vaughan's Barn

### **A CLARE CEILI**

**WHEN:** 9.30pm-Late **ADM:** €5 **WHERE:** KILFENORA Vaughan's Barn

## **All Weekend, 2016**

**ART EXHIBITION Mary Fahy @ Cliffs of Moher** For more information go to [www.cliffsofmoher.ie](http://www.cliffsofmoher.ie) or call 065 7086141 **WHEN:** 9am-6pm **ADM:** Adults €6, concession €4, children free **WHERE:** CLIFFS OF MOHER Visitor Centre

**TRADITIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL Cooley Collins** [www.cooleycollinstradfest.com](http://www.cooleycollinstradfest.com) for more information

**WHERE:** GORT Various locations

A massive thank you to all the community members that have donated their time & resources to organising these events.

More details on all events, bookings, locations & last minute changes at

**[www.burrenwinterage.com](http://www.burrenwinterage.com)**

091 638096 / [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com)

### **Burren Programme Opens for applications**

The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed TD, recently announced the opening of Tranche 2 of the Burren Programme for applications from interested farmers. The Burren Programme is one of a suite of locally-led schemes being rolled out by the Department as part of its Rural Development Programme, targeted at farmers with SAC land and other species-rich grazed habitats in the Burren. It focuses specifically on the conservation of that unique farming landscape in counties Clare and Galway. Previous schemes targeting the Burren were piloted under the Burren LIFE Project (2005-2010) and the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme (2011-2015). Over 200 farmers were accepted into the Scheme under the first tranche, a one-third increase in participants in the previous scheme and the overall objective is to increase this number progressively in successive tranches. Contracts for all successful applicants will be for five years commencing on 1 January 2017. The application form is available on the Department's website at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/locallyledschemes/> and the closing date for applications is 25<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Further information on the Burren Programme can be obtained from: Burren Life, Telephone 065-7089000.



### **Heritage Council launch GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Grant**

The Heritage Council recently launched its GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings Grant Scheme for 2017. The scheme is designed to provide assistance to those GLAS farmers involved in conserving and securing Ireland's traditional farm buildings. The scheme which is as the result of a partnership between The Heritage Council and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine offers grants for approved conservation works to the exterior of farm outbuildings as well as associated structures such as historic yard surfaces, walls, and gates. The maximum grant available is circa €25,000 while the smallest grant available is €4,000. Application packs are available online at [www.heritagecouncil.ie](http://www.heritagecouncil.ie). The closing date for applications is 5.00 p.m., Friday 18th November 2016.



### **Have your say on the Clare County Heritage plan 2017 – 2023**

Clare County Council is looking for submissions on the next County Heritage Plan. Areas to be considered include the key priorities that the council should focus on, the main heritage issues that need to be addressed in the new plan and actions which should be achieved by 2023. Submissions may be made in writing to Forward Planning, Clare County Council, Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare or emailed to [forwardplanning@clarecoco.ie](mailto:forwardplanning@clarecoco.ie) on or before

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 4pm. All submissions should include your name and address and where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company etc. which you represent. For further information contact Congella McGuire, Heritage Officer, 065 6846408 or email [cmcguire@clarecoco.ie](mailto:cmcguire@clarecoco.ie).

### **High Nature Value Network Newsletter**

An interesting and informative newsletter about what's been happening in the various High Nature Value areas involved in the HNV link project has been produced and can be viewed [here](#). The Burren is one of the HNV learning areas and Burrenbeo Trust are a partner organisation for the project. All details on the project can be viewed at [www.hnvlink.eu](http://www.hnvlink.eu).

### **Burren National Park Visitor and Traffic Management Plan 2017 - 2030**

McGrath planning are looking for submissions on developing a Burren National Park Visitor and Traffic Management Plan 2017 – 2030. Written submissions which should include name and address of sender can be submitted by email or post by the 11<sup>th</sup> November to Brendan McGrath [brendan@bmcgrathplanning.ie](mailto:brendan@bmcgrathplanning.ie) or Riverstown Cottage, Corofin, Co. Clare.



### **6 Degree's West Exhibition at KAVA – “On the water's Edge”**

Kinvara Area Visual Arts is to host the new 6 Degrees West exhibition “On the Water's Edge” opening Thursday October 27th at 7:00 PM in the Old Courthouse, Kinvara. The exhibition runs until Sunday 6th of November at 6 pm. title and theme of this exhibition is “On the Water's Edge”. The show is concerned with our relationship with the waters in our environment and how it sustains and inspires us.

**Ballyvaughan Film Society** 7th winter season runs from October 2016 – February 2017 at the Burren College of Art. Season membership and individual film tickets available. Films commence at 8pm. November's films are Our Little Sister on Monday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> and The Measure of a Man, Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **News from Further Afield**

59<sup>th</sup> Roscrea Conference - Theme: Living off the Land in Medieval Ireland at Mount St Joseph Cistercian Abbey, Roscrea, Co. Tipperary on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Conference Fee: €65 (includes receptions, all lectures, coffee/tea). Full time students and unemployed €35. Further details on accommodation and attendance (part attendance is possible) available from Fr Kevin Daly 0505 25600, [guesthouse@msjroscrea.ie](mailto:guesthouse@msjroscrea.ie). Conference organiser and director George Cunningham, [georgecunningham@eircom.net](mailto:georgecunningham@eircom.net).

## BURRENBEO TRUST EVENTS CALENDER Nov 2016 (Print & Post)

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### Sun 6<sup>th</sup> 2pm Carron

Burrenbeo Trust November walk 'A polje, strange beds and veins: rocks and features of Carron' with Colin Bunce. Meet at NUIG Field Station, Carron (51R 286 992.) More info on 091 638096 or email [aine@burrenbeo.com](mailto:aine@burrenbeo.com).

### Sun 6<sup>th</sup> 11am Abbeyhill

The Ballyvaughan Fanore walking club are walking Abbey Hill & Oughtmama Churches. Meet at chip dump park, on right, half mile from top of Corker hill on way from Kinvara on the Carron/Bellharbour Rd. Contact Berry Guthrie & Pat Murphy 087 6608284

### Wed 9<sup>th</sup> 8.30pm Tubber

Burrenbeo Trust November talk title and speaker TBC – check social media and website. In Tubber Village Hall, Tubber, Co. Clare. More info on 091 638096 or email [aine@burrenbeo.com](mailto:aine@burrenbeo.com).

### Sun 13<sup>th</sup> 11am Fanore

The Ballyvaughan Fanore walking club are walking Fanore Green Roads Loop Walk via Caherbullog & Coolmeen. Meet at Top of Caher Valley overlooking Fanore (Brid Queally House). Contact Peig Cleary 086 8117886.

### Sun 20<sup>th</sup> 11am Ballyvaughan

The Ballyvaughan Fanore walking club are walking Dangan – Ballyaliban. Meet at The Pier Ballyvaughan. Contact Bernie Barry & John Sharry 087 2750315

### Sun 27<sup>th</sup> 11am Kilnaboy

The Ballyvaughan Fanore walking club are walking Mullach Mor - Blue Loop. Meet at Kilnaboy Cemetary at 10.30am carpool @ 10.45, walk @ 11am. Contact AnneMarie McMahon 087 9847025

### LAST CHANCE THIS WEEKEND.....

**April—Oct Burren** Every Monday the Burren Food Trail will carry out a themed food event will take place in locations around the Burren. [www.burren.ie](http://www.burren.ie)

**May—Oct Kinvara** Kinvara Farmers Market every Friday from 10am-2pm.

**May—Oct Ballvaughan** Ballyvaughan Farmers Market every Saturday in the village hall from 10am-2pm.

**May—Oct Ballyvaughan** Burren Arts and Crafts Market starts every Sunday in the village hall from 10am-6pm.



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## PLACE-BASED LEARNERS

*Learning about place, through place, in place.*

*Burrenbeo Trust aims to help connect people to the Burren landscape and their role in safeguarding it—this is place-based learning and community stewardship. The following sections give an insight into some of our programmes and how you can get involved.*

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### **Ecobeo and Áitbheo**

We are currently putting a lot of time into developing and updating the Ecobeo programme. There are some exciting ideas in the pipeline so bear with us and we'll be in touch with all local schools once we've finalised the details. We recently presented some of our ideas at the Teaching councils showcase of innovation in learning, Fáilte in the RDS and at the Iveragh Learning Landscapes Event in October.

### **Monthly Heritage Walks**

November's walk is 'A polje, strange beds and veins: rocks and features of Carron' which will be led by Colin Bunce. The walks will meet at 2pm on Sun 6th November 2016 at NUIG Field Station, Carron (51R 286 992). Perhaps the Burren's most distinctive feature, the geology of the area is fascinating. Colin Bunce will share his vast knowledge on the Burren's geological features on the Burrenbeo November walk. Meeting point will be the NUIG Field station at Carron. Please note there is additional parking in the adjacent gravel store. While not a strenuous walk, this will include some walking on limestone pavement and broken rock so a reasonable level of fitness is required. Good walking shoes or boots are recommended along with warm clothes and waterproofs etc. Since we will be walking on farm land where we may encounter livestock, unfortunately no dogs will be allowed. The walk start point is marked [here](#). The walk is open to everyone, and will focus on information sharing rather than covering long distances, although a reasonable level of fitness is required. It is free for Burrenbeo Trust Members and a donation of €10 is suggested from non-members. For more information please email [aine@burrenbeo.com](mailto:aine@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638096.

Thanks to the Pius Murray for leading the October Walk at Kilshanny. Thanks also to Mary and Aidan in Kilshanny House where the walkers convened for tea and scones after their afternoon ramble.



### **Winter Tea Talks**

The Tea Talks are back and we've returned to the village hall in Tubber. November's talks will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> November at 8.30pm, we'll have the kettle on from 8pm. The talk details are still to be confirmed – keep an eye on our social media and website for the details closer to the time. Thanks to Gordon D'Arcy for giving the October talk, where he launched his new book 'The Breathing Burren'.

### **High Nature Value Farming**

Burrenbeo Trust are part of a new exciting project that is developing the Burren as one of 12 Learning Areas for High Nature Value Farming Europe. For more information on this project go [here](#).



## CONSERVATION NOTES

*We have developed this section to fill you in on what is special about the Burren, what are some of the conservation challenges, and how you can get more actively involved.*

The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers (BCV) are continuing to work on a range of projects including stone wall building and scrub clearing. Volunteer events are interesting, sociable and educational – why not get out and join the volunteers this month!

### **Archaeology**

The Burren is a hotspot for Irish archaeology with numerous sites still awaiting discovery. In recent years a plethora of excavations have taken place in a whole variety of different locations – mountain tops, caves and beaches – revealing more clues about the early people living in the Burren.

A shell midden (rubbish pile) near Fanore beach was discovered in 2008 and excavated in 2009 and 2011 providing the earliest recorded evidence of human activity in the Burren and confirming that the north Burren coastal area was occupied a few generations earlier than the first farmers.

Moneen cave in 2011 was discovered to be rich with archaeological finds possibly dating from 4000BC. Pottery shards, animal bones, a deer antler hammer and a human skeleton were among the items excavated from the cave. The excavation that took place here was the very first in Ireland to include a team of both local cavers and archaeologists.

Turlough hill has long been an area of interest for archaeologists and a large settlement is located on the summit, thought to date to about 3,000 years ago. It was most recently excavated in the summer of 2016 and evidence is thought to show that it could be a gathering site rather than a place of full time residence.

Roughan Hill is abundant with prehistoric archaeological sites and has seen many excavations taking place here over past few years. Two wedge tombs were the most recent to be excavated during the summer of 2016 – we are still eagerly awaiting the results from this dig. A neighbouring area is soon to be surveyed where it is suspected that there are many other prehistoric features yet to be discovered.

The above describes only a small amount of the archaeological work that has recently taken place in the Burren and our Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers have been lucky enough to be able to participate in many of them. Financially, some excavations are only possible with the help of our volunteers and our volunteers are richly rewarded with practical, hands on archaeological training and amazing experiences.

The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers work closely with local archaeologists on a huge variety of different projects. Any volunteer is welcome to come and help out on any of these projects – email [volunteer@burrenbeo.com](mailto:volunteer@burrenbeo.com) to be added to our mailing list so you can receive regular updates on all our up and coming events. No experience is needed – we always ensure necessary training is provided for all our events.

### **Events this month**

Monument site management

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> November

Parknabinnia/Roughan Hill @ 10am

Expert: Archaeologist R. O'Maolduin

Event outline: The Roughan Hill area of the Burren is full of ancient monuments which over time have unfortunately have become overgrown with hazel scrub. This event will see the volunteers clearing some monument sites under the expert guidance of archaeologist Ros O'Maolduin. Ros has spent much of his summer working with his School of Archaeology excavating sites in this area. He will be present throughout the event to explain the significance of the sites being cleared and answer any related questions.

Places need to be booked by emailing Kate at [volunteer@burrenbeo.com](mailto:volunteer@burrenbeo.com). When you have a place booked more details of the event will follow.



## Join the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers



Becoming a volunteer offers you an opportunity to build skills, knowledge about place and indeed, lasting friendships whilst also making a difference to the conservation of this unique landscape. This is an active group of conservation volunteers that have been working in areas of archaeology conservation, rare species monitoring, managing scrub encroachment and much more since 2010. We have 1-2 events a month. Why should you get involved?

- **Get outdoors, enjoy some healthy exercise and give something back in the region**
- **Learn new skills in conservation and heritage management**
- **Be part of a friendly, inclusive and active conservation community**

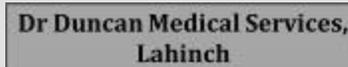
The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers are continuing to work on a range of projects including stone wall building and scrub clearing. Volunteer events are interesting, sociable and educational – why not get out and join the volunteers this month! This month's upcoming events are an archaeology event and a bat workshop. See below. **More information contact [volunteer@burrenbeo.com](mailto:volunteer@burrenbeo.com)**

## BURRENBEO TRUST BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

### BURRENBEO BUSINESS MEMBERS 2016

Please support these businesses that support the work of the Burrenbeo Trust working towards the future sustainability of the region together.

More details on our business members [here](#)



### Why not become a Burrenbeo Business Friend this year?

Not only are you supporting the education and conservation of the Burren region but you are giving your business an advantage—it is advertised here on our newsletter and on our website with an accumulative audience of 80,000 people. It is €180/€360/€600 for the year. Our business friends so far this year are listed above. More information go [here](#).

**Hazelwood Lodge, Ballyvaughan** A number of accommodation providers are offering an Autumn outdoor special, with further details are on the Discover Ballyvaughan website. The Hazelwood Lodge offer comprises 2 Nights Bed & Breakfast with 1 evening meal and a packed lunch on day 2 Only €99 pps mid week or €109pps at weekends. [www.hazelwoodlodge.ie](http://www.hazelwoodlodge.ie), [info@hazelwoodlodge.ie](mailto:info@hazelwoodlodge.ie), 065-7077092

**Crann Og Eco Farm** Email: [ecostayireland@gmail.com](mailto:ecostayireland@gmail.com) Tel: 085 145 3535

ReNature Retreat - No-Tech Retreat 3 day no-tech retreat combining Yoga & Nature Therapy

November 17th - 20th Investment: €300 all inclusive

Full & Natural Integration: We guide you away from technology and stress, slowing you down into the moment.

During our retreats, each moment, each experience provides the opportunity to reconnect with nature, yourself and the essence of community. Our No-Tech Retreats provide much needed nourishment for mind, body and soul. Visit [ecostayireland.com](http://ecostayireland.com) for all details and enrolment.

Nature School: 4 – 8 Year Olds

Forest schooling and place based learning classes: 4-8 year olds 2pm – 5pm

Saturdays; November 5th, December 3rd

Single class drop-in: €20.

Playing and learning in nature, starting to learn practical skills like shelter building, nature arts & crafts, learning about the woods & animals, animal mimicry games, rope swings, rope ladders & climbers, orienteering & wildlife observation. Outdoor education & play....we will probably get muddy & certainly have lots of fun being interactive and creative in nature. Visit [ecostayireland.com](http://ecostayireland.com) for all details and enrolment.