



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023

burrenb^otrust

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

Contents

Our programmes at a glance	1
Introduction	2
Chairpersons report	2
Coordinator report	3
Treasurers report.....	4
Burrenbeo Background	5
Our Work/Achievements and Performance.....	6
Case Studies.....	13
1. Hare’s Corner	13
2. Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers.....	14
3. Heritage Keepers.....	16
4. Farming for Nature	18
Key Challenges in 2023	19
Key Goals in 2024	19
Impact/Feedback.....	20
Governance.....	21
Executive Staff Team	21
Board of Directors/Trustees.....	21
Supporters page	22
Annual Report.....	24
Directors and Other Information	24
Independent Auditor’s Report	24
Income Statement	27
Statement of Financial Position.....	27
Notes to the Financial Statements	28
Supplementary Information on Income and Expenditure Account.....	31

Board of Directors

Sadie Chowen (Chairperson), Daire Ó Criodain (Treasurer), Michael Davoren, Shane Casey, Helen McQuillan (from July 2023), Margaret McMahon (from July 2023), Cathal O’Donoghue (from July 2023), Gearoid Howard (from July 2023), Martin Hawkes (to October 2023).

Registered Office

Glebe House, Glebe Road, Kinvara, Co. Galway

Company Registered Number

412962

Charities Registration Number

20061494

OUR PROGRAMMES AT A GLANCE

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
Monthly walks throughout the year to explore different aspects of the Burren’s heritage.



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



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



Farming for Nature
Celebrating and supporting those looking to farm alongside nature.



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



The Burren Pine Project
Re-establishing nursery sites of the native Irish pine.



The Hare’s Corner
Supporting landowners to take actions for biodiversity including mini woodlands, orchards, ponds and plans for nature.



Burren in Bloom
A spring time celebration of biodiversity in the Burren.



The Calf & Cuckoo
A programme for Burren primary schools with school visits and a fieldtrip.



Burren Winterage Weekend
Recognising the cultural heritage and farming traditions of the area.



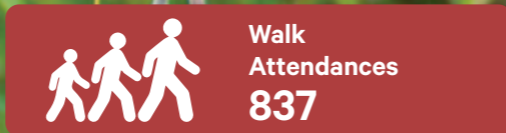
The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers
An active group of volunteers working in areas of archaeology conservation, rare species monitoring, managing scrub and more.



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



Outreach
Providing talks and fieldtrips for visiting groups and researchers.



INTRODUCTION

Chairperson's Report

In our world today many of the grave problems we face are caused, at their root, by prioritising short term thinking over long term wisdom, the few over the many, and profit over the common good. The ethos of Burrenbeo Trust stands in clear opposition to this.

Burrenbeo works at the scale and pace of landscapes and people. It recognises that biodiversity cannot be re-created in a single year. Trees are planted, seeds are sown, and ponds are dug whose effects will expand and accrue in a web of interwoven benefits over decades to come. A landscape isn't restored in a year; it is protected when the hearts and minds of those that live and work within it learn to understand and cherish it.

This too is a work of generations; engaging both young and old, talking, meeting, working together as volunteers. It is the tireless, continued, year-after-year work that Burrenbeo's staff, members, volunteers and communities do that provides the real, lasting power to effect change for the better. And there is one thing more: it gives people hope. It empowers people to feel they have agency in a difficult world, that the work of their own hands can make a difference. They are connected to environment; as we care for our trees, our ponds, our wild flowers or farms over years we are connected to the long-term good that flows both out from our actions but also back to us in a richer, more sustainable world.

In 2023 Burrenbeo Trust continued and expanded its key initiatives and I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all the many hands who have contributed to Burrenbeo's journey throughout the year. A heartfelt thank you to longterm outgoing staff member Kate Lavender and Board member Martin Hawkes for their sustained and unwavering support and hard work. We extend a warm welcome to new Board members Margaret MacMahon, Cathal O'Donoghue, Helen McQuillan and Gearoid Howard, and to new member of staff Ailbhe Doyle who have joined us in 2023.

Sadie Chowen



Coordinator's Report

Since its establishment as a charity in 2008, Burrenbeo has transformed into a nationally influential entity while steadfastly serving the Burren community. With the unwavering dedication of our staff and the invaluable support from our volunteers, we now oversee and implement a diverse array of programmes. These initiatives not only showcase the beauty and heritage of our local places but also empower communities to actively engage with and enhance their environments.

Key initiatives such as the Hare's Corner, which aids landowners in boosting biodiversity, Heritage Keepers, which involves schools and communities in preserving and celebrating local heritage, Farming for Nature, which supports wildlife-friendly farming practices, and the Burren in Bloom and Winterage Weekend celebrations, which bring communities together to cherish their surroundings, stand out as exemplary projects. These efforts effectively engage the community and foster critical discussions about the future of our environment, heritage, and local areas.

The achievements of Burrenbeo Trust are a testament to the collective efforts of our dedicated staff, trustees, volunteers, event leaders, and landowners who provide access to their lands. We also recognise the tireless contributions of the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers and the growing network of supporters at the local, national, and international levels. Our gratitude extends to those who amplify our message online and, most importantly, to the individuals and communities across Ireland who actively support their built, natural, and cultural heritage. Your involvement and commitment are deeply appreciated.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue our journey, strengthening our organisation and evolving to meet the demands of these challenging times. Thank you for being a part of Burrenbeo Trust's ongoing story.

Áine Bird

Treasurer's Report

Burrenbeo Trust derives its revenue mainly from grants, sponsorship, donations (including the subscriptions of its members), events and merchandise. That revenue funds the direct costs of implementing our activities, projects and programmes and the indirect costs of keeping the organisation up and running.

The full audited accounts for 2023 are included in this report along with details of the revenues associated with each project, programme and activity stream.

The overall financial picture is good.

Our revenues in 2023 were €640,248 compared to expenditure of €606,883 yielding a surplus for the year of €33,365. As a result, our accumulated reserves increased from €509,826 to €543,191 over the course of the year. However, €212,956 of those reserves are "restricted" in the sense of being formally committed to specific projects details of which are set out in the accounts. In addition, because Burrenbeo Trust has little or no assurance of continued funding from one year to the next, we also maintain a reserve to cover six months' operating costs for the organisation to protect against delays or shortfalls in projected funding during the following year.

Midway through 2024, thanks to the continuing support of our grant providers, programme sponsors, donors and members, our financial position remains robust.

Daire O'Críodáin



BURRENBEO BACKGROUND

Established as a charity in 2008, Burrenbeo Trust is a non-profit organisation dedicated to its mission of connecting all of us to our places and our role in caring for them. Based in the flagship heritage landscape of the Burren, Burrenbeo Trust works to raise awareness of the significance of the Burren and to empower and encourage local communities to act as stewards of its priceless heritage. Building on lessons learned over the past two decades, Burrenbeo also advocates for 'place-based learning' across Ireland as a means through which communities can learn more about their place and their role in actively caring for it.

At the heart of our mission is the belief that a harmonious relationship between people and nature is essential for the well-being of both. Inspired by the rich natural heritage and cultural heritage of the Burren, we work tirelessly to engage, educate, and empower individuals and communities to become stewards of their environment.

Over the years, Burrenbeo Trust has evolved into a multifaceted organisation, offering diverse programmes and initiatives to foster a deeper connection between people and place. From educational workshops and guided walks to conservation projects and community events, we strive to promote an inclusive and sustainable approach to environmental stewardship. Our success is built on the dedication and passion of our volunteers, staff, members, and supporters who share our commitment to preserving the beauty and integrity of the Burren for future generations. Together, we continue to make a positive difference in the lives of local residents, visitors, and the natural world we all cherish.

As we look to the future, Burrenbeo Trust remains steadfast in our commitment to promoting environmental sustainability, cultural preservation, and community resilience in the Burren and beyond. With your continued support, we are confident that we can build a brighter, more sustainable future for all.



OUR WORK

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

That the Burren is an internationally recognised exemplar of community stewardship whereby farmers, local businesses, local and visiting communities and other stakeholders all contribute positively to the care of this unique landscape – and have fun and build new relationships while doing so! We continue to deliver innovatively and impactfully for the heritage and communities of the Burren, while empowering and inspiring communities across Ireland and beyond to engage proactively with the conservation of their own places.

Our Values

Burrenbeo Trust holds the following values in the pursuit of its Strategic Vision and Goals:

- To be guided always by what is best for the Burren
- To pursue sustainability in all its forms in all that we do
- To value our people – staff, members, volunteers, donors and others
- To carry out our work with respect, integrity, professionalism and transparency
- To be inclusive and to work in partnership where possible

Our Strategic Work 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



Strategic Priority 1

To create an efficient, impactful, grounded and resilient organisation

Objectives	Key Achievements
a) Support our staff, the heart of our organisation.	Staff/Board of Directors appreciation event held October 2023; monthly staff meetings; various training and CPD opportunities; a supportive work environment; team building events; end-of-year gifts and a flexible working model (home/office); provision of support for equipment purchase.
b) Ensure good governance, compliance and accountability.	Preparation of an annual report; regular meetings and correspondence with Board of Directors; preparation and review of all required Policies; transparency on all levels within and beyond the Trust; monthly staff meetings; detailed recording of all activities; annual staff reviews; annual planning for the year; First Aid Training for staff and volunteers.
c) Value and support our members, patrons, volunteers and donors.	New bespoke membership system implemented in the autumn to streamline membership sign-up; dedicated membership officer; Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers social event August 2023; members have exclusive access to monthly live webinars and walks and discounted tickets to festival events; walk volunteers get free and priority access to all events.
d) Secure sustainable sources of funding to enable medium-long term planning and impact.	We were delighted to received multiannual funding from the Sunflower Charitable Foundation and the Lifes2Good Foundation in 2023.
e) Ensure access for staff to comfortable office space and all necessary equipment.	Staff and volunteers are entitled to claim an equipment allowance.
f) Continue to plan strategically but to adapt as necessary.	The Hare's Corner has gradually expanded beyond Clare through strategic partnership with Wild Atlantic Nature and the Biodiversity Officers.
g) Support local product and service providers.	We source services and products from local suppliers including; Healing Harvest, Burkes Eurospar and John O'Donnell Hardware in Kinvara; venue hire in Kinvara, Tubber, Carron and Gort.



Strategic Priority 2

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

Objectives	Key Achievements
a) Host regular Members Heritage Walks.	21 walks held in 2023 all around the Burren.
b) Host regular Heritage/Landscape 'Tea Talks' and/or Webinars.	There were 5 Tea Talks held in Tubber Village Hall as well as 12 online webinars. The webinars are now available to view on our Youtube channel.
c) Organise regular conservation and social events for the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers (BCV).	In 2023 there were 14 BCV events, including 1 social outing. The total number of volunteers over the year was 105 resulting in 231 total attendances and 924 volunteer hours. In 2023, 30 volunteers received their 5 event award, 15 received their 10 events award and 7 received their 15 event award. Since establishment in 2010, the BCV have contributed a total of 9422 volunteer hours for Burren conservation.
d) Deliver The Hare's Corner measures and information to local landowners.	Over 300 Hares Corner actions delivered in Clare, Mayo and to Farming for Nature Nominees. These included 62 Wildlife Ponds, 90 Heritage Apple Orchards with 786 new fruit trees planted, 69 Native Woodlands - 3,678 native Irish trees (8 different varieties) planted, 57 Plans for Nature and 8 Peatland Plans (new added measure in 2023). Several informational events held – including tree distribution days, Hare's Corner Conversations event and field visit during Winterage and Pond workshop during Burren in Bloom. Online webinars held for participating landowners on Woodland, Orchard, Pond management as well as 'Planning for Nature'.
e) Plant and maintain Burren Pine Project mini woodlands.	Crossed 1,000 mark for Burren Pine trees planting. Coordinated volunteer visits for maintenance of 9 Burren Project sites hosting these trees.

Objectives	Key Achievements
f) Host the annual Burren in Bloom Natural Heritage festival (May).	We substantially expanded the scale of our annual celebration of biodiversity by organising a month-long programme, with events taking place every weekend of May. In all, 20 events were organised over the 5 weekends, with each weekend highlighting an aspect of the Burren's biodiversity such as Birds, Woodland & Wetlands, Mammals, Invertebrates and Flowers. 527 attendances were recorded over the month with highest talk attendance (60 people) for the talk by Sean Ronayne on 'The Irish Wildlife Sounds: a Listening Journey of Discovery' as well as the online talk on 'The Irish Hare' by Karina Dingerkus. The highest walk attendance (30 people) was recorded for 'Bioblitz on a Burren farm' and 'Return to the Winterage' walk.
g) Organise the annual Burren Winterage Weekend (October).	In total, 13 different events were organised between 26th and 29th October and over 900 tickets issued for the Burren Winterage 2023 celebrations. The feedback received from attendees through an anonymous survey was very complimentary with over 90% of people saying they learned something new and would like to attend again.
h) Organise one-off events: Dawn Chorus Walk, Heritage Week events, family events, evening events etc.	For the first time, in partnership with Elaine Lynch, Field Monument Advisor, 2 mock archaeological excavation workshops for children were carried out during Heritage Week and they proved hugely popular. A Burren Journey of inspiration retreat was hosted for the first time for 14 selected invitees and guided by environmental philosopher Matthijs Schouten during a week in September.
i) Continue to examine the purpose, value and impact of events and adjust where needed.	Regular feedback sought from participants of all programmes and events and where possible changes were made to strengthen our offerings. The Burren Schools Programme was further developed and became Calf & Cuckoo.
j) Build in opportunities for community building, wider engagement, ongoing relationships with participants and networking to events.	Tea Talks; Pine Project Open days for investors; The Hare's Corner field visits for participants; BCV excavation in May; Hare's Corner Conversations (part of Winterage Weekend).



Strategic Priority 3

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

Objectives	Key Achievements
a) Deliver Heritage Keepers to schools, youth groups and communities in the Burren and beyond.	40 Primary Schools and Communities (500 students and 120 adults) took part between January and June 2023, most of which went on to complete funded local actions. A further 70 schools and groups (875 students and 210 adults) commenced Heritage Keepers in November 2023.
b) Provide training and resources on place-based learning (PBL) and community stewardship.	Started in 2023, the local Calf & Cuckoo schools programme saw 9 participating Burren schools, 232 students in total who received 2 school visits and a fieldtrip based on place-based learning methods. The Heritage Keepers training week was attended by 24 individuals who learned about applying place-based learning in their own settings.
c) Research impact and best practice on PBL and Community Stewardship initiatives and integrate findings into future initiatives.	Burrenbeo Coordinator Áine Bird continued an Irish Research Council funded employment based PhD study looking at the Exploring Community Stewardship through Place-based Learning.
d) Host an annual learning event on PBL and Community Stewardship (Communities for Heritage and/or the Learning Landscape Symposium).	Communities for Heritage day took place on 17th June in Gort. 70 people attended, including local groups and Heritage Keepers groups from around the country.
e) Host visiting groups to the Burren, focussing on (ideally, fee-paying) farmers, educators, public servants and students.	21 outreach events delivered, reaching 352 attendants.
f) Look to identify ongoing and new threats and opportunities for the Burren and consider our role in taking action on these.	BCV committee looking into opportunities to expand their work on pressing conservation matters in collaboration with NPWS (coastal erosion project, Invasive Non-Native Species projects). We began initial discussions on the Burren Ark – a community tree seed harvest and education project.

Strategic Priority 4

To provide information about the Burren across a range of media

Objectives	Key Achievements
a) Provide comprehensive, up-to-date information on the Burren through the Burrenbeo Trust family of websites.	In addition to maintaining 5 websites; burrenbeo.com, burreninbloom.com, burrenwinterage.com, heritagekeepers.ie and farmingfornature.ie, latest research and studies in the Burren were also shared with wider community through Members Webinars and Tea Talks - e.g. 'Blowing in the wind - soils of the Burren' – a webinar with geologist Colin Bunce on his newly completed research, 'New insights into prehistoric farming activity in the southern Burren – a webinar by archaeologist Daisy Spencer, 'Cilíni, childrens burial grounds in the Burren' – a Tea Talk by Tony Kirby on his research work.
b) Maintain and enhance our growing presence on social media.	Followers across all of our social media channels showed an increase from January 2023 to December 2023. We have multiple social media accounts including Burrenbeo Facebook, X, Youtube and LinkedIn, Farming for Nature Facebook, X and Instagram and Heritage Keepers Facebook and Instagram. We developed templates for social media on Canva.
c) Prepare an annual report and share it with members, funders and others.	2023 is the first year that the Burrenbeo Annual Report will be compiled to include the audited accounts.
d) Prepare and share monthly snapshot newsletters with Members.	We send monthly members emails as well as a news update snapshot to a wider subscriber base. Farming for Nature also produces a quarterly newsletter. Our subscription numbers increased over the year.
e) Distribute Burren Field Guides, books and other relevant information materials.	A new invoicing system for merchandise was set up including invoices and receipts templates updated. A total of €3123 sold in merchandise in 2023 through 10 outlets.
f) Engage with local, national and international media to share relevant information (e.g. re events, initiatives).	Burrenbeo's work was highlighted over 40 times during 2023 in various broadcast media, including local and national print, radio, and digital platforms. It is probable that there were additional mentions that went unnoticed.

Strategic Priority 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

Objectives	Key Achievements
a) Build alliances to advocate for place-based learning and community stewardship.	We worked in partnership with many different organisations, schools, communities and individuals over the course of the year.
b) Build alliances to advocate and work for the conservation of the Burren (NPWS, NMS, universities, Tidy Towns, LAs, BEN etc).	Developed Partnership with Wild Atlantic Nature (a LIFE Integrated Project group in Mayo) and Biodiversity officers in – Meath, Galway, Galway city and Leitrim. Collaborated with the Burren Ecotourism Network to host the Food Fayre at the Winterage Cattle Drive.
c) Develop and deliver the Farming for Nature programme.	Farming For Nature goes from strength to strength with 91 Ambassadors from across Ireland that showcase how to farm alongside nature. These Ambassadors are strong spokespersons for nature and continue to share their stories and practices to encourage others to make change.
d) Support the ACRES Burren Aran initiative.	We support and promote the participant farmers. We also collaborated on events over the course of the Winterage Weekend.
e) Continue to develop the Burren’s potential as a learning landscape.	Numerous engagements with visiting groups emphasised communicating the values of place-based learning and highlighting the potential learning opportunities that the Burren offers.
f) Look to engage at policy level and with influential organisations, businesses and individuals on topics around PBL, community stewardship and conservation.	Ongoing engagement with politicians, business leaders, state agencies, universities and more.

CASE STUDIES



Hare’s Corner

In 2023, The Hare’s Corner initiative created **302 Hare’s Corners** – **140** in Co. Mayo, **105** in Co. Clare, **44** at various locations around the country with the help of Farming for Nature Ambassadors network and **5** in Co. Carlow. In terms of important actions for biodiversity, this meant that **62 ponds** for wildlife, **69 mini-woodlands**, **98 heritage orchards** were created and **57 bespoke ‘plans for nature’** and

8 ‘peatland plans’ were prepared for interested landowners. Funding support for this came from NTR Foundation and Lifes2Good Foundation (through Wild Atlantic Nature) in Co. Mayo, BTH giving fund, FuturEnergy Ireland, Greencoat Renewables and Brightwind Analysis in Co. Clare, NPWS and DAFM for Farming for Nature Ambassador locations and Local Biodiversity Action Fund for Co. Carlow.

Clogher Environmental Group, Co. Mayo

We had Michael Kingdon, resident in Co. Mayo, apply on behalf of the Clogher Environmental Group to receive a wildlife pond and heritage apple orchard in 2023 – this was to coincide with a brand-new sand martin nesting wall that was also being installed, which Michael says was, “the first of its type in Connaught, built to accommodate our struggling sand martin colony which was down to a mere two nests last year.” The Hare’s Corner team has received feedback that the wildlife pond is doing so well that there is already frog spawn about to hatch (status as of the middle of March 2024) and water weed already colonising the margins, which is great to hear. Michael hopes to use the three new habitats to educate and “show young people what can be done with just a small piece of land.” The site where these new biodiversity actions have taken place are along Clogher Bog Loop Walk where anyone can come to enjoy both nature and heritage along the way. Michael and his group are very appreciative of the Hare’s Corner Project and share with us that, “We have been well catered for by the very generous Hare’s Corner initiative.”

It’s so great to see both individuals and community groups coming together to create such positive change in our environment and we are so happy to have them as Hare’s Corner Participants. Michael is very excited to share this space, so hopefully we can hold future Hare’s Corner walks at this location as well.

Dee Vaughan, private landowner in County Clare and 2023 participant:

Dee Vaughan is a private landowner located in County Clare. She had recently purchased land and subsequently built a house on the site. She wanted a “meadow-like garden that she could manage and restore”. She received a Plan for Nature (PFN) visit which she says was very helpful because the PFN, “gave her a lot of advice on Water Dock management and what to plant.” She says she needed to create space where other plants and species could grow as well. She planted 14 apple trees and around 80 native woodland trees both of which came to her through the Hare’s Corner initiative. She did a hedging of Hazel and Hawthorn and scattered the Alder, Birch, Holly, Spindle and Oak around the site – all of which will be acting as a shelter belt to help the apple trees along as she has a bit of an exposed site. She also received funding for a wildlife pond, where she immersed herself in the project. Dee attended a workshop, visited other Hare’s Corner participant sites, and aimed to create the best possible pond for her available space. “The process was very supportive and there’s a lovely community of people that have done it and who you can draw from and for people who are concerned about biodiversity or climate action, the Hare’s Corner Project is something that you can do that is very simple and accessible.”



Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers

The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers (BCV) is an active voluntary community that works towards the sustainable management of the Burren by addressing key conservation issues and needs in the region. The group was set up in 2010 by the Burrenbeo Trust to answer a need for hands-on conservation work in the Burren region and to enable people to work for the benefit of this inspiring but fragile environment. BCV carry out a range of projects working for the conservation and management of built and natural Burren heritage. By training and upskilling volunteers, Burrenbeo Trust is actively supporting a sustainable future for the Burren.

Guided by a dedicated voluntary committee, the BCV are a welcoming group of people, always on the lookout for new members, new project opportunities and new (community) groups to work in partnership with. All BCV committee members receive professional Remote Emergency Care II training on an on-going basis; ensuring safety standards are met during events. The committee shares updates on BCV work through a yearly newsletter.

Through volunteering, BCV develop invaluable skills by attending training courses and workshops. This encourages learning and builds confidence. The group attempts to engage with the wider community and enlists a broad spectrum of experts, driving home the importance of conservation.

Where appropriate, BCV events are expert-led. Experts are in the position to upskill volunteers on a specific subject through their experience, knowledge and passion. With some leaders, the BCVs carry out on-going conservation work to support sustainable impact where needed.



Events in 2023:

January

Fahee butterfly site maintenance

February

Fahee Castle archaeological scrub clearing I

Fahee Castle archaeological scrub clearing II

March

Fanore Beach Cleanup

May

Community excavation (3 weeks)

June

Communities for Heritage event

Yellow Rattle seed collection/Burren Pine site maintenance

July

Graveyard recording

August

BCV Social

September

Ballyganner archaeological scrub clearing

Fanore Beach Cleanup

October

Newline archaeological scrub clearing

December

Aughinish archaeological scrub clearing

Fahee butterfly site maintenance



Expressing our gratitude to archaeologist and expert event leader Elaine Lynch (Ristead Crimmins; BCV committee member)

Scrub clearing appears a good few times in the Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers calendar of events. This activity has become a significant part of the work of the BCVs from year to year but its description, while factually accurate, gives no hint at all as to how important and fascinating it actually is. Reflecting on the work carried out by the volunteers in 2023 it is quite remarkable to think that we have been following to some extent in the footsteps of others who have, in the past, found this area equally fascinating. The part of the Burren stretching from Parknabinnia across to Ballyganner was visited and documented by John O'Donovan during the course of the Ordnance Survey in 1839 - he mentions Cahernaspeeke where the BCVs have spent some time clearing away briars and blackthorns from the cashel. Then of course there was the detailed survey work done by T.J. Westropp in the 1890s and in the early twentieth century. Dr William Nolan in his introduction to *The Antiquities of Clare* (Clasp Press 2005) describes the work of O'Donovan and O'Curry at that time as serving "as a measure of both loss and survival" and when one reads the detailed notes taken by Westropp in relation to the aforementioned Cahernaspeeke for example, it is clear that the work of the BCVs in opening up these monuments to view is a tale of both loss and survival; gone it appears are the spikes which may have given the cashel its name, although they are hopefully recumbent awaiting discovery by the BCVs on some future occasion (leaving aside any question marks as to the naming of that particular cashel).

The work of the BCVs on the monuments would not be possible without Elaine Lynch. It is probably fair to both her and the volunteers to say that there is a nice symbiosis to the relationship. Having said that however, I don't think we could have been more fortunate than we have been in having Elaine as our guiding archaeologist; her infectious enthusiasm, good humour and dedication are inspirational. One wonders what more Westropp might have achieved had he the resources of the BCVs at his disposal! Of course it is not a particularly startling disclosure to say that the surface of Burren archaeology has only been scratched but Elaine has, in her work in Ballyganner over the past few seasons, made a significant dent in it. It has been a great privilege for the BCVs to have been a part of this work. I suppose that the full significance of the discoveries



there has yet to be understood in the context of our understanding of that landscape which clearly has had a substantial human presence since the neolithic. I saw a discussion by Eoin Grogan and Tom Condit (*The Funerary Landscape of Clare in Space and Time in County Clare Studies* ed. Ciaran O'Murchadha) where they speculated that the very dense clustering of megalithic tombs etc in the Parknabinnia / Ballyganner area is indicative of a relatively high population in the Late/Final Neolithic Period and they go so far as to say that intensive agriculture in the area at that time may have caused soil erosion which in turn may have led to population movement away from the area and this may be traceable in the distribution of wedge tombs in neighbouring parts of the County. It is a hugely significant and magical landscape as we know which is only starting to yield up its treasures in terms of our understanding of the pre-historic past. Elaine's work is central to that at the moment and for the BCVs to be involved with her is a great privilege.

I was delighted to come across a quote by Carol Gleeson in her introduction to *Archaeology of the Burren/Prehistoric Forts and Dolmens in North Clare* (Clasp Press 1999) the collection of Westropp's notes on the area, which is from his Presidential Address to the Royal Society of Antiquaries in 1916 which is as follows: 'Most helpful is it to recall that in Ireland our work always advanced, not by State aid and popular applause, but by self-sacrifice; and having no ambition save the objects of our research. These endowments cannot fail if we continue true'. He could well have made that observation had he witnessed Elaine's hard work dedication and professionalism. From the same introduction by Carol Gleeson comes a quote from his obituary from which we see that he was a genial and good humoured individual with a vast store of knowledge whose presence enlivened gatherings and excursions. Elaine is certainly keeping his spirit alive in County Clare.

Heritage Keepers

Heritage Keepers is a free learning and community stewardship programme for primary schools and community groups that enables them to explore the built, natural, and cultural heritage of their local place and then plan a funded action to enhance their place.

The 10 hour programme is delivered online. Participants can then apply to Heritage Keepers for micro funding and, once received, have 2-3 months to complete their project. The Heritage Keepers team provide ongoing support and mentoring to the schools and community groups while they apply for funding and complete their action. In 2023 Heritage Keepers was delivered in partnership with the Heritage Council.

The programme helps to support local communities, their heritage and the ongoing development of proven models of community stewardship and place-based learning. Heritage Keepers gives people a sense of empowerment around their local heritage and place, helping foster pride, ownership and ultimately responsibility towards both their community and environment.



Feedback from the programme was overwhelmingly positive. Here are some quotes from groups who participated in 2023:

“I found it a wonderful programme for people like me who didn’t think their voice could be heard, but now I feel that there are people who help and encourage everyone to protect nature, the environment, and the heritage of an area.”

“The enthusiasm of the other groups was inspiring. And the facilitators were really helpful and encouraging. The resources provided are invaluable.”

“Heritage Keepers gave me an insight into my local heritage and the environment in which I live and how I can help improve things.”

As a programme Heritage Keepers tackles many of our local and global issues; from anxiety around biodiversity loss and climate change to problems of community fragmentation and in heritage conservation. The Heritage Keepers programme successfully enhances participants connection to their local place and empowers communities so that they feel motivated and supported to take local meaningful action. While the range and number of completed projects clearly point to the success of the Heritage Keepers programme, for participants the sense of being part of a wider movement and having opportunities for networking is also critical.



Liscarroll National School, Co. Cork

When the call for Heritage Keepers went out to schools and groups in September 2023, Sarah O’Riordan was quick to fill out an expression of interest. Teaching fifth class in Liscarroll NS, County Cork, Sarah recognised that the programme would benefit her class in developing a deeper understanding of their local place together with a renewed feeling of connection to that place. Because the programme was vastly oversubscribed schools and groups were chosen at random to take part and Liscarroll NS were delighted when we contacted them to let them know they had a place on the programme.

In November and December Sarah and her class took part in the interactive online workshops. The children pick up the story. “Having been lucky enough to be selected, we then took part in five one hour zoom classes focusing on a different aspect each week; 1) My Place, 2) Culture and the Past, 3) Biodiversity and Land Use, 4) Enhancing our Place And 5) Planning for action. (For our action) we decided on a book as our project to preserve the local history for generations to come”.

The class applied for a grant of €500 and a fieldtrip trip grant of €350. The fieldtrips were a real highlight for the children where local experts imparted their knowledge to the class. Sarah explains; “We went on two separate trips. On our first trip one we visited Dr Croke House, the birthplace of Dr Croke where Sr Bernadette told us all about his life, then we went to Aughrim the site

where Dan O’Brien was captured, he was the last man executed before the treaty was signed. Pat O’Brien was the local expert here, grandson of Dan O’Brien and grandfather of one of the 5th class students. Finally we went to Knawhill cemetery where local archaeologist Raymond O’ Sullivan spoke to us about the evidence of it being an old monastic site.

On our second day out we visited the site where O’Sullivan Beara and his supporters were attacked, we also visited the burial ground of four of his supporters. John O’Connor met us there and explained the story to the children. We then visited Heighfort house where Willie Stokes told us about the tale of the Knight of the knife. Finally we visited Glen Fern wood where owner Veronica Egan told us about the native trees and wildlife she has and also how she cares for her wood in an eco-friendly way”

The children said “we thoroughly enjoyed listening to all the speakers who came to the school and even more so our trips out around the locality”.

For their project they produced a lovely A4 40 page booklet on all the local heritage sites that they had visited in their fieldtrips. The €500 grant covered printing of 125 copies. Sarah says “We had our book launch... and it was a massive success. (The local councillor) has announced that we qualified for additional funding of €300 for reprinting from the County Cork Heritage Scheme”. The reprinting was needed because there was a huge demand for the booklets locally.





Farming for Nature

Farming for Nature (FFN) was established in 2018 as an independent, not-for-profit initiative which works to support the positive contribution that farmers can make in conserving nature on their land. This work was initially undertaken by sharing positive, relatable, farmer case studies through the Bord Bia funded Ambassador Awards programme but, since 2019, thanks to additional support from DAFM and NPWS, the impact of FFN was broadened and deepened by ensuring that the practical knowledge of these farmers was more widely shared and that other aspiring 'farmers for nature' were better supported.

Each year, Farming For Nature (FFN) focuses on what we see as the key emerging challenges and opportunities in terms of encouraging more farmers and landowners to farm for nature. This responsive, adaptable approach has seen our impact grow substantially on a number of fronts.

Key achievements in 2023 include:

- Celebrating **10 new Ambassadors** in 2023. We now have **91** in total in our network.
- Coordinating **22 farm walks** with **450 attendees** across all different farming systems and land types.
- Supporting **50 farmers** to be mentored through our **Horse's Mouth Programme**.
- Supporting **28 ponds** being built on Ambassadors' lands.
- Holding **9 online Q&As** with farmers with over **350 participants**. This makes **54 online Q&As** and **3,777 attendees** since it started in 2020. These can all be viewed on YouTube.
- Hosting **39 attendees** at our annual **FFN network event** in May 2023. **31** of these were Ambassadors.
- Developed **videos, podcasts and training outlines** for how to farm for nature.
- Expanding our team to **2 individuals** (part-time).

We feel that Farming For Nature went from strength to strength in 2023 and we are excited about the potential for further growth in 2024. Central to this success have been the Ambassadors themselves, around whom this initiative is built. These farmers have represented the project across a range of media and done so with great eloquence and enthusiasm. They have contributed greatly to the peer-to-peer aspect of the project as well as the development of practical resources for other farmers – from on-line fora to best practice guides. We recognise and respect these farmers as professionals in their own right, and where possible we pay them for their work for the project.

Their skill and generosity has been matched by many others – for example our judges many of whom do this work on a voluntary basis.

We would also like to highlight that €80,000 of the funds allocated in 2023 went directly to farmers through our different programmes.

We believe that the investment in FFN is leveraging a lot of goodwill and support in kind, helping to meet a growing demand from farmers across Ireland for better advice, support and acknowledgement for their work in farming for nature.



KEY CHALLENGES IN 2023

1. Environmental Pressures

Climate change, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss are global issues which also impact the Burren's unique landscape.

2. Funding and Financial Stability

Like many non-profits, Burrenbeo Trust is constantly navigating financial uncertainties. Securing consistent funding from grants, donations, and memberships is an ongoing challenge.

3. Capacity Demands

As interest in our programmes grow, determining how best to meet these demands and manage resources presents challenges.



KEY GOALS IN 2024

1. Build Efficiency

Implementing enhanced systems and utilising technology to improve organisational efficiency.

2. Evaluation

Continue to evaluate and review our existing programmes to ensure they are meeting the needs of our communities and having the maximum impact.

3. Communication and Messaging

Review our organisations communications including social media and websites to enhance our messaging and reach.

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

We found the visit very informative and **The Hare's Corner Plan for Nature** has given us plenty to work on. It also helped us to focus on what we are wanting to do with our land. We are new land owners who want to maximise biodiversity so the scheme is a great fit as we have a similar vision for the land.

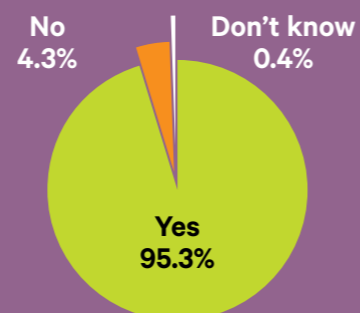
Michelle McCarrick, Hare's Corner Participant, Co. Mayo

The Hare's Corner project is simply tremendous!! What a great initiative. I can't recommend it enough, having real experts on hand to provide guidance and encouragement genuinely makes all the difference to being brave and making good changes to our land. Ye make it so much easier for us! Thank you :)

Kate Maleady, Hare's Corner Participant, Co. Clare

Did the participants learn something new? Feedback from Annual Festivals

Feedback from attendees of our annual festivals in 2023 - **Burren in Bloom** and **Burren Winterage Weekend** showed that over 95% people felt that attending the event/s had increased their knowledge.



Responses 174

THE TEAM

Staff



Áine Bird

Trust Coordinator and Research,
aine@burrenbeo.com



Pranjali Bhawe

Communications and Events
pranjali@burrenbeo.com



Mary Dillon

Heritage Keepers
Coordinator and Delivery
mary@burrenbeo.com



John Lambe

Administration
john@burrenbeo.com



Lee Worrell

The Hare's Corner
lee@burrenbeo.com



Karen van Dorp

Conservation, Membership and
Outreach (since September 2023)
karen@burrenbeo.com



Brigid Barry

Farming for Nature Coordinator
info@farmingfornature.ie



Lucy Bowler

Farming for Nature
lucy@farmingfornature.ie



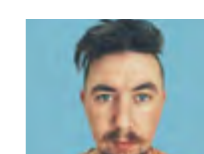
Dr Brendan Dunford

Volunteer, Trust Secretary



Kate Lavender

Conservation, Membership
and Outreach (to October 2023)



Brian Nally

Heritage Keepers
(to September 2023)

Trustees



Sadie Chown
Chairperson



Daire O'Criodáin
Treasurer



Shane Casey



Michael Davoren



Helen McQuillan



Margaret MacMahon



Cathal O'Donoghue



Gearoid Howard



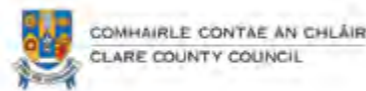
Martin Hawkes
(stepped down
October 2023)

A BIG THANK YOU TO MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS, SUPPORTERS, PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

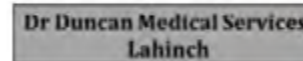
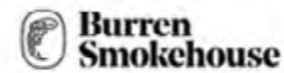
Sponsorships and donors

Brightwind
 BTH Giving Fund
 Catherine Cleary
 Catherine Wright
 EI 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 Charitable Foundation
 Tom & Gillian Arnold
 UK Online Giving Foundation
 Wolters Rundreisen

Grant funders



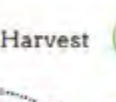
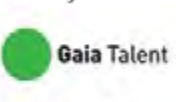
Gold Business Friends



Silver Business Friends



Business Friends



Directors and Other Information

Directors

Martin Hawkes (Resigned 18 October 2023)

Shane Casey (Resigned 17 January 2024)

Sadie Chowen

Michael G Davoren

Daire O’Criodain

Rory Howard (Appointed 26 July 2023)

Catha! O’Donoghue (Appointed 26 July 2023)

Helen McQuillan (Appointed 26 July 2023)

Brendan Dunford (Resigned 26 July 2023)

Mary McMahon (Appointed 26 July 2023)

Company Secretary

Brendan Dunford

Company Number

412962

Charity Number

16834

Registered Office and Business Address

Glebe House, Glebe Road, Kinvara, Co. Galway

Auditors

ODK Accountancy Ltd

Church Street, Gort, Co. Galway

Bankers

AIB

The Square, Gort, Co Galway

Independent Auditor’s Report

to the Members of Burrenbeo Trust
(A Company Limited by Guarantee
and not having Share Capital)

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Burrenbeo Trust (A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital} (‘the company’) for the financial year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Income Statement, the Statement of Financial Position and notes to the financial statements, including the summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is Irish Law and FRS 105 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the Micro-Entities Regime” issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 105 “The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the Micro-Entities Regime”;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014 applicable to micro companies; and
- Meet the requirements to be presumed under Section 336 (3A) the Companies Act 2014 to give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2023 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are described below in the Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard for Auditors (Ireland} issued by the Irish Auditing and

Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the directors’ use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the company’s ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the directors with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor’s Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that: We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of our audit.

In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited and the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors’ remuneration and transactions required by sections 307 and 308 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities and restrictions on use

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework and for being satisfied that they comply with FRS 105 ‘The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the Micro-Entities Regime’ and the legal requirements applicable to micro company financial statements, and are thereby presumed, in law, to give a true and fair view. The financial statements are presumed, in law, to give a true and fair view without any consideration of any other circumstances, factors, accounting principles or disclosures. The financial reporting framework applicable to micro companies is a compliance framework and not a fair presentation framework. The directors are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company’s ability to

continue as a going concern, disclosing, if applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Errors or omissions can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

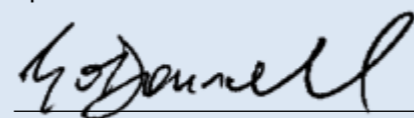
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditor's Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditor's Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Gerry O'Donnell

for and on behalf of ODK Accountancy Ltd.
Church Street, Gort, Co. Galway

Date 23 August 2024

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BURRENBEO TRUST

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

The notes on pages 28 to 30 form part of the financial statements

Income Statement

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 €	2022 €
Turnover	640,132	611,704
Other income	116	
Cost of raw materials and consumables	(333,630)	(199,265)
Staff costs	(208,944)	(174,946)
Value adjustments and other amounts written off assets	(2,645)	(1,536)
Other expenses	(61,664)	(52,814)
Surplus	33,365	183,143

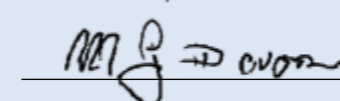
Statement of Financial Position

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

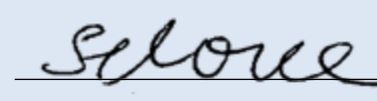
	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed Assets	13,747	7,532
Current assets	554,713	510,427
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(4,169)	(4,472)
Net Current Assets	550,544	505,955
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	564,291	513,487
Accruals and deferred income	(21,100)	(3,661)
Net Assets	543,191	509,826
Reserves		
Restricted	212,956	203,711
Unrestricted	330,235	306,115
	543,191	509,826

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro-companies' regime and FRS 105 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the Micro-Entities Regime'.

Approved by the Directors and authorised for issue on 31 July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Michael G Davoren
Director



Sadie Chowen
Director

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

1. General Information

Burrenbeo Trust (A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital) is a company limited by guarantee incorporated and registered in Ireland. The registered number of the company is 412962. The registered office of the company is Glebe House, Glebe Road, Kinvara, Co. Galway which is also the principal place of business of the company. The financial statements have been presented in Euro (€) which is also the functional currency of the company.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the company's financial statements.

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the going concern basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 105 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable to the Micro-Entities Regime" issued by the Financial Reporting Council.

The company qualifies as a micro company as defined by section 280D of the Companies Act 2014 in respect of the financial year, and has applied the rules of the 'Micro Companies Regime' in accordance with section 280E of the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 105.

Income

All income and donations are included in the financial statements on the basis of the amounts received and receivable.

Going concern

These financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis, on the understanding that the grants and income will continue to financially support the company to allow it to meet its liabilities as and when they fall due for at least twelve months from the date of approval.

Tangible assets and depreciation

Tangible assets are stated at cost or at valuation, less accumulated depreciation. The charge to depreciation is calculated to write off the original cost or valuation of tangible assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 12.5% Straight line

The carrying values of tangible fixed assets are reviewed annually for impairment in periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying value may not be recoverable.

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest method less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts except where the effect of discounting would be immaterial. In such cases the receivables are stated at cost less impairment losses for bad and doubtful debts.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BURRENBEO TRUST

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand, demand deposits with banks and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the Statement of Financial Position bank overdrafts are shown within Creditors.

Trade and other creditors

Trade and other creditors are initially recognised at fair value and thereafter stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, unless the effect of discounting would be immaterial, in which case they are stated at cost.

Taxation

No charge to current or deferred taxation arises as the company is availing of the tax exemption under Charitable Tax Exemption Number CHY 16834.

3. Appropriation of Income Statement

	2023	2022
	€	€
Surplus brought forward	306,115	233,683
Surplus for the financial year	33,365	183,143
Other movements	(117,245)	(110,711)
Surplus carried forward	222,235	306,115

4. Post-Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year-end.

5. Operational Risk Reserve

The charity's reserves policy is to seek to spend income promptly, except as required for planned projects, for prudent financial planning and risk management and for reasonable cash flow management. The reserve is to cover operational costs for a period of six months, excluding depreciation.

	2023	2022
	€	€
	108,000	108,000

6. FFN Reserve (Restricted)

The Farming For Nature (FFN) Programme is funded by specific grant payments from Government Departments. These are restricted funds and any excess funding received over expenditure in the year is retained to be spent solely on the FFN Programme in future years.

	2023	2022
	€	€
	127,340	95,711

7. Burren Ambassador Fund Reserve (Restricted)

The Burren Ambassador (BA) Programme is funded by specific donations received by the company. There are restricted funds and any excess funding received over expenditure in the year is retained to be spent solely on the BCV Programme in future years.

2023	2022
€	€
3,773	

8. Burren Conservation Volunteers Reserve (Restricted)

The Burren Conservation Volunteers (BCV) Programme is funded by specific funds set aside by the company. These are restricted funds and excess funding received over expenditure in the year is retained to be spent solely on the BCV Programme in future years.

2023	2022
€	€
1,843	

9. The Hares Corner Reserve (Restricted)

The Hares Corner (THC) Programme is funded by specific grant payments from the NTR Foundation. These are restricted funds and any excess funding received over expenditure in the year is retained to be spent solely on the THC Programme in future years.

2023	2022
€	€
80,000	

10. State Funding

Government Department	Department of Foreign Affairs
Grant Programme	Shared Island Civic Society Fund
Purpose of the Grant	Farming for Nature Programme (FFN)
Term	12 Months
Total Fund	€25,100
Fund deferred or due at financial year end	€0
Received in the financial year	€25,100
Type of Grant	Revenue
Restriction on use	Specified Programme Expenditure Only

The above grant is compliant with relevant Circulars including 13/2014

11. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 31 July 2024.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BURRENBEO TRUST NOT COVERED BY THE AUDITORS REPORT

(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

The following pages do not form part of the audited financial statements

Detailed Income Statement

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	€	€
Income	640,132	611,704
Expenditure		
FFN costs	128,370	90,089
LLS costs		3,804
VVWcosts	11,038	10,882
PBL costs	3,883	4,506
EIP The Hares Corner Expense	24,472	55,560
Pine Tree Project Expense	600	726
Heritage Keepers Expense	41,941	28,532
IRC Costs		5,166
The Hares Corner - Other Expenses	62,040	
BCV Expenses	655	
BIB Expenses	3,445	
Burren Journey Expenses	11,005	
Mayo THC Expenses	27,520	
Turas Expenses	2,056	
Shared Island FFN Expenses	16,605	
Wages and salaries	191,780	159,904
Social welfare costs	17,164	15,042
Staff training	260	1,456
Rent payable	11,700	10,200
Insurance	3,100	2,750
Light and heat	648	874
Cleaning	1,164	433
Repairs and maintenance	1,323	679
Printing, postage and stationery	5,732	4,351
Advertising		37
Telephone	2,281	2,436
Computer costs	5,773	8,712
Staff Clothing	2,384	
Travelling and entertainment	10,273	7,497
Legal and professional		246
Accountancy	2,220	1,816
Bank charges	2,572	3,225
General expenses	10,389	6,257
Auditor's remuneration	1,845	1,845
Depreciation	2,645	1,536
	606,883	428,561
Miscellaneous income		
Bank interest	116	
Net surplus	33,365	183,143

Detailed Income Statement

for the financial year ended 31 December 2023

		2023
		€
Government and Local Authority Funding		
Department of Agriculture and Food	Farming For Nature Programme	85,000
Department of Housing and	Farming For Nature Programme	100,000
Department of Foreign Affairs	Shared Island Civic Society Fund	25,100
Department of Education	Education for Sustainable Development	21,500
Clare County Council	The Hare's Corner Programme	5,000
Department of Agriculture and Food	Burren Winterage Festival	10,697
		247,297
Other Public Bodies		
The Heritage Council	Core Operations Funding	50,000
The Heritage Council	Heritage Keepers Partnership	34,876
Bord Bia	Farming For Nature Programme	20,000
GRETB	First Aid Training	1,000
Wild Atlantic Nature	The Hare's Corner	30,724
		136,600
Philanthropic Organisations		
Sunflower Charitable Foundation	Core Operations Funding	15,000
NTR Foundation	The Hare's Corner	60,000
Futureenergy Ireland	The Hare's Corner	15,000
BTH Giving Fund	The Hare's Corner	15,000
Greencoat Renewables PLC	The Hare's Corner	20,000
FBD Trust	Burren Winterage Festival	3,000
BTH Giving Fund	Heritage Keepers Programme	15,000
Wolters Rundreisen	Heritage Keepers Programme	5,000
		148,000
Donations		
General		28,576
Members Subscriptions		25,022
		53,598
Trading and commercial activities		
Burren Pine Project		12,400
Farm Walks		6,260
Gathering		605
Merchandise		3,123
Festivals		11,644
Place Based Learning		8,262
Other		12,342
		54,636
Total Income		640,131



burrenbeo trust

connecting people and place

www.burrenbeo.com

Burrenbeo Trust, Glebe House, Glebe Road, Kinvara
Tel 091 638096, Email info@burrenbeo.com

GET IN TOUCH

- BECOME A MEMBER •
- DONATE •
- VOLUNTEER •

LEARN MORE



www.farmingfornature.ie



www.heritagekeepers.ie



www.burreninbloom.com



www.burrenwinterage.com

