

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark

Autumn Newsletter

EXPERIENCES,
IT'S IN OUR
NATURE 



 Carrickreagh Viewpoint, Co Fermanagh



CUILCAGH
LAKELANDS
GEOPARK



Comhairle Contae
an Chabháin
Cavan
County Council



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



Keynote Address:
Bruce Misstear



Guest Speaker:
Liam Ó hAisibéil



Guest Speaker:
Anne O'Donoghue



CUILCAGH
LAKELANDS
GEOPARK



unesco

Irish UNESCO Global
Geoparks Committee

You are cordially invited to:

The Irish Geoparks Forum
Thursday 7 & Friday 8 November 2024
Slieve Russell Hotel, Co Cavan

Theme: The Language of Landscapes

Book your
FREE Ticket by
Friday 1 November
2024



Tourism Bodies Experience Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark!

Tourism Ireland held their Annual Staff Conference at the gorgeous Slieve Russell Hotel a few weeks ago. Delegates enjoyed a number of familiarisation trips across the region, and we are so proud of the many Geopark Business Sustainability Network members who welcomed, hosted and regaled the delegates with their passion for this place.

We were delighted that, along with funding partners Fáilte Ireland, we were able to give a sneak peek to developments at the Shannon Pot Discovery Centre and Cavan Burren Park.

During the same week, Tourism NI held their meeting in Fermanagh. The board members enjoyed a tour of the Marble Arch Caves before embracing a jeep safari of Cuilcagh Mountain Park before taking to the stunning Lough Erne Resort for the formal part of the meeting.

It is always a pleasure to share this place with visitors and we look forward to all our colleagues in tourism returning!

Tourism NI enjoyed a tour of the Marble Arch Caves



Tourism Ireland visit developments at the Shannon Pot Discovery Centre



Developments at Lough Navar Forest

The Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark team, wider Fermanagh and Omagh District Council team and Lough Navar Stakeholder Group continue to progress the Phase 2 Development Proposals for Lough Navar Forest which aims to sustainably develop the recreational, tourism and conservation experiences,

products and initiatives within the forest.

User and stakeholder engagement has taken place with 60 individuals, attending a public consultation event held in partnership with Derrygonnelly and District Partnership in June 2024, which has been critical to shaping and defining the proposals which



include the development of a new outdoor interpretation centre, toilets, outdoor learning space and approximately 4km of new recreational trails, aligned infrastructure and interpretation including 1.3km of accessible trail.

Get on your Bike to Explore Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark!

Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark is proving to be a huge hit for cyclists. Having launched the [Scarplands Trail](#), the longest gravel cycle trail on the island of Ireland, earlier this year, we recently hosted a number of cycling events which has seen over 1,100 participants take on the challenge of the stunning landscape of west Fermanagh on two wheels! Thank you to the organisers, volunteers, participants, and the Geopark Communities for supporting the [Borderlands Cycle](#), [FEARmanagh](#) and [Lakelander Gravel Grinder](#).

For those of you who would like to enjoy the cycle trails of the Geopark with a little less exertion, you will be delighted to hear, in partnership with Killinagh Community Council, we have recently secured funding from Shared Island Community Climate Action Fund Strand 1a for e-bike charging stations at four sites across the Geopark. We look forward to commencing works on this project and will share further news on how to enjoy these new facilities in the coming months.

Copyright: Lakelander Gravel Grinder



Award Winning Geopark Businesses



Keenaghan Cottage

Our Business Sustainability Network have been doing fantastic work in achieving awards within the tourism industry. To name a few, [Erne Water Taxi](#) received an award for Sustainable Tourism & Hospitality Initiative of the Year at the All-Ireland Sustainability Awards in 2023 and now [Keenaghan Cottage](#) follow in their footsteps having been shortlisted for the same category this year.

Keenaghan Cottage also came runner up recently for Best Use of Social Media in a Start-Up at the NI Social Media Awards. [Trivia House Accommodation](#) recently came Runner Up for Cavan Tourism Business of the Year in the Cavan Business Tourism Awards and we are delighted to share, Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark Business Sustainability Programme has been shortlisted in the Chambers Ireland, Excellence in Local Government Awards 2024 in the Supporting Tourism category. These awards take place in November, wish us luck!!

We love to see the businesses within the Geopark Network getting the recognition they deserve, keep up the good work!

The Geopark in the Community

Our Geopark communities are the very fabric of everything we do so we were delighted to attend a number of community events this Summer. Thank you to Bawnboy, Ballyconnell, Belcoo, Blacklion, Garrison and Derrylin communities who welcomed us along and took great interest to participate and engage with the Geopark.



Breaking Ground at the Shannon Pot

Works are well underway at the site of the new Shannon Pot Discovery Centre in West Cavan. Works on this €10 million project commenced in August which have seen progress on the new access road and the new visitor centre. It is anticipated the new centre will open in Spring 2026. A public event will be held later in the year to update on the development, keep an eye on our socials for more information.



What's On?

Christmas Events

Make Your Own Willow Christmas Wreath

Saturday 7 December & Sunday 8 December

10am-12 noon & 2pm-4pm

In this 2-hour workshop, Geopark Ambassador, Stephen will teach you to craft your own willow wreath that can be used every year. Bring along any special mementoes or Christmas decorations you wish to include. Tools including secateurs will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own, along with some gardening gloves.

Cuilcagh Mountain Jeep Safari (International Mountain Day)

Saturday 7 December

11am-1pm & 2pm-4pm

Join Geopark staff to celebrate International Mountain Day at the top of the Geoparks only true mountain as you are chauffeured through Cuilcagh Mountain Park in one of the Geopark vehicles. Learn about the fascinating history of the site, see the Geology underfoot, and enjoy the scenic views without the hard work!

Cuilcagh Guided Boardwalk Tour (International Mountain Day)

Sunday 8 December

11am-2pm

Have you ever wanted to climb Cuilcagh but thought it was just a bit too much? Join Geopark staff for a drive through Cuilcagh Mountain Park, where you will be chauffeured to the beginning of the boardwalk for a 5km walk to the viewing platform and back.



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