



ENGAGING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES
Annual Report 2019

burrenb^otrust
connecting people and place



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
Advocacy
Active Conservation
Research
Information Provision

We are living in interesting times.

2019 was the year when the world finally woke up to climate change, prompted by millions of children who joined the school climate strike movement to demand that those in power take radical action. The key message 'Think global, act local' has never been more important.

Through the **Áitbheo place-based learning programme**, the Burrenbeo Trust team continues to support children, teachers and heritage educators. We also introduced a new programme to support adults in community groups on an exciting and empowering learning curve. By providing them with knowledge and skills they can take ownership of and protect and enhance natural, cultural and built heritage in our communities.

Several of our **Burrenbeo monthly members' heritage walks** were led by Burren farmers who explained how they are farming with nature and conserving the Burren environment. The **Burren in Bloom** festival encouraged community members and visitors to the Burren to take action to help our pollinators. The **Burren Winterage School** was themed '*Building a healthy future for people, food and nature*', and outstanding examples were provided by the farmers nominated for the second annual **National Farming for Nature Awards**.

On the theme of '*Working together for nature*', the Trust supported fifteen communities in Co. Clare to develop community stewardship plans with a focus on biodiversity.

Our Education team developed the **Cuanbheo primary school programme**, which aims to equip children with the skills and tools to think critically about their place, as defined by their local river catchment and their role in its sustainable future.

We also facilitated a link between Burren farmers and a tour operator that brings small groups to experience a day in the life of a Burren farming family.

We are very grateful to everyone who supported us – members, business members, walk leaders and volunteer walk coordinators, **Winter Tea Talk** speakers and volunteers, **Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers**, **Burren Winterage Weekend** volunteers, state departments and agencies, county councils, local development companies, individual and corporate donors.

The Burrenbeo Trust is a very small organisation operating on a shoestring budget and depending on the goodwill of so many people – we couldn't do it without you all. Going forward we need your support as much as ever and we truly appreciate the important contributions you all make to the Burrenbeo Trust. Thank-you all so much.

Annalisa Murphy
Burrenbeo Trust Coordinator
December 2019

The Organisation in Numbers

Since the beginning:

- 7,533** **People have attended** the **187** educational monthly heritage walks and winter talks series since 2009. Our Burren in Bloom festival walks and talks have attracted **3,914** people since 2010.
- 1,703** **Young Burren Experts** have graduated from our free 9-week week Áitbheo (previously named Ecobeo) heritage programme in **32** different local primary schools since its inception in 2003.
- 502** **Individuals** have worked, for free, with the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers to carry out active conservation projects in the region since 2010.
- 345** **Place Heroes** have graduated from our Áitbheo Secondary active place-based learning programme.
- 156** **Monthly snapshots** have been sent out to a growing base of Burrenbeo subscribers with news and events from the region since 2007. Currently **3,042** people receive this free each month.
- 144** **Grants** were written to 60 different funding bodies since 2009 in order to keep this organisation going. 83 were successful, generating €494,409 for the organisation in the past 11 years.
- 144** **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.
- 34** **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 **107** heritage experts have also given their time for free to raise awareness through walks and talks for the organisation.
- 11** **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:

- 170,000 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.
- 19,698** is the total number of **users of our websites** this year with over 100 pages of information on the Burren's natural, built and cultural heritage. This amounted to **68,011** individual page hits and includes our Burren in Bloom and Burren Winterage Weekend festival websites.
- 8,659** **People currently follow us** on the social media sites Facebook and Twitter.
- 1,739** **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.
- 832** People have attended our **monthly walks** and **winter tea talks** (figures exclude Dec).
- 627** **Individuals, couples and families** are currently members of the Burrenbeo Trust. Membership has risen significantly in the last three years.
- 109** **Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers** made up **165** attendances at 15 conservation events this year. This adds up to approximately **2,475** days donated to the region in active conservation.
- 27** **Key projects** and areas of work were coordinated and delivered by the Trust this year.
- 14** **Grant applications** were submitted this year by Burrenbeo Trust with only 6 being approved. It is increasingly difficult to fit heritage, environment and sustainable communities into grant requirements.
- 4** **Staff** currently work at the Burrenbeo Trust office amounting collectively to just 100 hours a week to coordinate and deliver the wide range of projects the organisation runs today. We also temporarily employed an extra member of staff to complete a project in partnership with CLDC.



Photo © jefmauritzen.com

Burrenbeo Abú!

One of the highlights of National Geographic's *Tales and Treasures of the Emerald Isle* expedition is our visit to the Burren. There, Kate Lavender's stories of the local landscape always enchant our travellers and educate them on the great work Burrenbeo does to preserve this treasured place.

With words, photography, and rock samples, Kate inspires a real appreciation of this unique terrain in listeners of all ages. We get to experience the history, geology, geography, folklore, and art of the Burren in a wonderfully entertaining hour, before going out to explore this magical landscape for ourselves.

Burrenbeo Trust has many programs that take both visitors and locals into the Burren's limestone wonderland to experience first-hand its many treasures: From its ancient tombs to its butterflies to its Alpine and Arctic flora. Small wonder that generations of children and adults have gained a real *grá* for the flora and fauna and faeries of this unique Irish landscape through the works of Burrenbeo.

At National Geographic, we are committed to exploring and protecting our planet. When we explore, we think globally. But preserving the Earth starts locally. So National Geographic is delighted to help Burrenbeo Trust in every way possible in its tireless efforts to educate local youth and inspire them to care for this precious place. Burrenbeo Trust is exactly the kind of inspirational organization that National Geographic Expeditions seek out as local guides for our travellers in Ireland and as visionaries who can inspire others around the globe to protect and preserve their local landscapes for future generations.

Justin Kavanagh,
National Geographic Expeditions

Goals for 2020

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 and to investigate new funding avenues.
- To continue to research the impact of the organisation's place-based learning programmes on community stewardship.
- To evaluate the programmes in place and refine them where needed to reflect current needs in the communities around us.

Building a community of care in the Burren

Sometimes, people ask us '*What is it that Burrenbeo is hoping to achieve through its work?*'. Fundamentally, for us I think it's about shaping a brighter future for the Burren, its heritage and its people. We believe that the best way to do this is by empowering the local community to care for their special place and to help them to make a living while doing so. The first step in this process is engagement, which we try to do with our school's programmes, monthly walks, talks and conservation volunteers, all of which have helped create a great sense of local ownership. We also work to raise awareness of the wonder of the Burren and the importance of its farmers – through our website, newsletters, factsheets and events like Burren in Bloom and the Winterage Weekend. Then, working with the Burren Programme, we support farmers through educational walks, service provision etc. While we really have made a lot of progress over the past 20 years, we are very aware of the huge amount of work that still remains to be done. We are also conscious of the inspirational potential of the Burren and so we try to share our 'place-based learning' and 'farming for nature' models as widely as possible, so that other people in other places can also work towards this goal of community stewardship. This work is ever more critical at a time of biodiversity and climate emergency, and we really need your help in achieving our goals, so we hope you can join us on this important journey, and thank you for your support thus far.

Brendan Dunford, Trust Secretary

Education

Achievements 2019

In 2019 we delivered our **Áitbheo Primary course** in Inagh, Ruan, Kinvara (2 classes), Maree, Kilcolgan, Lurga, Fanore and Lisdoonarna National Schools with a total of 259 pupils completing the programme. We have another 4 schools lined up to begin in January 2020.

We developed and delivered a short **Áitbheo catchment programme** (titled *Cuanbheo*) for 5th/6th class students in St. Columba's NS, Ballyturin and Northampton NS supported by Cuan Beo. The programme aims to equip the children with skills to think critically about their place, as defined by their local water catchment area.

27 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 will graduate as Laoch Áite (place heroes). Over 217 Transition year students attended the Place Based Áitbheo field trip in Carron during the autumn of 2019.

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. This year we also developed and delivered a 2 day weekend course for educators.

Our 8th **Learning Landscape Symposium** was a huge success with just over 80 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.



'My place is a nice, safe and colourful environment that deserves to be taken care of... My parents worked hard to get here which makes my place more important to me. I grew up here and no other place in the world can replace Ireland. But, my place isn't the only place in the world. I want to travel the world and make every place my place....'

Isaac, Gort NS,
Áitbheo Primary Participant



'It was an inspiring course that has left me excited with what I can achieve going forward with my class.'

Áitbheo Heritage Training
Participant

Taking part in the Áitbheo programme with Burrenbeo was hugely successful for our 6th class pupils in Gort National School last year. I must admit I was a small bit apprehensive as a lot of our pupils have diverse backgrounds, not originally coming from Gort, so I was afraid they may not understand the concept of "knowing your place". However I was very wrong. Doing this program with the Burrenbeo Trust helped the pupils to feel they could come to understand their place, living in Gort and it's surroundings so much more. They learned to appreciate their environment on the edge of the beautiful Burren.

Through a combination of art, music, drama, looking at census reports, an introduction to archaeology, geology and partaking in a field trip all this helped the pupils to develop a better understanding of their place. The work each week was varied which helped to keep the children interested. There was individual work, paired work and group work all throughout, and all tasks were scaffolded for the weaker pupil, which made it accessible to all learning levels.

Each week the pupils would write their reflections on the work covered in the programme which helped them to show their understanding of each part of the course. In their reflections, they were free to express their own understanding in their own preferred way, through art, poetry etc.

As part of our class project the children helped to reduce single use plastics in the classrooms by encouraging reusable bottles and the pupils made posters to deter littering around our school grounds. This had a very positive outcome and made the children more aware of what little steps they can take to make a difference in their own environment.

Overall, I would have no hesitation in recommending Áitbheo as a course that makes a difference for the pupils who participate in it. I, as a teacher thoroughly enjoyed it also, along with learning more it helped me to understand my place more.

Judith Gantley, Gort National School

Advocacy

Achievements 2019

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.

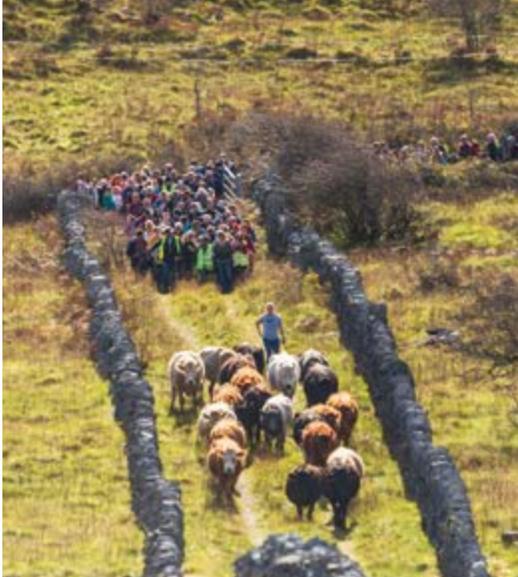
We continue to be a partner in the 2019 **National Farming for Nature Awards** - a new initiative to share stories of farmers across Ireland who are managing their land in a way that benefits nature. Farming for Nature is a project managed by former Burrenbeo Trust coordinator Brigid Barry.

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* and the *Burren Eco-Tourism Network* and others.



Walk Community

The Burrenbeo monthly walks have been a constant in my calendar for some years now. It's a nice surprise when the email arrives letting us know where the next walk is going to be and what the subject matter will be this time. The variety of themes seems to be endless and all enhance my understanding and appreciation of the Burren, especially the farmers who live here and care for this special place. I've always had a grá for the land and really enjoy the many farm walks.

There's something very nourishing for the soul about being out in the wild nature of the Burren. These walks are a great opportunity to explore this area with experts.

Thank you to all those involved in these wonderful walks and the farmers who invite us onto their land.

Aine O'Loughlin,
Burrenbeo Trust member
and walk attendee

Áitbheo Community

Clare Local Development Company contracted Burrenbeo Trust in November 2018 to undertake Community Biodiversity Training for 15 communities in Co. Clare. The programme aimed to deliver training to community groups that would culminate in local biodiversity plans with actions to protect and enhance nature and wildlife. Burrenbeo trust contracted ecologist Dr Janice Fuller to help them deliver the programme. The programme was community-led with our approach being 'by the community, for the community'.

The community groups started with the Burrenbeo Trust's place-based learning programme, *Áitbheo* ('living place'). This hands-on learning encouraged the groups to take a fresh look at their places, including the geology, archaeology, history, land use and ecology of their local areas. At the end of the *Áitbheo* programme the community groups identified actions they wanted to take to protect and enhance biodiversity in their local areas, and each group set out their priority actions in their community biodiversity plan.

These actions were exceptionally diverse which reflected our community led approach. We strived to avoid being prescriptive and let the groups take ownership of their plans from the beginning. The groups also identified the skills they needed to implement their community plans and received specialised skills training workshops on topics such as creating and maintaining community orchards, planting for pollinators, tree and hedgerow planting and community engagement.

An exhibition titled "*Working Together for Nature – an exhibition of 15 community biodiversity plans*" took place on the 1st of October, in Glór, Ennis. Its success was a reflection on the commitment of the participants to their local place and its biodiversity.

Mary Dillon, Community Engagement Project



Burren Winterage Weekend

The ancient farming practice of winterage in the Burren was recently recognised by the Irish State as part of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Ireland, making all the more significant, our annual celebration of the Winterage in October 2019.

Following a theme of *Building a healthy future for people, food and nature*, the programme offered a huge variety of events. For anyone interested in farming and nature, the Burren Winterage School was a fantastic opportunity to share experiences and learn about the latest developments in sustainable farming. The School featured 25 speakers from 10 different countries. The second national Farming for Nature Ambassador Awards showcased sterling work in Irish farming that is benefiting nature. The weekend culminated with the Community Cattle Drive on a gloriously sunny afternoon on Sunday 27th of October. Hundreds of supporters joined Burren farmer Aoife Forde and her parents Fiona and P.J to herd their cattle up to their winter pastures. Financial support was received from the Department of Agriculture, The Heritage Council and FBD.



Photo: William O'Reilly



Farming for Nature

Farming For Nature is an independent, non-profit initiative set up to acknowledge and support those farmers who farm, or wish to farm, in a way that will improve the natural health of the countryside. It comes under the umbrella of Burrenbeo Trust and has a national remit. We aim to offer inspiration, resources and support to encourage farmers to be part of the solution of minimising the impact of agriculture on climate, biodiversity and water quality. Much of the impetus for Farming for Nature came from our experience of working with farmers in the Burren region. This convinced us, if given the right financial incentives, technical support and encouragement, of the enthusiasm of many farmers to look after their heritage.

The project started with the national Farming For Nature Ambassador Awards in 2018. The main purpose of this award was to unearth and to share the stories of farmers across Ireland who are making a positive difference to nature on their farms and in their communities. We want to show that farmers are a part of nature and not apart from it, and we want to use these positive testimonies to encourage others to follow suit. We want to show that farming for nature can also be agriculturally, economically and socially progressive.

Of course sharing stories alone won't solve all of the challenges. So we are also currently developing our resources, our outreach and expanding our network. We are doing this through the awards, our website, farm walks and various outreach streams. We hope you can join us on this journey.

For more information go to WWW.FARMINGFORNATURE.IE
Brigid Barry, Project Coordinator, Farming For Nature
contact: info@farmingfornature.ie

Burren in Bloom

'Pollinators' was the theme of the 14th Burren in Bloom festival that took place between 7th and 9th June 2019, to celebrate the abundance and diversity of wildflowers of the Burren.

In partnership this year with the National Biodiversity Data Centre and the All Ireland Pollinator Plan, the festival was able to host an open summer-school with a special focus on saving our wild pollinators. Community members of all ages were invited to come and explore how to identify, enjoy and help different species of pollinators at a time when many of them are in crisis.

Events included guided walks, outdoor workshops, butterfly and bee surveys, exhibitions and thought-provoking discussions in the company of inspiring ecologists, farmers and gardeners. Burren farms, areas of the Burren national park, village centres of Kinvara and Ballyvaughan, the Burren Perfumery and many more places around the Burren region that provide diverse habitats for bees and butterflies served as some of the outdoor locations for the Burren in Bloom events. The festival was supported by The Environmental Protection Agency and the Heritage Council.

'Very often, as a farmer, you work in isolation, especially if you do something a bit different from the "norm". It gives a great boost to know there are a lot more farmers who do the same thing in their own corner and to feel supported in your ideas'

Kim McCall,
Farming For Nature
Ambassador, Co. Kildare

'Watching your videos and listening to the farmers' podcasts has given me the impetus I need to make significant changes on my farm. Working outdoors shouldn't be just about machinery and yield, I want to have nature on my farm, I just didn't know how. Thanks for inspiring me.'

Ciaran McCarthy,
Farmer, Co. Cork

Active Conservation

Achievements 2019

We have organised **15 different events this year (and 2 training events)** for the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers with 165 attendances in 2019. All events have an important conservation impact and involve education and awareness-raising.

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

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

1 day and 1 evening was spent **rebuilding Burren walls**.

1 evening was spent monitoring **Burren bats** with the Vincent Wildlife Trust.

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

1 weekend was spent on **first aid training training** and 1 day was spent on **butterfly identification** and **transect training**.

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

This year we worked with the **Vincent Wildlife Trust, Clare County Council, Burren Shores Beach Combing Group** and the **Lisdoonvarna and Fanore Sea Anglers**.

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



Photo Charlotte Kretzer



It has been such a privilege to have had the opportunity to grow up and live in Fanore. Growing up included daily beachcombing trips to the little shoreline of Trawee to enjoy its natural beauty and see what treasures the latest winds and hightide would have brought ashore. Back then most of what washed in was reusable, fish boxes, netting, buoys, barrels etc., all much sought after by different people. There was hardly a farm in the country that wasn't using something that was beachcombed locally.

Over the years the nature of that 'treasure' has changed and now most of what gets left by the tides is just useless plastic. The quality of fishing gear has deteriorated considerably over the years and with the rise of ocean going traffic making an increase in rubbish getting into our oceans inevitable... not forgetting the huge increase in our own personal use too.

Organised beach cleans are becoming more popular and thanks to the efforts of the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers (BCV), who were beach cleaning long before it was 'cool' the shores of the Burren are being kept cleaner than they have been for years. Their most recent clean-up concentrated on the shoreline to the south of Ballyreen. This area had never seen an organised clean-up and thanks to the BCV a huge amount of rubbish was collected... rubbish that would have stayed there and negatively impacted on the local environment if it wasn't for the dedication and sheer determination of the BCV.

Shoreline and beach clean-ups are more important now than they ever have been - the volume of plastic in our oceans is frightening and the effects on wildlife is devastating. Clean-ups are super opportunities to undo some of the damage we have done and we don't have to wait for the next one in order to start cleaning up. Taking responsibility for our own plastic rubbish is the first step. Becoming mindful of how we use and dispose of things is one way that we can start making this world and our oceans better for the next generation.

Liam McNamara,
Burren Shores Beach Combing Group, Fanore

Research

In October 2018, Áine Bird commenced a PhD titled 'Exploring Community Stewardship through Place-based Learning: evaluating impact and potential for knowledge transfer'.

The first phase of Áine's work has been completed and is summarised here:

Feedback and attendance figures, kept from the last 10 years of programmes delivered by Burrenbeo Trust was analysed by Áine. This data referred to Place Based Learning (PBL) events such as Heritage Walks, Tea Talks, Burren in Bloom, Winterage Weekend, Primary School Programme Participants, Secondary School Programme Participants, Wild Child Participants, Learning Landscape Symposium and Áitbheo (Teacher) Training.

The quantitative analysis of 10 years of programme participants has provided interesting information for the Trust and highlights some patterns about attendances, that may be used for future events.

Equally as interesting and potentially just as useful for future planning is the analysis of 10 years of participant feedback, which forms the qualitative part of Áine's work to date. Áine identified a number of themes in the archived feedback. These themes are useful in gaining an insight into the impact of the BBT over the past ten years. From the research done, analysis indicates that participants enjoy the PBL programmes, that it is important to include as many active elements as possible, that PBL programmes can engage a wide audience, that participation can change people's views about place and their power to take action locally, that participants respond particularly well to the outdoor elements of the programmes, that learning takes place through the programmes, that programme facilitators play an important role and that participants had varying (but generally positive) attitudes to their place.

The results of this report reaffirm the approach being taken by Burrenbeo Trust with its various programmes, while identifying some areas which could be worked on in the future.

Information Provision

Achievements 2019

With the help of our voluntary walk coordinators, we organised 12 **monthly members' walks** in the Burren led by local experts. From exploration of woodlands to investigating inter-tidal marine life, and from learning about medicinal plants in the wild to hearing stories of historical buildings, our members' walks this year were rich in their depth and variety.

Our **Winter Tea Talks** held monthly from November to April in Tubber Hall, have been running to a full house. This year, due to popular demand, we have also started podcasting the Tea Talks on our YouTube channel.

Our two annual festivals in 2019, the **Burren in Bloom** and the **Burren Winterage Weekend** were bigger in scope and ambition than ever before. With events ranging from walks, talks, and workshops to book readings and film screenings; both festivals showed a steady growth in their profile and participation.

Our **website** continues to provide up-to-date news on the activities of the Trust, community events and easily accessible information on the Burren.

We also continue to share our news and upcoming events through our monthly **e-newsletter**, the Burren Snapshot which goes out to more than 3000 subscribers.

This year we saw our engagement with the wider Burrenbeo community continue to rise through our social media channels: **Facebook, Twitter** and **YouTube**. Where possible, we reached out to the broader public through newspapers, digital news channels, radio and television.

Our **field guides** on the geology, archaeology, flora, fauna and habitats of the Burren continue to be sold across the Burren. This year, we also set up an online shop for our Burren Field guides, limited-edition Burren Insight magazines, Áitbheo tool kits and Burren cards.

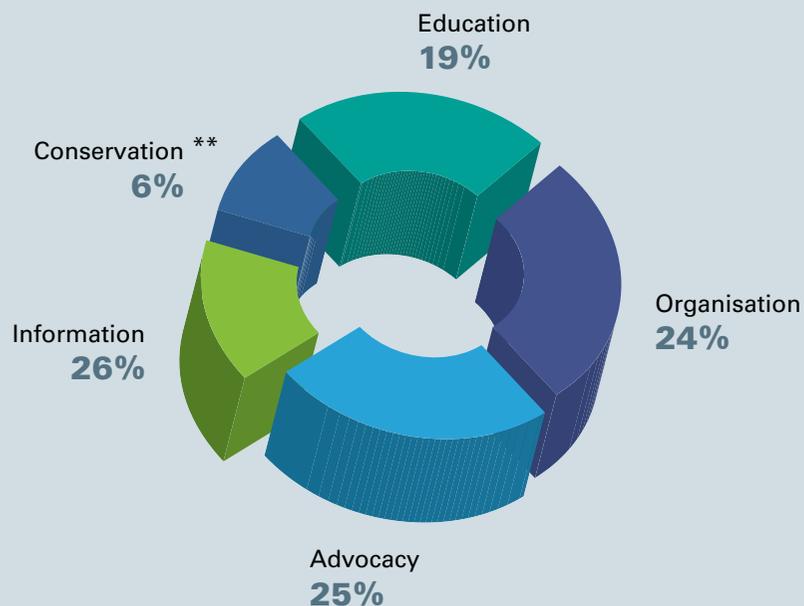


Financial Overview

Expenditure

Our total expenditure in 2019 amounted to **€170,000**. An estimated 61% of this amount was spent locally in accordance with our policy of supporting local providers.

Expenditure was split between the following programme sectors in 2019:



Operational expenditure was as follows:*

- Wages & Revenue (56%)
- Event costs i.e. speakers fees, venues, marketing (24%)
- Rent, electricity, heating, etc. (8%)
- Stationery etc. (7%)
- Accounts, bank charges and insurance (5%)

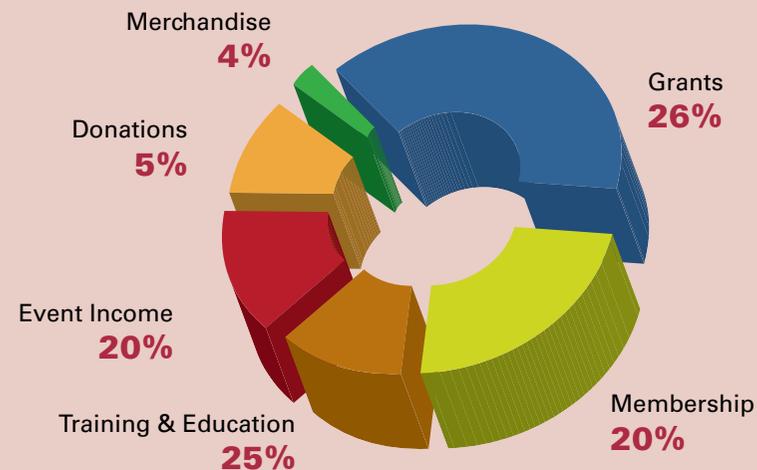
* This report was prepared in November and therefore figures have been projected until the end of December based on monthly averages.

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

Income

Our total income for 2019 was **€165,000**. 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 (26%)** In 2019 we applied for 14 different grants. We were successful with 6 applications. Grants ranged from €500 to €16,000.
- **Members (20%)** Membership fees in 2019 bought in one fifth of the necessary income to fund the organisation.
- **Training and education (25%)** Burrenbeo Trust held a symposium on place-based learning, and a training course for teachers bringing place-based education to the classroom. This year the Trust also ran biodiversity training through CLDC funding (mentioned previously in this report) providing extra training for local communities.
- **Event Income (20%)** 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 (5%)** Various businesses or individuals supported specific programmes within the Trust in 2019.
- **Merchandise (4%)** The sale of Burrenbeo field-guides through local businesses and the sale of Field Guides, Burren cards, our Insight magazines and our Áitbheo tool kits through our online shop found on our website.

A full and complete audit of the 2019 accounts will be available at the AGM in June 2020.

Who Supported Us in 2019

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 €500-€16,000.

GRANTS

The Heritage Council

Cuanbeo

Clean Coasts (Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers)

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

FBD (Winterage Weekend)

EPA (Burren in Bloom)

CLDC (Áitbheo Community Training)



Burrenbeo Trust Benefactors 2019

Burren Perfumery donation boxes

Patsy and Anne Carrucan

Catherine Cleary

Christine and Patrick Costelloe

Dr John Duncan

Dr Brendan Dunford

Hillwalk Tours

Michael and Joan Houlihan

Burrenbeo Trust received a further 19 donations from members and business friends who wish to remain anonymous. Donations ranged between €6 and €70 and were used for core funding of the organisation.

Thomas Kerin

Clodagh and Michael Lynch

M. Moynihan

Daire O'Críodáin and Mary Queally

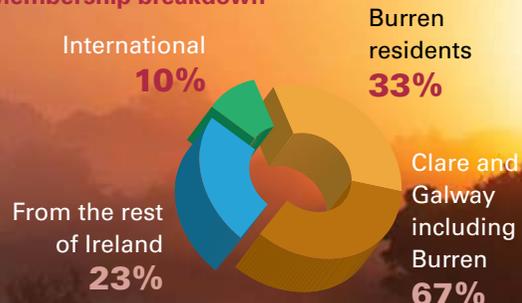
Fionnuala Ward

Wilderness Ireland

Members

Burrenbeo Trust is a membership organisation with a wide geographical spread. There are 627 current memberships with the Burrenbeo Trust. 254 of these memberships are for more than one person (i.e. couple or family). We also have 3 Schools members and 45 Business Friends.

Membership breakdown



Funding in kind

Burrenbeo Trust has run numerous events and activities throughout 2019 and without voluntary input to help run these events smoothly and payment in kind we would not have been able to achieve so much on such a limited budget.

Our volunteers have as usual been amazing covering various roles from guiding walks to providing information at events, from preparing refreshments (and doing the never ending washing up) to delivering workshops, and generally carrying out all those other essential tasks that are rarely recognised but vital for events to work.

This year, we estimate that approximately €56,475* has been given to the Burrenbeo Trust in voluntary hours. It's nearly impossible for us to convey the gratitude that we feel to all those who have helped us out so a huge thank-you to all of you – you know who you are.

If you've been too busy to help out this year don't worry – we appreciate that you are thinking of us and there will plenty of other chances to help out in the coming year.

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

Membership Report

Our members are of the utmost importance to us not just financially – they provided us with one fifth of the funds needed in 2019 to keep us going – but also because they are a large part of the community that is the Burrenbeo Trust.

The support shown from our members, whether or not it is in the form of volunteering time, spreading the word, attending our walks/talks/festivals, following us on social media, or in financial donations is all equally important to such a small organisation as ourselves.

More and more members are availing of our recurring payments through our website which is reducing our office time managing membership and increasing reliable income for the Trust, as well as hopefully making things easier for our members to stay with us.

We do our best to make our members feel valued and part of our community and we are always open to suggestions of what else we could do to look after the to the best of our ability.

THANK-YOU to all our members for being with us throughout 2019.

Kate Lavender,
Conservation, Membership and Education,
Burrenbeo Trust

Business Friends 2019

We have 45 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 Friends

Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark
Burren Perfumery
Burren Programme
Byrnes Restaurant, Ennistymon
Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience
Doolin Ferry Company (O'Brien)
Gregans Castle Hotel
Lahinch Family Medical Centre (Dr Duncan)

Silver Business Friend

Sleepzone Hostel Burren

In early 2015 I made the decision for my surgery to become a gold business member of Burrenbeo Trust because I wanted to support a local landscape charity, having moved to the area because of the Burren.

As a medical centre my own business is very much part of the local community and I feel the emphasis the Trust puts on supporting Burren communities through talks, walks, evening lectures, the Winterage Weekend and other events to be very important.

I strongly believe that education of the younger generation and instilling a sense of stewardship for their area will be key to preserving not only our natural world but our heritage too and the model used by the Trust in local schools will ensure our unique local physical and culture environment will continue for the generation ahead.

Finally, my own 'Gold Membership' of Burrenbeo has not gone unnoticed by service users and in particular visitors to the area have noted the status of the medical centre and commented favourably on it. Engagement with local businesses is an important activity for a community based organisation and I feel that Burrenbeo has risen to this challenge admirably.

John Duncan
Lahinch Medical Centre

We were aware of the Burrenbeo Trust since it was set up but came to know more about Burrenbeo back in 2014 when we joined the Burren Ecotourism Network. Burrenbeo has worked closely with the Geopark on this and it is part of the code that businesses should be a part of the conservation of the Burren as this is the environment in which they operate. Because of this we have become more involved with the Burrenbeo's essential work both through training received and actively getting involved with their projects, not as many as we would like but enough to give us a taste of the vital work they do within the Burren. From clearing butterfly habitats near Carron to bat watches, weekend walks and information evenings, what they do is vital work.

Without their vital work doing research, monitoring and measuring, giving training and education to residents, local businesses and visitors – yes they bring business to the area too – we could lose this wonderful environment that we rely on to bring visitors into the area, thereby allowing us to be able to make a living here and being able to actually live in this amazing, unique place and have it stay wonderful and unspoilt.

So like any ecosystem there is a circle where they depend on local business for support and we rely on them to take care of this incredible resource, which we rely on, for our businesses to survive. Even if your business is not directly relying on tourism, it will be indirectly in some way. It seems only fair that we, the local businesses, give back to the very landscape that makes it possible for us to make a living here and the best way to do this is to support Burrenbeo – it a bit of a no brainer really!!!

Miles Duffy and Karen Courtney, StoneCutters Kitchen

Business Friends

Aillwee Caves
Airmid Natural Irish Skincare
Anam Coffee
Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club
Burren College of Art
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
Ekotree Knitwear
FBD Insurance
Fitzpatrick's Supervalu, Ennistymon
Gallery Café, Gort
Hanne T. Fisker Photography

Hazelwood Lodge
Healing Harvest, Kinvara
Irish Field School of Prehistoric Archeology
Irish Natural Stone
Kinvara Guesthouse
Martin Kiely Burren Photography
Mount Vernon
Ocean's Edge B&B
O'Connor Forde Accountants
Pearl Mussel Project
Quinns Craft Shop
Rockyview Farmhouse B&B
St.Tola Irish Goat Cheese
StoneCutters Kitchen
Sunny Meadow Farm
The Burren Centre
The Health Store, Galway
Wild Honey Inn

Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities

The reality of climate change and the threat to safe planetary boundaries are becoming more apparent by the day. The need to ‘think global and act local’ seems more relevant now than ever. Burrenbeo’s call to connect people and place is timely.

Our civilisation has faced challenges before and has surmounted them. We have the knowledge, the technology and know-how to deal with climate change, biodiversity loss and much else. That we continue to enact results that no one wants reflects the delusion of separation from ourselves, from others and the earth which we’ve allowed to develop.

Burrenbeo’s philosophy addresses these systemic disconnects. From a focus on one place, the Burren, it has widened its ambition to connect people everywhere with the care of their place. Its educational programme, Áitbheo, is dedicated to awakening the awareness of children to the wonder of the natural world while its annual Learning Landscape Symposium spreads the word.

A more fundamental realization is that sustaining place is crucially dependent on sustaining the communities who live there. Burrenbeo’s hosting of Winter Tea-talks, the annual celebration of cultural heritage which is the Winterage Festival and the work of the community conservation volunteers are witness to this understanding. It recognizes that cultivating the vitality and wellbeing of community is foundational to the resilience of communities in times of adversity as well as to their capacity to be stewards of place.

In cultivating connection to community, to place and ultimately to our own humanity Burrenbeo is modelling locally how our world can heal its divisions and be restored to wholeness and health.

Martin Hawkes

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Directors

Shane Casey
Sadie Chowen
Risteard Crimmins
Michael Davoren
Martin Hawkes (Chairman)
Mary Howard
Daire Ó Ciodáin
Elaine O’Malley

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 Brocqy
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

Without the extra voluntary help of all our members and supporters we would not be able to operate as smoothly as we do so a big thank-you to all who have helped us out over the last year. We are truly grateful for this extraordinary contribution from the community.

Munster rugby supporters proudly proclaim themselves Irish by birth but Munster by the grace of God. I am Dubliner by accident of birth, but Clareman by deliberate choice.

I have come to understand and appreciate the work of Burrenbeo Trust, initially from afar, but more recently hands on and close up as a Board member.

Operating on a budget that is barely a thread, the Trust is proof positive of the power of weightless things: passion, professionalism, persuasiveness and participation. Empowerment and enrichment can justly be added to its declared aims of education, information, conservation, research and advocacy.

The whole is much greater than the sum of its many parts.

Daire O’Criadan, Burrenbeo Trust Board of Directors

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**eotrust

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 2020
with your help**

Burrenbeo Trust

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