

burrenb^ëotr^üst

Inspiring Action

BURRENBEO TRUST IMPACT REPORT 2023



Connecting all of us to our places and our role in caring for them

A MESSAGE FROM ÁINE BIRD

Burrenbeo Trust Coordinator

Measuring the impact of an organisation like Burrenbeo Trust is a challenging task, and summarising it in a few pages is nearly impossible. Nevertheless, this report aims to highlight some key achievements from another successful year for the organisation.

Since becoming a charity in 2008, Burrenbeo has evolved into a nationally impactful organisation while continuing to deliver on the ground in and for the Burren. With dedicated staff and supported by volunteers, the organisation now manages and executes a wide range of programmes. These programmes focus on sharing the beauty of local places and their heritage, with a crucial emphasis on empowering communities to explore and enhance their surroundings.

Initiatives such as the Hare's Corner, which supports landowners in enhancing biodiversity, Heritage Keepers, where schools and communities actively contribute to local heritage, Farming for Nature, assisting farmers in wildlife-friendly farming, and the Burren in Bloom and Winterage Weekend celebrations, uniting local communities to appreciate their surroundings, are acknowledged as exemplary projects. They effectively engage and foster conversations about the future of our environment, heritage, and places.

The success of the Burrenbeo Trust is attributed to the collective efforts of various contributors, including staff, trustees, walk volunteers, event leaders, landowners who grant access, the dedicated Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers, and the expanding network of local, national, and international members. Gratitude is extended to those who follow and share the organisation's message online, but most importantly, to the individuals and communities throughout Ireland who have taken action to support their built, natural, and cultural heritage. The organisation sincerely appreciates and thanks everyone involved.

We look forward to the years ahead, continuing to strengthen as an organisation and growing to meet the demands of the challenging times we live in.

Aine Bird



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



Walk Attendances
837



Festival Attendances
1,801



Learning programme participants
1,165



Outreach participants
641

burrenbeo trust
CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers attendances
231



New Farming for Nature Ambassadors
10



Hare's Corner measures taken
272



Heritage Keepers

Heritage Keepers Action projects completed
40



Social Media Followers
50,402

Youtube views
42,994

Online webinar attendances
671

Website users
94,677



At the end of November we had spent

€303,778

locally and a further

€235,342

nationally



Total members **754**

Member Locations

New members
125

International
10%

Burren
28%

629
Renewals

27%
National

35%
Regional



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1 To create an efficient, impactful, grounded and resilient organisation

2 To promote, enable and support community stewardship and active conservation in the Burren

3 To better connect communities with their place and their planet, and their role in its care

4 To provide information about the Burren across a range of media

5 To advocate for the Burren and for community stewardship here and elsewhere; to build strategic alliances in order to do so more efficiently and effectively



STRENGTHS OF THE BURRENBEO TRUST APPROACH

Holistic view of place

Rather than considering the built, natural or cultural heritage of our places in isolation, Burrenbeo programmes look to identify the interconnections that exist.

Focus on quality

We are keen to ensure that our approach follows good practice models, is based on research and that we continue to support and audit any actions after they have been completed.

Supporting action

There is an increasing desire to take meaningful action for our places. Programmes which support local action are central to Burrenbeo Trust.

Engaging a wide audience

Burrenbeo work to deliver programmes to as wide an audience as possible – from school children to farmers, community groups to educators, we hope to find a way of engaging with the whole community.

Valuing community knowledge

Recognising and valuing the insights, traditions, and experiences embedded in the community fosters a more comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities at hand.



OUR PROGRAMMES

The following are some of the main programmes delivered by Burrenbeo Trust. There are also some smaller programmes which support these and are not listed.



Members Walks

In locations and on topics throughout the Burren.



Farming for Nature

Celebrating and supporting those looking to farm alongside nature.



The Hare's Corner

Supporting landowners to take actions for biodiversity including mini woodlands, orchards, ponds and plans for nature.



Burren Winterage Weekend

Recognising the cultural heritage and farming traditions of the area.



Communications

Websites, newsletters, press engagements, social media and more sharing the Burrenbeo message.



Tea Talks

Through the winter months bringing a range of speakers to the local community.



Heritage Keepers

Empowering schools and communities to learn about and take action for their local heritage.



Burren in Bloom

Celebrating the Burren's natural heritage.



The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers

An active group of volunteers working in areas of archaeology conservation, rare species monitoring, managing scrub and more.



Outreach

Providing talks and fieldtrips for visiting groups and researchers.



Members Webinars

Year round talks from a variety of speakers on the Burren, natural, cultural and built heritage.



The Burren Pine Project

Re-establishing nursery sites of the native Irish pine.



The Calf & Cuckoo

A programme for Burren primary schools with school visits and a fieldtrip.

DID YOU KNOW?



Farming for Nature now has 'sister' Ambassador Awards in **Austria, Northern Ireland** and **Lithuania**. We support these by providing ambassador plaques and in some cases providing some funding for starting up.

40 different schools and communities completed local action projects through the Heritage Keepers programme. The actions included heritage trails, oral history projects, wildlife pond creation, tree planting and production of local history booklets to name just a few.



We rebranded our local schools education programme as the **Calf & Cuckoo**. Inspired by the wonderful children's book by Shane Casey of the same title, the programme connects the movement of cattle for winterage, the Calf and the return of the renowned Burren flora in early summer, the Cuckoo.



There were **50** different visits supported through the Horse's Mouth programme, a Farming for Nature initiative which allows farmers access peer to peer support through funded farm visits.



Approximately **1,500** hours were volunteered over the year to support Burrenbeo Programmes.



In 2023 as well as delivering our 3rd Phase in Co. Clare, we piloted delivery of the Hare's Corner in both **Mayo** and **Carlow** in partnership with Wild Atlantic Nature and Carlow County Council.

WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY



The **Winterage Cattle Drive** was one of the best days I have experienced in my life to date (late 60s!). The organisation, the comradery, the kindness of the farmer to allow over 500 people to walk on his land, the tea/coffee, scones, volunteers, talks, and of course the Cattle were all simply exemplary. Well done to one and all. Thank you sincerely to so many for such a wonderful day.

Feedback from a Winterage Weekend participant

The **Calf and Cuckoo** programme was a tremendous experience for our students. It gave them a great insight into the unique geographical features of our region and the historical importance of the Burren for winterage.

Michael Mulkerrins, Principal Peterswell NS

For our **Heritage Keepers** action, we decided to write a book. It is all about what we love about our place. We wanted to spread the word! Now that we are officially Heritage Keepers, we aim to keep raising awareness about how important it is to protect what we have around us.

Ms Harrisons 5th class pupils of Kinvara NS, Co Galway

The **Horse's Mouth** is a very clever initiative but more importantly it's really well executed and as a new grower, I was so glad to just meet an experienced grower and get some hands on practical advice. It was a hugely motivating and worthwhile exercise for me. I am so glad to have these sorts of resources available to me, it makes me very optimistic for the future of farming in this country.

Feedback from a farmer on the Horse's Mouth initiative

THE TEAM

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Conservation, Membership
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Brian Nally

Heritage Keepers
(to September 2023)

Trustees



Sadie Chowen
Chairperson



Daire O'Criodáin
Treasurer



Shane Casey



Michael Davoren



Helen McQuillan



Margaret MacMahon



Cathal O'Donoghue



Gearoid Howard



Martin Hawkes
(stepped down
October 2023)

A BIG THANK YOU

Members,
Volunteers,
Supporters,
Partners
and Funders

Sponsorships and donors

Brightwind | BTH Giving Fund | Catherine Cleary | Catherine Wright | El Electronics | FBD Trust | Fionnuala Ward | Futureenergy Ireland | Greencoat Renewables | Jesmond Harding | Kinvara Adventure Talk - Peter Owens | Martin Cotter Mary Linda Wellings | Matthijs Schouten | Michael and Clodagh Lynch | Niamh Lennon | NTR Foundation | Sandy Morrell Sunflower Fund via The Community Foundation | Tom & Gillian Arnold | UK Online Giving Foundation | Wolters Rundreisen

Grant funders

BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

 COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

 An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

 An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

 **gretb**
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin
Galway and Roscommon
Education and Training Board

 An tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta
agus Fiadhúlra
National Parks and Wildlife Service

 **Shared Island
Initiative**

Funded by
 An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

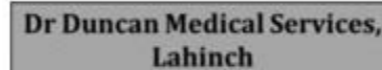
Gold Business Friends

 **Burren
Smokehouse**

 **Burren
PROGRAMME**

 **BURREN AND
CLIFFS OF MOHER
GEO PARK**
PEOPLE. PLACE.
LEARNING. LIVELIHOOD.

 **GREGANS CASTLE
HOTEL**

 **Dr Duncan Medical Services,
Lahinch**

 **Inis** ECOLOGY

 **THE BURREN PERFUMERY**

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Business Friends

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40th Anniversary
1976-2016

 **Airmid**
Natural Irish Skincare

 **ANAM**
1974

 **Washing Club**

 **BURREN COLLEGE OF ART**

 **BURREN
FARM EXPERIENCE**

 **BURREN
EDUCATION
CENTRE**

 **BurrenVets**

 **Burren Court
Holiday Homes**

 **BURREN
VISITOR CENTRE**

 **Burren Yoga
Retreats**

 **CAHERCONNELL
FORT**

 **Clare's Rock Hostel**

 **CARMANS HOWARD
SOLICITORS**

 **Corky Week**

 **FEEL THE
BURREN**

 **Gaia Talent**

 **HAWKE'S COTTAGE**
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

 **Fitzpatrick's SuperValu
Enniswayman**

 **Kinvara
Guesthouse**

 **Hazelwood Lodge**

 **Healing Harvest**

 **Hotel
DOOLIN**

 **HYLANDS
BURREN HOTEL**

 **Martin Kialy
Photograph**

 **Mount Vernon**

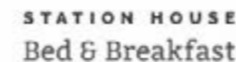
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 **THE CLARE JOCKEY
CLUB**

**GET IN
TOUCH**

**BECOME A MEMBER
DONATE
VOLUNTEER**

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LEARN MORE

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connecting people and place

www.burrenbeo.com



www.farmingfornature.ie



www.heritagekeepers.ie



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