

# All in a Day's Work

## Brigid Barry – Burrenbeo Trust

### PROFILE

Brigid Barry is the Coordinator of the Burrenbeo Trust - a landscape charity that focuses on greater awareness of the Burren region through education, conservation, information provision and research. [www.burrenbeo.com](http://www.burrenbeo.com)



### Where do you work?

I work for the Burrenbeo Trust, a charity based in Kinvara Co. Galway that focuses on the conservation of the Burren through awareness.

### Have you always been interested in what you do?

I have always had a great passion for nature, working with different communities, and engaging them in their surrounding environment. My work involves all of this.

### What training did you do to get where you are today?

I did an undergraduate degree in Anthropology, a postgraduate in Tropical Conservation, and spent a further ten years or so volunteering and working on different research projects abroad and in the UK. The best training I got was through working on the ground with passionate and experienced people.

### What is a day in your life like?

Although a lot of my work is office-based on a computer, the exciting thing about working for a small charity is the work can be very varied from day to day... from teaching in a school to fundraising, from carrying out meetings with farmers to putting together a magazine, from tackling invasive species to building websites and much, much more. No such thing as a typical day so it's never boring!

### What is your main aim?

The work that the team and I carry out in the Burrenbeo Trust aims to raise awareness about the unique Burren landscape among both locals and visitors. We do this through conservation volunteering, educational walks, talks, publications but also through training.

### What is the best thing about your job?

The passionate people that I work with and the people that volunteer their time and expertise to the organisation. It has a feeling of a thriving community all aiming for the same goal - the conservation of the Burren.

### What is the worst thing about your job?

As an independent charity we are always looking for funds to carry out our programmes. (That and my cold office that I often have to wear a wholly hat in!!)

### Do you enjoy your work?

I am extremely lucky that I do. This is largely down to the people I work with and work for. It is great to be part of a proactive, progressive and creative team.

### Where does your work take you?

The Burren is 700km<sup>2</sup> so we could be in any area of this in schools, events, and carrying out activities. However, we also get to speak about the Burren at universities and other organisations further afield. This is a great opportunity to see what else is going on in conservation and place-based learning outside of the Burren.

### Do you work alone or as part of a team?

I work with two others in my office. Then there are 5 other individuals that pretty much work 20 or so hours a week on the organisation as well on a voluntary basis.



Above: Admiring the beauty of the Burren.

Right: Educational walks for children.



Images courtesy of Burrenbeo Trust

### What advice would you give someone wanting to do your job?

If you wish to work in conservation, heritage or environmental education, jobs are few and far between in Ireland. However, they are there so I would recommend that you join related clubs, Trusts and groups when you are younger. See if you can volunteer at any of these during weekends or holidays. Do a related subject at university and then if you get an opportunity go volunteering abroad as this will broaden your horizons and also add to the input you can give when you want to work more locally.

### What is the best piece of advice you have ever had?

Work hard at doing a job you love and you will never have to do a hard day's work.