



Our Year in the Burren 2017

burren**b**ēotr**u**st
connecting people and place



A Year with the Burrenbeo Trust 2017

2017 has been a great year for the Burrenbeo Trust team. Staff and volunteers have been working hard to deliver our wide range of programmes, all focused on connecting people with place and helping to identify ways that we can all care for our places into the future. We continue to develop our programmes, focusing particularly on the active community stewardship element which will strengthen the long term impact of our work. These recently developed programmes have been rolled out in the schools as well as the wider community sector.

This year has also seen significant interest from communities throughout Ireland adapting and implementing Burrenbeo Trust models in their settings. Whether using Áitbheo in their local schools, starting a local heritage walks or talks series, hosting a place-based learning symposium or beginning a conservation volunteer group, there are many ways that our models can be applied to benefit place and community beyond the Burren area.

Among our many highlights in 2017, some worthy of mention include: co-ordinating the wonderful community-led Burren Winterage Weekend and Burren in Bloom festivals; coordinating the annual Learning Landscape Symposium which continues to help guide us all on the future of place-based learning in Ireland; delivering a high standard of monthly heritage walks and talks, fun events for children, place-based learning programmes in schools, conservation volunteer events and much more.

Burrenbeo Trust is proud of what it manages to achieve each year on a shoestring budget with an outstanding amount of volunteer input. **Without your support, whether financial or in-kind, we would not have been able to achieve a fraction of what we have, so THANKYOU.**

If you are new to the organisation, we hope you will see what a fantastic investment this organisation is, with many more great things to come in 2018!

Brigid Barry
Burrenbeo Trust Manager
December 2017



The Organisation in Numbers

Since the beginning:

- 5,926** **People have attended** the **158** educational monthly heritage walks and winter talks series since 2009. With an additional **3493** attendances on our annual Burren in Bloom walks and talks series since 2010.
- 1,304** **Young Burren Experts** have graduated from our free 10-week Ecotheo (and Áitbheo) heritage programme in **28** different local schools since its inception in 2003.
- 336** **People** have registered, for free, with the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers to carry out active conservation projects in the region since 2010.
- 273** **Place Heroes** have graduated from our Áitbheo 10-week active place-based learning.
- 132** **Monthly e-newsletters** (and snapshots) have been sent out to a growing base of Burrenbeo subscribers with news and events from the region since 2007. Currently **2763** people receive this free each month.
- 117** **Grants** were written to 53 different funding bodies since 2009 in order to keep this organisation afloat. 65 were successful, generating €417,368 for the organisation in the past 9 years.
- 93** **Primary school teachers** from **15** different counties have trained on our 5-day place-based education courses since 2014; this is key in order to spread the model of place-based learning nationally.
- 25** **Different Burren farmers** have led walks across their land in the Burren for Burrenbeo Trust in order to raise awareness of this exceptional landscape with its unique story since 2008. A further **80** different heritage experts have also given their time for free to raise awareness through walks and talks for the organisation.
- 9** **Years ago** the Burrenbeo Trust was launched as a landscape charity building on the educational work of Burrenbeo Teoranta started by Brendan Dunford and Ann O'Connor in the 5 years earlier.

This year:

- 35,766** **People have viewed our website** this year with over 100 pages of information on the Burren's natural, built and cultural heritage. This amounted to **84,968** individual page hits and includes our subsidiary festival websites.
- 6,797** **People** currently follow us on the social media sites Facebook and Twitter.
- 3,767** **Voluntary hours** were donated by the community to the organisation this year amounting to **€75,340** in potential fees donated. This excludes the work by the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers as accounted for below.
- 1,714** **People attended our public events** this year celebrating the Burren and learning from it, including the Learning Landscape Symposium, the Burren in Bloom festival, the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers Open Day, and the Winterage Weekend. This does not include our monthly walks and winter tea talks as accounted for above.
- 498** **People** are currently members of the Burrenbeo Trust. Ideally we would like this to rise to 1000 in order to increase our reach across the region.
- 127** **Thousand Euros** is the amount that Burrenbeo Trust had to raise this year with no core funding. This is a shoestring budget to deliver the wide range of programmes and a testament to the value for money that the organisation is.
- 78** **Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers** made up **158** attendances at **11** conservation events this year. This adds up to approximately **1738** days donated to the region in active conservation.
- 50** **Programmes** were coordinated and delivered by the Trust this year.
- 14** **Grants** were written this year by Burrenbeo Trust with only 10 being successful amounting to only 45% of what we need. It is increasingly difficult to fit heritage, environment and sustainable communities into grant requirements.
- 3** **Staff** currently work at the Burrenbeo Trust office amounting collectively to just **88** hours a week to coordinate and deliver the 50 programmes the organisation has today. With no core support, this is only possible with outstanding community support and voluntary time.

Goals for 2018

The Burrenbeo Trust aims not only to continue and strengthen its current programmes but also to focus on the following:

- To highlight how learning in place, through place and for place is hugely beneficial for individuals and their community.
- To develop our place-based education models so that they can be rolled out nationally.
- To develop a community stewardship programme that connects the youth of the Burren to active conservation.
- To further develop our events so that they are community-led and driven as much as possible.
- To strengthen the role of Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers in active conservation in the community, whilst also promoting green health and combatting social isolation.
- To develop a strategy to become more engaged with some of the socio-economic challenges of the region in the belief that supporting communities, supports the environment.
- To explore ways to make the organisation financially stable.

A Message from the Trust Secretary

The past year has been a typically busy and productive one for the Burrenbeo Trust. We're proud to have achieved so much with so little, thanks to our dedicated staff, enthusiastic volunteers and you, our members and fellow Burren enthusiasts, from all over the world. My personal highlight was the wvw – the wonderful winterage weekend! – culminating in a spectacular walk over the Burren in the company of some great people, sharing in this celebration of the Burren's unique heritage: a nice parallel to the Burrenbeo Trust itself and its 'journey'. Less exciting but equally important are the countless meetings, reporting and fundraising activities – the 'bread and butter' work that enables us to function but also to assure our members and funders that we continue to deliver for the Burren and its community. So thanks to all of you for your support and I hope you are equally proud of our achievements in 2017.

Brendan Dunford, Trust Secretary

What does Burrenbeo Trust mean for me?

'For me, the most important contribution of the Trust is what it gives to the individual – the satisfaction of a cup of tea and some home baking after a morning of conservation volunteering, greeting a neighbour you haven't seen for a while at a Winter Tea Talk, a group of EcoGeo students discussing the Burren amongst themselves after the class has ended, a ripple of laughter among friends sharing a joke on the cattle drive, an answer to your questions during a monthly walk with Burren experts, particularly when those experts are local farmers.'

On a more personal level, whenever I've led an event with the Trust, it's an opportunity to share the knowledge that was passed onto me, to share my own stories and my own connection with the Burren.'

Shane Casey
Fanore native, Dublin's Biodiversity Officer and Burrenbeo Trust Director

A Breakdown of the Organisation

Our Mission

Burrenbeo Trust is a landscape charity dedicated to connecting all of us to our places and our role in caring for them.

Our Vision

HERITAGE CONSERVATION

A place which is valued for its natural, built and cultural heritage; whose conservation is innovative and sustainable, and can be used as a model elsewhere to help other communities realise the potential of their heritage.

ENGAGED COMMUNITIES

People who have the opportunity to know, experience and share their heritage.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Communities which can thrive through working sustainably with the landscape.

Our Approach

To continue to develop as an inclusive, independent and transparent charity working towards the **sustainable future** of the Burren.

To engage with local communities to generate a sense of **informed pride** in heritage and landscape through community stewardship, place-based and community-based learning.

To promote **sustainable communities** through the concept of the Burren as a learning landscape.

To develop models of **best practice** for community stewardship, place-based and community-based learning as a means of sustainable conservation.

To disseminate knowledge, develop resources and continue to learn and grow as an organisation through the **shared knowledge** of others regionally, nationally and internationally.

Through These Avenues:

Education
Information Provision
Active Conservation
Research
Advocacy

Education

Achievements 2017

We continued to grow the ever-successful **Learning Landscape Symposium** in March, 2017 with the focus on connecting people to their places through place-based learning.

We developed our new **Áitbheo Primary** course and piloted it in Newquay school in Spring, then ran it in Peterswell, Ennistymon, Tubber, Tierneevin National Schools, and Mol an Óige Steiner School throughout this Autumn. This course is essentially about the 3km around the school and students graduate as 'Place Heroes' after completing an active stewardship activity.

The **Áitbheo Secondary** course for Transition Year students was carried out in Kinvara Seamount Secondary School and Gort Community College. We have now started looking at how this also builds in a community stewardship awards system.

We coordinated a 5-day **Áitbheo Training** course this summer on building place-based learning into the curriculum and out into the community depending on whether you had a teacher or a community leader focus.

We continue to provide **orientation sessions** for numerous visiting groups from universities, schools and adults at our Kinvara office and at selected locations across the Burren.

We ran our 5th year of **Burren Wild Child** school tours, taking local school children out for a fun filled day in the Burren, with the main focus being on learning about their surroundings through games and activities.

This is supported further by our **Burren Wild Child summer camp** which was booked out with a waiting list and some additional one-off family events throughout the year.



'I thought the way each topic linked in to the overall idea of my place was great - the sequencing of the topics was very good, and it helped the students to make the connections between them.'

**Teacher
Newquay School
2017**

'Very active, very practical ideas, very positive - focused on things we can do, very sociable, full of ideas and enthusiasm to bring back to the classroom both indoors and outdoors.'

**Áitbheo Teacher
Trainee**

Photo Aine Bird

Looking Back – A reflection of the organisation from a former Director

When I was first involved as a volunteer and a Director 8 years ago, Burrenbeo was a small ambitious charity living from hand to mouth and trying to fulfil the challenging goals that it had inherited from Ann O'Connor and Brendan Dunford (the co-founders).

Over the years a number of programmes have come and gone, but the core focus of the organisation remains the same. With the ongoing development and refinement of the education programmes for all age groups and the focus on place based learning, Burrenbeo is still working to meet those original challenging goals.

Although the financial situation has improved, it is something which will always need careful management, and there are bound to be other issues which will arise. However, the growth of the membership over the last year or two gives me encouragement and I hope that the new members will take ownership of the vision and mission and provide the support that Burrenbeo needs.

While I will miss the Burren and all the friends we made there, I left with the feeling that Burrenbeo is in a stronger position and will continue to develop and grow.

I have often wondered how Ann O'Connor, deceased in 2015, would feel about this and I'm pretty sure that while she would be pleased with what has been achieved, she would still be pushing us to do more – and of course she would be right!

**Richard Morrison
Former Director and Treasurer of Burrenbeo Trust
(2010-2017)**

Information Provision

Achievements 2017

We regularly update our **website** with easy to find information on the Trust, the Burren and the community.

We developed our monthly free **e-newsletter**, now called the Burrenbeo Monthly Snapshot to give people a quick idea of what is coming up over the next month.

We produce a quarterly **e-newsletter for members**, called the Burrenbeo Quarterly to report back what happened within the Trust over the past season.

We changed our **monthly heritage walks** to 'members only' to restrict the expanding numbers.

We continue to coordinate our monthly **Winter Tea Talks** for 6 months of the year during the longer nights.

We held the annual **Ann O'Connor Memorial Walk** on the 14th July which included the Big Burren Picnic for our members and other guests.

We coordinated the 12th **Burren in Bloom festival** with 20 different walks and talks to celebrate the floral arrival on the landscape in May-time.

Our **field guides** on the geology, archaeology, flora, fauna and habitats of the Burren continue to be sold across the Burren.

We continue to distribute **podcasts** on the work of our Burrenbeo Trust Conservation Volunteers, Place-based Education, the Winterage Weekend and more.



Bringing the Community Together

Our Monthly Members Walks and our series of Winter Tea Talks continue to be hugely successful. The walks are a great opportunity to connect Burrenbeo Trust members with the landscape all over the Burren through the eyes of local landowners, farmers and a wide variety of experts. Whether it's looking at the local archaeology, geology, flora, fauna or farming traditions, there's always something new and, of course, it's a great time to meet up with old friends and make new ones. Meanwhile the tea talks throughout the winter take us indoors to the warm and inviting Tubber Hall. Here the local community welcome all with a lovely cup of tea and a chat before settling down to interesting and informative presentations – there might even be a song, a story or a little music!

We are fortunate to have so many people within the Burren community who are more than willing to share their time and expertise with us on both our walks and our talks on a voluntary level to share their knowledge. So do come and join us, our Members Walks take place on the first Sunday of every month and our Winter Tea Talks, open to all, take place on the second Wednesday of the month throughout the darker months.

Mary Howard
Burrenbeo Trust Director



'I think the walks are a brilliant way of meeting friends, both new and old. But what is key is really the person that's leading the walk as every time I learn something completely new about my landscape. It's an amazing opportunity.'

John Marrinan
Burren farmer and Burrenbeo Trust walks coordinator



Active Conservation

Achievements 2017

We have organised **22 different events** so far for the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers with 224 attendances in 2017. All events have an important conservation impact and involve education and awareness-raising.

5 days were spent **clearing scrub** around archaeological and historical sites, as well as around areas important for rare species to increase reproduction such as 2 important bat breeding sites.

11 days were spent on **archaeological projects** from surveying old mesolithic sites to sieving through materials.

6 days were spent on landscape management including **rebuilding stone walls** and taking down **mini dolmens** in areas of high tourism impact, and much more.

We organised a **Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteer Open Day** event in September with a focus around raising awareness of local conservation volunteering projects and recruiting new volunteers.

Amazingly just over **2 tonnes of rubbish was cleared** from the Burren coast by our volunteers during 2 days in March and April this year where we were joined by local scout groups and sea anglers as well as some members of the Clare Outdoor Club.



A Review of the Year

As 2017 draws to a close it is time to reflect on what a great year it has been with the Burren Conservation Volunteers.

Thanks to our dedicated teams of volunteers, leaders, experts and committee members we have completed many conservation volunteering events over the year with many volunteers attending, both old and new.

With roughly equal emphasis on full rain-gear and factor 50 (and sometimes both in the same day!) our hardy teams have cleared scrub to reveal prehistoric monuments, provide breeding sites for rare butterflies, collected many kilos of rubbish from the Burren coastline – always a great opportunity to engage younger conservation volunteers - assisted with post excavation work from several important archaeological excavations in the Burren, and helped construct the first bat night roost in Ireland.

One of the highlights of the year was our open day in September. This day gave us the opportunity to showcase the conservation work we do each month to the local community.

The rewards of working in a place as special as the Burren are immeasurable. The days spent in good company are numerous and the sense of community spirit in the groups at each event is a rare and wonderful thing.

Eileen O'Connor
Chairperson, Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers Committee

The potential future of place-based education in Ireland

Over the past two years I've been studying for a Master of Education, culminating in 2017 with the completion of a research project focused on the 'Potential for Place-Based Pedagogy in Irish Primary Schools from the Teacher's Perspective'. The findings of the study indicated that teachers are broadly positive in relation to place-based pedagogy, recognising the strengths of the approach and equally confirming that a local focus is currently mandated in their curriculum. Teachers reported that additional support is necessary for teachers to fully engage with this pedagogy, particularly in relation to their confidence and content knowledge. Study participants also referenced the role that adopting a place-based pedagogy could play in developing students' sense of place and identity and consequently how important they felt that was for all students.

This study appears to be the first investigation of place-based pedagogy in the Irish context. It has highlighted the potential for this type of learning and teaching and equally the broadly positive feelings around this approach among Irish primary school teachers. This study will be used to inform the development of place-based pedagogical training and resources by Burrenbeo Trust.

The aim of a place-based approach is to establish connections and engage with local places and communities, and to enable active community stewardship, where local communities determine what it is they want for their place and are empowered to take action on the issues which they encounter. Irish primary schools have significant potential for reigniting communities' connections and engagement with local place; they are at the heart of the community.

Áine Bird
Education and Communications Officer, Burrenbeo Trust



Achievements 2017

We are assisting a **PhD student**, Elaine Williams, in her investigations into the impact that landscape charities like Burrenbeo Trust are having on the wellbeing of people and place.

We are partially supported a member of staff, Áine Bird, to carry out a **Masters in Education** to review the potential of expanding place-based education in the Irish school curriculum.



Advocacy

Achievements 2017

We continue to develop our models of **community stewardship** and **place-based learning** that can be shared elsewhere.

We coordinated the **Burren Winterage Weekend** to celebrate the key role farmers play in maintaining this landscape.

We continue to promote the Burren as a place of inspiration from which people can learn from their surroundings as per the **Learning Landscape Feasibility Study** which was launched in 2014.

We continue as lead partner of the **Burren Community Charter Project**.

We continue to promote the **Burren in both regional and national media** throughout the year so that it is at the forefront of peoples' agendas.

We continue to work closely with **key local organisations** such as the *Burren Programme, Burren Geopark, Burren Irish Farmers Association, Burren Change X Project, Burren Eco-Tourism Network* and others.



Burrenbeo's role in promoting the importance of High Nature Value Farming in the region

The Farming community consider the Burrenbeo Trust an umbrella organization that brings together all of society with an interest in the Burren. It does this through the education programs delivered in our schools, teaching our children how fortunate they are to live in the Burren region with its Flora, Fauna, Geology, and Archaeology. This programme instils in our children how important it is to continue the preservation and maintenance of the Burren for the generations to come.

For thousands of years farming has shaped this very special place. "Burren Life" has developed methods of farming to continue the ancient practices using modern technology. Through the Burrenbeo monthly walks and talks often led by local farmers on their own lands it empowers the farmers to share their valuable knowledge for the preservation of the Burren, illustrating the importance of farming and the landscape.

The Burrenbeo Trust through the Winterage School and Winterage Festival has placed the Burren on the international stage, drawing visitors from Ireland and Europe to learn from our unique farming practices. The weekend culminated with the iconic cattle drive which helps non-farming public understand how cattle are taken up onto the winterage, a practice which has continued for thousands of years and how the landscape depends on it.

Burrenbeo is the connection between the farmer and the public and without it the valuable interaction would not happen to the detriment of all.

Michael Davoren
Burren Farmer, Burren IFA Chair
and Burrenbeo Trust Director

'For me a very noticeable and maybe pivotal change, has been the enthusiastic engagement of many more Burren dwellers, particularly farmers, in the aims and activities of the Trust.'

Dr David Drew,
Director of Burrenbeo Trust

'It's an amazing contribution in highlighting what we do here and allowing others to experience the landscape through our eyes.'

Patsy Carrucan
Farmer, Fanore

Challenges 2017

Our main challenges this past year were:

Securing funding

Every year we have to raise over €100,000 in funding – a huge challenge for a small, rural organisation with no professional fundraising experience, at a time when many grant streams are drying up and when public funding of charities is declining. We provide enormous value and impact with every euro we raise and we are fully transparent in how we spend our money. But the lack of reliable funding is a concern and makes it impossible to plan long-term.

Growing our community

We are so grateful to our loyal members and volunteers, those who have contributed so much to our success. But we need new people to come on board in order to raise our voice and grow our impact and influence. In today's busy world it is difficult to get one's message out, and even more difficult to get people to commit their time and resources. We really need more support, particularly from those living or working in the Burren, but also from everyone who loves this place.

Keeping going!

Burrenbeo Trust runs 50 programmes, from international conferences to educational courses in local schools. To sustain these programmes is a challenge for our human and financial resources. To improve and reinvent them continually – as we strive to do – is an even greater challenge. We are reluctant to 'drop' any of our programmes but we do realise that this may be necessary to avoid burnout among staff, volunteers and finances!

Opening Inner Eyes in the Outdoor University

We live in a time of discontinuity when the politics of business-as-usual are no longer a match for the challenges that confront our civilisation. This is a time for civil society to come to the fore. This is a time that organisations such as Burrenbeo Trust were designed for.

Climate change and un-sustainable ways of living on the planet are but the most obvious manifestations of how we have lost our way. Beneath these presenting symptoms lies a progressive disconnection between man and his environment. Burrenbeo, conceived as wake-up call to 'Open your eyes to the Living Burren', has evolved into a larger mission of 'Connecting People and Place' addressing in a pithy tagline a root cause of our civilisation's predicament.

Opening inner eyes and making connections involves a process of awakening and dawning realizations of things to which we were previously blind. This is the true task of education and it is the core of what Burrenbeo is about. The Áitbheo Primary programme has developed further this year enabling more students to explore the natural and cultural heritage of their places and, in the process, develop a sense of ownership and stewardship. Generating pride of place and a sense of stewardship are likewise central to the Áitbheo Secondary programme with Transition Year students. Spreading the gospel of stewardship of place continues to grow through the annual Learning Landscapes Symposium as well as the Áitbheo training programme for teachers and community leaders.

Everything that Burrenbeo does reflects the importance of re-awakening connection with and stewardship of place. The Burren as an outdoor classroom – indeed an outdoor university – is a vision with the capacity to sustain local communities whilst sharing insights that are necessary to sustain our collective well-being.

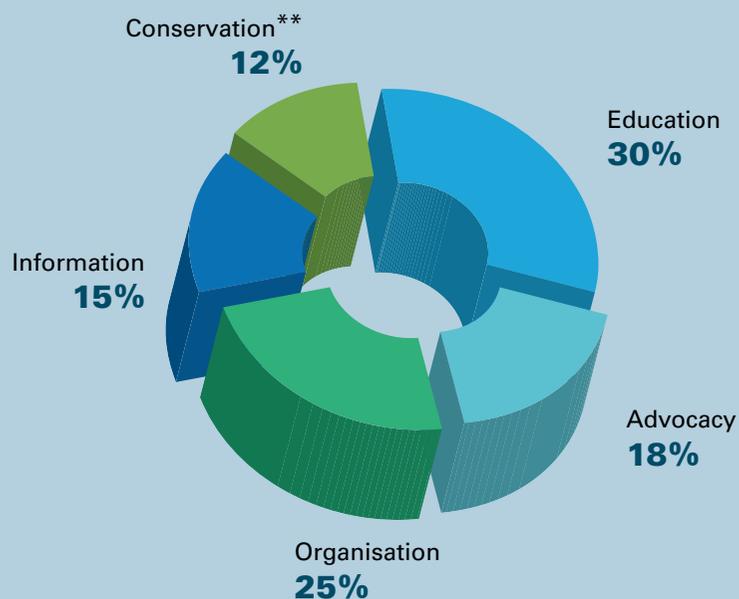
Martin Hawkes
Chairman of the Board, Burrenbeo Trust

Financial Overview

Expenditure

Our total expenditure in 2017 amounted to **€130,000***. An estimated 75% of this amount was spent locally in accordance with our policy of supporting local providers.

Expenditure was split between the following programme sectors in 2017:



The expenditure in each of these areas was as follows:

- Wages & Taxes (65%)
- External event costs i.e. speakers fees, venues, marketing (20%)
- Rent, electricity, heating, etc. (6%)
- Stationary, etc. (5%)
- Accounts, bank charges and insurance (4%)

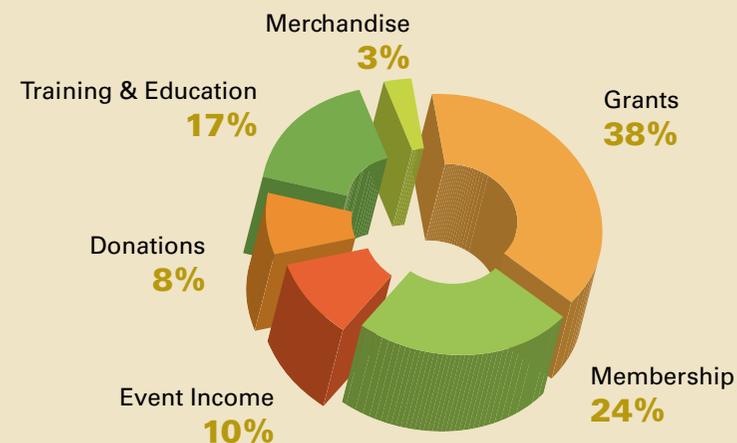
* This report was prepared in November and therefore figures have been projected until the end of December based on monthly averages.

** Conservation has the highest contribution in kind which is reflected in its lowest financial cost to the Trust.

Income

Our total income for 2017 was **€115,000** (a further €27,000 was given to the Trust to cover costs of a specific project in 2018 & 2019). Burrenbeo funded its work programme through a variety of sources including grants, donations, events, membership fees and merchandise sales. Obtaining grants and donations will continue to prove challenging in 2018 as the organisation does not receive any core funding and tries to streamline all that we carry out to help pay for itself. For additional funds, the team work hard to bring in the necessary funds to enable it to survive.

Below is the breakdown of the different funding streams (% of income):



- **Grants (38%)** In 2017 we applied for 14 different grants. We were successful with 10 applications. Grants ranged from €500 - €10,000.
- **Members (24%)** Membership fees bring in roughly one quarter of the necessary income to fund the organisation.
- **Training and education courses (17%)** Burrenbeo Trust carried out school tours for 5 classes, held a symposium on place-based learning, and a training course for teachers bringing place-based education to the classroom.
- **Event Income (10%)** Burrenbeo Trust runs various events throughout the year that have an entry cost i.e. walks, talks, Wild Child, Burren in Bloom, Winterage Weekend, etc. These all raise necessary funds for the Trust.
- **Donations (8%)** Various businesses or individuals supported specific programmes within the Trust in 2017.
- **Merchandise (3%)** The sale of Burrenbeo field-guides.

A full and complete audit of the 2017 accounts will be available at the AGM in June 2018.

Who Supported Us in 2017

Grants & Programme Sponsorship

The funders listed below supported the work of the Trust specifically towards a certain programme. Grant and sponsorship funding income ranged from €800-€10,000.

GRANTS

The Heritage Council

Clare Local Agenda 21 (Conservation Volunteers & Burren Winterage Weekend)

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine (Burren Winterage School)

Clare County Council and the Creative Ireland Scheme (Children's artwork as part of the Winterage Weekend)

Galway Community Support Scheme and European Region of Gastronomy (Developing Áitbheo Trainers Materials)

The HDH Wills Charitable Trust (The Burren as a Learning Landscape)

GRETB (Volunteer 1st Aid Training)

'Burrenbeo Trust effectively and efficiently delivers on its mission of connecting all of us to our places and our role in caring for them. The Trust's high-quality programs for community members, farmers, schoolchildren, and visitors have a positive and lasting impact, which will continue to inform us as we walk our paths in life. Since Burrenbeo Trust relies on donations for its operations, receiving regular financial support is critical for the ongoing sustainability of this respected not for profit organisation.'

Christine Costelloe
Fundraising Advisor
to Burrenbeo Trust



Burrenbeo Benefactors 2017

Aside from the below Burrenbeo received an additional 15 donations from members and business friends that wish to remain anonymous ranging from €10 - €110 towards the core funding of the organisation.

Dr Brendan Dunford

Clodagh and Michael Lynch

(Young Burren Ambassador Bursary)

Christine and Patrick Costelloe

Galway Walking Club

Hillwalk Tours

Janet Buell

(Learning Landscape Symposium)

Jean Bryne (Áitbheo – place based learning programme)

Philomena Hynes

(Young Burren Ambassador Bursary)

Michael Houlihan

(Young Burren Ambassador Bursary)

Richard O'Donnell

Rita McConn Stern

Dr Stephen Ward

Dr Sharon Parr

Tomas Kerin

The Burren Perfumery

Richard and Linda Morrison

Members

Burrenbeo Trust is a membership organisation with a wide geographical spread. There are 498 current memberships with the Burrenbeo Trust. 194 of these memberships are for more than one person (i.e. couple/family/business). We also have 6 Schools members and 33 Business Friends.

Membership breakdown

Clare and Galway
excluding Burren
32%



International
11%

From the rest of Ireland
24%

Funding in kind

Over the past 12 months, Burrenbeo Trust has undertaken numerous events and activities which have involved a great deal of voluntary input and payment in kind. From guiding walks, coordinating a volunteer event, helping provide information at an event, providing refreshments, providing accommodation for keynote speakers, opening farms, delivering workshops to working on children's events... the list is endless! This year, we estimate that **c.€75,340*** 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 estimate excludes the work of the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers.

Membership Report

Our membership has been on the increase over the past year which is a massive positive boost for the Trust.

Not only does our membership offer free access to our fabulous monthly members walks but upon renewal every member gets a voucher to bring a friend along for free to one of these exclusive events. It's never been easier to join up or renew your membership with us as our website offers a selection of different ways to pay your membership.

Membership fees are currently raising nearly a quarter of our annual income and therefore are of huge importance to us carrying out our wide and varied programmes across the Burren region – so a great big thank-you to you all for joining us on our journey over the last year.

Kate Lavender, Conservation & Education Officer, Burrenbeo Trust
(including membership administration)

Business Friends 2017

We have 33 Burrenbeo Business Friends that joined up throughout the year. We are grateful to the support they have given us. Support those that support us:

Gold Business Friend

Burren Perfumery
Cliffs of Moher
Dr John Duncan Medical Service
Gregan's Castle Hotel

Caherconnell Stone Fort
Clare's Rock Hostel
Clooncouse Tearooms
Crann Óg Eco Farm
Doolin Cave
Fitzpatrick's SuperValu Ennistymon
Gallery Café Gort
Hanne Fisker Photography
Hazelwood Lodge
Healing Harvest
Irish Natural Stone
Kinvara Guesthouse
MK Burren Photography
Mount Vernon
The Burren Centre
The Irish Prehistoric Fieldschool
Rockyview Farmhouse
St Tola Cheese
Xenergie

Good Business Friend

Corofin Medical Centre
Cliffs of Moher Hotel
Sleepzone Hostel Burren

Business Friend

Aillwee Caves
Anam Coffee
Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club
Burren College of Art
Burren Guided Walks
Burren Vets
Burren Yoga Retreats



Organisation



Trust Manager
Brigid Barry
brigid@burrenbeo.com



Education and Communications Officer
Áine Bird
aine@burrenbeo.com



Education and Conservation Officer
Kate Lavender
kate@burrenbeo.com



Trust Secretary
Dr Brendan Dunford

Executive Committee - all of the above plus:



Dr David Drew



Mary Howard



Dr Martina Moloney



Dr Sharon Parr

Directors

Shane Casey
Sadie Chowen
Ristead Crimmins
Michael Davoren
Dr Martina Moloney
Martin Hawkes
(Chairman)
Mary Howard

Julie Feeny
Mary Hawkes Greene
Michael Houlihan
Mary Angela Keane
Michael Longley
Ann Madden Le Brocquy
Patrick McCormack
Michael Viney
Bishop William Walsh
Stephen Ward

...And all of you our members and other supporters

A massive thank you to all our members and to others for continuing to support us in our work. Burrenbeo Trust undertook 50 programmes this year, many of which were achieved with a remarkable amount of voluntary input and payment in kind. We are so appreciative of the extraordinary contribution from the community. So THANKYOU!

Patrons

Tom Arnold
David Bellamy
Olive Braiden
Gordon D'Arcy
Michael Davoren

**Founding Patrons
(Deceased)**
Seamus Heaney
Ann O'Connor Dunford

"As a long time admirer of Burrenbeo Trust, I was happy to accept the invitation to become a Director. As a novice member, I have been amazed at the variety of activities and achievements delivered by the small team of staff and volunteers. The ambition of the organisation to be an exemplar for a sustainable community, building on its rich heritage and utilising its place-based learning is very exciting and I hope that in the coming years I will be able to assist in advancing this outcome."

Dr Martina Moloney, former Galway County Manager

How to Get More Involved

As an Individual

- Join Burrenbeo Trust if you haven't already done so. This can cost as little as €2.50 a month depending on the category.
- Be an advocate by spreading the word to your friends and family about the organisation. Encourage them to become members.
- Support our events as much as possible – come to our walks, talks, training events and community festivals.
- Let us know if you have professional skills you may be able to volunteer that can help us further our aims (i.e. marketing, fundraising, heritage talk etc.).
- Make a donation to the Trust – every little helps. You can ask for it to go towards a specific programme or event. Or why not go a step further and become a Burrenbeo Benefactor (see below).
- Subscribe to our free monthly e-newsletter to find out about the news and events that are happening in the region. You could then forward this newsletter onto your contact list to keep them in the loop.
- Join the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers and get involved in the growing community active conservation volunteers. It's free to register with this group.

As a Business

- Become a business friend. Rates are as little as €15 a month. By doing this you are feeding directly into the heritage education and conservation work of the region.
- Highlight the events that are happening in the Burren through your social media and website.
- Consider making a more substantial contribution as a Burrenbeo Benefactor (see below).

As a Burrenbeo Benefactor

As a Burrenbeo Benefactor you or your company can contribute to a range of pioneering projects that need support. We can tailor your level of involvement relative to the scale of support you wish to offer. All donations over €250 are tax deductible, so your money goes further. Suggested support options include:

€250 **Merchandise** Design and production of merchandise for organisation

€500 **Young Burren Ambassador Bursary** Support the future of Burren with this bursary

€1000 **Áitbheo Secondary** Place-based education scholarship for teenagers that delivers local Place Heroes through active stewardship

€2500 **Áitbheo Primary** Place-based education scholarship for a whole classroom of primary children that delivers local Place Heroes through active stewardship

€5000 **Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers** Training and upskilling of up to 300 conservation volunteers

€7500 **Event Sponsorship** Examples include the Winterage Weekend which highlights farming and biodiversity or the Learning Landscape Symposium weekend which actively drives place-based learning nationally

€10,000 **Burren as a Learning Landscape** Invest in the development of a model to build thriving communities & landscape

€25,000 **Place-based Learning Nationwide** Develop a model to build thriving communities & landscape nationally



Support Form

I would like to make a donation to the Burrenbeo Trust of:

I would like this to go towards the following programme:

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

NAME ON CARD

CARD NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE

CVV NUMBER

SIGNATURE

For payment by cheque, please fill out the form, make your cheque payable to Burrenbeo Trust Ltd. and return to Burrenbeo Trust, Glebe House, Glebe Road, Kinvara, Co. Galway. Donations can also be made online via our website.



burren**b**eo**t**r**u**st

connecting people and place

The Burrenbeo Trust is an inclusive organisation for anyone who wants to be involved.
We survive on the generosity and support of our community.

**We hope to achieve a lot more in 2018
with your help**

Burrenbeo Trust

Glebe House, Glebe Road, Kinvara, Co.Galway
Tel +353 (0)91 638096, Email info@burrenbeo.com

www.burrenbeo.com