



Members

Annual Overview

2013

This year has been our most successful yet. Without our members we would not have been able to achieve a fraction of what we have, so THANK YOU for your continuing support.

Hopefully from the below overview, you will see what a fantastic investment your membership has been. Stick with us as there are many more great things to come!

Brigid Barry, Trust Coordinator

2013 - THE HIGHLIGHTS

Burrenbeo Trust has had a very successful year adding new events to our already existing programme; all carried out on a shoestring budget but with an outstanding amount of volunteer input. With limited sources of core funding, we are proud of what we have achieved, we hope you are too! Take a look at some of the highlights from this year....



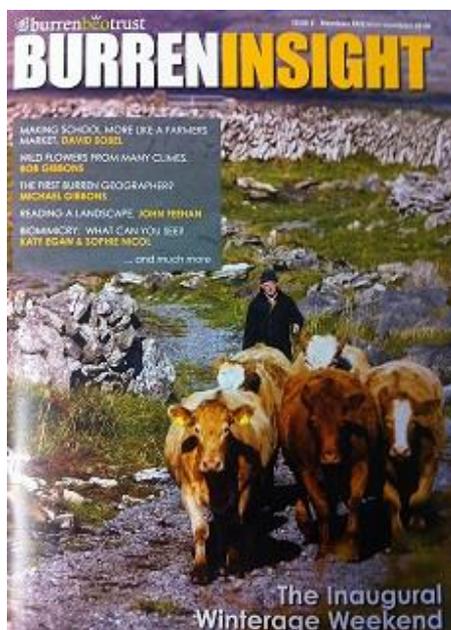
Minister Cannon with Aitbheo graduates and Aitbheo Coordinator

This year saw not only another batch of **Ecobeo Young Burren Experts** but the launch of our **Áitbheo** programme where transitional students from Gort Community College graduated as *Place Heroes* from this 10-week local heritage course with Minister for Education and Skills, Ciaran Cannon.

We organised the **Galway Gala** with special guests such as Julie Feeney and Irish Times Journalist Manchán Magan. The event also included an exhibition by photographer Gavin Frankel.



Singer Julie Feeney with Trust Patron Mary Hawkes Greene.



We published the 5th issue of our highly acclaimed annual flagship magazine **Burren Insight**.

We are trying to open up the Burren landscape to new groups of individuals that it was previously inaccessible through events such as our **Walk with a Difference** in association with the Irish Wheelchair Association.



A Walk with a Difference 2013 on Flaggy Shore



Farmer Patrick McCormack leading a walk over Glencolumkille

Over 1200 people have attended our **Heritage Walks and Talks** series in 2013 and the **Burren in Bloom** month-long of events to increase peoples' awareness of the region.

We held the first ever **Learning Landscape Network Event** for place-based educators from across Ireland and the UK to get together, network and upskill.



Educator Katy Egan leading workshop at Slieve Carron Nature Reserve



A group of students from the USA join our wall building activities up on Blackhead

We coordinated the community **Burren Winterage Weekend** celebrating the unique tradition of farming in the Burren. This weekend was spread throughout the region with 16 events and an estimated 1,500 attendees.

We now have 91 active **Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers** addressing key conservation issues and needs in the region



Cattle Drive in Fanore.

We hope to achieve even more in 2014 with your support!

ORGANISATION

Trust Coordinator

Brigid Barry

Communications Officer

Aine Bird

Programmes Officer

Kate Lavender

Fundraiser and New Media Editor

Ann O'Connor

Trust Secretary

Brendan Dunford

Trust Treasurer

Richard Morrison

Directors

Ristead Crimmins

Richard Morrison

Martin Hawkes (Chairman)

Stephen Ward

Mary Howard

Patrons

Tom Arnold

Carleton Jones

David Bellamy

Mary Angela Keane

Olive Braiden

Michael Longley

Gordon D'Arcy

Ann Madden Le Brocqy

Michael Davoren

Patrick McCormack

Mary Hawkes Greene

Ann O'Connor

Seamus Heaney

Michael Viney

Michael Houlihan

Bishop William Walsh

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Our total expenditure in 2013 amounted to €126,916. An estimated €90,000 of this amount was spent locally in accordance with our policy of supporting local providers.

Burrenbeo funded its work programme through a variety of sources; including grants, donations, membership fees and merchandise sales. Many of our funding sources have had their budgets cut, so getting grants and donations will prove even more challenging in 2014.

A full and complete audit of the 2013 accounts will be available at the AGM in 2014.

Funding in kind – THAT'S YOU!

Over the past 12 months, Burrenbeo Trust has undertaken numerous events and activities with an outstanding amount of voluntary input and payment in kind. From teaching on our Ecobeo course to editing our magazine, from coordinating a volunteer event to helping provide information at an event to providing refreshments, from putting up keynote speakers in accommodation to leading walks, from delivering workshops to working on children's events....the list is endless! This year, we estimate that an c.€120,000* has been given to the Burrenbeo Trust in professional time! This is an extraordinary contribution by any standard, so thank you if you have contributed and if you didn't get around to it this year, don't worry, there will be plenty of chances in the coming year! Everyone has something to offer!

*Note the above guesstimate excludes the work of the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers.

MEMBERS OVERVIEW

As can be seen from the below table, there are 330 current memberships with the Burrenbeo Trust. 148 of these memberships are for more than one person (ie couple/family/business).

Membership breakdown

Year	2013
Active members by year end	333
Where do members have come from	% of
Burren residents	36%
Entire counties of Clare and Galway including Burren region	64%
National excluding counties Clare and Galway	21%
International	15%

FULL LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS 2013

Below is a full outline of the achievements of the Burrenbeo Trust in 2013.

Education:

- In order to build on the Burren as Ireland ultimate 'outdoor classroom', we held our first **Learning Landscape Networking Event** with workshops designed to engage people with their environment.
- Four Burren primary schools - Newquay NS, Ballyvaughan NS, Kilfenora NS and Mol an Oige, Ennistymon – all successfully completed the Ecobeo 2013 programme seeing a total number of 88 students graduating this year as **Young Burren Experts**, with Sean McMahon(vice president of INTO) attending the graduation. This adds up to just over 800 Ecobeo graduates in total over the past nine years!! On top of this, 4 new Burren primary schools have recently been chosen for our Ecobeo 2014 programme – Inagh NS, Lahinch NS, Northampton NS, and Carron NS through a scholarship system.
- Our first ever **Áitbheo** course for Transition Year students in Gort Community College was completed with 25 Laoch Áite (Place Heroes) successfully graduating from a 10-week course focusing on the 3-km around their home and getting a sense of place. The Minister of Training and Skills from the Department of Education, Ciaran Cannon, was delighted to attend the graduation.
- We completed a specifically designed Burren **outdoor first aid course** for our Burren Conservation Volunteers to continue to ensure that at least one fully trained first aider is present at each conservation event.
- We provide **orientation sessions** for numerous visiting groups from universities, schools and adults at our Kinvara office, on site in the Burren or at selected locations.

- This summer we ran our first **Burren based school tours**, taking local school children out for a fun filled day in the Burren National Park, with the main focus on learning about the Burren through games and activities. These have been highly successful with great feedback from the students and teachers, and we already have interest from some schools for us to repeat them again next year.

Information:

- We published the 5th issue of our highly acclaimed annual flagship magazine **Burren Insight**.
- The **monthly heritage walks** continue to be a roaring success that over 600 people have attended so far this year.
- We have begun organising the month-long **Burren in Bloom** festival for May 2014, which last year was highly successful with nearly 700 people attending various events at numerous locations in the Burren.
- We have started our **winter talks** series 2014, in Tubber Village Hall which are being well attended.
- Our **field guides** on the geology, archaeology, flora, fauna and habitats of the Burren were so popular that we had to reprint another 1,000 copies of them for distribution. These were shortlisted for the Galway Mayor Awards as a Best Heritage Publication for the county.
- We send free **monthly e-newsletters** to over 4,000 people.
- We produced **podcasts** on the work of the volunteers, the Ecoceo course, the Winterage Weekend and more.
- We continue the development of our website www.burrenbeo.com and increased our presence on new media outlets such as Facebook, You Tube and Twitter.

Conservation:

- We hold monthly excursions of the **Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers** group with 91 members being active during 2013. During these events we address important issues such as scrub control on areas of species-rich grassland, rare butterfly breeding sites and archaeological sites as well as removing rubbish, dismantling mini-dolmens, controlling invasive species, repairing stone walls and helping archaeologists with surveying and excavations. All events had an important conservation impact and involved education and awareness-raising.
- The Burren Conservation Volunteer were nominated for a **Galway County Mayors Award** for the environment.

Advocacy:

- We coordinated another highly successful **Winterage Weekend** in late October 2013 which saw record numbers attending all events despite the weather.
- We coordinated the **Learning Landscape Feasibility Study** to fully realise the potential of the Burren as a learning landscape which will be launched shortly.
- We have organised a resource clinic and a discussion of the Burren as a World Heritage Site under the **Burren Community Charter** on which we continue to act as lead partners with other Burren agencies and local authorities.

- We organised a **Galway Gala Event** in April to profile the Burren and the work of the Trust to a larger audience.
- We continuously **promoted the Burren in both regional and national media** so it is at the forefront of peoples' agendas.
- We work closely with **key local organisations** such as the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme, the Burren Geopark Project, the Burren Eco-Tourism Network and others.

Local Economy:

- Burrenbeo Trust has a policy of using **local suppliers**. We use local printers in Ennis and Galway for our Magazine, Factsheets, Field Guides and maps. We always use local designers to prepare our materials for publication. We employ a local accountant, local tradesmen for building repairs, local transport providers and locally based consultants as required. So far this year, we have a local expenditure of 90,000 euros while our non-local spend is at 30,000 euros.
- Burrenbeo **promotes local businesses** through its website, its business network, gala events and whenever opportunities avail.
- Burrenbeo currently **employs** one full time and two part time members of staff and leases a building in Kinvara.
- The estimated value of the **professional input** made by Burrenbeo core volunteers in the last year (aside from the Burren Conservation Volunteers Group) is approximately €120,500!

We hope to achieve even more in 2014 with your input!

Want to do more? Here is how you can help us

The Burrenbeo Trust is an inclusive organisation for anyone that wants to be involved. We survive on the generosity and help of our community. So what can you do to help?

- Let us know if you have some professional skills you may be able to volunteer that can help us.
- Make a donation to the Trust - every little helps. You can ask it to go towards a specific programme or event and we will make sure it does go there. All donations over €250 are tax deductible so your money goes further.
- Ask your company or a business you know to sponsor a Burrenbeo programme or event (Burren Winterage Weekend, the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers or an Eco-beo school for example).
- Make introductions to further our charity's profile
- Join the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers

Or how do you think you can help? We would be interested to know. Contact us on

trust@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096. *Thanks again for your support.*

Finally meet the team....



Director, **Martin Hawkes**
@ *Ecobeo Graduation* June 2012 (evaded the cameras in 2013!)



Director **Richard Morrison** (on right)
@ *Burrenbeo Monthly Heritage Walk*, January 2013



Director **Dr Stephen Ward**
@ *A Walk with a Difference*, August, 2013



Director **Mary Howard**
@ *A Burren Evening in Galway*, April 2013



Director **Risteard Crimmins** (back right)
@ *Learning Landscape Symposium* opening night,
Aug 2012 (evaded the cameras in 2013!)



Trust Secretary, **Dr Brendan Dunford**
@ *A Walk with a Difference*, August 2013



Trust Coordinator, **Brigid Barry** (on right)@ *Áitbheo*, June 2013



Communications Officer, **Áine Bird**
@ *Ecoceo*, Sept 2013



Programmes Officer, **Kate Lavender**
@ *Learning Landscape Network Event*, Jul 2013



Fundraiser and New Media Editor, **Ann O'Connor** (right) @ *A Burren Evening in Galway*, April 2013

AND ALL OF YOU!!!.....

