



FARMING FOR CONSERVATION IN THE BURREN

Series of Five Illustrated Talks Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare

21st October 2009

The BurrenLIFE Project is delighted to announce the details of a series of fascinating illustrated talks on the heritage of the Burren and Ireland. The talks will take place **over five Wednesdays** in October and November **starting** on the **28th October 2009**. The venue for the talks is the **Temple Gate Hotel, Ennis** and all talks commence at 8.00pm. The talks are part of BurrenLIFE's Heritage Education Programme. The series will focus on Ireland's rich heritage and more especially on farming and the role that local Burren farmers have played in the pilot phase of the BurrenLIFE Project. It will also look at the future of conservation farming and REPS.

Mr. Lorcan O' Toole (Irish Golden Eagle Trust) will be guest speaker on the opening night of Wednesday 28th October 2009. His talk is entitled 'The Success of the Reintroduction of the Golden Eagle to Ireland and Related Stories'. Mr. O' Toole is a bird of prey expert with over 20 years experience in working with birds of prey in Ireland and the UK. He is manager of the Golden Eagle Reintroduction project and a co-founder of the Golden Eagle Trust and a member of the Irish Raptor Study Group. He is also a regular guest on RTE's Mooney Goes Wild show.

The second talk is a joint presentation by Mr. Jim Nagle (LIFE farmer), Mr. Christy Roche (Burren Farmer & Burren Beef & Lamb Producer Group member) and Mr. Ruairí Ó Conchúir (BurrenLIFE Project). Their talk entitled 'Farming For Conservation in the Burren – Using the Resource Base – Lessons From the Field' will take place on the 4th November. The idea behind this joint talk is for the presenters to highlight the key lessons from the field in terms of five years of farming for conservation work in the Burren. The presenters will reflect on the success of the pilot phase of BurrenLIFE and the work of the Burren Beef and Lamb Producers Group.

The third talk on the 11th November 2009 will be given by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Professor John Sweeney on 'Climate Change and its Likely Impact on the West of Ireland'. Professor Sweeney has been a lecturer at the Geography Department NUI Maynooth, since 1978 and has also taught and researched at a number of universities in North America and Africa. Over the past 30 years he has published widely on various aspects of climatology and climate change in Ireland and currently leads a number of nationally funded research projects on climate change in Ireland. As one of the contributing Authors and Review Editors of the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Professor Sweeney shared with several hundred other climatologists the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize.

The fourth talk will be given by well known Clare wildlife expert Dr. Simon Berrow on Wednesday the 18th November. The title of his talk is 'What Lies Under Clare's Deep Blue'. Mr. Berrow moved to Ireland in 1986 to carry out a PhD in Zoology at University College, Cork. His PhD, based at Lough Hyne Marine Reserve in west Cork, looked at the impact of avian predators on the inter-tidal zone. During his PhD he started working on stranded dolphins and founded the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group (IWDG) in 1990. Dr. Berrow is co-ordinator of the IWDG, which runs a stranding and sighting scheme throughout Ireland. He has published over 30 scientific

papers on marine mammals. Dr. Berrow has also carried out national surveys on basking sharks. He is also a regular guest on RTE's Mooney Goes Wild show.

The fifth and final talk in the series of talks will be a panel discussion on the future of farming for conservation and the future of REPS. The panel of experts will include Dr. Brendan Dunford, BurrenLIFE Project Manager and co-founder of Burrenbeo, Paul Mooney from the Irish Farmers Journal and representatives from the IFA and Teagasc. The panel will outline their views on the likely future of agri-environmental schemes in Ireland more importantly on farming for conservation and farming generally in High Nature Vale (HNV) areas. The panel discussion will take place on Wednesday, 25th November 2009 and all Clare farmers, and Burren farmers in particular, are encouraged to attend what promises to be a lively discussion.

There is **free admission to all talks and all are welcome and encouraged to attend this the final block of talks hosted by the BLP.** Further information regarding the talks may be obtained from the BurrenLIFE Project website www.burrenlife.com or from 065 708 9000 or e mail info@burrenlife.com