



CELEBRATING OUR 10th YEAR
Annual Report 2018

burrenb^otrust
connecting people and place



What a year of change 2018 has been for the Burrenbeo Trust... new faces, new projects, new challenges! Since I was appointed Trust Coordinator in May, I have observed with admiration how the Burrenbeo Trust works effectively to support local communities in the Burren and to engage with the wider community of interest formed by members and supporters of the Trust.

The Burrenbeo Trust is a conservation organisation that has a strong sense of community at its heart. People are the heartbeat of this organisation – the

truly amazing staff and the wonderful, dedicated members and volunteers.

With my background in community work, I appreciate the importance of the Burrenbeo Trust growing strong roots in the communities of the Burren and operating in a way that is sensitive and responsive to the needs and interests of people of all ages and backgrounds who live in the Burren. This strong local identity and support, together with the vision of the organisation's co-founders and the skills of the staff and committee members who have

developed the organisation over the past ten years, provide a solid foundation for the organisation to take on a broader strategic remit to connect people and place, wherever they are in the world. So our community of interest also includes people who love the Burren, wherever they live, and people who love their places – that's a lot of people, and a lot of potential support!

In the tenth year since the Burrenbeo Trust was established as a charitable organisation, there are some people I would like to thank for their contribution

to the development of the organisation. Brendan Dunford and the late Ann O'Connor built the foundations of the organisation and we continue to benefit from Brendan's wisdom and pragmatism. We are very grateful to Brendan, Ann, co-founder and patron Stephen Ward, former Treasurer and walks coordinator Richard Morrison and former Trust Manager Brigid Barry for their legacy in developing a strong, vibrant, purposeful organisation.

Many thanks to Áine Bird, who did a fantastic job as

Acting Trust Coordinator in the first half of 2018 and who, as coordinator of the Trust's education work, has developed a world-class place-based learning programme in Áitbheo. Kate Lavender continues to do an amazing job inspiring children, teens and adults through her work on the Burrenbeo Trust's education and outreach programmes, working efficiently and effectively on the organisation's finances and membership and providing vital coordination support to the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers.

Throughout this Annual report you will read the words of some of the fantastic people who have contributed to the work of our organisation in 2018.

As we celebrate the Burrenbeo Trust's 10th anniversary and move forward into the next ten years, I would like to thank you most sincerely for your support and let you know that we are here to listen to your ideas, to promote your interest in the Burren and in place-based learning and to foster the connection between people of all ages and backgrounds and the places where they live.

Annalisa Murphy
Burrenbeo Trust Coordinator
December 2018

The Organisation in Numbers

Since the beginning:

- 6,701** **People have attended** the **175** educational monthly heritage walks and winter talks series since 2009, including our new Burrenbeo Trust Dublin Talks in the National Botanic Gardens in autumn 2018. Our Burren in Bloom festival walks and talks have attracted **3,388** people since 2010.
- 1,444** **Young Burren Experts** have graduated from our free 9-week Ecobeo (and Áitbheo) heritage programme in **30** different local primary schools since its inception in 2003.
- 357** **People** have registered, for free, with the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers to carry out active conservation projects in the region since 2010.
- 241** **Place Heroes** have graduated from our Áitbheo Secondary active place-based learning programme.
- 144** **Monthly snapshots** have been sent out to a growing base of Burrenbeo subscribers with news and events from the region since 2007. Currently **2897** people receive this free each month.
- 130** **Grants** were written to 57 different funding bodies since 2009 in order to keep this organisation going. 77 were successful, generating €451,148 for the organisation in the past 10 years.
- 112** **Primary school teachers** and heritage educators from **16** different counties have trained on our 5-day place-based education courses since 2014; this is central to spreading our model of place-based learning nationally.
- 29** **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 **94** heritage experts have also given their time for free to raise awareness through walks and talks for the organisation.
- 10** **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 8 previous years.

This year:

- 20,553** **People have viewed our websites** this year with over 100 pages of information on the Burren's natural, built and cultural heritage. This amounted to **66,170** individual page hits and includes our Burren in Bloom and Burren Winterage Weekend festival websites.
- 7,349** **People** currently follow us on the social media sites Facebook and Twitter.
- 2,959** **Voluntary hours** were donated by the community to the organisation this year, the equivalent of **€63,340** in paid time. This excludes the work by the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers as accounted for below.
- 2,179** **People attended our public events** this year celebrating the Burren and learning from it, including the Learning Landscape Symposium, the Burren in Bloom festival, Heritage Week events and the Burren Winterage Weekend. This does not include our monthly walks and winter tea talks.
- 559** **Individuals, couples and families** are currently members of the Burrenbeo Trust. Membership has risen significantly in the last two years.
- 139,000** **Euro** is the amount that Burrenbeo Trust had to raise this year. This is a shoestring budget to deliver the wide range of programmes and a testament to the value for money that the organisation provides.
- 130** **Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers** made up **160** attendances at 12 conservation events this year. This adds up to approximately **1280** days donated to the region in active conservation.
- 26** **Key projects** and areas of work were coordinated and delivered by the Trust this year.
- 22** **Grant applications** were submitted this year by Burrenbeo Trust with only 10 being approved. 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 96 hours a week to coordinate and deliver the wide range of projects the organisation runs today. With no core support, this is only possible with outstanding community support and voluntary time.

Goals for 2019

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

- To spread the word locally, nationally and internationally that learning in place, through place and for place is hugely beneficial for individuals and their community.
- To further develop community ownership and leadership of our events.
- To increase the number of Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers, increasing active conservation in the community, while also promoting environmentally friendly 'green health' and combatting social isolation among a range of social groups in our region.
- To become more engaged with socio-economic challenges in the region, in the belief that supporting communities supports the environment.
- To increase fundraising income to cover all our core activities, particularly to fund a panel of Áitbheo trainers to respond effectively to the increase in demand for our education programmes.
- Research the impact of the organisation's place-based learning programmes on community stewardship.
- Strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of our work.

Reflections from the Burrenbeo Trust Secretary

As we approach our 10th birthday as a Charitable Trust, it is with a mixture of great pride and gratitude that we reflect on the past decade. Pride for all that has been achieved – thousands of Áitbheo graduates, hundreds of educational walks, talks and conservation volunteer events, wonderful Winterage Weekends, Learning Landscape Symposia and Burren in Bloom festivals, to list but a few. Gratitude to all those who made it happen: people like Ann O'Connor whose vision for Burrenbeo inspired us all; Brigid Barry, our co-ordinator for most of the decade, who did so much to make this vision a reality; sterling volunteers like Richard Morrison and Stephen Ward who dedicated countless voluntary hours; our amazing staff, Annalisa, Kate and Áine, and you, our members. We hope that you realise, and can take equal pride in, what an important contribution you make to this organisation and thus to the conservation of the Burren. We remain as ambitious as ever for this wonderful little organisation - the need for which is as great as ever - so we will need your support more than ever in the decade ahead. Thank you all so much!

Brendan Dunford, Trust Secretary

Our Mission and Our Work

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

Where people have the opportunity to know, experience and share their heritage.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Where communities 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 2018

In 2018 we delivered our **Áitbheo Primary** course in Carron, Ballyvaughan, Corofin and Moy National Schools, with a total of 114 pupils completing the programme. We have another 7 schools lined up to begin in January 2019. These are Inagh NS, Ruan NS, Kinvara NS (2 classes), Maree NS, Kilcolgan Educate Together NS and Lurga NS.

32 Transition Year pupils from Gort Community College and Seamount College received scholarships for the **Áitbheo Secondary** course following their course introduction field trips. The students graduated as *Laoch Áite* (place heroes).

We have built a small **panel of educators** (Mary Dillon and Grainne Barron) to help us deliver our Áitbheo courses to more schools in 2019 and we look forward to working with them into the future.

Our 5 day **Áitbheo Training** course for teachers and community educators in July shared our tools for building place based learning into education programmes and school curricula.

We created an **Áitbheo Toolkit** which is a resource for anyone interested in using place-based learning in their setting.

Our 7th **Learning Landscape Symposium** was a huge success with just over 100 people attending.

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.



Photo: Pedro Teixeira

'You can describe this place as a thinking place, because the fresh air clears your mind and changes your attitude.'

**Áitbheo Primary Participant
Carron**

'I learnt a lot during this course and I feel more prepared to 'take action' in my local community. I also feel less shy to discuss and argue topics that I feel are important to me.'

**Áitbheo Secondary Participant
Seamount College**

'Everything was made relevant to everyone and there was an opportunity to connect and contribute at all workshops.'

**Learning Landscape
Symposium Participant**



What does Burrenbeo Trust mean for me?

There is something so simple yet significant about an invitation to connect with your natural landscape. It is an invitation that the Burrenbeo Trust makes with sincerity and warmth. Over the years I have attended many walks and talks organised by the Burrenbeo Trust and I have enjoyed them thoroughly. They have enhanced my understanding of the beautiful area we live in and inspired me to want to learn more. The 'Dawn Chorus' walk by Gordon D'Arcy, Sharon Parr's introduction to 'Farming and Flowers in the Burren' and Una Fitzpatrick's talk on 'Bees in the Burren' stand out as wonderful highlights.

Beyond the learning itself, enduring connections to the landscape come from sharing in its stories, participating in its experiences. The Burren Winterage Weekend with Patrick McCormack's 'Herdsman's Walk' and the Community Cattle Drive offered very special opportunities for such connections to take place in the Burren.

The emphasis placed on the relationship between people and their place in all the endeavours of the Burrenbeo Trust makes for an inclusive and positive ethos for all its participants. This was evident at the creative planning meeting held in September with the members. It was clear that listening to everybody's perspectives and ideas was an important step for the Trust in planning future actions.

Burrenbeo has a story that is worth telling and I was delighted this year to help tell it by preparing communication material for the press and media in the lead up to the Burren Winterage Weekend.

In 2019 I would love to see Burrenbeo's engagement with communities from near and far continue to rise, through the already successful events that it coordinates and perhaps through newer avenues like art workshops, a book festival and more family events where it can engage with its present and future members.

Pranjali Bhave
Burrenbeo Trust member and volunteer



Information Provision

Achievements 2018

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

We developed our free monthly **e-newsletter**, now called the Burrenbeo Monthly Snapshot, to give members and subscribers an overview of recent events and what's coming up over the next month.

We organised 12 **monthly members' heritage walks** with the invaluable support of our voluntary walks coordinators.

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 of July, with a Burren Picnic for our members and other guests.

We coordinated the 13th **Burren in Bloom festival** with 17 walks and talks to celebrate the arrival of the Burren flowers on the landscape in Maytime.

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.

Reflections from our Volunteer Walk Coordinators

John Marrinan Burren Farmer and Burrenbeo Trust Walks Coordinator

Nuala Kennedy and myself have been coordinating the monthly walks for over twelve months now. I couldn't believe it when Richard Morrison asked me would I like to take over as walks coordinator as he was moving away. And so this great journey began! I'm very passionate about doing the best I can for our Trust. I had experience meeting people when we had teas in our old cottage, so I love meeting new people and

learning from them. To have the opportunity to greet the people on behalf of the Burrenbeo Trust is a proud day for me. The Trust is doing great work, teaching children about the Burren where they live and grow up, and all the other events that take place through the year. I'm very lucky to work with Nuala Kennedy as a walk coordinator. The people that lead the walks are the best in their fields. I think if the Burrenbeo Trust raised the membership fees it might make people realise the value of the package they are getting!

Nuala Kennedy Burrenbeo Trust Walks Coordinator

Living in the UK and dreaming about living in the Burren one day, Google led me to Burrenbeo Trust. I became a member and enjoyed reading the newsletters and learning about the events, though feeling envious of the lucky people who were able to be there. Moving to north Clare in Spring 2017 I was thrilled to be able to attend events and made the most of my first Burren in Bloom.

I was, and still am, amazed at the quality of walk leaders the Trust attracts. Experts in many fields with great communication skills, who wear their knowledge

lightly. But the farmers who work with the Trust are, in my opinion, the real stars of the show. They share their knowledge of years-old farming practices and their love of the Burren while giving us access to wonderful locations on private property. Most are surprised how interested us 'lay folk' are in their working lives and how much we appreciate their stewardship of the land.

John and I work well as a team, we enjoy meeting the members and John's dry sense of humour and local knowledge are a bonus. I continue to be surprised at how much the Trust achieves, in terms of conservation, community engagement and particularly nurturing the love of their environment in the next generation. Long may it thrive!

Active Conservation

Achievements 2018

We have organised **12 different events** so far for the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers with 160 attendances in 2018. All events have an important conservation impact and involve education and awareness-raising.

2 days were spent **clearing scrub** around archaeological and historical sites.

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

3 days were spent on **cleaning** the Burren coastline.

1 weekend was spent on **first aid training**.

2 days were spent on **habitat management** around areas important for rare species to increase reproduction such as 2 important bat breeding sites.

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

Over **1.5 tonnes of rubbish** was cleared from the Burren coast by our volunteers during 3 days in March, April and September this year, where we were joined by local people and sea anglers.

Over **130** different individuals have volunteered with us over the past year.



A Review of the Year from the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers

What do beaches, bruscar, bats, butterflies, biodiversity, burial mounds, burnt stone, bones, badges, a BBQ and biscuit cake have in common? The Burrenbeo Trust Conservation Volunteers!

Plastic pollution in our oceans is as always very topical in the news and media and we carried out 3 fabulous beach/coast clean days. 1.5 tonnes of bruscar was collected by our volunteers working with other local groups. Inspired by campaigns like the 5minutebeachcleanup, we launched a beach front appeal, putting up signs to ask people to join us on the day for whatever time they could spare. This small change can bring about huge results. In the past 5 years the BCV have cleared over 3.5 tonnes of rubbish from the Burren coastline – an amazing result!

We continue to work on our habitat management projects for the bats, butterflies and other biodiversity unique to the Burren.

Our well established links with local archaeology projects resulted in many enjoyable volunteering days on the archaeology front.

This year we celebrated our second annual Open Day event which aims to bring the benefits of volunteering in the Burren to a greater number of people. That's where the BBQ comes in! It was also the launch of our awards scheme: volunteers who attend 5 events will receive a specially designed badge in recognition of their efforts.

And the biscuit cake, I hear you ask? Well, thanks to Mary (guardian of the recipe) that is the best reward of all on days marked by blustery wind, bucketing rain, blazing sunshine and brilliant friendships out in the beautiful Burren.

Eileen O'Connor
Chairperson, Burrenbeo Conservation
Volunteers Committee

Achievements 2018

PhD student, Elaine Williams is **investigating the impact** that landscape charities like Burrenbeo Trust are having on the **wellbeing of people and place**.

Burrenbeo Trust supported employee, Áine Bird, in completing her Masters in Education, investigating teachers' attitudes to place-based learning. This work is now being extended through an **employment based PhD** study which will research the impact of Burrenbeo Trust's work over the past 10 years and how this can be shared with other communities.

The impact of Burrenbeo Trust and sharing that with others

As Burrenbeo Trust reaches its 10 year milestone it's a fitting time to look back and try to quantify the impact that the work of the past decade has had in the Burren. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to focus some time on this – so that we can make improvements where necessary but also so that we can share our experience with other communities.

Over the next four years, my time will be split between Burrenbeo Trust and NUI Galway and I'll be attempting to analyse the role that our various place-based learning programmes have played in community stewardship attitudes and behaviours in the area. The aim of Burrenbeo's place-based approach is to facilitate connection and engagement 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. I hope that my research will help us establish the processes that facilitate and encourage community stewardship – which we can then share with other interested communities. I am very grateful to both the Irish Research Council and Burrenbeo Trust for supporting this work.

Áine Bird
Research and Impact Officer, Burrenbeo Trust



Photo Pedro Teixeira



Advocacy

Achievements 2018

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 were a partner in the **National Farming for Nature Awards** - a new initiative to share stories of farmers across Ireland who are managing their land in a way that benefits nature.

We continue to promote the Burren as a place of inspiration from which people can learn from their surroundings, in accordance with 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 the region maintains a high profile among decision-makers and the public.

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



'We had a splendid time during the Burren Winterage Weekend and are very impressed with the organisation of the event! Thanks especially to the farmers involved. Burrenbeo Trust's skills in community involvement and in reaching politicians on a high level have left us truly inspired.'

Katrin McCann
Swedish HNV (High Nature Value) Programme

'I feel a strong spiritual draw to the Burren and I am arrested by its beauty every time I set foot in it. Burrenbeo Trust is a remarkable organisation doing tremendously rich work, and work that will have an enduring and evolving reach for many years to come. I am so excited about my involvement with Burrenbeo Trust and I can't wait for my next Burren experience!'

Julie Feeney
Burrenbeo Trust Patron

What does the Burrenbeo Trust mean for me?

I first became involved with the Burren when, in 2004, I met a couple synonymous with it - Brendan Dunford and Ann O'Connor, who were running the Trust's predecessor: Burrenbeo Teoranta. Discussions at the Burren Spring Conference in 2004 led to the formation of a working group on the future of the Burren. In 2007 it was decided that it was essential for Burrenbeo to develop a membership scheme and/or donor support base, and so in 2008 Burrenbeo Teoranta evolved into the Burrenbeo Trust, which was launched by David Bellamy.

2008 coincided with the demise of the Celtic Tiger; this set the pattern of a difficult financial background against which the Trust had to succeed. The Trust's day-to-day affairs were overseen by an Executive Committee, supported by our first employee Brigid Barry. As the workload grew Brigid was joined by Áine Bird and Kate Lavender. On leaving Ireland in 2014, I was honoured to become a Patron.

A major involvement has been leading botanical 'potters'; particularly satisfying has been to do so jointly with local farmers John Marrinan and Michael Keane. A special outing once a year has been that for wheel-chair users; to see the joy on their faces has been a reward in itself.

For hands-on management, the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers have undertaken tasks ranging from scrub-control favouring marsh fritillary butterflies, gapping stone walls under the expert tuition of local farmer and Trust Board member Shane Casey, and clearing sea-borne plastic.

In its first 10 years, the Trust has established itself as part of the local community; the challenge for the next ten is not only to maintain that position, but to build a growing support base of members, expand links with schools, farmers, local community members and visitors from all parts of the world. The Burren is internationally renowned for its heritage and merits being managed accordingly. The Burrenbeo Trust has a key role in campaigning to ensure that this is done sympathetically.

Stephen Ward
Burrenbeo Trust Co-Founder and Patron

Challenges 2018



Our main challenges this past year were:

Securing funding

Every year we have to raise over €130,000 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 very difficult to plan long-term.

Growing our community

We are so grateful to our loyal members and volunteers, who have contributed so much to our success. But we always need new people to come on board in order to increase 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 and working in the Burren, but also from everyone who loves this place.

Keeping going!

Burrenbeo Trust runs a wide variety of projects, from international conferences to educational courses in local schools. To sustain these projects 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.

Happy Birthday Burrenbeo Trust!

Celebrating a 10th anniversary seems counter-intuitive when related to a place as ancient as the Burren, not just in geological time, but even in the time-frame of its human habitation. Ten years is but the blink of any eye in these contexts.

However, such is the impact of modern man that our current geological age has been called the 'Anthropocene', the period during which human activity has been the dominant influence on climate and the environment. In this context ten years becomes a matter of no small significance for all those with a love for this place and who seek to preserve its unique character, for this and future generations, against the sometimes baleful impact of modernity.

If it's ten years since the Burrenbeo Trust was born it must be a few years more since Dr Liam Lysaght delivered an inspiring address to the Burren Spring Conference at Newtown Castle, calling for the recognition and protection of this special place. Needless to say Brendan Dunford, the founder with his late wife Ann O'Connor of the Trust's precursor, Burrenbeo Teoranta, seized the moment and the Trust was born.

So it's timely to stop and acknowledge the amazing work that has been done in those short ten years by the dedicated staff of the Trust, supported by the Executive Committee, the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers and the Board. It's also timely to say a big 'thank you' to the Trust's membership – locally, nationally and internationally – who have supported and continue to support the Trust to be the innovative force it is today.

That the Trust is now dedicated to connecting people everywhere with their place, and their role in caring for it, is testament to the success of its original mission to 'open eyes to the living Burren'. It has truly come of age. Happy 10th Birthday!

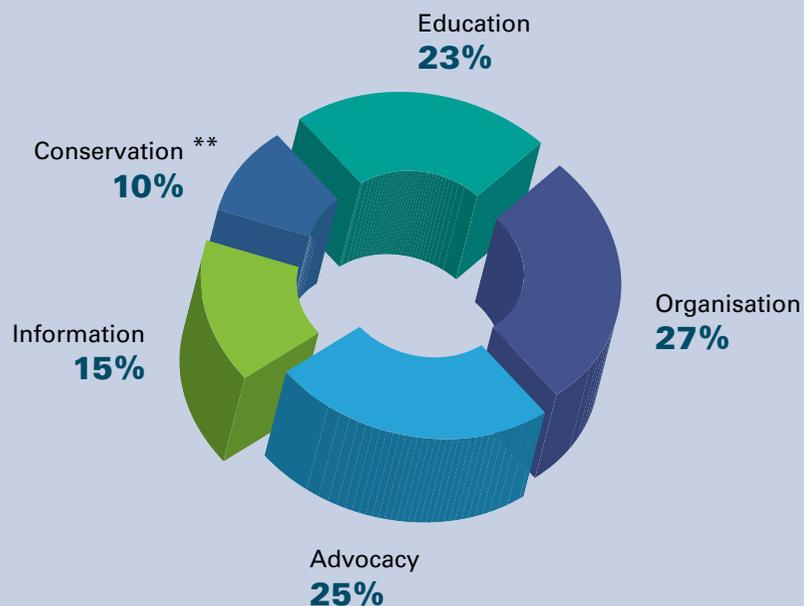
Martin Hawkes
Chairman of the Board, Burrenbeo Trust

Financial Overview

Expenditure

Our total expenditure in 2018 amounted to **€138,000**. An estimated 74% of this amount was spent locally in accordance with our policy of supporting local providers.

Expenditure was split between the following programme sectors in 2018:



Operational expenditure was as follows:*

- Wages & Revenue (60%)
- Event costs i.e. speakers fees, venues, marketing (22%)
- Rent, electricity, heating, etc. (6%)
- Stationery etc. (7%)
- Accounts, bank charges and insurance (5%)

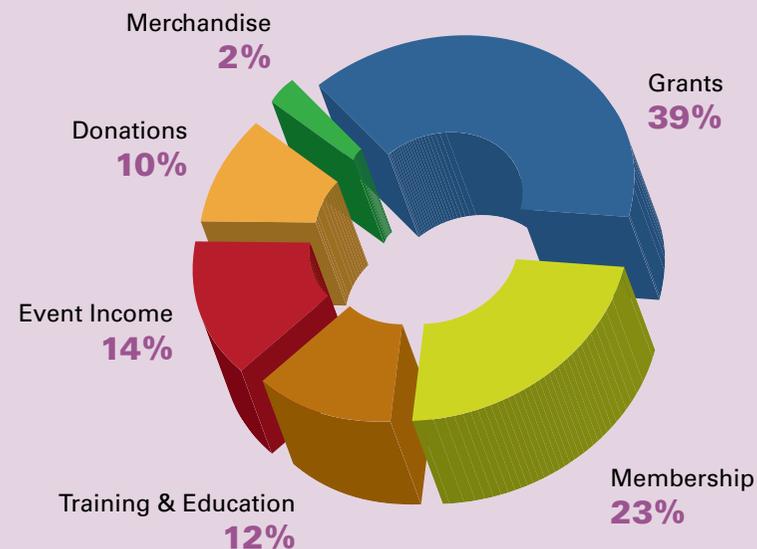
* This report was prepared in November and therefore figures have been projected until the end of December based on monthly averages.

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

Income

Our total income for 2018 was **€139,000**. The Burrenbeo Trust funds its work programme through a variety of sources including grants, donations, events, membership fees and merchandise sales.

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



- **Grants (39%)** In 2018 we applied for 22 different grants. We were successful with 12 applications. Grants ranged from €280 to €16,000.
- **Members (23%)** Membership fees bring in roughly one quarter of the necessary income to fund the organisation.
- **Training and education (12%)** Burrenbeo Trust held a symposium on place-based learning, and a training course for teachers bringing place-based education to the classroom. The Trust has also provided training for a new education panel.
- **Event Income (14%)** 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 (10%)** Various businesses or individuals supported specific programmes within the Trust in 2018.
- **Merchandise (2%)** The sale of Burrenbeo field-guides.

A full and complete audit of the 2018 accounts will be available at the AGM in June 2019.

Who Supported Us in 2018

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 €280-€16,000.

GRANTS

The Heritage Council

Clare County Council Local Agenda 21 (Áitbheo Primary)

Clean Coasts (Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers)

Creative Ireland Galway (Winterage Weekend)

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Winterage Weekend)

FBD (Winterage Weekend)

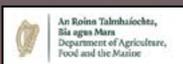
Galway County Council Community Support Scheme

(Developing Áitbheo Trainers' Resource)

Galway LCDC/Galway County Council Community Enhancement (Equipment)

GRETB (Learning Landscape Symposium and Áitbheo Training)

The Ireland Funds (Áitbheo Training Panel)



Burrenbeo Trust Benefactors 2018

Áine Nic Chárthaigh

Christine and Patrick Costelloe

Cliffs of Moher Visitor Centre

Clodagh and Michael Lynch

(Young Burren Ambassador Bursary)

Daire O'Críodáin and Mary Queally

Dr Brendan Dunford

Galway Walking Club

EI Electronics

Gerald Keane

Hillwalk Tours

Irish Power and Process (Dublin talk series)

Leenane Development Group

Jean Byrne (Áitbheo – place based learning programme)

Lilian Cassin

Limerick Climbing Club

M. Moynihan

Michael Houlihan

Michelle Sheehy Skeffington and

Nick Scott

S. Morrell Rooney

Stephen Ward

Tomas Kerin

The Channon Group (Dublin talk series)

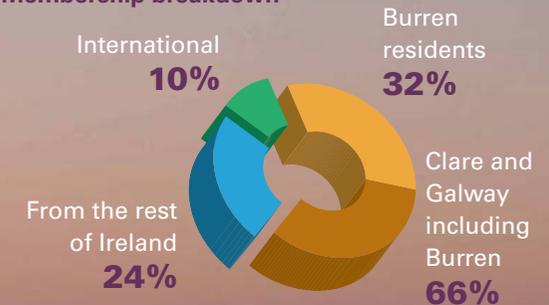
Virginia Farley

Burrenbeo Trust received a further 20 donations from members and business friends who wish to remain anonymous. Donations ranged between €10 and €100 and were used for core funding of the organisation.

Members

Burrenbeo Trust is a membership organisation with a wide geographical spread. There are 559 current memberships with the Burrenbeo Trust. 224 of these memberships are for more than one person (i.e. couple or family). We also have 10 Schools members and 41 Business Friends.

Membership breakdown



Funding in kind

Over the past year, the 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, providing information at an event, preparing refreshments, offering accommodation for keynote speakers, opening farms, delivering workshops to working on children's events... the list is endless! This year, we estimate that c.€63,340* 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

Membership fees currently account for nearly a quarter of the Trust's income so we wouldn't be here without having all our members on board supporting us and the work that we carry out. A huge thank-you to all our supporters!

Membership numbers are still on the increase which is a very positive sign for us and we hope to continue building on this into the future.

Our website has been set up for membership payments for over a year now, offering a range of different payment options, and this means our members can select payment options most suitable to themselves.

There are a number of local businesses also supporting the Trust through membership and we are delighted to have so many of them working alongside us. Our membership offers great value for money, giving members access to our members-only walks, free entry to our winter tea time talks and reduced admission to many of our festival events. New and renewing members all receive a voucher to bring a friend for free to one of our walks or talks, so please make sure you avail of this brilliant opportunity to show others what they are missing out on by not being a member!

Kate Lavender

Conservation, Membership, Education and Administration, Burrenbeo Trust

Business Friends 2018

We have 41 Burrenbeo Business Friends that renewed their membership or joined up throughout the year. We are grateful to the support they have given us. Please support those that support us!

Gold Business Friend

Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark
The Burren Perfumery
Burren Programme
Gregans Castle Hotel
Lahinch Medical Centre (Dr Duncan)

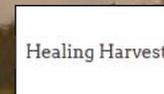
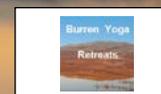
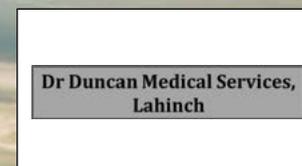
Silver Business Friend

Burren Nature Sanctuary
Corofin Medical Centre
Kinvara Skincare
Sleepzone Hostel Burren

Business Friend

Aillwee Caves
Airmid Natural Irish Skincare
Anam Coffee
Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club
Burren College of Art
Burren Guided Walks
Burren Outdoor Education Centre
Burren Vets
Burren Yoga Retreats
Caherconnell Fort and Sheepdog Demonstrations
Clare's Rock Hostel
Clooncouse Country Cottage
Crann Óg Eco Farm
Doolin Cave
FBD Insurance
Fitzpatrick's Supervalu, Ennistymon
Gallery Café, Gort
Hanne T. Fisker Photography
Hazelwood Lodge

Healing Harvest
Hyland's Burren Hotel
Irish Natural Stone
Kinvara Guesthouse
Martin Kiely Burren Photography
Mount Vernon
The Burren Centre
The Health Store, Galway
The Irish Fieldschool of Prehistoric Archaeology
Quinn's Craft Shop, Ballyvaughan
Rockyview Farmhouse
St. Tola Irish Goat Cheese
Wild Honey Inn





Supporting Burrenbeo Trust – Reflections from a Gold Business Member

We feel that using the resources and reach of The Burren Perfumery to support the Burrenbeo Trust is a way of contributing to the future wellbeing of the Burren. As a Gold Business Member we try to support Burrenbeo Trust through our annual membership subscription, but also in other ways: we display information about the Trust, we enable our customers to subscribe as Burrenbeo Trust members and we train our staff so that they can spread the word, both locally and more widely. In 2018 we hosted a workshop as part of the Burren Winterage Weekend, with proceeds going to the Trust; in 2019 we'll fund a joint first aid training course for the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers and Perfumery staff. Our aim is to raise awareness of the Burren, Burrenbeo Trust and the work it does among the visitors that we welcome at The Burren Perfumery. Our support of Burrenbeo highlights our more serious environmental and social concerns and we feel that we are giving back to the Burren. Burrenbeo is a fantastic ambassador for the Burren. The approach of working with local children and teachers to raise community awareness and inspire a love and appreciation of the Burren is realistic and empowering. The walks and conservation work in different parts of the Burren keep the Burren landscape in focus and encourage people to meet up. Áitbheo, or living landscape, is a very valuable concept and a practical programme that could benefit many areas both in Ireland and abroad. With secure funding from members and sponsorship Burrenbeo Trust could become a leading organisation internationally for place-based learning, integrating landscape conservation with working, engaged communities who see their environments threatened.

Sadie Chowen
The Burren Perfumery



Reflections from a Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteer

I joined the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers (BCV) in 2010, just after moving to Ireland from the UK. It was a great way for me to learn about my new surroundings and meet like-minded people. I love working outdoors, whether it's litter picking, plotting historic monuments, helping sieve archaeological remains, scrub clearing or wall building. Over time I was asked if I would like to join the volunteer committee; I have since taken over press advertising for our events, sourcing tools and equipment and eventually taking the lead on our Bat Conservation Project. The BCV work alongside Clare County Council to manage and maintain a habitat around a maternity roost, near Dromore, for the rare Lesser Horseshoe bat. These little creatures fascinate me. What makes them so special is that they are the only bat which can't crawl, so they rely on finding well-insulated barns or other buildings which have constant airflow and easy access, so they can fly to their 'hanging spot' undisturbed. This year alone we have planted more than 20 trees for the bat pups to learn to hang from, cleared scrub around the mature trees on site, discovered an amazing old path around the building and put in a fence – all at this one site! I love that I learn so much from the field experts at all our events. Who knew there were bats that can't crawl, monuments hidden under scrub and so many people with so much knowledge of the landscape around us? I like to feel that I can contribute something to Ireland whilst I live here, and what better way than conserving the history, flora and fauna which so many of us take for granted. I've also made some good friends and have many good memories, thanks to the BCV and all they do.

Ruth Hollingsworth
BCV Committee Member

Organisation



Trust Coordinator
Annalisa Murphy
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Research and Impact Officer
Áine Bird
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Education, Conservation and Administration
Kate Lavender
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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

Patrons

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

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

Founding Patrons (Deceased)

Seamus Heaney
Ann O'Connor Dunford

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

A massive thank you to all our members and to everyone who continues to support us in our work. In 2018 the Burrenbeo Trust once again received a remarkable amount of voluntary input and in-kind assistance. We are truly grateful for this extraordinary contribution from the community.

I have been involved with the Trust almost since its beginnings, though initially only peripherally – giving talks and leading walks. I was invited to join the Executive Committee of Burrenbeo about four years ago, so I am a relative newcomer. After a career spent in University teaching and in researching limestone areas such as the Burren these two interests remain with me and are my principal areas of interaction with Burrenbeo Trust. Leading walks is a great way to introduce people to places and aspects of the Burren with which they may not be familiar and to supplement an enjoyable walk by deepening people's understanding of the area. It is a two-way process: almost always, in the course of a walk, I learn something new about the terrain and its people from other participants.

David Drew
Executive Committee Member

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 of 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 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 2019
with your help**

Burrenbeo Trust

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