

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark Summer Newsletter

EXPERIENCES,
IT'S IN OUR
NATURE 



Garvagh Lough, Co Cavan



**CUILCAGH
LAKELANDS
GEOPARK**



**Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin**
Cavan
County Council



**Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council**
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Burren Bites: A Taste of More

The first-ever Burren Bites: A Taste of Time was a resounding success, welcoming over 80 guests to Cavan Burren Park on Sunday 29 June 2025. This unique food trail experience offered an immersive journey through the stunning landscapes, stories, and flavours of Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark.

Participants enjoyed a guided walk through one of Ireland's most remarkable prehistoric sites, accompanied by Geopark Ambassadors who shared insights into its rich geology and archaeology. Along the trail, guests were treated to a six-course tasting menu by award-winning Chef, John Roche of Tully Mill Restaurant, created in collaboration with over 20 local producers from Cavan and Fermanagh.

Live traditional music added to the atmosphere, blending culture and nature in a truly memorable way. With strong support from local Councils, communities, and visitors, Burren Bites marks a milestone in the Geopark's tourism offering, celebrating local food, heritage, and place.



John Roche & Mario Breban-McDonald from Tully Mill Restaurant



Harp Musician, Shauneen Maguire



Delicious food served at Burren Bites: A Taste of Time



Participants enjoying drinks served by The Boatyard Distillery

Michael Londra Visits the Geopark

We were thrilled to welcome Michael Londra to Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark as he filmed for Series 6 of his TV show, Ireland with Michael. During his visit, Michael experienced some of the Geopark's most iconic locations and activities. He went on a kayaking adventure with Blue Green Yonder around the picturesque Enniskillen Island Town, explored the peaceful beauty of Killykeaghan

Nature Reserve, and hiked the renowned Stairway to Heaven. Michael also gave a special performance in the stunning Marble Arch Caves.

It was a pleasure to support Michael and his production team during their time in the Geopark, and we're proud to have played a part in showcasing the natural and cultural wonders of this unique landscape.



Unmasking Nature - Sensory Public Walk

We are delighted to be supporting Divergently Together as we strive to be accessible for all and open to everyone as a wholly inclusive landscape. Divergently Together is a Shared Island community engagement project that uses STEM technologies to facilitate the participation of disabled and neurodivergent communities in climate action. Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark Regenerative Tourism Business Network are collaborating with lead partner Alan James Burns to support the delivery of the project across the Geopark with the aim to improve access & inclusion, education and visitor experiences across the Geopark. To date, workshops have been held in Belmore Court & Motel, Trivia House and Cavan Burren Park.



Join Divergently Together for Unmasking Nature, a free sensory public walk at Cavan Burren Park on Wednesday 10 September 2025, from 5.30pm-7.30pm. This unique event will explore the landscape through a neurodivergent lens, engage all the senses and learn how the natural world around us can provide the tools for regulation, connection, and wellbeing.



For more information and to book your place click [here](#).

Upgrade Works

Trail 1 – The Calf House Dolmen Trail in **Cavan Burren Park** is a multi-accessible trail with 360-degree views across the surrounding landscape. We recently upgraded the trail to a bound tarmac finish which provides a more accessible trail to many of the important features of this relict landscape. The trail before the upgrade consisted of a gravel finish which was not ideal for all users.

Swanlinbar today is a quiet village, but for over 200 years, it was a thriving, bustling town, with people coming from all over UK and Europe to drink from the spa (or mineral) wells. Recent works were carried out to make the **Drumod Sulphur Spa** in Swanlinbar more accessible, with an upgrade of the existing stairwell and the creation of a gentle ramp from the road to the well. We endeavoured to make this as natural as possible by using native rocks to create a retaining wall to alleviate the steep decline to the open drain to the right. The existing interpretation panel was also updated and additional finger signs installed at road junctions.

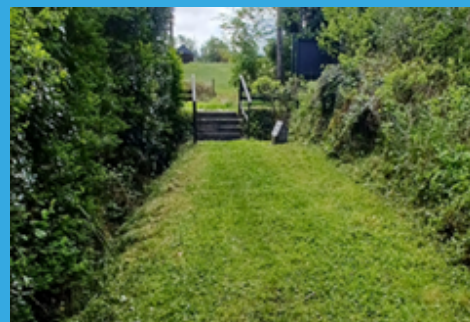
These upgrade works were made possible through secured 2023 ORIS funding.



Before Upgrade Works:
Gravel path not ideal
for all users



After Upgrade Works:
Bound tarmac finish
providing an accessible
trail



Before Upgrade Works:
No ramp available for
wheelchair users



After Upgrade Works:
Stairwell upgraded and
a ramp created
providing accessible
access

Get Involved in Geopark Programmes - Autumn 2025

Sustainability Business Programme



Sustainability & Regenerative Tourism
Programme: 2024 Class

In collaboration with Cavan County Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Fáilte Ireland, and Tourism Northern Ireland, we are inviting tourism businesses within

the Geopark to express interest in a Sustainability and Regenerative Tourism Training Programme. This initiative offers access to Ireland's leading Regenerative Tourism Business Network.

This 14-week programme helps businesses assess their current practices in energy, water, and waste management, identifying opportunities for cost savings and environmental improvements.

Participants will engage in both in-person and online sessions covering biodiversity, Leave No Trace principles, accessibility, sustainability storytelling, and collective marketing.

On completion, businesses will:

- Become accredited Geopark Business Members
- Establish a carbon footprint and set targets
- Create a tailored Sustainability Action Plan
- Learn from industry experts and case studies
- Receive practical resources including templates
- Join our Regenerative Tourism Business Network
- Receive a Level 4 Certificate in Sustainable Tourism Practice in Destinations

The programme is fully funded (valued at £2,000/€2,300), with a registration fee of £100/€115. Expressions of Interest are open now and close at 12 Noon on Monday 11 August 2025. For more information on this programme and to submit your Expression of Interest, click [here](#).

Ambassadors

Geopark Ambassadors are passionate heritage advocates who play a vital role in shaping the life and future of Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark. These skilled individuals contribute to education and events, support community-led sustainable tourism, and act as key connectors between the Geopark and local communities, championing heritage needs.

After successfully receiving funding we will be delivering a new Geopark Ambassador Programme this Autumn 2025.

If you care deeply about the heritage of your area in the Geopark and want to collaborate with like-minded individuals, this programme offers a unique opportunity to grow your skills, share insights, and deepen your understanding of the Geopark's rich landscapes. Ambassadors help ensure these special places are interpreted, protected, and celebrated for generations to come.

Whether you're experienced or just starting your heritage journey, we welcome your enthusiasm and commitment. The programme will offer training, networking, and opportunities to actively contribute to the Geopark's mission.

To register your interest, please email info@cuilcaghlakelands.org.



Ambassador,
Bee Smith

Schools Outreach at Lisnarick

Community Trail

We were delighted to support our friends at Lisnarick Community Development Association in delivering their annual Outdoor Learning Day along the beautiful Lisnarick Community Trail.

80 P6 & P7 pupils from Irvinestown Controlled Primary School, St. Paul's Primary School, Irvinestown and Kesh Primary School took part in a fun-filled day of nature-based learning and hands-on activities.

Geopark Ambassador, Stephen, led a fascinating session on bushcraft. Geopark staff explored the world of minibeasts through an interactive mini-beast hunt. Erne Anglers shared their expertise on angling and the vital role of waterways like Lough Erne in outdoor recreation.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success, inspiring the next generation to connect with nature!



New Education Offering

We've been very busy behind the scenes crafting something exciting! After months of updating and developing new educational and outreach activities, we were thrilled to unveil our latest creation at the Saint Ninnidh's School Fête in Derrylin, a hands-on papercraft activity that lets young minds explore the Earth's layered structure in 3D.



A huge thank you to the Committee for the opportunity and to everyone who joined us. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did.

What's On?

Wild Caving at Boho Caves

Saturday 26 July
10am-12.15pm

Join qualified Cave Leader, Sean and Geopark Ambassador, Helen for an underground adventure. Explore the fascinating maze of underground passages that stretch out under the village of Boho in the heart of Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark and find out how they have come to be here.

Brilliant Bogs (part of International Bog Day)

Sunday 27 July
2pm-4.30pm

On Bilberry Sunday, join Geopark Ambassador, Helen, for a hike across a section of the extensive blanket bog habitat that cloaks Cuilcagh Mountain. Learn about the geology and ecology of this seemingly inhospitable landscape and the weird and wonderful flora that calls it home.



Connect to the Water – Field Trip on Lough MacNea/Creative Workshop (part of Heritage Week)

Saturday 16 August
2pm-6pm

Meet at Lough MacNea Amentity Area for a field trip on the water, guided by Bridget Keehan and Robert Northridge of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI). Next head to the Market House, Blacklion for a Cameraless Photography Workshop in response to the field trip with Artist, Sinéad Curran.

Heritage of St. Brigid's Blessing/Cursing Stones (part of Heritage Week)

Sunday 17 August
11am-3pm

Meet at Lough MacNea Amentity Area for a field trip on the water, guided by Bridget Keehan and Robert Northridge of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI). Next head to the Market House, Blacklion for a Cameraless Photography Workshop in response to the field trip with Artist, Sinéad Curran.

For more information, booking, and a full list of our events please visit our website: [here](#).