

## ***From Apathy to Empathy: Reconnecting People and Place***

**A Burrenbeo Trust 'Learning Landscape' Event**

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2012, The Burren**

**Programme to date**

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**Pre-Symposium Events:** 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> August Daily Burren walks. Venues and times TBC.

### **Day 1 Wednesday August 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**Pre-Symposium Event:** 12-3pm *A Walk with a difference*. At the Burren National Park  
(In conjunction with the Irish Wheelchair Association)

**Registration:** 3-5pm Burrenbeo Trust Office, Main Street Kinvara  
Or 5.30-6.30pm Burren College of Art, Ballyvaughan.

**Opening and Reception:** 6.30-7.30pm. Burren College of Art. Music, chat and canapés.

Followed by Welcome Address with Guest Speaker

### **Session 1: The Importance of Place Based Learning 8– 10pm Burren College of Art**

Keynote presentations:

**8.00 – 8.45pm David Sobel:** *Place-based education: making school more like a farmer's market*

**8.45 – 9.30pm David Orr:** *Title tbc*

**9.30 – 10pm Discussion**

Afterwards: Music and craic in the village of Kinvara

**Session 2: Workshops on International Best Practice in Place Based Learning 1. (9-12pm) Kinvara**

Four, 3-hour workshops will take place from 9-12pm (30 minute coffee break included). These workshops will explore a range of best practice techniques in 'place based learning' and will vary in structure to include keynote presentations and maximum audience interaction. Places will be limited depending on capacity of venue and will be allocated on a first to book basis.

- KW1.** David Sobel. *Childhood and nature: design principles for educators*
- KW2.** Gordon MacLellan. *Wonder, delight and stories*
- KW3.** Katy Egan. *Head, heart and hoof: developing environmental understanding (empathy) through human-animal relationships*
- KW4.** Nessa Cronin & Karen Till. *Learning journeys: mapping place and community through memory and imagination*
- KW5.** Gregory Traymar. *Flow learning: harnessing enthusiasm and concentration to experience your place in nature most effectively*

12-1pm Lunch

1 – 1.30pm Buses Depart for Burren Workshops

**Session 3: Workshops on the Burren 1 – reconnecting people and place. (2-5pm)**

Five, 3-hour workshops will take place from 2-5pm out on the Burren. Local leaders will combine with national and international guest leaders to engage in a truly hands-on learning experience.

- BW1.** Caro-lyne Ferris & friends. *Learning through adventure.*
- BW2.** Gordon D'Arcy, Cillian Roden & friends. *Nature in its place*
- BW3.** Michael Gibbons & friends. *Prehistoric pilgrimage in the Burren uplands – modern myth or ancient reality?*
- BW4.** Gregory Traymar & friends. *'Flow learning' in the field.*
- BW5.** Pat Nagle, David Drew & friends. *Learning from the land.*

6.30 – 7.30pm Various events at the Burrenbeo Trust Centre and around village of Kinvara.

8-10pm *Bringing it all back home* – an evening of story and song. Hosted by **Eugene Lambe**.

**Session 4: Workshops on International Best Practice in PBL 2. (9-12pm) Kinvara**

Four, 3-hour workshops will take place from 9-12pm (30 minute coffee break included). These workshops will explore a range of best practice techniques in 'place based learning' and will vary in structure to include keynote presentations and maximum audience interaction. Places will be limited depending on capacity of venue and will be allocated on a first to book basis.

**KW6. Tony Kendle. *Rediscovering place in a placeless society***

**KW7. Jennifer Kramer. *Preserving community***

**KW8. David Orr. *Title tbc***

**KW9. Sean McDonagh. *Ecology and Ethics***

**KW 10. 2-5pm Eileen Hutton & Rob Ellis. *Cyanotype photography – making pictures with the sun***

12-1pm Lunch

1 – 1.30pm Buses Depart for Burren Workshops

**Session 5: Workshops on the Burren 2 – reconnecting people and place. (2-5pm)**

Five, 3-hour workshops will take place from 2-5pm out on the Burren. Local leaders will combine with national and international guest leaders.

**BW6: Gordon MacLellan & friends. *Stories everywhere***

**BW7: Jane Stoneham & friends. *Techniques for place engagement***

**BW8: John Feehan & friends. *Water, landscape and learning***

**BW9: Katy Egan & Sophie Nichol. *Design inspired by nature: exploring biomimicry together***

**BW10: Patrick McCormack, Sean McDonagh & friends. *Journeying in the Burren***

6.30-7.30pm Summary Panel Session

8pm Conference Dinner at the Pier Head Restaurant with Keynote Speaker

10.30pm Entertainment in Kinvara

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## Who's who: Speakers and Workshop Leaders

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### **CRONIN, Nessa (IRL)**

Nessa is a Lecturer in Irish Studies at the Centre for Irish Studies, and Co-Director of the MA in Irish Studies at NUI Galway. She is Co-Director of the Ómós Áite: Space/Place Research Group and a member of the Centre for Landscapes Studies at NUI Galway. She is also a founding co-convener of the Mapping Spectral Traces international network of artists, scholars and practitioners. Nessa's interdisciplinary work focuses on Irish cartographic history, literary geographies and developing academic and community-based research in Irish Place Studies.

### **D'ARCY, Gordon (IRL)**

Gordon is a leading expert in Irish heritage. Gordon is a graduate in Environmental Science from Trinity College, Dublin. Author, artist, natural historian, lecturer and heritage trainer, he has a particular interest in the Burren, which he has researched extensively for many years and to which he leads field trips for students and visiting scholars. He has published many books and papers on wildlife including "*The Natural History of the Burren*" and "*Guide to the Birds of Ireland*". His most recent book is "*Ireland's Lost Birds*".

### **DREW, David (IRL)**

David lectured on hydrology and hydrogeology in Trinity College Dublin. His particular interest is in limestone (karstic) regions of Ireland such as the Burren and especially in the underground waters in these areas and is actively involved in research into the groundwater in the Burren and the adjacent areas of lowland limestone in Counties Galway, Roscommon and Mayo. He also has a keen interest in the environmental archaeology of the Burren.

### **EGAN, Katy (IRL)**

Katy Egan works as the Ecology and Sustainable Living Officer for Presentation Ireland, a faith-based NGO working towards a fairer, just and sustainable world. A background in ecology with a postgraduate in Environmental Education and Communication (Royal Roads University, Canada). Katy has since developed education programmes and workshops for a range of schools and organisations in Ireland including the NPWS, Kippure Outdoor Education, The Irish Wildlife Trust, P.U.R.E, Leave No Trace Ireland and Conservation Services. Recently Katy has become fascinated by the links between how humans interact, perceive and treat animals both domestic and wild, and how it mirrors our relationship with nature as a whole.

### **ELLIS, Rob (IRL)**

Robert Ellis is a graduate from DIT with a BA Hons Degree in Photography, and more recently from the University of Ulster with an MA in Photography. His photography deals with the notion of "home", working with small rural communities, often relying on inherent or local knowledge to inform a sense of place. His work has been exhibited both at home and abroad, most recently he was selected by a panel to be included in a group show titled "Open Now" in the Gallery of Photography in Dublin. His work has been published in Prism Photography magazine and featured on La Lettre de Photographie in Paris, and also Aperture's "What Matters Now" in New York.

### **FEEHAN, John (IRL)**

John Feehan has recently retired from his post as senior lecturer at the School of Agriculture and Food Science at UCD, where he lectured in sustainable agriculture, resource management and landscape interpretation. He

is well known for his award-winning television work on the natural and cultural heritage of the Irish landscape (in connection with which he has been described by Kevin Myers as 'one of life's great communicators'). He has researched and written extensively on many facets of Ireland's environmental heritage and history, his published work including the definitive textbook on Ireland's peatlands, as well as books on the environmental heritage and history of Slieve Bloom and of County Laois, the flora of Offaly and Ireland's grasses. His *Farming in Ireland: History, Heritage and Environment* has been widely acclaimed. He was guest editor of *The Living Planet* supplement on 'A Sense of Place' in 2006.

**FERRIS, Carolynne (N IRL)**

Carolynne is the Executive Director of Outdoor Recreation, Northern Ireland. This charity promotes and inspires outdoor recreation for all age groups and sector of society.

**GIBBONS, Michael (IRL)**

Michael Gibbons is one of Ireland's leading field archaeologists, a writer, broadcaster and mountaineer. He is a former director of local and national archaeological survey programmes. Other work has involved research on the pilgrimage tradition in Ireland. He spent three seasons as a field director excavating the summit of Croagh Patrick and climbing 2,510 feet to work every morning. Michael's work has taken him to such diverse places as the Negev Desert, Egyptian Sinai and Southern Greece. He has lectured throughout Ireland, at Oxford and Cambridge, Philadelphia's National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. He has been the focus of numerous TV and radio programmes on Connemara, the Aran Islands and the Irish Highlands. These include CNN, Robin Leech's *Gourmet Getaway*, SKY TV, RTE, UTV, TnaG, BBC Radio 4, and PBS. He worked as a researcher on the Irish in America series *The Long Journey Home*. He also presented a series of eight programmes for Irish television on the famine in Ireland. Eamonn de Buitléar, a leading landscape film maker, produced a documentary on Michael entitled *Connemara in Antiquity*. Recent print articles include *Forbes Magazine* and the *Sunday Telegraph*.

**HUTTON, Eileen (IRL)**

Eileen Hutton is an environmentally based artist currently living and working in Ireland. A PhD graduate of the Burren College of Art and National University of Ireland, Galway, her work has been exhibited in Washington DC, Boston, Italy, Finland and across Ireland including settings such as the Ballymaloe Cookery School and The Education Centre at Burrenbeo. She is currently collaborating with small migratory birds and honeybees to create sculpture that speaks to an active participation within the ecosystems in the west of Ireland

**KENDLE, Tony (UK)**

Tony has been the Foundation Director of the Eden Project in Cornwall since October 2001. As Foundation Director his responsibilities include strategic development of the meaning of the project, overseeing the education programme (schools and public), science outreach and horticulture. Prior to joining Eden he was a staff member at the University of Reading School of Plant Sciences. He has worked as a researcher and consultant, both in the UK and overseas, specializing in nature conservation, horticulture and the restoration of degraded lands.

**KRAMER, Jennifer (USA)**

Jennifer Kramer is Social Studies teacher in Guilford, Vermont. She is a graduate of Middlebury College and Antioch University New England. She was recently awarded the Vermont VFW Teacher of the Year Award for middle school civics education. She specializes in creating real world, place-based education projects that engage students in learning about and contributing to the history, economics, politics and cultural traditions of the community.

**LAMBE, Eugene (IRL)**

Eugene is a Burren based traditional musician, a uilleann pipes maker and folklore collector. He originally

carried out his doctorate in plant ecology, then sailed around the world, before basing himself in North Clare where he has spent decades recording the oral history of the Burren region from characters that no longer exist but it has kept them, the age-old tradition for telling stories and their tales alive – tales that are both true and those slightly fabricated to make a good listen. He works with children and adults in the Burren region on keeping the cultural significance of a place alive.

**MACLELLAN, Gordon (UK)**

As Creeping Toad, Gordon is a storyteller, environmental educator and creator of celebrations. Based in Derbyshire, he works across the United Kingdom working everywhere from inner city streets and suburban housing estates to nature reserves and national parks. He travels whenever he persuade anyone to fund it, with recent projects in USA and South Africa. Writing on environmental art, education and celebration, Gordon has written, contributed to or edited a number of books including *Talking to the Earth*, *Celebrating Nature*, *The Wanton Green* and Gordon's chapter in the forthcoming *Tales to Sustain*. *"I find great delight in the combination of people and nature: underneath all my other work there has always been the principle that all education and interpretation is really about helping people discover the world around them for themselves and in themselves."* Gordon MacLellan

**MCCORMACK, Patrick (IRL)**

Patrick is a story teller, poet and rural philosopher of renown. As an organic farmer on the edge of Mullaghmore in the centre of the Burren, Patrick has a strong sense of place for this unique local environment and a rare talent for sharing this.

**MCDONAGH, Sean (IRL)**

Fr. Sean McDonagh is a Columban priest who originally trained as an anthropologist and linguist. He is an outspoken critic of policies that allow for the systematic degradation of the environment linking them to global poverty and the increased suffering of the poor. It was during his work with the indigenous T'boli people on the Philippine island of Mindanao in the 1970s and 1980s that his understanding of environmental issues and the relationship between faith, justice and ecology took hold. He advocates an 'ecological conversion' that environmental justice must be a core Catholic activity. He is the author of numerous articles and nine books including *Climate Change: The Challenge to All of Us*, *Greening the Christian Millennium*, *Care for the Earth* and *Dying for Water*. As one of the most highly respected and sought after environmental theologians, Fr. McDonagh illuminates the causes and consequences of issues such as global warming, genetically engineered food, water pollution, extinction of natural environments and the dangerous impact of modern patterns of production, distribution and consumption. He recently received a Partnership for Global Justice Award.

**NAGLE, Pat (IRL)**

Pat is a landowner in the Burren. His family have been farming the land for generations and he has many tales around this. He is part of the Farm Heritage Tours Coop and is currently participating in the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme. His land is on the edge of Slieve Carron Nature Reserve, and has a wealth of archaeology, geology and ecology on it.

**NICOL, Sophie (IRL)**

Sophie has a degree in Environmental Biology (UCD) and a PhD in marine ecology (UCD). Since completing her PhD, she has gained extensive experience in environmental education and increasing public awareness on environmental issues. Sophie was the Education Coordinator for Sonairte – The National Ecology Centre, and has worked with a number of organisations, such as the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, Global Action Plan, ECO-UNESCO, Discover Primary Science and Maths, The Heritage Council, and Kippure Estate Outdoor Education Centre, developing and facilitating educational programmes to primary and secondary school students on a wide variety of environmental topics. She also runs workshops and awareness events for the

general public on the topics of ecology, biodiversity and climate change, aiming to inspire a positive relationship between people and their environment.

**ORR, David (USA)**

David Orr is the Paul Sears Distinguished Professor of Environmental Studies and Politics and Special Assistant to the President of Oberlin College and Executive Director of the Oberlin Project. He is the recipient of seven Honorary degrees and other awards including The Millennium Leadership Award from Global Green, the Bioneers Award, the National Wildlife Federation Leadership Award, a Lyndhurst Prize acknowledging “persons of exceptional moral character, vision, and energy,” and the Santa Monica Library “Pioneer Award for contributions to sustainability literature.” He has been a scholar in residence at Ball State University, the University of Washington, James Madison University, and other universities. He has served as a Trustee for many organizations including the Rocky Mountain Institute ([www.rmi.org](http://www.rmi.org)), the Aldo Leopold Foundation ([www.aldoleopold.org](http://www.aldoleopold.org)), and the Bioneers ([www.bioneers.org](http://www.bioneers.org)). He has been a Trustee and/or advisor to eight foundations. His career spans fields as diverse as environment and politics, environmental education, campus greening, green building, ecological design, and climate change. He is the author of seven books and co-editor of three others. *Ecological Literacy* (1992), *Earth in Mind* (1994/2004) *Hope is an Imperative: The Essential David Orr* (2010). In 1987 he organized studies of energy, water, and materials use on several college campuses that helped to launch the green campus movement. In 1989 Orr organized the first ever conference on the effects of impending climate change on the banking industry. In 1996 he organized the effort to design the first substantially green building on a U.S. college campus. It is a laboratory in sustainability that is training some of the nation’s brightest and most dedicated students for careers in solving environmental problems. The story of that building is told in two books, *The Nature of Design* (2002) and *Design on the Edge* (2006). Orr’s recent political writings appear in, *The Last Refuge: Patriotism, Politics, and the Environment in an Age of Terror* (2004). In an influential article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* 2000 Orr proposed the goal of carbon neutrality for colleges and universities and subsequently organized and funded an effort to define a carbon neutral plan for his own campus at Oberlin. Seven years later hundreds of colleges and universities, including Oberlin, have made that pledge. Recent projects include a two year \$1.2 million collaborative project to define a 100 days climate action plan for the Obama administration ([www.climateactionproject.com](http://www.climateactionproject.com)). He is active in efforts to stop mountaintop removal in Appalachia and develop a new economy based on ecological restoration and wind energy. He is the author of *Down to the Wire: Confronting Climate Collapse* (2009). He is presently the Executive Director of the Oberlin Project which is focused on making the City of Oberlin a model of full-spectrum sustainability and replicating that effort through a National Sustainable Communities Coalition.

**RODEN, Cillian (IRL)**

Cillian is a freelance ecologist who specializes in botany. He has written many journal articles on the flora of the Burren. He has a diversity of interest and research experience of many areas of ecology. He lectures on natural history at the at GMIT. He has been working on the flora on the Burren for the last 20 years.

**SOBEL, David (USA)**

David Sobel is Senior Faculty in the Education Department at Antioch University, New England. He consults and speaks widely on child development and place-based education. He has authored seven books and more than 60 articles focused on children and nature for educators, parents, environmentalists and school administrators in the last 30 years. He has served on the editorial boards of *Encounter*, *Community Works Journal* and *Orion* and writes a regular column for *Community Works Journal*. His articles and essays have appeared in *Orion*, *Encounter*, *Sierra*, *Sanctuary*, *Wondertime*, *Green Teacher*, *Play Rights*, *Educational Leadership* and the *Harvard Education Letter*. He has written chapters included in *Father Nature; Stories from Where We Live-The North Atlantic Coast; Place-based Education in a Global Age*; and *The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion*. His most recent books are *Place-based Education: Connecting Classrooms and Communities* published by the Orion Society, *Childhood and Nature: Design Principles for Educators* published by Stenhouse and *Wild Play, Parenting Adventures in the Great Outdoors* published by Sierra Books. He was recognized as one of the

Daring Dozen educational leaders in the United States in 2007 by Edutopia magazine.

**STONEHAM, Jane (UK)**

Jane is the Director of The Sensory Trust in Cornwall. The Sensory Trust makes places more accessible, attractive and useful for everyone regardless of age, disability or background. She has a background in Landscape Design and Management which led her interests into the connections with people and the environment. Her work mainly focuses on creating an inclusive approach to the planning and design of outdoor places so everyone with many different needs can enjoy outdoor experiences. Jane is co-author of [‘Making Connections: a guide to accessible greenspace’](#), [‘Easy Access to Historic Landscapes’](#) (for English Heritage) and [‘By All Reasonable Means’](#) (for Countryside Agency).

**TILL, Karen (IRL)**

Karen is a Senior Lecturer in Cultural Geography at the National University of Ireland Maynooth and Director of the Space & Place Research Collaborative. Karen is also founding co-convener of the Mapping Spectral Traces international network of artists, scholars and practitioners. Her geo-ethnographic research and curatorial work invites artists, practitioners, community leaders and publics to explore how creative practices might enable more responsible approaches to caring for places, particularly in urban settings.

**TRAYMER, Gregory (USA)**

Gregory is the USA Director of *Sharing Nature*, Joseph Cornell’s worldwide nature education organisation. He studied environmental education and outdoor leadership and has worked with many groups outdoors including the National Outdoor Leadership School, Outward Bound, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. In 2007, Greg received the Environmental Education award from his college department, as well as the prestigious Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, a national honour for someone who has distinguished themselves in service to others and service to the community. Greg has been working with Joseph Cornell for over 5 years and is responsible for coordinating and leading Sharing Nature Workshops in North America. He is a keen advocate of the Flow Learning technique.

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