

Biographies & Workshop Details

| Friday 8 th March Opening Talks | | |
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| Contributor | Biography | Session Details |
| Áine Bird, Burrenbeo Trust | Áine Bird has been Education and Communications Officer for the Burrenbeo Trust since 2012. In this role she develops and coordinates place-based education programmes including the Áitbheo primary and secondary programmes which the Trust delivers to over 300 young people a year. With a background in botany, she has a masters in Science Communication, is a heritage in schools specialist and recently completed a Master in Education at NUI Galway with a focus on place-based education. In October 2018, Áine commenced an Irish Research Council funded employment based PhD project focused on evaluating the impact of place-based learning in the Burren region and the potential for knowledge transfer to other regions. Prior to Burrenbeo Áine was an education officer in Glenveagh National Park and previously worked with Eco-Unesco and TASC. | Event Introduction. |
| Lorcan Scott, Heritage Council | I studied Environmental Science in UUC before taking up a career with the National Parks & Wildlife Service, starting in the Wicklow Mountains National Park as a Park Ranger, in 1998 I moved post to the lowlands of Co. Kilkenny. In 2001 I punctuated my NPWS career with a secondment to Carlow CoCo as Heritage Officer for 3 years before resuming employment with NPWS as District Conservation Officer covering the South East counties of Carlow; Kilkenny & Wexford. In 2015 I was placed as Peatlands DCO responsible for Raised Bog issues in both the Eastern & Southern NPWS divisions. In December last, I took up my current post as Wildlife Officer with the Heritage Council, based in Kilkenny and I have a national role with this post. | “Wild? I was livid!” The role of The Heritage Council’s Wildlife Officer. |
| Róisín Garvey, Green Schools | Róisín Garvey, Mother, ex teacher, Green-Schools Environmental Education Officer. 11 years working full time with the Green-Schools Programme in schools in Clare Galway and Limerick. Passionate environmentalist and community activist both inside and outside work. | Green-Schools in 7 steps and 7 topics! Making resilient children |
| Tomás O’Ruairc, Teaching Council | Tomás started his career teaching Irish and history at Athlone Community College. He was head of the Irish Department in Froebel College of Education from 2000 for five years and Education Programme Manager at Foras na Gaeilge | “Into the great wide open” – landscapes for learning. |

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| | before becoming Deputy CEO in 2007. He held the post of chair of Meitheal Chinnireachta (Leadership Forum) and of the Network for the Promotion of Linguistic Diversity and sat on the Council of the NCCA from 2006-2009. In 2009, Tomás became a Director in the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht before taking on his current role as Director of the Teaching Council in 2012 | |
| Laura Kravac, Action for Conservation | Laura Kravac is the Programme Manager for Action for Conservation, a young environmental charity with a mission to bring the magic of nature into young people's lives and inspire a youth movement committed to conservation and the earth. | Why Young People Make us Hopeful |
| Saturday 9th March Workshop Session 1 (10am- 12.30am) | | |
| <i>Contributor</i> | <i>Biography</i> | <i>Session Details</i> |
| W1: Meaghan Carmody, Friends of the Earth This is an indoor workshop based in Kinvara. | Meaghan has been with Friends of the Earth Ireland for just over three years. Her role as Head of Mobilisation encompasses education, activism and outreach, supporting people to get involved in the movement for positive environmental change. She is an experienced group facilitator, specialising in grassroots organising, supporting groups and individuals to develop the skills necessary to carry out campaigns for environmental and climate justice. She has extensive experience designing effective, participatory workshops and multi-session trainings to build the campaigning capacity of potential organisers. She also has ample experience in coordinating large groups, including the Stop Climate Chaos Coalition, a coalition of 30+ organisations campaigning for Ireland to do its fair share on climate, and Young Friends of the Earth, a grassroots volunteer group working to advance global climate justice. Her passion for building and maintaining partnerships and networks in the grassroots campaigning sector is central to her work, and she hopes to see the work she does inspire people to work together to take action for positive change. | Title: Towards a Safer Climate: Community Organising and Movement-Building in Frontline Populations Outline: In this workshop, we will explore how to engage the local community in environmental issues, using the proposed Liquefied Natural Gas terminal planned for the Shannon estuary as a case study. This workshop's participants will learn about the process that led to fracking, applying skills such as finding allies, power mapping, using the pyramid of engagement and targeted messaging to this case study. It will be co-facilitated by a local from Clare who has recently got involved in the Stop Shannon LNG campaign. |
| W2: Hedda Dick, Brigit's Garden This workshop is based in Kinvara and will include indoor and outdoor elements. | Hedda Dick is the Environmental Education Officer at Brigit's Garden, Roscahill, Co. Galway working to connect people of all ages with nature and to engage in both local and global sustainability issues. Since qualifying with an MSc in Sustainable Development from DIT, Hedda has worked in sustainability education and engagement in a range of settings. At Brigit's Garden, Hedda's main role is to develop and deliver primary and secondary school programmes as well as working with volunteer gardeners to care for the garden. | Title: Place-based sustainability: our home the earth Outline: This workshop will explore how to engage people of all ages in issues of local and global sustainability using the place-based programmes and events at Brigit's Garden as a case study. The story so far will be told of how Brigit's Garden strives to connect people with our local environment and heritage, while making them aware of global sustainability challenges |

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| | | and what we can do to address them. Participants will take part in hands-on activities used at Brigit's Garden for a range of age groups and abilities. Participants will also work together to explore how they can develop practices or activities in relation to local and global sustainability. |
| <p>W3: Brendan Dunford, Burren Programme</p> <p>This workshop is an outdoor workshop based in the Burren.</p> | <p>Brendan is the Manager of the EU award-winning Burren 'farming for conservation' programme. Brendan initially came to the Burren to do a PhD which explored the relationship between farming and heritage in the region. With his wife Ann O'Connor, he helped found Burrenbeo Teo, precursor to the Burrenbeo Trust, and was instrumental in developing place-based education programmes in the Burren including the 10-week Ecobeo programme that is now run in primary schools across the Burren and identified as a model of place-based education nationally. He served as a council member of The Heritage Council from 2005-2015, as a director of the European Forum for Nature Conservation and Pastoralism and as an Ashoka Fellow for Ireland. His interests relate to the relationship between people and their places and ways through which this relationship may be revived and enhanced for the benefit of both.</p> | <p>Title: Farming for Nature</p> <p>Outline: A gentle stroll across the Burren to explore the complex relationship between local farmers and their rich heritage, from traditional management practices to modern conservation efforts. This 'walking workshop' will look at different habitats and heritage features, while also discussing to what degree lessons from working with Burren farmers over 20 years might apply to other farmed landscapes in Ireland and beyond.</p> |
| <p>W4: Mary Corcoran, NUI Maynooth</p> <p>This is an indoor workshop based in Kinvara.</p> | <p>Mary P. Corcoran is Professor of Sociology at Maynooth University and the recipient of an EPA-Fulbright award in 2018-19. Her research interests are primarily in the fields of migration, urban transformation and public cultures. She has published widely on these topics, and most recently has been investigating the relationship between food security, environmental stewardship and civil society.</p> | <p>Title: Place matters: exploring the enduring significance of place in the modern world</p> <p>Outline: In this workshop we will begin by examining definitions of place moving on to reflect on our individual and collective sense of place. We will demonstrate the difference between the social process of place attachment (how we feel about the place where we live) and the more utilitarian task of place-making (Faite Ireland campaigns such as The Wild Atlantic Way). Finally, we will explore the significance of place as a mobilising factor in everyday civic culture.</p> |
| <p>W5: Joanna McInerney, Burren Outdoor Education</p> <p>This workshop is an outdoor</p> | <p>Joanna is the director of the Burren Outdoor Education and Training centre (OETC), one of two OETCs in Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. Joanna has been involved in outdoor learning for over 30 years, designing and delivering programmes to range of groups and learners. Joanna also has a love</p> | <p>Title: Team Building Outdoors</p> <p>Outline: Participants on the workshop will take part in a range of team games and challenges. These are tasks and problem solving games that</p> |

| <p>workshop based in the Burren.</p> | <p>for adventure, is a keen sea kayaker and has travelled extensively on all sorts of trips and expeditions.</p> | <p>require cooperation and planning. They are a lot of fun as well. While taking place outdoors, these are not too physically demanding and they focus more on team work.</p> |
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| <p>Saturday 9th March Workshop Session 2 (2pm- 4.30pm)</p> | | |
| <p><i>Contributor</i></p> | <p><i>Biography</i></p> | <p><i>Session Details</i></p> |
| <p>W6: Laura Kravac, Action for Conservation</p> <p>This is an indoor workshop based in Kinvara.</p> | <p>Laura Kravac is the Programme Manager for Action for Conservation, a young environmental charity with a mission to bring the magic of nature into young people's lives and inspire a youth movement committed to conservation and the earth. www.actionforconservation.org</p> | <p>Title: Empowering the next generation of environmental leaders</p> <p>Outline: 2019 is predicted to be a groundbreaking year for youth environmental leadership. Last autumn, hundreds of organisations from across the world pledged to embed meaningful environmental action in young people's lives as part of the '2019 Year of Green Action'. In February we witnessed thousands of young people walking out of school to strike for climate justice. In this practical workshop, we will explore the ways in which environmental organisations, schools and community groups can build on this momentum and galvanise young people from diverse backgrounds to drive meaningful environmental change and shape the future of nature in the UK and Ireland. We'll cover how to incorporate youth voices in your work through youth trusteeships and advisory boards and more unconventional engagement techniques including social media takeovers, co-branding activities and ambassador programmes. We'll also explore different ways to frame these opportunities to engage and benefit young people from all backgrounds and experience.</p> |
| <p>W7: Neil Jackman & Róisín Burke, Abarta Heritage</p> <p>This is an indoor workshop based in</p> | <p>Neil and Róisín are both archaeologists and directors of Abarta Heritage, an award winning company based in Clonmel, Tipperary. Abarta Heritage works with national bodies such as the Heritage Council, local authorities, and communities to help to promote, interpret preserve and protect Ireland's</p> | <p>Title: Telling a Tale – storytelling techniques and methods for cultural and natural heritage.</p> <p>Outline: This practical workshop aims to outline the different techniques, methods and</p> |

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| <p>Kinvara.</p> | <p>heritage. Abarta's work includes the management of the Adopt a Monument Scheme and various interpretation and community-focused heritage projects.</p> | <p>considerations for interpretation. A short talk will introduce the key elements of interpretation, illustrated by examples from Ireland and overseas. The talk will also highlight considerations such as audience and how to ensure that your interpretation is balanced between being accurate and engaging. Following the talk participants will be placed in groups and presented with scenarios where they can plan how to tell the tale of a particular place or theme.</p> |
| <p>W8: Ray Foley, LEAF</p> <p>This workshop is an outdoor workshop based in woodland.</p> | <p>Ray Foley is Forest Education Officer with An Taisces Environmental Education Unit. Originally a secondary school teacher Ray went back to study environmental science. He has since worked on various environmental programmes including Green Schools and Climate Ambassadors. He now works on An Taisces LEAF Programme based in Limerick. This initiative educates primary and secondary level children on the social, environmental and economic benefits of forests.</p> | <p>Title: Irish forests A-Z. A walking conversation Outline: Interactive hands on walking tour of Garryland woods. Lessons from running the LEAF Programme in Limerick. Activities and discussions covering the history of Irish forests, their contemporary role and how to connect communities with their local woodlands. Lessons for educators on how to use our woodland resource for scientific and environmental education. Observe habitats and trees as we walk including Coilltes Yew re-establishment project. Hands on activities along the way.</p> |
| <p>W9: Kate Lavender, Burrenbeo Trust</p> <p>This workshop is an outdoor workshop based in the Burren.</p> | <p>Kate has a degree and masters in Geology and a PGCE in secondary Geography. Among other things she coordinates the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers and the Burren Wild Child programme, taking children on interactive days out into the Burren. Kate works with over 450 children a year through our Burren Wild Child and our Áitbheo primary and secondary place-based learning programmes. She also freelances as a field studies instructor and cave guide with the Burren Outdoor Education Centre. Prior to joining Burrenbeo she was a geography teacher in the UK.</p> | <p>Title: Having fun in the outdoor classroom Outline: The aim of this workshop is to share the many varied techniques and games that we use when exploring and learning in the outside classroom. Kate will lead a selection of activities carried out by the Burrenbeo Trust for a variety of different age groups and invites you all to bring along your favourite biodiversity/place activities to share with others.</p> |
| <p>W10: Caithriona McCarthy, The Edible Landscape</p> <p>This is an indoor workshop based in</p> | <p>Caithriona McCarthy founded the Edible Landscape Project in 2012. It was while living in Spain that she became acutely aware of the importance of community, the food we eat as a community, and how and where that food is grown. This experience, and her subsequent experience advising small Irish development</p> | <p>Title: Taking the Power Back - Climate Change and the Food We Eat Outline: Empowering listeners in a conversation about climate change, by relating it back to their</p> |

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| Kinvara. | organisations on sustainable business development, led her to create the Edible Landscape Project. She now combines her time as a lecturer in Sustainable Horticulture and Entrepreneurship at Westport College of Further Education (WCFE) in Co. Mayo, with developing community- based sustainability projects. | food consumption. We teach people how to be climate smart by addressing the energy used in the production, storage, delivery and consumption of their food. It is a message for our time. It is a way forward and a radical shift in the way communities address the problem of climate change. |
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Saturday 9th March Evening Session (6-8.30)

Screening of the ‘Silver Branch’
 This beautiful film is described as "an uplifting and emotional celebration of people and place, which captures the delicacy of the natural world; the heart and soul of a farmer-poet, Patrick McCormack; and the ancient rural spirit of Ireland which stands behind him". View the trailer on <https://vimeo.com/260201919>

Sunday 10th March Workshop Session 3 (10am- 12.30am)

| <i>Contributor</i> | <i>Biography</i> | <i>Session Details</i> |
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| <p>W11: Mary Greene, NUI Galway</p> <p>This is an indoor workshop based in Kinvara.</p> | <p><i>Biography</i></p> <p>Dr Mary Greene is a lecturer in Human Geography in the Discipline of Geography at the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUI Galway).</p> <p>Mary specialises in the social-scientific study of sustainability and environmental change. In addition to her work as an academic researcher, I have experience teaching at all levels on subjects relating to society-environment relations.</p> <p>Outside of academia, Mary is actively committed to working with communities on issues relating to social and environmental justice and change. Mary will be assisted by Claire MacKenzie in her workshop.</p> | <p>Title: Trashing the Planet – Who is responsible? Exploring design thinking & community activism as tools for engagement</p> <p>Outline: Do you ever feel like a drop in the ocean when it comes to efforts at achieving sustainability?</p> <p>In today’s neoliberal free market context, the onus is frequently placed on individual consumers to drive the transition towards sustainability. However, while individual behaviour change is, without doubt, a crucial part of the process of transitioning, the emphasis on the individual consumer neglects a discussion of how wider social, cultural and political contexts are locking individuals into resource intensive forms of consumption.</p> <p>This two-part workshop focuses on uncovering and challenging the social, structural and institutional contexts that lock citizens and consumers into unsustainable ways of living. The first half of the workshop comprises a theoretical</p> |

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| | | <p>exploration of the state-of-the-art social science research on (un)sustainable consumption. Particular attention is given to exploring insights from critical social science perspectives that highlight the social drivers of action and the resulting implications for policy responses. Specific focus is placed on the importance of moving attention away from individualising responsibility on individuals to meaningfully addressing the social and cultural factors shaping action.</p> <p>Building on this, the second half of the workshop takes an interactive, participatory workshop format in which participants explore innovative methods of community engagement for sustainability transitions. Here, design thinking and community asset-mapping as tools for enacting social change around sustainability transitions are explored through a range of group activities.</p> |
| <p>W12: Kathryn McCabe</p> <p>This workshop is based in Kinvara and will include indoor and outdoor elements.</p> | <p>Kathryn Mc Cabe studied Science and Applied Physics at Maynooth University, however continued seeking academic pathways that would explore a big picture approach to changing the world. A radical masters in Australia, Social Ecology, enabled her to engage with complex systems, design context-specific change strategies and, crucially, feel inspired about what is possible when people feel respected and trusted to take their next step towards transformation. She now works as an independent consultant designing programmes for groups that are engaged in change; community, schools, business. She has lectured at the University of Western Sydney, has worked internationally guiding NGOs and large multinationals towards sustainability and well-being. She has a special interest in youth Rites of Passage; delivering a summer program on Vancouver Island, Canada. She is a published author in Social Ecology; Applying Ecological Thinking to Our Lives and Our work.</p> | <p>Title: Deep Ecology; harnessing emotional intelligence to propel engagement and action. Outline: Beneath our encounters with place sit our emotional responses. Deep Ecology suggests that when our emotional responses remain unacknowledged they can act as blocks to effective action. Through acknowledging these emotional responses we enliven ourselves more fully; creating greater energy, focus, joy and meaningful action. In a series of indoor and outdoor activities drawing on Joanna Macy's The Work that Reconnects, Process Oriented Psychology and Social Ecology this workshop will invite you to explore your own personal responses to place and the state of the planet,</p> |

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| | | <p>connect more deeply with others attending the conference and create space for new perspectives for the next steps in your work/life. You will also come away with ideas for incorporating these activities in your own work.</p> |
| <p>W13: Goska Wilkowska</p> <p>This workshop is based in Kinvara and will include indoor and outdoor elements.</p> | <p>Goska Malgorzata Wilkowska is a part of Nature’s PATCH Network (www.patchireland.com), a non-for-profit organisation aiming to raise awareness on biodiversity loss and climate change issues. She holds a Master degree in Environmental Biology and works as a consultant ecologist. Goska provides biodiversity workshops in primary schools under the Heritage in Schools Scheme and has cooperated with the National Parks and Wildlife Service as a Curlew Champion. She is engaged in numerous community projects, including MWM Peatland Heritage Group concerned with protection of Ballivor bogs and Ounamoun Nature Reserve aiming to protect Lough Ree biodiversity. She has provided nature-related talks and workshops to people of all ages for last 8 years.</p> | <p>Title: Tame the name – how to remember all these species? Outline: Putting tags on plants, animals and landscape is a natural human way of taming and learning the world around them, but it can be troublesome to memorise all the names (sometimes tricky or foreign) that other people came up with. This often stops both young and old from noticing nature and scares them away from nature studies. You will learn and practice the ways how you and your students can deal with it: inventing new names and making meaningless names meaningful, which will lead to better understanding and befriending nature.</p> |
| <p>W14: Paddy Woodworth and Craig Bullock, Irish Forum on Natural Capital</p> <p>This workshop is an outdoor workshop based in the Burren.</p> | <p>Paddy Woodworth: environmental journalist writing regularly for The Irish Times; author of ‘Our Once and Future Planet: Restoring the World in the Climate Change Century’ (U of Chicago Press, 2015), the first survey of ecological restoration as a conservation strategy worldwide; founding member of the Irish Forum on Natural Capital. Also a specialist in Basque and Spanish politics.</p> <p>Dr Craig Bullock: research fellow and environmental economist based at UCD. He also manages Optimize, an environmental policy consultancy. He has worked on a variety of projects including a study of biodiversity finance for NPWS and a natural capital study for Woodlands of Ireland. He has worked on economic assessments of ecosystem services in relation to wetlands, forests, parks and the freshwater and coastal environments and has piloted an ecosystem services approach for use with public participation in planning.</p> | <p>Title: What is a native forest really worth? Integrating ALL the values of woodlands into our national accounting system through natural capital valuation Outline: We will drive to the entry of Slieve Carran Nature Reserve. Paddy Woodworth will give a short introduction to the concept of natural capital and ecosystem service valuation, and to the advantages – and dangers – of viewing our landscapes through this framework. Craig Bullock will briefly describe how he has applied this concept to Irish biodiversity globally, and to woodlands in particular. We will then walk to the sanctuary site in Carran hazel wood, discussing these ideas informally in small groups en route. In the hazel woods, we will open up a general discussion. How many hidden services can we</p> |

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| | | <p>find in the landscape, and how should we value them? Are there disservices also, that we need to discount (hazel scrub limiting other biodiversity, for example)? What dangers might there be in adopting this system?</p> |
| <p>W15: Sabine Springer</p> <p>This workshop is an outdoor workshop based in the Burren.</p> | <p>I began my professional life as a veterinary laboratory technician, working with veterinarians on farms and clinics in Germany. Returning to university in Ireland I obtained a Bachelor of Science(Hons) in Botany and a Masters degree in Environmental Science on otter distribution / ecology from NUIG.</p> <p>At the same time I began printmaking in GMIT in the evenings and had my first exhibition in the gallery in NUIG at the end of my primary degree three years later. It was all about learning and expressing of knowledge, some as research and some as art, which led to several exhibitions in Europe and a few book illustrations.</p> <p>At the moment I am trying to bind science and art together again but this time with plastic installations to highlight the plight of the marine environment, in particular the dangers to animals. I am a longterm active member of the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group, Coastwatch and the newly formed Cuan Beo (inspired by the work of Burrenbeo).</p> <p>My connection with the Burren began 1993, while working with the Burren Wildlife Foundation in Fanore. The special interest in the coastal edge of the Burren began there and I have been living close to the coast of the Burren ever since</p> | <p>Title: Causeway to Clare, between the rocks and a soft place</p> <p>Outline: In my workshop I would like to bring people to the tapestry of habitats to both sides of the causeway to Aughinish, go to our “backyard” to share what we have explored, studied, found and enjoyed over the years. I will bring you to old seaweed cultivation ridges in Aughinish Bay, give you a short history of the oyster beds and seaweed harvesting. Then I will show you marine karst on the edge of the sea , its geology and lifeforms, while looking out for intertidal bird and other life on the exposed sandy beach....we will have a look at the Martello Tower and the adjacent lagoon...more birds guaranteed... then we will walk along the coast to the oyster midden and have a look at the marine erosion at the glacial till cliffs of Aughinish, (not to worry, from below) and all the other non predictable things that will come our way.....</p> <p>Please bring wellingtons and binoculars.....</p> <p>Not so good weather option: to have a look at my marine collection, somewhere dry, with a cup of tea and home-made organic biscuits.</p> |