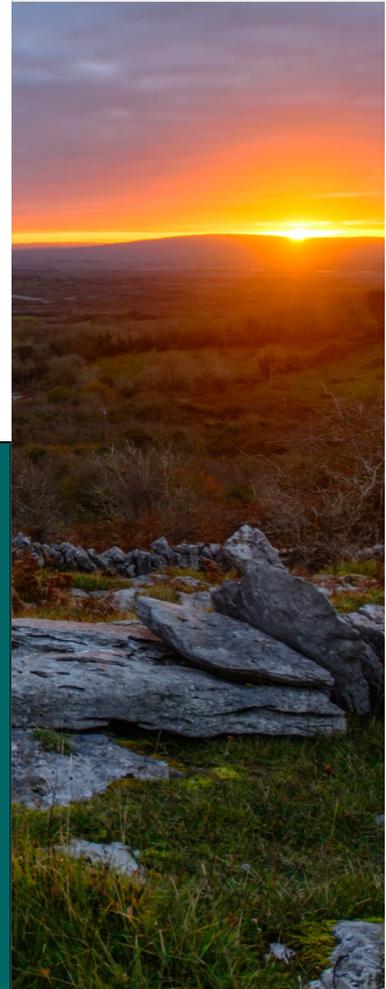


WELCOME

Welcome to the January Edition of the Burrenbeo newsletter.... and a New Year in the Burren. Hopefully everyone had a pleasant holiday season and is now looking forward to the year to come - one that we hope will be as packed with as many great Burren happenings as the years gone by. If you want to get your year off to a good start, join us on Termon hill on the 1st of this month for our first walk of the year. There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved with the Burrenbeo Trust in 2017 – the volunteers have some exciting projects coming up, the Learning Landscape Symposium is just around the corner and there's a great series of walks and talks lined up. We're feeling very positive about the year to come and hope to see many of you in the Burren at some stage.

Burrenbeo Newsletter: IMPORTANT CHANGES

We're always looking for ways to make best use of our very limited resources, with this in mind we have decided to change the format and distribution of our newsletter. From next month we will be producing a quarterly newsletter **JUST FOR MEMBERS** of Burrenbeo Trust – this will be emailed at the start of each season – 1st February (Imbolg), 1st May (Bealtaine), 1st August (Lughnasa) and 1st November (Samhain). The quarterly newsletter will contain all the news and information features which you know and love. 90% of you who currently receive this newsletter are not members. If you're not a member, we're going to continue to send a short email with details of our upcoming events but NOT a newsletter. So.....if you want to continue to receive the newsletter full of the news and events in the Burren – become a member today [HERE](#) for as little as €2.50 a month and support the conservation of the Burren landscape!



BURREN NEWS



Learning Landscape Symposium 2017 - Get the Date in the Diary!!

Burrenbeo Trust are pleased to confirm that we will be holding our annual Learning Landscape Symposium on the 10th -12th March 2017 in Kinvara, Co. Galway and out in the ultimate outdoor classroom, the Burren. Early Bird discount booking will be available in early January. More information [here](#).

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST THIS MONTH

- HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- Become a member of Burrenbeo Trust to continue receiving our newsletter. Sign up [here](#).



Our Year in the Burren 2016

burrenbeotrust
connecting people and place



Our Year in the Burren 2016

Want to find out all about what we got up to last year? Why not have a look at the report we compiled to share some of the story [HERE](#). Hard copies will be posted to new members or to current members when they renew.

New Loop Roads for Wild Atlantic Way in the Burren

The answer to the congested roads in the Burren during the tourism season is apparently leading the tourists off into smaller roads throughout the region. See launch of idea [here](#) With no support for the community to tackle the increasing problems of rubbish, lack of toilet facilities, damage to farmers' walls etc Is this sustainable tourism? What do you think? Let us know on info@burrenbeo.com.

Burren in Bloom is on its way!

Can't believe we are talking about celebrating the flowers in Maytime but we just want to get the day in your diary. We are brewing up a great list of events for Burren in Bloom 2017. The draft timetable is already up for viewing so you get started on planning your month of May so you don't miss out! See www.burreninbloom.com for more details.

Burren skeleton unlocks secrets to 16th century life

Forensic-level investigations of a skeleton discovered in a cave in Co. Clare have shed fascinating new light on the life and death of a teenage boy who died in or around the 16th century. A human skull discovered by cavers in a cave outside Ballyvaughan village in the Burren in 2011 prompted a rescue archaeological excavation funded by the National Monuments Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The full scientific investigations of the skeleton have just been published revealing incredible details about the boy's life. At the time of excavation, the small size of the skeleton led the team to think it was of a child. However, subsequent analysis of the teeth in particular revealed the remains belonged to someone who had died aged between 14 to 16 years old. There was evidence of stunted growth, almost certainly a result of malnutrition and hunger. The adolescent measured 4 ft. 1 inch in height – the equivalent of an average 8 year old child by modern standards, or an 11-12 year old by post-medieval standards. The stunted growth also meant that the sex of the individual could not be determined by normal archaeological methods. Tooth samples were sent to two different laboratories for ancient DNA analysis and both confirmed the individual was a teenage boy. The DNA laboratories were at the University of Surrey in England and the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Germany. Radiocarbon dating in Queen's University Belfast revealed the teenager had died sometime between 1520 and 1670. Historian Dr. Ciarán Ó Murchadha has suggested that the most likely timeframe for the boy's death is during the Commonwealth period (1649-1660), when Clare endured nearly two decades of famine, warfare, disease, and mass human casualty. Director of the excavation, Dr. Marion Dowd of IT Sligo, commented: "This was a highly unusual situation: to find the remains of a malnourished boy in a small mountain cave in what was clearly not a Christian burial, yet he had died only a few hundred years ago. I was eager to get as many specialists as possible involved to try and extract more information about who he was and how he had died." Dr Dowd added "All the evidence from the various specialists told us the same thing: this boy suffered periods of extreme hunger and malnourishment every year, probably for the entire duration of his short life. We do not know who he was, but there are a few details we can be pretty certain about. Isotopic analysis by Dr Thomas Kador at University College London indicated the boy was local to the Burren. We can imagine he was born and reared close to Ballyvaughan village. He would have been a Gaelic Irish speaker and probably did not speak English. He would

have been Catholic, and almost certainly came from an impoverished family.” Marion Dowd’s recent book was launched in the Burren in December. *Adapted from article published on Clare Herald www.clareherald.com*

Wild Kitchen Booklet launched

Oonagh O’Dwyer of Wild Kitchen has recently launched her ‘Little Wild Food Book’. Laminated, so it’s weather proof, hole punched with a key ring and light weight. It has lovely pics, info and recipes on 26 of our beautiful edible wild plants, inc. seaweed and is available here wildkitchen.ie/little-wild-food-booklet

Burren College of Art Scholarship Deadline

The application deadline for the Burren College of Art Graduate Programmes is Feb 1st, 2017. Though applications to the graduate programmes on a space-available basis will be accepted after the February deadline, only students who have been accepted by February 1st will be eligible to apply for these scholarships. Decisions will be announced in early April 2017. More information [here](#). **Between Three Worlds** MFA & PhD Christmas Exhibition at Burren College of Art with Artists: Joan Nanfuka, Sherry Erskine, Tanya De Paor running until 20th January 2017.

Burren Geology Course - Stone, water and Ice: the Burren – a landscape shaped by time.

This course is an introduction to the geology of the Burren aimed at anyone with an interest in the Burren and a curious mind. It will run for 5 Thursday evenings in February/March 2016 for 2 hours each evening at the Burren Outdoor Education Centre in Bell Harbour. This popular course is run by Colin Bunce (Burren Outdoor Education Centre) and Dr. Eamon Doyle (Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark) and is now in its 6th year. Topics covered are: an introduction to geology, the geology of Ireland, the geology of the Burren, fossils, geological maps, geology and the Burren landscape; there is also a field trip. On the last night there will be a guest speaker. The course is designed to be relaxed, informative and practical. No previous geology knowledge is required (and there are no exams!) Cost: €60. Dates: Feb 2nd – March 2nd inclusive. Time: 7.30 – 9.30 pm. Venue: Burren Outdoor Education Centre, Turlough, Bell Harbour. Bookings and enquiries: colin.bunce@lcteb.ie or edoyle@clarecoco.ie or 065 7078066.

Coastal Lore – Ballaghaline to Liscannor

The North Clare Historical Society begins its 2017 lecture season on Monday 30th January with a talk entitled Coastal Lore – Ballaghaline to Liscannor by Maura O’Loughlin. At various times during the 1900s, especially 1930s and 1960s folklore collectors from the Irish Folklore Commission came to North Clare and recorded stories of the everyday lives of the coastal community of Doolin and Liscannor. The stories were told by the local people and this talk will look at and review some of these stories and will illustrate how important the sea and coast was to the economic and social life of this coastal population. The talk will be held at The Courthouse, Ennistymon at 8pm.



BURRENBEO TRUST EVENTS CALENDER Jan2017 (Print & Post)

Sun 1st 1.30pm Carron

Burrenbeo Trust January Walk is 'Blowing away the cobwebs' with Burrenbeo Trust & Friends @1.30pm. Meet at Gravel dump next to the NUIG Field Station at Carron (OS 51 R288992). More info aine@burrenbeo.com or 091 638096.

Sun 1st 12.30am Flaggy Shore

Cancer Care Charity Walk, Donation on the day. Register at New Quay Church with G.A.A Meeting. Walk the Flaggy Shore, all road. Contact: Carmel Kelly 087 7934134.

Wed 11th 8.30pm Tubber

Burrenbeo Trust January talk is the '*Natural History in East Galway*' with Dr Michael Sheehy Skeffington and Martin Kiely. In Tubber Village Hall, Tubber, Co. Clare. More info on 091 638096 or email aine@burrenbeo.com.

Sun 22nd 11am Caher Valley

Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club are walking Ballyvaughan to Fanore (First half of Burren marathon). Meet: Top of Caher Valley, Fanore by Brid Queally house @ 10.30am for bus and walk @ 11am. Leader: Michael Queally 086 0767776. Bus required, contact Michael before 5pm Fri 20th to book your seat on bus.

Sun 29th 11am Ballyvaughan

Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club are walking Fanore to Ballyvaughan (Second half of Burren marathon). Meet: The Pier Ballyvaughan @ 10.30am for bus and walk @ 11am. Leader: John Sharry 087 2750315. Bus required, contact John before 5pm Fri 27th to book your seat on bus.

Dates for the diary

The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark will be hosting the **39th European Geoparks Meeting** March 21st -25th 2017. More information [here](#). Burrenbeo Trust **Learning Landscape Symposium** March 10th – 12th 2017. More information [here](#).



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.

We're looking forward to getting started with **Ecobeo** this month. We've been busy developing the programme and hope to deliver Ecobeo to two schools starting in February. The focus of Ecobeo is to connect the children of the Burren to their place- and in the future their role in safeguarding it. The programme has been delivered to over 1000 children over the past 10 years and we hope to continue this great tradition, while also developing ways that we can engage every school child in the Burren.

Áitbheo will continue with a second group of Seamount Transition Years, while also starting with a group from Gort Community School. The Áitbheo programme facilitates students' critical thinking around place and their own feelings around their place. The student's record their thoughts in personal reflection journals which really show their development over the course of the Áitbheo programme.

Burrenbeo Trust January Walk is 'Blowing away the cobwebs' with Burrenbeo Trust & Friends @1.30pm on Sun 1st January 2017. Meet at Gravel dump next to the NUIG Field Station at Carron (OS 51 R288992). Join us on Sunday 1st January 2017 to welcome in the New Year by walking the Carron Loop over Termon Hill. Walk registration will start at 1pm for a prompt 1.30pm walk start – we will be starting promptly to ensure that everyone can complete the walk in daylight since we expect it will take around 3 hours. The meeting point – the Gravel dump next to the NUIG Field Station at Carron (OS 51 R288992) is marked on a google map [here](#).

This a challenging walk which will require an average to good level of fitness – while the climb is not particularly steep, the downhill section will be quite difficult in wet conditions and will require a level of confidence walking on limestone and difficult terrain. In return for the effort, this is a wonderful walk which will reward us with some amazing Burren views including the Glen of Clab, Temple Cronan church and two holy wells and on a clear day we will glimpse Galway Bay and the Bens of Connemara.

You will need good walking boots or shoes, warm waterproof clothes, hats gloves etc. In addition you may want to bring along a hot drink and snacks to keep up your energy levels. The walk is open to everyone. However, it is free for Burrenbeo Trust Members and a donation of €10 is suggested from non-members. In case of bad weather which may affect the walk please check our website or Facebook page for the latest updates. For more information please email aine@burrenbeo.com or phone 091 638096.

Thanks to Stephen Hegarty for leading the December Walk at the North Commons. A great crowd enjoyed an informative and entertaining afternoon which was nicely finished by a visit to the Hegarty's farm.

Burrenbeo Trust January Tea Talk

January's talk will be on the 11th January at 8.30pm, we'll have the kettle on from 8pm with renowned botanist Dr Micheline Sheedy Skeffington and supplemented with photos by Tubber local Martin Kiely.

Thanks to Breege O'Donoghoe for giving the December talk, it was a great evening of chat, music, mulled wine and mince pies. Thanks to Mary Howard and Michael O'Donoghoe for all their hard work in pulling the hall and the food together. Thanks also to the great young local musicians, and all others who contributed on the night.

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!

There will be a January BCV scrub clearing event— a great way to get out and burn off a few of those Christmas chocolates! The details on location and date are yet to be confirmed but will be updated in the near future on our [rolling calendar](#) or [Facebook page](#).



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**

BURRENBEO TRUST BUSINESS FRIENDS

BURRENBEO BUSINESS FRIENDS 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](#).

ST TOLA CHEESE: A big thank you from us to all of those who supported us in 2016. We will be featured on the farming programme "Rare Breed" on UTV Ireland throughout their new series starting in Jan 2017. Also, we will be reopening for tours as of the 1st March. All details on our website www.st-tola.ie. Finally wishing you & everyone there a peaceful Christmas. Kind regards Siobhan, crew & St.Tola Goats !

