Place-based Learning – building a network?
July 18th-20th 2013
Kinvara, Co.Galway

DRAFT PROGRAMME

This is a draft programme. All paid-up delegates will be sent the final programme in due course with the venues, workshop allocation etc. Workshop spaces are limited so these are allocated on a first booked, first served basis.

Thurs 18th July

5pm-7pm: Registration Burrenbeo Trust, Main Street, Kinvara
{NB all bookings must be done beforehand}

7pm-7.30pm Welcome to the Burren with Dr Brendan Dunford.

7.30pm-8.30pm Hedge Schools - An exciting metaphor for pathways of deep learning in troubled educational times? Keynote presentation with Dr Michael Ryan will explore the rich potential of the hedge school metaphor - as a real option for deep learning in formal and non-formal education in the 21st century.

Break

9.00pm-10.00pm ‘Seed Dating’ – getting to know each other and nurturing the seeds of a learning network. Facilitated by Chris Chapman.

Friday 19th July

Indoor workshops session 1. Principles & Practice (8.30-10.30am) Kinvara

Who: Gordon MacLellan Tall tales and wonderful pages
Katy Egan & Sophie Nicol Learn from nature’s design and unique technologies
Deirdre O’Mahony Tracing places

Break

Indoor workshops session 2. Principles & Practice (11-1pm) Kinvara

Who: Michael Ryan Using the spirit of the hedge school to awaken us
Zena Hoctor Place exploration
Gordon MacLellan Engaging with stones

1-2pm Meet & eat: Lunch is available to buy in farmer’s market. Tea, coffee and space to convene will be confirmed.
2pm Car shares depart for Slieve Carron.

**Outdoor workshops – Practice in the field (2.15-4.45pm)**
Slieve Carron & and local farmland

Who: Gordon D’Arcy *Nature, art and the learning landscape*
Sophie Nicol & Katy Egan *Through the Looking Glass*
Shane Casey *Learn the landscape, and then learn from the landscape*

**Review & reflect (7-8pm) Kinvara**

Who: An opportunity to review the day’s activities. Followed by a reflection session for processing workshops and activities.

*Break with refreshments*

**Nurturing the seeds (8.30-9.30pm) Kinvara**

Who: *Nurturing the seeds of a place-based learning network*. Facilitated by Chris Chapman.

10pm Jazz night in Connollys Bar, Kinvara (tbc)

**Saturday 20th July OPTIONAL DAY OUT**

**Learning at the Crossroads** - Be a conservation volunteer for a morning and put place-based learning into action. These are a range of action-based conservation options open not just to delegates but to their friends and families as well.

9.30am Depart from Kinvara.
(10am-12pm). All groups to meet at Gortlecka Crossroads in the Burren National Park.

Option 1: *Building walls and friendships.*
Work with local stone mason and archaeologist, Rory Shaughnessy at the Burren National Park for to rebuild stone walls. Bring: Boots and gloves if you have them.

Option 2: *Visit with care.*
The Geopark Team along with Leave No Trace will introduce the volunteers to how ecotourism happens in practice and what measures can be done to leave minimal impact in the field.

Option 2: *Tackling invasives and looking after the land we use.*
The NPWS District Conservation Officer Seamus Hassett will lead a guided walk around the Burren National Park with a focus on land management what is carried out to look after the land that is the outdoor classroom.

If you are not going on the visit to Glanquin (below), please bring some lunch and refreshments with you as there is no opportunity to buy out in the field.
The morning activities will be followed by tea and sandwiches at Glanquin Farmhouse (aka Fr.Ted’s house) for those that want it (€10pp). And a final stroll up into the hills behind to hear tales of the landscape with storyteller and philosopher Patrick McCormack and to view the iconic Mullaghmore mountain from a different perspective.

Who’s who:
Speakers and Workshop Leaders

CASEY, Shane
Shane is Clare’s Biodiversity Officer based in Clare County Council. Shane grew up on a farm on the Burren coast, where several generations of his family have kept the traditions of Burren farming alive. It was here, that Shane first learned about the unique heritage of the Burren, long before studying it in more detail at college. Shane’s current task is finding innovative ways in helping to raise awareness and education of the Burren’s ecology and the biodiversity for the population of County Clare.

CHAPMAN, Chris
Chris has a postgrad in Change Agent Skills and Strategies and is linked in with global networks such as the ‘Association of Sustainability Practitioners’, the ‘Art of Hosting and Harvesting Conversations that Matter’ and ‘ALIA - Authentic Leadership in Action’. He likes to work across the worlds of sustainability and coaching / facilitation, both in Ireland and internationally. He is committed to passing on skills and knowledge to building networks and community events so that each piece of work has the maximum lasting benefits.

D’ARCY, Gordon
Author, artist, natural historian, lecturer and heritage trainer, Gordon 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, Guide to the Birds of Ireland, and Ireland’s Lost Birds. His most recent book is Nurture a manual for teaching about nature through art.

DUNFORD, Brendan
Brendan is the Manager of the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme and a founding member of the Burrenbeo Trust. Brendan initially came to the Burren to do a PhD on the theme of 'farming and the Burren'. His interests relate to the relationship between people and their places and ways through which this relationship might be enhanced for the benefit of both.

EGAN, Katy
Katy 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.

**GEOPARK Team**
The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark is a UNESCO recognised organisation that funds and promotes sustainable tourism in the Burren namely through developing partnerships with local groups and agencies, supporting Burren Ecotourism Network and the EU LIFE Tourism for Conservation Programme. The work of Programme Manager, Carol Gleeson and the Geopark Geologist, Dr. Eamon Doyle includes building ecotourism and visitor management programmes, promoting awareness and learning, and providing training for local guides and tourism businesses in conservation and environmentally friendly practices.

**HOCCTOR, Zena**
Zena works as a heritage consultant from her home near Kinvara. Her qualifications in the fields of ecology, environmental studies, archaeology and rural community development have enabled her to study local landscapes from various viewpoints. Through her work with the Heritage in Schools, and Burrenbeo Trust’s Ecobeo and Áitbheo programmes and the development and delivery of community based training programmes in several locations in Ireland; she has experience of working with both children and adults in place-based education. Her main interest is to enable people to interpret their local landscape and gain an understanding and appreciation of the heritage of their own place.

**MACLELLAN, Gordon**
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 has also had 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**
Patrick is a natural storyteller, poet and rural philosopher. 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.

**NICOL, Sophie**
Since completing her PhD in marine ecology in 2009, Sophie has gained extensive experience in environmental education and increasing public awareness on environmental issues. She 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, Conservation Services, Presentation Ecology, Sonairte – The National Ecology Centre and Kippure Estate Outdoor Education Centre, developing and teaching educational programmes to primary and secondary school students on a wide variety of environmental topics. In 2012 Sophie created Earthwise Education, an environmental education consultancy which develops and facilitates scientific and environmental awareness programmes for schools and organisations.
O'SHAUGHNESSY, Rory  
Rory has a degree in history and archaeology and a post grad in Irish Heritage. Outside of guiding and heritage he also works as a stonemason with a vast knowledge on building, maintaining and the history of dry stone walls. Rory lives in the Galway Burren, he is part of a clan this is one of the oldest in the area. He does a lot of heritage education with the Heritage in School Scheme, Ecobeo and Aitbheo.

O'MAHONY, Deirdre  
Aside from numerous art accolades, Deirdre’s most recent one, her PhD was on New Ecologies between Rural Life and Visual Culture in the West of Ireland: History, Context, Position, and Art Practice. She is a full time lecturer in Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology and initiated the renowned X-PO social and cultural project in Kilnaboy, close to the Burren National Park. This project has led to off-shoot projects on place-name recording, community’s work in the visual arts and anthropological studies on what drives a community forward to learn more about its surroundings.

RYAN, Michael  
Dr. Michael Ryan is a lecturer at LIT-Tipperary and is a founding member of the Centre For Education and Developing Human Potential (CEDHP). Michael is an advocate of Place Based Learning, Problem Based Learning & Participatory Approaches. He has a keen interest in Education for Sustainable Development and was part of a team at Tipperary Institute who developed a model for Integrated Area Planning with rural communities. He is an active member of UBUNTU (National Network for Teacher Educators in Sustainable Development). He has presented workshops on place based learning at national and international conferences. Recent publications include: ‘Sustainable Development As Place Based Learning’ chapter in Education Matters (M. Liddy & M.P. Jenkins - Peter Lang 2013), & ‘ESD, Problem Based Learning & Arts Based Approaches For Learning Geographic Concepts’ in: Teaching Global Perspectives: (Edited by T. Batteson & R. Tormey – Liffey Press 2012).

WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Indoor Session 1 Options: Friday, 8.30am-10.30am, July 19th

Workshop Leader: Gordon MacLellan  
Title: Tall Tales and Wonderful Pages

Theme: Generating stories to develop a connection with the environment

Building new stories from people’s experience of a landscape is a great way of developing a sense of connection between people and place. This hands-on session looks at ways of generating stories with groups (suitable for children, families and adults) and building books to hold those stories. This workshop will have us making up new stories, experimenting with techniques and ideas and turning our new tales into books to take away at the end of the session.
Workshop Leaders: Katy Egan & Sophie Nicol
Title: Learn from nature's design and unique technologies
Theme: Exploring biomimicry as a mean of finding solutions

Learn how scientists and designers are bringing nature’s blueprints to the design table to create sustainable and innovative technologies. This workshop will introduce you to the principles of biomimicry - how we can look to nature for solutions to our pressing environmental challenges. There will be amazing examples of these inspiring technologies and hands on activities to allow us to explore the concepts of biomimicry. In addition we will reflect on how biomimicry can offer a new way of viewing and valuing the natural world.

Workshop Leader: Deirdre O’Mahony
Title: Tracing places
Theme: Using maps and exploring place names as a technique for developing a community spirit

This hands-on workshop explores mapping practices that participants may consider when attempting to (re)connect communities and local learners to place. Using a case study from a successful community project, the workshop will discuss how mapping shared stories and forgotten places, and creating networks of memory, have been used by local groups to imagine alternative, more positive, futures. The workshop will enact and discuss a range of place-based learning methods that may be used by participants to realize their own local goals. Participants will carry out practices that they can consider using in their own communities to attend to the stories, pathways, networks and imaginative geographies of place, landscape and community.

Indoor Session 2 Options
Friday, 11am-1pm, July 19th

Workshop Leader: Michael Ryan
Title: From Heart to Head and Beyond
Theme: Using the spirit of the hedge school to awaken us to: landscape, connection and action for deep new – wave learning

This workshop will provide a practical methodology for all educators to engage with place based learning in any physical landscape that they deem to be important for a learning goal. In this workshop Michael will share with participants a methodology developed by him and used in an actual hedge school site at Curreeny, deep in the Slieve Felim Hills of West Tipperary. It involves: visualisation & participation followed by an engaging analysis. He will provide participants with the tools to use this methodology in any site of their choosing to deliver deeply affective learning for participants.

Workshop Leader: Zena Hoctor
Title: Place Exploration
Theme: Peeling back the layers of a landscape to better understand heritage and place
Zena will take you on a journey through the landscape exploring all its facets of heritage from the rock base, through the forces that shape the landscape, the flora and fauna that inhabit it and the interaction of man with the landscape through time. She will share tips and techniques through which the educator can enable the student to explore and uncover the heritage of their own local landscape.

**Workshop Leader:** Gordon MacLellan  
**Title:** Engaging with Stones  
**Theme:** Using geology as a means of engagement

From personal trilobites to prehistoric rockpools, with crocheted limestone sea in between, this workshop will get us talking: sharing successes, mistakes and wild inspirations about engaging people with geological landscapes. A mixture of hands on activity and brainstorming and a case study in UK act as starting point for discussions, ideas and wild inspirations for activities to engage people with the ancient history of an area. The workshop will probably make a few ancient animals on the way as well!

**Outdoor Workshops Options**  
**Friday, 2.15pm-4.45pm, July 19th**

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**Who:** Gordon D’Arcy  
**Title:** Nature, Art & the Learning Landscape  
**Theme:** Art as a medium to explore the outdoors

This session will be a walk and sketch activity in the natural setting of the Burren focusing on nature’s themes. Participants will be looking at how art can be a medium to teach others about nature and also gathering skills to teach others. Previous experience in drawing is not needed. Bring along a sketch book if you have one and some drawing materials.

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**Workshop Leaders:** Sophie Nicol & Katy Egan  
**Title:** Through the Looking Glass  
**Theme:** Exploring and connecting to nature through the different lenses of arts, craft and games.

Learn new skills and activities that will appeal to a range of different learning styles, compliment the national curriculum and engage students. Learn how to blend ecological lessons into activities such as natural weaving, collaborative natural art, creating superbugs and more. Teach challenging concepts through fun interactive games such as predator-prey relations, natural resources, ecosystem services and niches/adaptation. This is an outdoor workshop and games and activities covered will be weather dependent and be influenced by the landscape we are exploring.

**Workshop Leader:** Shane Casey
Title: Learn the landscape, and then learn from the landscape

Theme: Look at the basic geography of an area, and then look at what practical lessons can be extrapolated from it.

This workshop will look at how the landscape has shaped local communities in terms of the practical implications of living, working and farming in the area, and it will elaborate on the myriad of ways that one can look at the landscape, or elements of the landscape, and the endless learning opportunities arising from this. All this in the surrounds of the beautiful Slieve Carron in the Burren highlands!

Optional conservation volunteer  Saturday, 10am-12pm July 20th

Title: Building walls and friendships
Work with local stone mason and archaeologist, Rory O’Shaughnessy at the Burren National Park to rebuild stone walls. Bring: Boots and gloves if you have them.

Title: Tackling invasive species and looking after the land we use
The NPWS District Conservation Officer Seamus Hassett will lead a guided walk around the Burren National Park with a focus on land management that is carried out to look after the land that is the outdoor classroom.

Title: Visit with care
The Geopark Team along with Leave No Trace will introduce the volunteers to how ecotourism happens in practice and what measures can be done to leave minimal impact in the field.

This event is supported by The Heritage Council