



<p style="text-align: center;">TITLE Education and Research Programme Update</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Date 18/09/2013</p>

Publications:

'Stone, Water and Ice; A geology trip through the Burren' a new improved second edition was launched and is selling very well.

A new Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark publication **Birds of Fanore** is sold out.

Burren Geology School at Caherconnell:

The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geology summer field School at Caherconnell is ready for launch. John Davoren at Caherconnell is making some final changes to the website and expects to go live by the end of this week. The two-week NUIG accredited, international course will run in July 2014 <http://www.caherconnell.com/v2/geology-school>

Burren in Bloom 2013:

As well as financial support for this year's Burren in Bloom festival we also provided an evening lecture in Doolin: 'The geology of Doolin as a microcosm of the geology of North Clare' with a follow up field trip along the coast at Doolin. A second guided field trip along the Flaggy shore was held in collaboration with Brid Fahy of Linalla Ice Cream. All were very well attended.

Burren Rocks 2013:

The highlight of the Burren Rocks festival this year was the lecture by Prof Mike Williams at the NPWS information point in Corrofin which was filled to capacity. Other events including an exploration of the Flaggy Shore and guided sea cruise along the Cliffs of Moher were poorly attended and the new initiative to encourage and promote the use of local walking guides was very disappointing.

Heritage Week 2013:

This year we had the first ever 'Stone, Water & Ice Tour'; an ambitious tour of all nine geosites in the Geopark following the itinerary in the Stone, Water & Ice Booklet. The 16-seater mini bus was fully booked and generated very good reviews.

Online Research Archive:

We are compiling a significant archive of scientific publications and references relevant to the Burren and surrounding regions. The initial phase is now available on our website (link). The aim of the Research Archive is to provide as much information as possible to locals, stakeholders, students and visitors about research which has been done in the area. The role of geosciences education is growing and this new resource provides an easy access gateway for those who are interested. There are 375 references with 90 full text articles as well as abstracts and maps.

Stone, Water & Ice, introduction to the Geology of North Clare Evening Classes: this successful series of evening classes for adults run in conjunction with the Burren Outdoor Education Centre will take place again in March 2014. Book your place now!

Heritage Walking Trails:

Signage is currently being manufactured and Z-Card maps are being printed for six new Geopark Heritage Trails around Lisdoonvarna, Corrofin, Ballyvaughan, Kilfenora, Dysert O’Dea and the Flaggy Shore.

Further Geopark Heritage Trails are planned for Fanore, Doolin, Kilinaboy and Cahercommaun following detailed ecological impact assessments required for NPWS .

Lisdoonvarna Secondary School:

We continue to work closely with John Sims and the BT Young Scientists at Lisdoonvarna Secondary School. This year we have two proposed projects. John is currently working on matching students to projects.

Transition Year Students:

We are also working on an environmental project with transition year students from Lisdoonvarna. It is hoped this will involve collaboration with the Boghill Centre, Lisdoonvarna. Details in October..

International Dark Sky:

Work continues to compile an application to get International Dark Sky status for the Burren.

Original research:

A paper on the significance of submerged Holocene tree stumps co-authored by Prof. Mike Williams and Dr. Eamon Doyle will be submitted for publication this week. The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark supplied funding for the Carbon 14 dating of some samples in Clare.

Research in collaboration with Dr. John Murray of the Earth and Ocean Science Department NUI Galway is advanced and a paper is in preparation on an enigmatic fossil from the Cliffs of Moher.

Magazine Articles:

‘The Sand Volcanoes of County Clare’ published in *The Other Clare*

‘A day in the Life of a Geopark Geologist’ published in *Earth Science Ireland*

An article is being written for the European Geopark Network Magazine about the collaboration between the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark and Lisdoonvarna secondary school and the Stone, Water and Ice Evening Course with the Burren Outdoor Education Centre.