

## WELCOME

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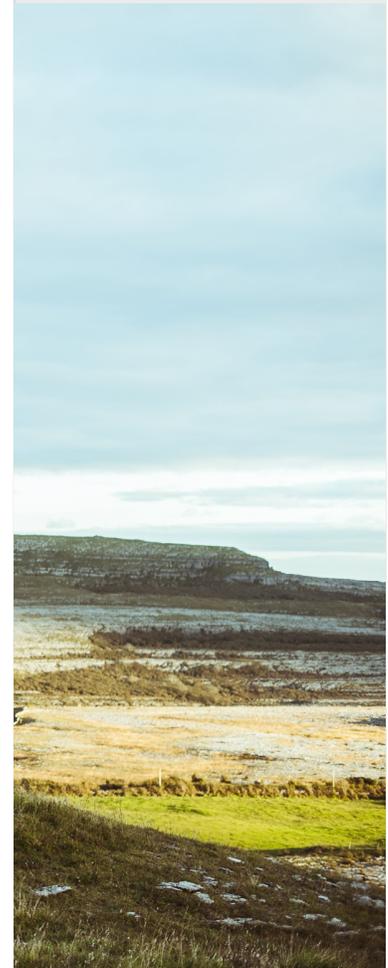
**Welcome to the October Edition of the Burrenbeo newsletter**, coming to you from a Burren that is slowly starting to change colour as Autumn takes hold. The bird population is also changing with our winter visitors making their way back from their summer homes. As the first herds of cattle make their way back onto the winterages the plans are underway for the Winterage Weekend at the end of month. There are a great variety of events to enjoy so be sure to check all the details on [www.burrenwinterage.com](http://www.burrenwinterage.com).

## BURREN NEWS

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### **The annual Burren Winterage Weekend is just a few weeks away!**

The annual Burren Winterage Weekend (27th-30th October) encompasses demonstrations, cultural events, informative talks, guided walks and much more across the Burren. The weekend will start with the **Burren Winterage School**, based in Kilfenora this will be a wide range of talks, farm demonstrations and stories from the ground on high nature value farming, the conservation outputs and what is involved. Anyone is welcome to attend but it must be booked in advance. This is now open [here](#) (€40-60). As per usual we have organised two herdsman walks across the Burren with those that know the local land and the local story best. These are fundraisers for the Trust and booking is available [here](#). Other main events include a food fayre in Lisdoonvarna of local produce and of course the annual Burren Winterage Cattle Drive whereby the community get together and drive a herd of cattle up a hill and celebrating this tradition as a group. This will be based out of Kilfenora this year. The programme is growing into an exciting array of events on [www.burrenwinterage.com](http://www.burrenwinterage.com). So keep an eye on the site so you don't miss out on new events that are added.



### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH

It is the season of fruits, nuts and berries. Get picking and get preserving for the winter—though leave enough for the wildlife!

The cattle are heading up into the winterage this month. The hills will be alive with stock—an unusual sight in the rest of the Ireland. Come to the Winterage Weekend to find out more about it.

October 31<sup>st</sup>, Halloween is an adaptation of a much older tradition called Samhain, a pagan festival when the flames of old fires had to be extinguished and ceremonially re-lit by druids. It was a time of reflection, casting out the old and looking to the new. In keeping with winterage, it marked the end of the pastoral cycle – a time when all the crops would have been gathered and placed in storage and when livestock would be moved and selected for slaughter or breeding. But it was also, as the last day of the year, the time when the souls of the departed would return to their former homes and when potentially malevolent spirits were released from the Otherworld and were visible to mankind.

### **Burrenbeo Tea Talks will be back in October**

Put the 2nd Wednesday of each month between Oct-Mar in the diary. The kettle will be on from the earlier time of 8pm in Tubber Village Hall and talks will start at 8.30pm. Speakers to be confirmed.

### **First Citizens Speak**

On Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm the film - First Citizens Speak will be shown at X-PO, Kilnaboy. The film focuses on older members of communities in North Clare – the memories, values and behaviours they hold dear- that are and were, important in achieving a strong sense of contentedness. The project idea was conceived by Corofin GP, Dr. Fergus Glynn who also acted as mediator for the project. Screening followed by an informal conversation between the artist Deirdre O'Mahony and Fergus Glynn to discuss the ideas that sparked the film, and how we might imagine a way of collectively designing for the future needs of an ageing population in rural Clare. This screening is the first of a series of films about ageing, programmed by Deirdre O'Mahony for X-PO and supported by Bealtaine festival - Ireland's national celebration of creativity as we age.



### **National Honours for Burren Food Trail**

The Burren has been announced as a runner up in a prestigious competition for the country's premier foodie destinations. The Restaurants of Ireland "Foodie Destinations Awards" recognises the dedication of local communities in developing a unique and sustainable food culture. Last year the Burren claimed the top prize but has this year has narrowly missed out on the honour at a ceremony in Doolin. Boyne Valley claimed the top prize following town visits by judges across the country and over 10,000 online votes.

### **North Clare Historical Society talk revisits Doolin 'Stone Axe Factory'**

The next talk in the North Clare Historical Society's current lecture series will take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October at the Courthouse, Ennistymon when Michael Lynch will present an illustrated talk entitled Doolin 'Stone Axe Factory' Revisited. This presentation will give the initial results from the recent excavation at Ballaghaline, Doolin and also an account of many of the stone axes from Co. Clare. Michael has previously lectured to the society on the Late Mesolithic Shell Midden excavation in Fanore. The talk will begin at 8pm. Admission is €5 and all are welcome.

**Ballyvaughan Film Society** 7<sup>th</sup> winter season will run from October 2016 – February 2017 at the Burren College of Art. Season membership and individual film tickets available. Films commence at 8pm. October's films are Tangerines on Monday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> and The Commune on Monday, Oct 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Citizen Scientists wanted to take part in national Coast Watch Survey**

If you enjoy walking on the beach and exploring rock pools why not get involved in this year's survey? This is a great activity for families, wildlife enthusiasts, scouts or school groups to get involved in. New volunteers are always welcome and no special knowledge or skills are required – so grab your wellies and hit the beach! A training day will be held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 12 noon at Trá Mór, Inverin led by local survey coordinators. Volunteers can get some hands-on practice at doing the shore survey and enjoy exploring the beautiful sea shore while contributing important information to this International project to monitor the state of our coastal environment. If you are interested in taking part simply go to [www.coastwatch.org](http://www.coastwatch.org) where you can download the survey questionnaire and guide notes. Elaine O'Riordan is the regional co-ordinator for County Galway. Contact 091 495921 or [Elaine.oriordan@nuigalway.ie](mailto:Elaine.oriordan@nuigalway.ie). The national co-ordinator is Karin Dubsy mob 086 8111 684 [kdubsy@coastwatch.org](mailto:kdubsy@coastwatch.org).

### **Old School House documenting project**

Enda O'Flaherty is working on a project documenting old school houses around Ireland. He recently photographed one at Kilnaboy on the edge of the Burren. If anyone knows of any more in the area that might be of interest, get in touch with Enda via his website [www.endaoflaherty.wordpress.com](http://www.endaoflaherty.wordpress.com) where you can also see all of his work to date including Kilnaboy.

### **News from Further Afield**

#### **Schools for Resilience**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October, a European Training Seminar on Schools for Resilience takes place at the WeCreate Workspace, Cloughjordan Ecovillage. This seminar will introduce a new approach in environmental education for schools, development education and Education for Sustainable Development, using a Place Based Learning methodology in the context of climate adaptation and community sustainability and resilience. Speakers will include Lizzy Noone, Project Officer at the WorldWise Global Schools (WWGS) Programme, Mikel Errazkin, Researcher and educational expert and Peadar Kirby, Professor Emeritus of International Politics and Public Policy at the University of Limerick. For more information and booking contact Davie Philip at [davie@cultivate.ie](mailto:davie@cultivate.ie) or +353 (0)505 6061.

#### **Convergence Sustainable Living Festival**

The Convergence Sustainable Living Festival takes place from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> October. Convergence brings together people and ideas to accelerate a transition to a low carbon, resilient and equitable society. Join the conversation [convergence@cultivate.ie](mailto:convergence@cultivate.ie) and more information available on [www.cultivate.ie](http://www.cultivate.ie).

#### **Mayo Dark Sky Park launched**

The National Parks and Wildlife Service, Coillte and the Friends of Mayo Dark Skies recently launched the Mayo Dark Sky Park at the Ballycroy National Park Visitor Centre. Minister of State for Regional Economic Development Michael Ring attended. Perhaps something that could be replicated in the Burren?

**Conamara Sea Week** is a multi-disciplinary festival, celebrating the wonderful marine heritage of Conamara which takes place in Letterfrack 23<sup>rd</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> October. More info on [www.ceecc.org/conamara-sea-week](http://www.ceecc.org/conamara-sea-week).



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

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### Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> 2pm Kilshanny

Burrenbeo Trust October walk 'A Ramble around Kilshanny' with Pius Murray at Kilshanny Church (51 R126929) More info on 091 638096 or email [aine@burrenbeo.com](mailto:aine@burrenbeo.com).

### Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> 11am Gort

The Ballyvaughan Fanore walking club are walking the 'Slieve Aughty Walk' meeting at St Thomas GAA club on N66 Gort-Loughrea Rd @ 10.30am walk @ 11am. Contact Laura McLaughlin & Mary Kelly. 087 7741916 / 086 1520541.

### Wed 12<sup>th</sup> 8.30pm Tubber

Burrenbeo Trust October talk '*The Breathing Burren*', a book launch and talk with Gordon D'Arcy in Tubber Village Hall, Tubber, Co. Clare. More info on 091 638096 or email [aine@burrenbeo.com](mailto:aine@burrenbeo.com).

### Sun 23<sup>rd</sup> 11am Ballyvaughan

The Ballyvaughan Fanore walking club are walking the Feenagh Vally – Pollberrin Walk. Meet at Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan @ 10.30, car share to Feenagh Valley @10.45 to start walk @ 11am. Contact Mary Droney 087 6817925. Oct 23rd Walk will be followed by The Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club AGM Venue & Time TBC

### 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> Kilfenora

Burren Winterage School. 'Working with nature – a farmer-centred approach' More information [here](http://www.burrenwinterage.com).

### 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Burren

A variety of event throughout the Burren as part of the Burren Winterage Weekend. All details on [www.burrenwinterage.com](http://www.burrenwinterage.com)

### 29th Glanquin

Herdman's Walk *Conversations with the Landscape* with Patrick McCormack 10am-12.30pm with tea and scones afterwards at the Glanquin farmhouse aka Fr. Teds. This is €30 or €20 for members. Book [here](http://www.burrenwinterage.com).

### 29th Fanore

Herdman's Walk *Farming, famine village and an Ocean View* with PJ O'Donoghue 11am-1.30pm. This is €25 or €15 for members. Book [here](http://www.burrenwinterage.com).

### 29-30th Lisdoonvarna

A food fayre of local produce. A series of workshops on the 29th and an open fayre on the 30th. Bookings needed for workshops. More information on [www.burren.ie](http://www.burren.ie)

### 30th Kilfenora

A Community Cattle Drive leaving from Kilfenora Mart. More details on [www.burrenwinterage.com](http://www.burrenwinterage.com)

### Other points of interest

**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.



## 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**

Schools are all well settled back at this point and this month we're looking forward to getting back to the Transition Year students in Seamount later in the month. We're also 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 are presenting some of our ideas this weekend at Féilte, the Teaching Councils Festival of Education in the RDS.

### **Monthly Heritage Walks**

This month's walk is a 'A Ramble around Kilshanny with Pius Murray meeting @2pm on Sun the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2016 at Kilshanny Church (51 R126929). Burrenbeo's October walk will be around the western edge of the Burren at Kilshanny, The walk will be led by Pius Murray who runs walks in the Burren through his company [www.coisceimanama.ie](http://www.coisceimanama.ie)—Footsteps of the Soul. Pius runs walks through the Burren and Inis Sheer and is a member of the Burren Ecotourism Network. While this will not be a strenuous walk you should wear good walking shoes and bring waterproofs and warm clothes as required. There will be an optional stop at Kilshanny House for tea and scones for an extra donation afterwards. 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 Jeuken family for leading the September walk around their farm. People on the walk also got to enjoy the hospitality in the Jeuken farmhouse after the walk.

Special thanks also to Shane Casey for organising our twilight Culture Night walk last month. By all accounts it was a really special event, thanks to all that contributed including Brian McGabhann from the Galway Astronomy Club, John Casey, Patsy Carrucan and Ritchie Jones for the songs and Richard Morrison for coordinating.



### **Winter Tea Talks**

The Tea Talks are back and we're returning to the village hall in Tubber. The first talk of the series will be 'The Breathing Burren', a book launch and talk with naturalist and artist Gordon D'Arcy on the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 at 8.30pm in Tubber Village Hall, Tubber, Co. Clare. With his new art-weighted new book, he celebrates the region with essays and attractive watercolours that convey a deep affection and intimacy. This will be a book reading and interview with Gordon D'Arcy and is open to everyone. However, it is free for Burrenbeo Trust Members and a suggested €5 donation from non-members. For more information please email [info@burrenbeo.com](mailto:info@burrenbeo.com) or phone 091 638096. Link to finding the Tubber Village Hall is [here](#).

### **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!

### **The Alien Invaders!**

Did you know that aliens are here around us, invisible to the unsuspecting eye? Perhaps they are taking over a habitat near you... Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are, after habitat loss, the second greatest threat to biodiversity worldwide. Once introduced to an area, the control, management and eradication where possible of IAS can be very difficult and costly. A vast amount of International, European and National legislation has been put in to place concerning the spread and management of IAS highlighting the serious nature of the threat caused by them.

IAS are animals, plants or other organisms introduced by man into places out of their natural range of distribution. When they become established they can have a negative impact upon the local ecosystems and species. Some invasive species can have an impact upon us too – e.g. Japanese knotweed can grow up through concrete or tarmac and destabilise building foundations. Luckily most non-native (alien) species do not cause any harm and only a small portion of them are considered to be invasive. There are various excellent websites detailing what species are classified as invasive and how to identify and manage them - check out two of them listed below: [The National Biodiversity Data Centre](#) [Invasive Species Ireland](#)

Members of the public are encouraged to record and report sightings of IAS but the biggest problem is many of us do not have the awareness of what are classified as IAS and what they look like. This is a perfect time of year for recording the presence of Japanese and Himalayan knotweed as they are in flower and therefore easy to spot. Follow these links and see if you have any of these knotweeds growing in your area: [Japanese Knotweed](#), [Himalayan Knotweed](#). If you do, sightings can be sent to the [National Biodiversity Data Centre](#) or if they are in the Burren region they can be sent to [volunteer@burrenbeo.com](mailto:volunteer@burrenbeo.com) where they will be added to our IAS map of the Burren.

The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers is currently running an IAS mapping project for the Burren and have created a google map recording all sightings of certain IAS in the Burren area. Anyone is welcome to add to the map and can do so by emailing [volunteer@burrenbeo.com](mailto:volunteer@burrenbeo.com) to obtain the map link and more information about our project. Our next IAS mapping day will be held on Sat 1<sup>st</sup> October in Carron – see below. Our ultimate plan is to finish the map as soon as possible and move onto the management of some IAS in the Burren– we can all make a difference one bit at a time!

There are many other groups around Ireland working on mapping and managing certain IAS – have a look on the internet and see what you can find in your area.

### **Events this month**

**Invasive Alien Species mapping** Sat 1<sup>st</sup> October Carron @ 10am

As this is a perfect time of year for identifying Japanese knotweed we will be meeting up in the heart of the Burren with the specific purpose of mapping any occurrences of this particular IAS in the Burren.

We will begin with a short presentation on how to identify Japanese knotweed, then we will divide into small groups and set off driving around specified routes in the Burren to map what we can find. ID sheets will be available to all who attend. All results collected will be added to our IAS google map and shared with Clare County Council and the National Biodiversity Data Centre. We will meet back in Carron at lunchtime to share results and have a picnic together.



**What to bring:**

You will need paper and a pencil or two, maybe a flask of tea or coffee so you can have a break when driving around, your lunch and something to share at lunch time if you wish (a great way to make new friends or test your baking skills!). Tea, coffee and cake will be provided at lunchtime. 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**

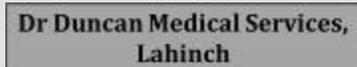
The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers are continuing to work on a range of projects including stone wall building and scrub clearing. Volunteer events are interesting, sociable and educational – why not get out and join the volunteers this month! This month's upcoming events are an archaeology event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

