

burrenbëotrust

Inspiring Action

BURRENBEO TRUST IMPACT REPORT 2024



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

A MESSAGE FROM ÁINE BIRD

Burrenbeo Trust Coordinator

Reflecting on another remarkable year for Burrenbeo Trust fills us with gratitude and pride. However, capturing the true impact of our work is no easy task. The breadth and depth of what we do extend far beyond figures or words on a page. This report offers a glimpse into the significant progress made in 2024 as we continued our mission to connect people with place and empower communities to take meaningful actions for their environments.

Since becoming a charity in 2008, Burrenbeo Trust has solidified its role as a national leader in place-based learning and community stewardship. In 2024, we prioritised strengthening organisational efficiency, enhancing programme evaluation, and refining our messaging and communication strategies. These focused efforts aimed to amplify the reach and deepen the long-term impact of our initiatives.

At the heart of our success remain the grassroots programmes that define Burrenbeo. Initiatives such as the Hare's Corner, Heritage Keepers, and Farming for Nature — alongside signature events like Burren in Bloom and the Winterage Weekend — continued to inspire and unite communities. These efforts not only celebrated and preserved the Burren's unique heritage but now also offers models of proactive environmental stewardship that resonate nationwide.

The achievements of 2024 would not have been possible without the collective dedication of our staff, trustees, volunteers, event leaders, and supportive landowners. Equally vital was the support of our ever-growing network of members and followers, whose enthusiasm and commitment fuel our shared vision. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to another year of success.

As we close the chapter on 2024, we look to the future with renewed purpose. Armed with the lessons and accomplishments of this year, we stand ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead with resilience, creativity, and collaboration.

Aine Bird



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS



Walk Attendances

2024	2023
983	837



Festival Attendances

2024	2023
3839	1801



Learning programme participants

2024	2023
1729	1165



Outreach participants

2024	2023
632	641



Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers attendances

2024	2023
285	105



New Farming for Nature Ambassadors

2024	2023
12	10



Hare's Corner measures taken

2024	2023
1062	302



Heritage Keepers

Heritage Keepers Action projects completed

2024	2023
58	40



Social Media Followers

2024	2023
57,425	50,402

Youtube views

2024	2023
51,524	42,994

Online webinar attendances

2024	2023
725	671

Website users

2024	2023
116,433	94,677



Spent locally

€431,984

Spent nationally

€507,034

Over 30% of total expenditure is paid directly to programme participants to support heritage and biodiversity action locally and nationally.

New members

2024	2023
164	125

Renewals

2024	2023
493	629

Total members

2024	2023
657	754



Member Locations

International	10%	Burren (Clare or Galway)	23%
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29% National

38% Regional



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.



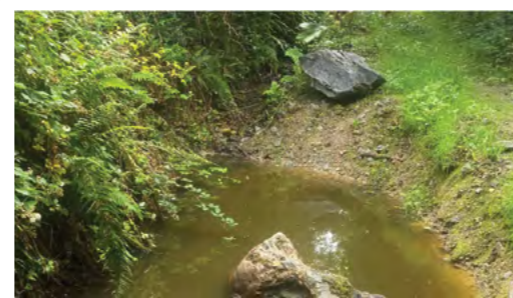
Members Walks

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



Farming for Nature

Celebrating and supporting those looking to improve conditions for nature on their farms.



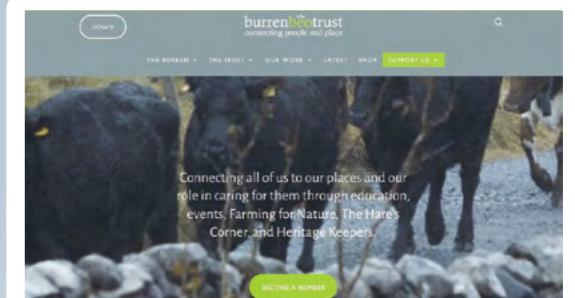
The Hare's Corner

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.



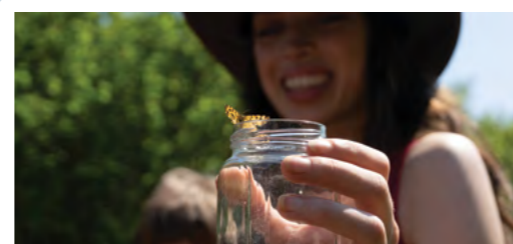
Tea Talks

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

A spring time celebration of biodiversity in the Burren.



The Burrenbeo Conservation Volunteers

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



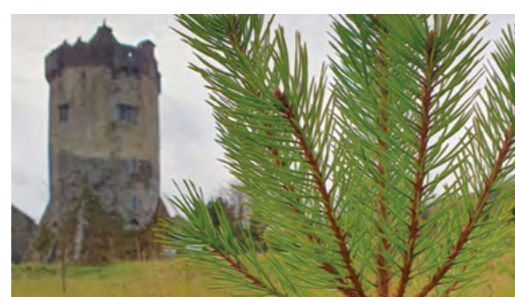
Outreach

Providing talks and fieldtrips for visiting groups and researchers.



Members Webinars

Year round talks from a variety of speakers on the Burren's 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.

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.

Supporting action

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

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.

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.

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.



TURAS JOURNEYS IN STEWARDSHIP

This year we had a wonderful experience working on a new initiative, Turas – Journeys in Stewardship.

Funded by Creative Ireland through their Creative Climate Action fund, Turas brought the Burren community together to consider our collective role in environmental stewardship, aiming to inspire diverse audiences to consider their role in shaping local landscapes.

By creatively sharing stories and providing practical supports, the project introduced new audiences to Burrenbeo's mission. Its legacy will endure through the communities, creative works, and networks formed during the initiative.



Rooted in the Burren's transhumance traditions, Turas used the theme of movement to explore cultural and environmental heritage.

Activities included dance and straw craft workshops with Edwina Guckian, poetry by Jane Clarke inspired by Farming for Nature ambassadors, and a film with a creative nod to the Hare's Corner initiative and music by Jack Talty.

Discussions led by Anja Murray encouraged reflection on environmental action, while Max Jones facilitated workshops on sustainable food practices like cheese and butter making.



Together, these creative efforts encouraged participants to consider the practical actions we can all take to address climate challenges.

- There were 1866 participations over the course of the project.
- 54% of participants asked had never attended a Burrenbeo event before.
- 59% of participants asked were inspired to take action for nature, heritage or community.



DID YOU KNOW?



As well as our own education programmes we also contribute to third level education through the Burren College of Arts, Global Ecologies Studio and the Heritage Councils Heritage in Schools scheme and their pilot Transition Year programme.



The Farming for Nature Handbook which was launched in 2024 sold 1500 books in preorders before it was even printed!!



In 2024, there were over 3,000 volunteer hours contributed to Burrenbeo Trust. This included event support, conservation volunteering, staff hours donated and the time of our voluntary directors.



Our annual count of biodiversity actions delivered through The Hare's Corner project has been rising phenomenally year on year since we began:

- 2021: over 100 actions
- 2022: over 200 actions
- 2023: over 300 actions
- 2024: over 1,000 actions



We now have Schools and Groups from every county in Ireland that have taken part in Heritage Keepers!

WHAT OUR PARTICIPANTS SAY



Calf and Cuckoo

Karen was fantastic with our 4th class group. She came with some excellent resources and her learning objectives were suitably matched for the age group. The class really enjoyed the workshop and learned a lot about the Burren. Karen was a fantastic help with linking her workshop to the curriculum. A very enjoyable experience.

Emer Moran, Teacher, Clarinbridge NS

The Winterage Weekend

I loved the “joined up thinking” among all! Farmers, environmentalists, ecologists, poets, consumers, musicians, all on same page! Also the friendliness and stunning location. We’ll be back.

Burren in Bloom

The Burren is the most beautiful place and I love everything about it and attending Burren in Bloom events just confirm that time and time again. On top of that you are always meeting lovely people. Thank you for organising!

Heritage Keepers

Its more than just talking about helping, its actually doing something.

Teacher

We think the programme and the grant were excellent and very easy to access. It definitely brought us together as a group. I would highly recommend the process both to established and new groups.

Community Group

The Hare’s Corner

I would like to say thanks for the grant aid for the construction of a pond on my land. What made this grant very special was how easy Hare’s Corner made it, our government could learn a lot from this.

Hare’s Corner participant

THE TEAM

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Lydia Lishman

Strategy and Fundraising
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Dr Brendan Dunford

Volunteer, Trust Secretary

Trustees



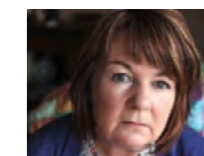
Sadie Chowen
Chairperson



Daire Ó Criodáin
Treasurer



Michael Davoren



Helen McQuillan



Margaret
MacMahon



Cathal
O'Donoghue



Gearoid Howard



Shane Casey
(to January 2024)

A BIG THANK YOU

Members,
Volunteers,
Supporters,
Partners
and Funders

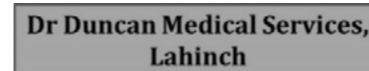
Sponsorships and Donors

Anke Heydenreich | BTH Giving Fund | Burren Conservation Farmers | Daire Ó Criodáin | Darren Byrne | FBD Trust
Futrenergy | Greencoat Renewables | HNVS - ACRES Burren Aran | Jenelle Vincent | Lifes2Good | Michael & Clodagh Lynch
Michael Houlihan | Niamh Lennon | NTR PLC/Teevurcher Windfarm | Reforest Nation | Sandy Morrell | Sharon Parr
Sunflower Charitable Foundation | Susannah McAleese | Tom Arnold | Trinity Business School | Wolters Rundreisen

Grant funders



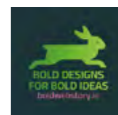
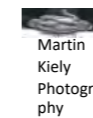
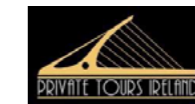
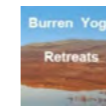
Gold Business Friends



Silver Business Friends



Business Friends



**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



www.burreninbloom.com



www.burrenwinterage.com

