

Biographies & Workshop Details

Friday 17 th June Opening Evening (7-9pm)		
<p>W1: Opening evening: a series of short presentations and discussion on the theme of ‘Pathways for turning Aspiration into Action’</p> <p>This is an indoor event based in Kinvara.</p>		
<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Biography</i>	<i>Session Details</i>
Áine Bird, Burrenbeo Trust	<p>Áine Bird has been part of the Burrenbeo Trust team since 2012. She has been involved with developing and coordinating 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 MSc 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.</p>	Speaker/Panelist
Catherine Cleary, Pocket Forests	<p>Catherine Cleary began her career as a reporter with The Irish Times in 1994 and became security correspondent of The Sunday Tribune. Catherine’s publications include Life Sentence, Murder Victims and their Families (2004) and A Month of Somedays, How One Woman made the most of Now (2012). She co-wrote and presented the RTÉ radio series History on a Plate with historian Juliana Adelman. In 2020 she started Pocket Forests - a method of planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers in small urban areas based on the work of Japanese botanist Akira Miyawake. Catherine believes planting trees is something we can all do to help create ecosystems on our doorsteps and bring beauty into our cities.</p>	Speaker/Panelist
Nell Ward, Grow It Yourself	<p>Nell comes to the GIY patch from a background that sprouted from a multi-national travel company to an Irish tech start up, from digital marketing consultancy to a national charity. She has held roles across a diverse, broad and always interesting range of brands and industries spanning global corporate</p>	Speaker/Panelist

	<p>partnerships & relationships, digital marketing & analytics, commercial & strategic planning, fundraising, philanthropy and partnerships.</p> <p>A BA in English & History, MSc in Advertising and MSc in Sustainable Development (and a toe-dip in documentary making) were but leaves of the learning journey that brought her to GIY, where only now she fully realises the insight and wisdom of The BFG*. Nell is excited about the power of food as a defining issue of the 21st Century, not to mention its glorious taste sensations.</p>	
Brendan Dunford, The Hare's Corner / ChangeX	<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>	Speaker/Panelist
Saturday 18th June Workshop Session 1 (10-12.30am)		
<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Biography</i>	<i>Session Details</i>
<p>W2: Áine Bird, Burrenbeo Trust</p> <p>This is an indoor workshop based in Kinvara.</p>	<p>Áine Bird has been part of the Burrenbeo Trust team since 2012. She has been involved with developing and coordinating 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 MSc 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.</p>	<p>Title: Burrenbeo's Approach to Place-Based Learning</p> <p>Outline: Place-based learning involves learner-led exploration and discovery of local heritage. It focusses on the 'whole place' (built, natural and cultural heritage) and on 'whole community' (all ages and all interests). It has the explicit aim to build agency and empower local communities to take ownership of, and action for, their own place. During this workshop Áine will share the resources, activities and frameworks Burrenbeo Trust use in their Place-based Learning programmes.</p>

<p>W3: Kathy Kirwan</p> <p>This workshop is based in Kinvara and will include indoor and outdoor elements.</p>	<p>Kathy Kirwan was born in the bog, in the middle of Ireland. Her deep connection with nature has influenced her winding life path from the highs and lows of land and ocean topography. From Phys. Ed. And Geography teaching on the wild coast of West Cork to sailing around the world, her deeply connected nature-based experiences have come to rest in the world of Eco Artistry. As a graduate of Textiles, Sculpture (Kinsale FEC), Creativity and Change (Crawford College of Art & Design), Creativity, Innovation and Leadership (UCD Innovation Academy) and an MA in Reflective Practice (UCC), her eco-art practice embodies an interconnection with nature, wellbeing, and values literacy. Through an eco-centric lens and co-authorship with nature she facilitates accessible entry points to eco art, for self and others, to generate intimacy, creativity and belonging to place furthering a deeper ethical relationship with nature. Working with natural and sustainable methods of co-creating eco social art, her place-based learning and facilitation methods focus on a circular theme of interconnection and sustainability for personal and planetary wellbeing.</p>	<p>Title: The Art of Nature</p> <p>Outline: Connect and create at this inspirational eco art workshop. Forage, find and create beautiful artwork. Create your own sustainable eco art resources with your foraged materials from our surroundings. Engage your head, hands and heart and turn your learning in to action, connection, and planetary wellbeing. The workshop will start with an introduction to the wonders of eco art and its connection to a sustainable planet (30 mins). Next, we will forage, find and share collected resources to create collective art materials. Using our eco art materials we will then create a group exhibition acknowledging our contribution and connection with nature.</p>
<p>W4: Ray Ó Foghlú</p> <p>This workshop is an outdoor workshop based in a woodland.</p>	<p>Originally a secondary school teacher, Ray retrained in environmental science, acquiring a level nine postgraduate diploma with a focus on forestry and water quality. He worked for An Taisce, Ireland’s National Trust, facilitating small community woodlands called “An Choill Bheag” with the Learning about Forests (LEAF) programme. He is the Landowner Engagement Coordinator for Hometree, a charity based in west Clare. He currently runs their Illaun Farm-Forest EIP near Slievecallan, where he works directly with farmers to integrate native trees into their farm systems. Ray is an advocate of returning trees and forests of all types to the Irish landscape. He believes native and commercial woodlands, hedgerows, riparian buffer strips and other forms of tree cover can deliver functionality and value to landowners as well as benefits to the wider community.</p>	<p>Title: Integrating trees into the farmed landscape</p> <p>Outline: There is consensus that Ireland needs to improve its cover of native woodlands, currently languishing at around two percent of total land area. However, there are significant practical, cultural, and economic barriers in place. Join Ray for an interactive walk and talk. Learn about the history of Irish woodlands from 20,000 years ago to present day, and tease out the key issues relating to this important subject.</p>
<p>Saturday 18th June Workshop Session 2 (1.30-4pm)</p>		
<p><i>Contributor</i></p>	<p><i>Biography</i></p>	<p><i>Session Details</i></p>
<p>W5: Shana Cohen, TASC</p> <p>This is an indoor workshop based in Kinvara.</p>	<p>Dr Shana Cohen is the Director of TASC. She studied at Princeton University and at the University of California, Berkeley, where she received a PhD in Sociology. She has taught at George Washington University, the University of Sheffield, and most recently, University of Cambridge, where she is still an Affiliated Lecturer and Associate Researcher. Her areas of teaching have included global social</p>	<p>Title: How can we make climate action more community-driven</p> <p>Outline: This workshop will discuss TASC’s People’s Transition model, which we piloted last</p>

	<p>policy, globalization, and human services. Before coming to TASC, she was Deputy Director of the Woolf Institute in Cambridge. In her role at the Institute, she became engaged with interfaith and intercultural relations in Europe, India, and the Middle East. Beyond academic research, Shana has extensive experience working with NGOs and community-based organizations in a number of countries, including Morocco, the US, the UK, and India. This work has involved project design, management, and evaluation as well as advocacy.</p>	<p>year in Ardara, Co Donegal and Phibsboro, Dublin. This model ties climate action to community development, ensuring that local priorities are included in any climate action strategy. We work with communities to understand their priorities and then we devise climate-led solutions to these priorities. The approach involves local stakeholders from the public sector (like ETBs and schools), business, and civil society, aiming in particular to ensure marginalized groups are involved. We bring in experts on climate change and enterprise and cooperative development to help devise a community-based climate action strategy and original initiatives and we help local stakeholders integrate climate action into their own services.</p>
<p>W6: Catherine Cleary & Ashe Conrad-Jones, Pocket Forests</p> <p>This workshop is based in Kinvara and will include indoor and outdoor elements.</p>	<p>Ashe and Catherine are the founders of Pocket Forests, a social enterprise working with communities to plant small areas of native trees and shrubs.</p> <p>Catherine Cleary began her career as a reporter with The Irish Times in 1994 and became security correspondent of The Sunday Tribune. Catherine’s publications include Life Sentence, Murder Victims and their Families (2004) and A Month of Somedays, How One Woman made the most of Now (2012). She co-wrote and presented the RTÉ radio series History on a Plate with historian Juliana Adelman. In 2020 she started Pocket Forests - a method of planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers in small urban areas based on the work of Japanese botanist Akira Miyawake. Catherine believes planting trees is something we can all do to help create ecosystems on our doorsteps and bring beauty into our cities.</p>	<p>Title: Make gold from garbage: regenerating soil with the stuff we throw away</p> <p>Outline: We will be taking an area of ground and showing how to repurpose it as home for a pocket forest, food forest or food-growing patch. The workshop will start showing some techniques for composting food waste (with fewer smells and better results). Ashe and Catherine will then show how this home-made compost can be used to create a no-dig pocket forest or garden, talk about how easy it is to incorporate native trees and shrubs into your space and the benefits of growing food in a forest.</p>
<p>W7: Michael Gibbons</p> <p>This workshop is an outdoor workshop based in the Burren.</p>	<p>Michael Gibbons is one of Ireland’s leading field archaeologists. He is a graduate of University College Galway with a degree in History and Archaeology and a member of the IAI with over 40 years of experience as a field archaeologist. He has worked with the Department of Antiquities in Jerusalem and for the Museum of London City Excavation Programme and many throughout Ireland. He currently works as an Archaeological Consultant and in Heritage Tourism,</p>	<p>Title: A Walk in The Bronze Age</p> <p>Outline: The Burren uplands, described in 1681 by Thomas Dineley with the famous words <i>“this Barony affordeth not a piece of timber sufficient to hang a man, water in any one place to drown a</i></p>

	<p>specializing in Academic and Cultural Tourism throughout Ireland with a focus on the West of Ireland and the Boyne Valley. Michael's current research interests include the archaeology of Irish uplands and islands and in particular the Maritime Pilgrimage Tradition. Recent archaeological work has included mapping the intertidal zone of the Galway and North-Burren Coast with a particular focus on the Prehistoric Midden complexes, Vernacular Quays and Harbours and Seaweed Farms.</p>	<p><i>man, or earth enough in any part to bury him",</i> play host to what is arguably the richest archaeological landscape in Western Europe. The hills are crowned with dozens of Prehistoric Tombs and its high plateaus are carpeted with a palimpsest of archaeological sites and monuments including the densest concentration of Megalithic Tombs in Western Europe. These monuments come complete with an intact surrounding Prehistoric landscape overlapping fields, walls, house sites and trackways. Many of the prominent ridges are crowned with spectacular Late Bronze Age and Early Christian-era forts and the dry lowland valleys have an array of beautifully located Early monastic sites, some with associated Holy Wells. We will visit one of these Bronze Age sites; a unique Fortress bound by two Turloughs in the Burren lowlands.</p>
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Saturday 18th June Evening Session (6-8.30pm)

W8: Screening of Rita Davoren's 'Burren Girl' documentary

This is an indoor event based in Kinvara.

Burren Girl brings the past to life with a Minnesota woman's 40-year quest to find the place and the people her Irish immigrant grandmother left behind. From a small farm high in the hills northeast of Lahinch, County Clare, 19-year-old Anne Davoren left home and country in 1887. It was a time of drought, land wars and evictions in the west of Ireland. Anne and her sister Mary made a 3,700-mile journey to Minnesota, U.S.A. Like thousands of Irish women and men, they came to build a new life, and to send money home so that their family could stay on the land.

Two generations later, Anne's story had been forgotten. Determined to fill in the blank pages of her family history, Anne's granddaughter set out to find the place and people Anne left behind. The place is the Burren, a region of harsh beauty, bright hued wildflowers and ancient stone forts in north Clare. The people are the O'Davorens, hereditary judges, keepers of Irish Brehon law and a presence in the Burren for 1,200 years.

The documentary film, Burren Girl, uncovers the distant past through the vibrant, present-day community of the Burren. It is not the Ireland of gravestones and faded records that this film offers, but the thrill that comes with reknitting centuries-old Irish connections among the living.

Sunday 19th June Workshop Session 3 (10-12.30am)

<i>Contributor</i>	<i>Biography</i>	<i>Session Details</i>
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<p>W9: Paula Carroll & Martina Hynan</p> <p>This is an indoor workshop based in Kinvara.</p>	<p>Paula Carroll is Cuimhneamh an Chláir project coordinator. She is an Arts and Heritage Consultant, with a particular interest in oral heritage and the intangible cultures of local communities. As a specialist music broadcaster (Clare FM), she has been gathering oral histories of her native Co. Clare for more years than she cares to admit to. She is particularly excited by the possibilities opened up by new technologies for sharing these stories and for the empowerment of communities through them.</p> <p>Martina Hynan is a committee member of Cuimhneamh an Chláir. She is an artist and PhD researcher with the Centre for Irish Studies, NUI Galway. Her interdisciplinary research includes multigenerational interviews of birthplace memories. Her work focuses on our changing relationship with place over time, with particular emphasis on Co. Clare. Her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally. She is based in Ennis, Co. Clare.</p>	<p>Title: Listening to the Home Place</p> <p>Outline: This session will introduce you to the work of Cuimhneamh an Chláir / Clare Memories (The Clare Oral History and Folklore Group) We will explore the Cuimhneamh an Chláir archive, as it relates to the Burren, through listening and feedback exercises. We will see how listening to local people and the stories they carry, can deepen our understanding of place. Together with you we will explore how oral history gathering might add another layer of meaning to your own work.</p>
<p>W10: Kate Egan</p> <p>This workshop is based in Kinvara and will include indoor and outdoor elements.</p>	<p>Kate has over 15 years of experience in environmental education working on a huge variety of projects across Ireland. As an educator and education developer Kate brings a lot of creativity, practical skill, theoretical background and an innovative approach to her work. She has worked with National Parks and Wildlife Service, Irish wildlife Trust, Leave No Trace Ireland, Presentation Ireland, P.U.R.E project, Burren Beo and many more. She is now forging her own unique land based creative project combining organic food, sustainability, eco-tourism and nature connection at An Ghrian Glas Farm, Westmeath, where she is an ambassador for Farming for Nature.</p>	<p>Title: Sustainable food systems start with school</p> <p>Outline: The workshop will be focused on linking the food waste and the garden. Looking at how you can close the loop and create or demonstrate a more sustainable food system.</p> <p>You will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No dig methods of growing vegetables, the benefits and practicalities of it. - Bokashi food waste management, how to do it, what it is and what to do with the food after the Bokashi bucket. - How to make your own garden microbe ferments. - Some useful activities to use at school with students of all ages.
<p>W11: Karen van Dorp</p> <p>This workshop is an outdoor workshop based in the Burren.</p>	<p>Karen is trained as an all-round biologist, with an MSc degree in Evolutionary Biology and Phylogenetics and a broad interest in natural and cultural history. She has worked as an Ecologist in most parts of Ireland, including The Burren, and enjoyed bringing people on and under the limestone pavement as a guide for NPWS and Doolin Cave. She is now happily bringing her acquired knowledge</p>	<p>Title: Having fun in the outdoor classroom</p> <p>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</p>

	<p>about her beloved Burren together at Burrenbeo Trust. As Field Technical Officer for The Hare's Corner programme, she liaises with farmers around County Clare during ecological site visits and helps coordinating the programme.</p>	<p>classroom. Karen 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>Sunday 19th June Networking walk (2-4pm)</p>		
<p>W12: Brendan Dunford, Burren Programme</p> <p>This networking walk will take place 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>