

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark

Autumn Newsletter 2026

EXPERIENCES,
IT'S IN OUR
NATURE 



Hanging Rock, Co Fermanagh



**CUILCAGH
LAKELANDS
GEOPARK**



**Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin**
Cavan
County Council



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

New Geopark Ambassadors Celebrated at Graduation Event

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark recently welcomed its newest cohort of Geopark Ambassadors following a special graduation event celebrating their dedication, achievements and commitment to their local communities.

The graduation ceremony brought together Ambassadors, community representatives, Elected Members, Geopark staff and guests for an evening of recognition and reflection. The event marked the successful completion of the 2026 Geopark Ambassador Programme and celebrated the continued growth of a network that plays an important role in promoting and protecting the Geopark's internationally significant heritage.

As representatives of the Geopark, Ambassadors help connect people with the area's unique landscapes, history, heritage and communities. Through volunteering, community engagement, local projects, events and partnerships, they share the stories that make Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark such a special place to live, work and visit.

Guests heard contributions from Geopark Manager, Gráinne O'Connor, Geopark Community Officer, Ashley Robinson and Director of Community and Wellbeing at Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, John Boyle. Attendees also heard reflections from Ambassadors representing the 2011, 2020 and 2026 cohorts, highlighting the lasting impact of the programme.

Following the presentation of certificates, graduates showcased their ambitions for future community initiatives. They now join a growing network of Ambassadors who support the Geopark through volunteering, events and community-led projects,

helping to inspire greater appreciation and understanding of this internationally recognised landscape.



Ambassadors Graduation

Inclusive Adventures in Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark

As part of Inclusive Employers Week, we were delighted to collaborate with Accessible Adventures Ireland and Blue Green Yonder to deliver a fantastic day of outdoor adventure for the JustUs group for adults with disabilities.

The day was filled with fun, friendship and unforgettable experiences, with participants enjoying canoeing, archery, bushcraft activities and marshmallow roasting, before rounding off the day with delicious pizza and a disco hosted by DJ Greig.



JustUs Group enjoying the outdoors with Accessible Adventures Ireland and Blue Green Yonder

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success. It was a wonderful example of what can be achieved through partnership and collaboration, creating inclusive opportunities for people of all abilities to enjoy the outdoors, build confidence, try something new and make lasting memories.

Supporting inclusive access remains a key priority for Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark. Through our Know Before You Go Guides, developed with businesses in our Regenerative Tourism Business Network and visitor sites across the Geopark, visitors can access helpful information to plan ahead and make informed choices about where to visit. The guides are helping to make the Geopark's landscapes, attractions and experiences more accessible and welcoming for all.

Look out for the Know Before You Go accessibility logo



Celebrating Success Across the Geopark

It has been a fantastic year of recognition for Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark, our partners and members of our Regenerative Tourism Business Network.

We were delighted to receive the Irish Life Creativity in the Community Award 2026 alongside Divergently Together at the Business to Arts Awards for our innovative and inclusive collaboration. The project has helped make nature, creativity and climate action more accessible to neurodivergent and disabled communities, creating welcoming spaces where everyone can engage, participate and connect with the natural environment. This achievement reflects the dedication and creativity of all involved, particularly Artist, Alan James Burns, our Regenerative Tourism Business Network members and the many individuals who supported the project throughout its development.

The Geopark was also proud to be shortlisted in two categories at the All-Ireland Sustainability Awards, where we were recognised alongside organisations leading the way in sustainability across the island. We extend our congratulations to all award winners, particularly our colleagues in Geological Survey Northern Ireland, who enjoyed exceptional success on the night.

We are equally delighted to see members of our Regenerative Tourism Business Network receiving recognition for their own achievements. Belmore Court & Motel earned the remarkable distinction of being ranked the third-best accommodation provider in the UK by TripAdvisor, while Drummully Boxty brought home both Silver and Bronze awards at the Blas na hÉireann Irish Food Awards. These successes showcase the quality, innovation and commitment to sustainability that continue to strengthen the visitor experience across Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark.



Business to Arts Awards



All-Ireland Sustainability Awards

Geopark Team Attend ITIC and AVEA Conferences

The Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark team recently attended the Irish Tourism Industry Confederation (ITIC) Conference and the Association of Visitor Experiences and Attractions (AVEA) Conference. These events provided valuable opportunities to connect with tourism professionals, share ideas, and explore emerging trends across the sector.

Key themes included sustainability, destination development, visitor experience, accessibility, and the importance of collaboration in building resilient tourism destinations. The conferences also enabled the team to learn from industry leaders and showcase the work taking place across the Geopark to support sustainable tourism and local communities.

The insights gained and connections made will help shape future initiatives and strengthen the visitor offering across the region.



Geopark Team along with Barry Flanagan (Erne Water Taxi) attending the ITIC Conference

British Ambassador Visits Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark

We were delighted to welcome Her Excellency Kara Owen, British Ambassador to Ireland, to Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark as part of her recent official visit to County Cavan.

The visit commenced at Trivia House, Swanlinbar, in the heart of the Geopark, where the Ambassador met with Geopark staff, Ambassadors and members of our award-winning Regenerative Tourism Business Network. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the outstanding natural heritage, sustainable tourism initiatives and collaborative partnerships that make our Geopark a leading destination for regenerative tourism.

Discussions highlighted the importance of cross-border collaboration, sustainable destination development and the vital role tourism plays in supporting local communities and businesses. Members of the Regenerative Tourism Business Network had the opportunity to share their experiences of working together to promote responsible travel and create meaningful visitor experiences across the region.

The visit also showcased the Geopark's ongoing commitment to conservation, education and community engagement, while demonstrating the positive impact that regenerative tourism can have on the local economy and environment.

We were proud to be part of the Ambassador's wider itinerary across County Cavan, which included visits to Cavan Digital Hub, Cavan Institute and Cavan County Museum. The visit provided a valuable platform to strengthen relationships, celebrate local achievements and raise awareness of the unique landscapes, heritage and tourism experiences that make Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark such a special place to live, work and visit.



Ambassador Owen visited Trivia House, Swanlinbar, a Regenerative Tourism Business Network Member.

Here she met with Geopark Ambassadors and Regenerative Tourism Business Network Members.



Ambassador Owen also visited Altachullion Viewpoint, a site within Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark

Monitoring Peatlands: Fieldwork Update

It has been a busy and productive couple of months on the peatlands, with our Peatland Engagement Officer, Roisin, carrying out site surveys and collecting valuable data from water table monitors across the region. This work helps build a better understanding of the health and condition of our peatland habitats and supports ongoing conservation efforts.

A special thank you goes to Queen's University students, Jack and Josh, whose enthusiasm and assistance have been invaluable while visiting sites throughout Cuilcagh, Fermanagh, Omagh and Cavan. Recent fieldwork included a visit to a Coillte site in Cavan, where a peat slide has exposed new areas for study and investigation.

Drone technology has also played an important role this season, with surveys undertaken at Cuilcagh and further surveys planned in the coming months. These provide a unique perspective on our extensive peatland landscapes. Encouragingly, large numbers of caterpillars have been recorded across sites.

Students from Queen's University



Peat Landscape



New Faces, New Discoveries

We are delighted to welcome Oisín Leonard, our new Development Officer for Conservation & Education. Having grown up in Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark and studied Earth and Ocean Science, Oisín brings a strong passion for the area's unique landscapes, heritage and communities. Since joining the team, he has been eager to explore more of the Geopark, connect with local people, and help share the stories that make this region so special through education, conservation and engagement initiatives.

One of Oisín's first projects is coordinating Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark's participation in the European Geoparks Network Fossil of the Year Art Competition 2027. The competition invites people of all ages to celebrate the Geopark's fascinating fossil heritage by creating an artwork inspired by a fossil found within the Geopark. Whether it's a drawing, painting, sculpture, collage or another creative medium, entries are encouraged from everyone.

The winning artwork will go forward to represent the Geopark at European level. To enter, send a photograph or scan of your artwork, along with your name, the fossil that inspired it and a short description, to oisin.leonard@fermanaghomagh.com by 31 December 2026.

We look forward to seeing your creations!



Oisín Leonard, Development Officer - Conservation & Education



European Geopark Network Fossil of the Year Competition

Geopark 25 - Celebrating 25 Years As A Geopark

For 25 years, Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark has been uncovering the remarkable stories hidden within our landscape. From the rocks beneath our feet, which tell tales of ancient oceans, dramatic geological events and millions of years of natural change, to the stories of our communities, traditions, heritage and people, there are countless stories waiting to be explored.

To celebrate we have created a Geopark 25 programme of events, featuring a fantastic range of walks, talks, family events, conservation activities, heritage experiences and community celebrations. Whether you're a lifelong local or visiting the Geopark for the first time, there's something for everyone.



A CALENDAR OF EVENTS CELEBRATING LANDSCAPE, COMMUNITY & CONNECTION

23 OCT - 14 NOV

CLICK AN EVENT TO FIND OUT MORE & BOOK YOUR SPACE



Week 1

23 -25 OCT
Cavan Eco Féile
Townparks, Cavan
Town.

24 OCT
A Peatland Walk In
Cuilcagh Mountain
Park - Meet at
Marble Arch Caves

24 - 25 OCT
Harvest Fair
Florence Court
House & Garden

25 OCT
Guided Walk
Killykeen Forest -
Meet at Footbridge

26 OCT
Me and My Geopark
Pottery Workshop
The Muddy Shed
Kesh

27 OCT
Geopark History &
Heritage Exhibition
Market House
Ballyconnell

29 OCT
Halloween Latern
Trail
Lisnarrick Community
Trail

29 OCT
Yoga, Stories &
Nature
Cladagh Glen

29 OCT
Mumming &
Masked Rituals
Fermanagh House

31 OCT
The Samhain
Experience - Elements,
Feast&Fire
Finn Lough

02 NOV
OurGeopark , Our
Stories: A Poetry & Art
Celebration
Action Mental Health
Fermanagh

02 NOV
Walking for All -
Awareness Session
Cavan Burren Park

03 NOV
Deep Ecology &
Developing our
Ecosophy - Lecture 1
Online

04 NOV
'Listening to the Bog'
An Artist-led Sound
Walk
Cavan Burren Park

04 NOV
Wild Caving
Marble Arch Caves

06 NOV
A Night of Tradition
The Keepers Arms
Bawnboy

07 NOV
Speaking Horse of
Cuilcagh Storytelling
& Art Workshop
Trivia House

07 NOV
Life on the Island
Castle Island
Enniskillen

07 NOV
Townlands Jeep
Safari
Marble Arch Caves

07 NOV
Ancient Earth
Experience
Meet at Footbridge
Killykeen Forest Park

07 NOV
The Turf Creels of
Cavan
Belturbet Townhall

08 NOV
Samhain Haiku Walk
Cavan Burren Park

08 NOV
The Turf Creels of
Fermanagh
The Linnet Inn, Boho

09 NOV
Deep Ecology &
Developing our
Ecosophy - Lecture 2
Market House, Blacklion

10 NOV
The Bog Above, the
Cave Below (PEAT+
Bog Walk)
Legnabrocky

11 NOV
Felting the
Landscape
Cleenish Community
Hall

11 NOV
OurLiving Landscape:
Geomorphology in Cuilcagh
Lakelands Geopark
Lisnaskea

12 NOV
Walking for All -
Walk Leader Training
Killeshandra

13 NOV
An evening of
Creative
Communities
Dowra Courthouse

14 NOV
Science Cafe
Belturbet Townhall
Civic Centre

14 NOV
Belturbet Rocks! A
Geopark Community
Celebration
Turbet Island
Belturbet

Everyone Welcome



Showcasing Fermanagh at Ireland's Association for Adventure Tourism Conference 2026

The IAAT Conference 2026 is coming to Co Fermanagh this November, bringing together adventure tourism providers, guides and industry professionals from across Ireland. We are delighted to be leading a Jeep Safari field trip as part of the conference programme, giving delegates the opportunity to experience the spectacular landscapes, geology and heritage of Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark firsthand. The conference is a fantastic opportunity to showcase the region's unique adventure and nature-based tourism offering while connecting with others working across the outdoor and tourism sectors. To learn more about the conference programme and registration details, [click here](#).

