

The Burren trip report, 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> May 2013

# WILDLIFE TRAVEL

## The Burren May 2013



Burren flora, Fanore Sands



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#	DATE	LOCATIONS & NOTES
1	22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Dublin City; Train from Heuston to Galway
2	23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Poulsallach; Fanore Sands, the Rines; Ballyvaghan; Newtown
3	24 <sup>th</sup> May	Innisheer and Cliffs of Moher from the boat
4	25 <sup>th</sup> May	Mullach Mor; Lough Bunny; Kilfenora/ Corcomroe Abbey
5	26 <sup>th</sup> May	Keelhilla (Slieve Carran or Eagle's Rock) National Nature Reserve; Poul nabrone
6	27 <sup>th</sup> May	Cliffs of Moher and centre; Fanore Sands; Caher valley; Green Road
7	28 <sup>th</sup> May	Return to Dublin

### Leaders

Charlie Rugeroni

### Day 1 Wednesday 22 May

*Meet in Dublin, National Museum, train to Galway*

Both Margarets and I met up at the ABC Guesthouse. A breezy and bright day. Took the bus to Dublin city-centre and walked along O'Connell Street, visiting the General Post Office, the site of the Easter Rebellion of 1916 when Irish Republicans set about ending British Rule and attempted to establish an Irish Republic – the bullet holes, visible on the external colonnades, powerful reminders of the events at the time. Continuing on our way to the National Museum we passed a statue to Molly Malone outside Trinity College.

A brief stop at the National Library of Ireland to marvel at its impressive domed Reading Room. The archaeological exhibitions at the National Museum superbly traced the development of Irish civilisations, and the collections included the Cloth of Gold from Glenisheen - a wedge tomb we'd see later in the week in the Burren. After a coffee at the museum's café we made our way to Heuston to catch our train to Galway and meet up with our luggage, and Ken and Gillian. The train journey allowed us to enjoy the Irish landscape and to work up a botanical appetite perusing the various books and guides we'd brought along.

Peter Mooney our driver during our stay in the Burren was waiting for us on a dry, sunny but cool afternoon at Galway. The ride south to Lisdoonvarna skirted Galway Bay with its muddy saltmarsh inlets and creeks and the odd commanding castle such as Dunguaire Castle, outside Kinvara. It was after Kinvara that in the distance we saw the karstic topography that we'd inhabit over the next few days – the bedded mass of Slieve Carran loomed ahead of us. Corkscrew Hill provided a good vantage point to appreciate the Bay and village of Ballyvaughan.

On arrival at Caherleigh Guesthouse a welcoming and effervescent Dermot Dooley produced for us a tray of hot, homemade, buttered scones and biscuits, by an open peat fire; Irish hospitality at its best!

### Day 2 Thursday 23 May

*Poulsallach; Fanore Sands, the Rines; Ballyvaghan; Newtown*

Bright and sunny, light breeze. At Poulsallach we came face to face with our first limestone pavements. The heavy erosional work during the Ice Age being evident as the limestone met the sea in a series of irregular pavements and wave-cut platforms; this would become our stomping ground for the next few hours.

We sallied forth from the bus and onto the landward stretching grey clints. Heath Spotted and Early Purple Orchids were plentiful in the grassy areas in between the pavements, while mats of Wild Thyme, the character species of these parts the Burnet Rose, one of the Burren's 'Alpine' plants the Hoary Rock-rose (in flower), and Creeping Willow (with the catkins present) hugged the rock surfaces, as did an Oak Eggar caterpillar as it made its way to shelter amongst the Hoary Rockrose.

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Mountain Everlasting was evident in various stages of growth and here and there was the striking motif of the Burren's flora, the Spring Gentian, together with the elegant Mountain Avens – the intermingling of these two plants (and others) at sea level, puzzles and delights and makes this area special. One uncommon and noteworthy plant, not often spotted but found today, was the very pubescent Pyramidal Bugle.

It was clear that the season was late by at least a couple of weeks (this was later confirmed by a regular visitor to the Burren from Natural History Society of Dublin), nevertheless other plants seen here before we crossed the road to the seaward facing pavements included: Hawthorn, Spindle, Tutsan, Bloody Cranesbill, Honeysuckle, Goldenrod, Meadow Thistle, Lousewort, Maidenhair Spleenwort, Wood Sage, Wild Madder, Blue Moor-grass, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Herb Robert, Carlina Thistle, Northern Bedstraw, Hart's Tongue Fern and Hemp-agrimony. An interesting feature on the limestone pavements were the solution holes occupied by globules of nostoc, a blue-green algae and responsible for the rocks' slow dissolution.

Tourist coaches had now arrived and new visitors commandeered the rocks whilst we searched for the leathery, glossy leaved Sea Spleenwort (bearing linear sori) - we found it within a short distance from the sea, tucked into a scailp, as was Scurvey Grass. Birds seen here included: Rock and Meadow Pipits, Black Guillemot and also a Northern Wheatear. Inisheer was clearly visible on the horizon as we set off in search of Frog Orchids just a little further up the coast. Unfortunately, a late season conspired to deny us this orchid, however, some intelligence gathered by Ken and Gillian before the trip, enabled us to find some Dense-flowered orchids (or Burren Orchid, mainly seen in Spain) discretely growing between fence posts at Fanore.



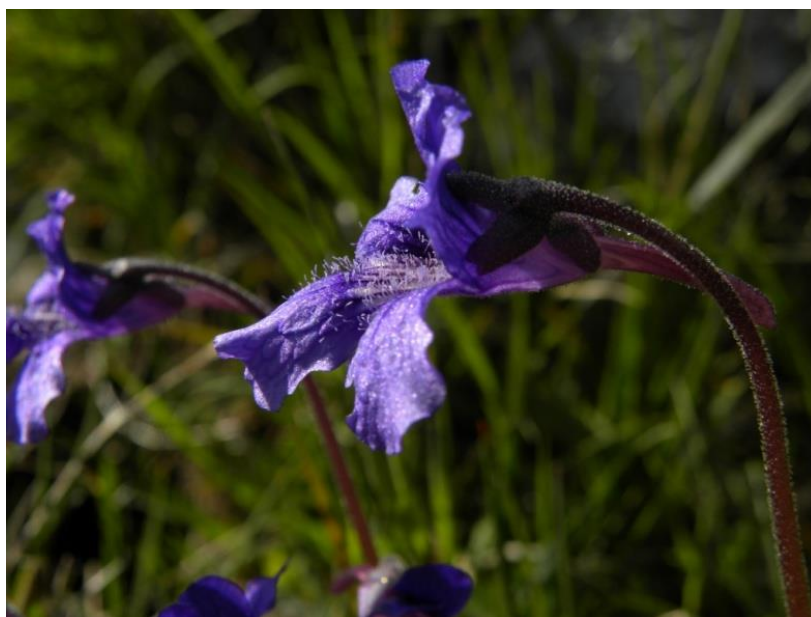
On our way to lunch we stopped briefly at Pinnacle Well to view the non-native but naturalised, Fairy Foxglove, clothing the 19<sup>th</sup> century folly in florid tinsel. We rounded Black Head and pulled up at Ballyvaughan before diving into Monk's restaurant for some soup and crab sandwich. We looked for seals



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in the mid-distant rocks but none was forthcoming – we settled instead for Wall Rue, Sea Fern Grass, Rusty-back Fern and White Stonecrop on the harbour walls. Doubling back on ourselves, after lunch, we made our way to a low spit of land jutting into Ballyvaughan Bay, the Rine. Walking down the lane to the spit, and just before encountering a False Oxlip, we came upon Rue-leaved Saxifrage growing amongst some sprawling Parsley Piert. Shining Crane's-bill, Sanicle, Thyme-leaved and Germander Speedwell, were in flower as was Field Mouse-ear. From here we took the back road behind Ballyvaughan to Newtown where we parked and began our ascent of Cappanawalla – as we climbed we got better views of the Bay to the north and Ailwee mountain to the east, bathed in mid afternoon sunshine. Trailing Tormentil and Columbine, the garden escape, providing colour on our climb. Wall Lettuce managed to be growing from out of the screes on the hillside. Spring Gentian, singletons or groups of four and five flowering plants, were growing here in profusion with Bird's-foot Trefoil amongst them.

We had come to this spot, to a wet flush on Cappanawalla, for what is arguably one of the Burren's most beautiful flowers. Behind a rock, over the brow of a hillock, there lay limestone outcrops, bathed in spring water and smothered in moss, and here and there purplish-violet flowers flecked this wet flush. The Large-flowered Butterworts were looking their best with their fly-paper like, star-shaped, fleshy leaves dotted with hapless insects. Water-cress and Brooklime squatted in the deeper pools and puddles. On our way down Gillian spotted several Twayblade. So ended our first full day on the Burren.



### Day 3 Friday 24 May

#### *Innisheer and Cliffs of Moher from the boat*

0830 found us waiting in Doolin for Garrihy's Doolin Discovery to ferry us across to Innisheer, the closest of the Arran Isles. House Martins and Swallows circled above us. The tide was ebbing and for this reason when we climbed aboard we were asked to make our way to the bow to ensure the propeller shaft was clear of the sea-bed! Several small rafts of Guillemot and Razorbill were observed as we left port and cross the South Sound. Adult Gannets soon made an appearance close to the boat as did Kittiwake and Sandwich Tern – the visibility was good enough to spot The Twelve Pins (or Bens) of Connemara. On arrival, coffees were most welcome after fun and games with Margaret's walking pole and a concrete post. With the sun out and a Song Thrush singing its heart out, we headed towards the north-western shore of the island. The first of the plant sightings were two examples of Lusitanian specimens (with origins in the Iberian Peninsula), namely Rock Samphire and Sea Spurge. Sea Campion, Ivy-leaved Toadflax, Thrift, Common Bird's-foot-trefoil and Red Clover were in full flower and looked striking against the grey, shoreline limestone rocks, and in the background Sandwich Terns dived into Galway Bay.

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There are a couple of plants which are more plentiful on the Aran Islands than on the Burren - one is the Irish Saxifrage and the other is Babington's Leek; one was in flower the other looking most unappealing. We spotted several Common Seals loafing among offshore rocks, before we headed back through the houses and dry-stone walled enclosures, one of which was completely full of Alexanders. Lackey Moth caterpillars fed on Cotoneaster and Hawthorn creeping over a garden wall and an early flying Small Copper (scarce/local status in the Burren) put an appearance as we walked to lunch.

Other wildflowers seen along the tracks between the houses, lanes and sandy paths on our way to St Caomhán's (the patron saint of Inisheer) Church, a 10<sup>th</sup> century building now below ground level, included: Tree Mallow, Dove's-foot Crane's-bill, Scurvey Grass, Maidenhair Spleenwort, Field Mouse-ear, Sea Raddish, Cowslip, Thyme Broomrape (the Burren is the HQ for this plant in the British Isles), Sea Holly, just emerging Yellow Rattle, Wall Rue, Mouse-ear Hawkweed, Buck's-horn and Sea Plantains, Sea Beet, Early Purple Orchid and Silverweed. We came across the leaves of Bee Orchid on our return from an open water site on the eastern end of the island. Green-veined White, Wall Brown, Grizzled Skipper were on the move as were Hooded Crows, Linnets and a Northern Wheatear. As we walked over the limestone substrate, the warmth rising from the rocks seemed to concentrate the scent of Bird's-foot-trefoil. As we strolled back to the harbour, we noticed that numerous leaves of the Marram growing on the shifting back dunes on the beach were bedecked with the caterpillars of a Zygaenid moth – most probably the Six-spot Burnet. Ken and Gillian came back with news that they had spotted an Irish Marsh Orchid alongside Early Purple Orchids.



We boarded our ferry at 17.00hrs and, escorted by Fulmars, Kittiwakes and the odd Black Guillemot, we returned to Doolin where we picked up more passengers before heading to the Cliffs of Moher. The brown cliffs, of shale, mudstones and siltstones, rose high from the boiling waters of the Atlantic Ocean and in the early evening sunlight resembled a large chocolate brownie, not unlike the one some of us enjoyed for lunch. One appreciated their size from the boat. The stacks and cliff ledges were stocked full with birds – Kittiwake, Razorbill, Guillemot, Shag, Cormorant, Puffin, Fulmar and an assortment of Gulls. Thousands of seabirds bobbed up and down on the water as they either rested or fed on its surface. The auks kept zipping past us as if on a must-do-mission.



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Shaken but not too stirred we disembarked back at Doolin at 18.00 and Peter collected us shortly after that – the local Bottlenose Dolphin kept us entertained while we waited. Back at Caherleigh, Dermot mindful of the fact that the sea air had opened up our appetites, laid on fresh tea and a lemon drizzle cake, our aperitif before a sumptuous supper at the Roadside Tavern, the local micro-brewery. Near the Lisdoonvarna Spa, whilst on an evening stroll, we came across Coltsfoot emerging from the shale outcrop.

### Day 4 Saturday 25 May

*Mullach Mor; Lough Bunny; Kilfenora/ Corcomroe Abbey*

Lightly overcast. Our first stop of the day, just east of Lisdoonvarna, was a roadside ditch in a conifer plantation; this was on our way to Loch Gailain (Gortlecka) which runs along the foothills of Mullach Mor, in the Burren National Park. In the ditch we looked for Marsh Cinquefoil and found its woody creeping rhizomes; it should have been in flower but the late season conspired against our seeing it thus. Bogbean was in flower, alongside Lousewort, Common Milkwort and Slender St John's-wort. A fairly non-descript place but it threw up several other species: Eared Willow, Bilberry, Wilson's Honeysuckle (now naturalised), Golden Scaly Male Fern, Southern Polypody, Hare's-tail Cotton grass and Field Woodrush – a Cuckoo provided a background tune.



At the Kilfenora Centre we viewed a video on the Burren National Park, purchased maps and downed a coffee before wandering over to see the High Crosses, in particular the Doorty Cross, at Kilfenora Cathedral (1189). On the cathedral walls Navelwort (another Lusitanian plant), Hairy Bitter-cress and Maidenhair Spleenwort were recorded. Just before we reached Lough Ghailain we decided to stop at an

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abandoned quarry, with Early Purple Orchids, Early Dog Violet, Wood Anemones and Cowslips brightening up an otherwise dull day. Amongst these we spotted a white flowering *Ajuga reptans* (f *albiflora*, which has acquired horticultural significance) and nearby a white variant of an Early Purple Orchid (variety *alba*, with yellow polinia and green stem, rather scarce) – what are the chances of this occurring cheek by jowl?



In the field next door lay one of our quarries: Fly Orchid. Gillian came across the leaves of Broad-leaved Helleborine on the road through the dwarf hazel wood. We moved on to the first of our loughs for the day, Loch Gailain, and the first thing we did was to have lunch – we saw the heavy shower coming and the greyness enveloped us. The water level was high and some of the Early Purple Orchids were growing in the water.



Nevertheless, Shrubby Cinquefoil was in flower and sure enough the Turlough (Marsh) Dandelion was here too, in its habitat – sticky, grey mud on the lake shore. The Hawkweeds, *Hieracium* agg., sometimes deserve a closer look and there was one example, in flower, with magnificent dark mottled, hairy leaves and purple undersides; possibly *H. maculatum* but who knows, it was worth a photograph! The scailps in the grey pavements always surprise and growing out of one was a delicate Lesser Meadow Rue, with its Maidenhair Fern-like leaves. Here too we came upon our first Flecked Marsh Orchid and the beautiful Thurlough Violet, another true Burren speciality. Juniper, Guelder Rose, Spindle, Bloody Cranesbill, Rue-leaved Saxifrage and Burnet Rose were among other plants here. Latticed Heath Moth, Bullfinch and Heron were on the wing as we were, onto Loch Bunny.



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Here too the water levels were very high and made walking along the lough shore a little tricky. We agreed with Peter to meet us at Lough Bunny's north eastern end and we set off with a following wind. Common Spotted Orchid were present (mostly in leaf), Tway Blades and Common Butterwort with feet pretty much in the water. A Common Sandpiper was quartering the shoreline, bobbing and skipping the waves and once again a cuckoo kept us company. At Corcomroe Abbey, a 13<sup>th</sup> century Cistercian monastery, looked and felt very atmospheric in the late afternoon drizzle; we couldn't quite decide if the carvings on the pillars near one of the transepts were of Bluebells or Water Avens. Cappanawlla was enveloped in a veil of mist and back at base, Dermot's tea and scones were to die for – as was supper at Ballynalachan Castle.

### Day 5 Sunday 26 May

*Keelhilla (Slieve Carran or Eagle's Rock) National Nature Reserve; Poul nabrone*



Fresh with sunny spells start to the day. With coffee in flasks we set off to Keelhilla. Swallows were around and as we drove along roads which became narrower with each bend taking, we realised, like Hansel and Gretel we'd momentarily lost our way. Easily done, when driving along tiny back roads enveloped by extraordinary dwarf hazel stands, coppiced many a year ago and covered in coats of moss and lichen. Peter found his desired lane and we reached our first destination at 1015.

That ubiquitous orchid, the Early Purple was everywhere mixing in well with Cowslips, Mountain Avens, Mountain Everlasting, Hawthorn, Burnet Rose, Spring Gentian, the occasional first year rosettes of Carline Thistle and, tucked away under a limestone pavement, surprising us this time, a Dense-flowered Orchid looking rather smart - then came the cry, 'Here's another!' 'And another'..... By the end of our walk we'd seen around a dozen between us. A European Black Slug heaved itself out of a gryke which housed some Rusty-back Fern, as moody skies with heavy clouds threatened and we took our coffee there and then. We picked our way along the pavements and grassy paths towards a hazel woodland at the foot of Eagle's Rock. Just before getting to the wood we spotted Mossy Saxifrage and Pale Lady's-mantle.



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'Psst! Margaret, ignore Charlie, look at this Polygala, pink form.'



The open pavements contrasted strongly with the inside of the wood, with its scent of crushed Ramsons underfoot, Soft Shield Fern and the remains of a hermitage, sacred well and St Colman Mac Duagh's cave. In the woods we picked out Sanicle, Wood Aven, Twayblades, Hairy Rockcress (growing off the ruins alongside the remains of votive offerings), Barren Strawberry, Yellow Pimpernel, Brittle Bladder and Broad Buckler Ferns, and another first for the trip, Opposite-leaved Golden Saxifrage. A pair of Ravens called as we left this spot. On our way back we stopped to view a fulachta fiadh (Neolithic open-air cooking mound) with Spring Gentian on its southern side and Round-leaved Sundew and informal gatherings of Common Butterwort in a nearby bog. At Cassidy's, tarts, chowder and fish-pie kept us going. On our way to Poul nabroune Dolmen Peter kept us amused by providing the answers to Irish car-number plates. One particularly tricky one was TN – Peter soon put us out of our misery, 'Tipperary North'. Before getting to Poul nabroune we pulled over at a nearby wedge tomb where the Glenisheen Cloth of Gold necklace was found; we recalled seeing this in Dublin's National Museum. Singing Whitethroat and Skylark welcomed us at the dolmen and Mallard and Moorhen were spotted in a pond with Amphibious Bistort and Watermint.

At the Roadside Tavern Moroccan lamb, crab fish-cakes, Irish stew, lemon meringue pie and memories of at c12 different Dense-flowered Orchids, provided a memorable exclamation mark to end the day; a couple of us remained behind to listen to Tumbling Bones, a band playing a superb mix of Blue Grass/Country music.

### Day 6 Monday 27 May

*Cliffs of Moher and centre; Fanore Sands; Caher valley; Green Road*

Today got off to some drizzle and by the time we'd arrived at the Cliffs of Moher the light breeze had metamorphosed into a strong one. As we approached the cliff-top walkways we could hear the cries of Fulmars, Kittiwakes carried in the wind and between sunny intervals we surveyed the sea and the tops of stacks below us. Unsurprisingly, we got caught out in a heavy shower but fortunately found shelter behind O'Brien's Tower which is near the cliffs' highest point at 214m. Puffins were beginning their nesting season in their penthouse burrows which had been dug into the thin soils on the tops of stacks; they could be seen coming back and forth from the Atlantic with sand eels in the bills.

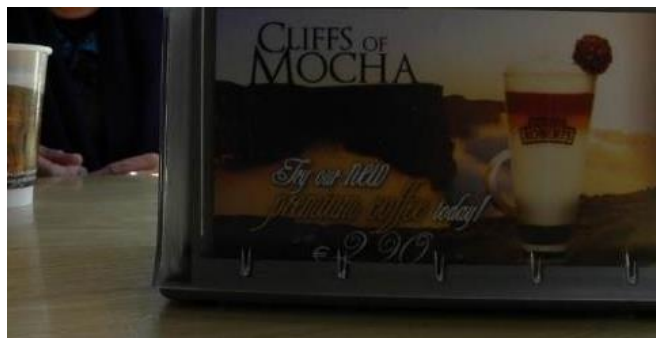
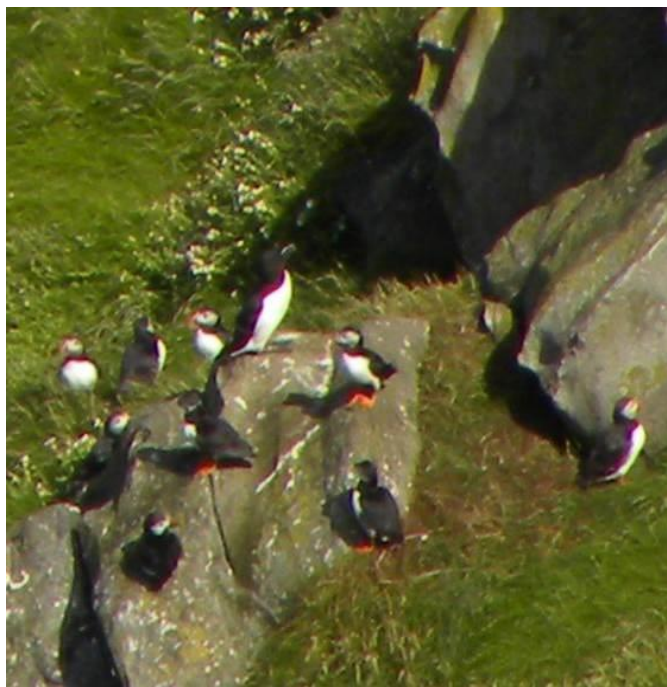
Interestingly, the steps up the cliffs illustrated the numerous fossils found in the local rocks; bivalves and corals were the most common. The Lotus and Anthyllis plants stood out brilliantly on the cliff slopes against the grey sea/sky backdrops. A Rock Pipit appeared behind O'Brien's Tower and





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further along the local warden pointed out where a Peregrine Falcon was watching and waiting. Much of the Sea Campion here had not yet come into flower but was not far from bringing colour to its fleshy, waxy, grey-green leaves. The interpretative centre was immensely informative and the building was pleasingly set into the landscape. Peter returned to take us to Fanore Sands for a more in depth perusal.



The sun shone brightly as we approached Fanore, its relict dunes, covered in a grass sward, contained plenty of Spring Gentian. There was also Blackstonia, leaves of Common Spotted and Pyramidal Orchid, Yellow rattle, Bulbous Buttercup, Wild Thyme. Sea Bindweed was not in flower but we picked up Sea Mayweed (one particular flower head showing intriguing fasciation) and Sea Sandwort with its greenish-white small and inconspicuous flowers, and Shelduck. Quaking Grass was just flowering amongst the Marram grass.



For lunch we popped into the Tea and Garden Rooms where we enjoyed a superb lunch – some of the dishes looking not unlike a slice of the pavement flora on a plate!





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Our post lunch constitutional was taken up the Caher Valley at Carl Wright's garden, lovingly created alongside the Caher River, where we picked some horticultural tips from Carl – we couldn't help but admire the effort and determination to create such a thoughtful oasis in keeping with its surroundings.



Just before we got to the end of the valley, we stopped to admire a clutch of Greater Butterwort before heading off along a back-road to Lisdoonvarna. A patch of Mountain Avens mingled with Early Purple Orchids provided another photographic moment and after negotiating a fence we were soon taking our last few shots when, the little orchid which had made its presence felt at a number of locations did so one last time alongside Spring Gentian and the aforementioned species – the Dense-flowered Orchid: creating a 'classic' Burren combination, a Mediterranean orchid, an Alpine Gentian and an Arctic avens.

We said our goodbyes to Peter who had excelled as our driver and kept us entertained with local stories and folklore. Did we stump him with 'RN....' vehicle registration plates? Supper, after another of Dermot's delightful teas, was taken at Sheedy's accompanied by an eclectic discussion on chimeras, tetraploids and orchids.



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During our time here we came across references to the 'Burren Way' (the long distance trail). Our own memories of the Burren Way might have gone something like this:

Peter's Papal-like wave to each and every friend we met as we drove from site to site.

That hidden floral gem in a scailp, behind a fence post or beside an Early Purple Orchid.

The pewter like skies, floaty misty drizzle on the pavements or the bright sunshine on Inisheer.

The friendly pub landlord who came to our table to talk to us about Tolkein.

A beer-can seen at the start of our holiday on a street bench opposite Caherleigh - still there at the end of our stay.

The ubiquitous and delicious soda bread and stout.

And finally, Dermot's teas at 17.00hrs

### **Acknowledgement**

My thanks to you all for making the trip such a memorable and successful holiday. Hope to see you again soon on another Wildlife Travel trip.

Charlie Rugeroni



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SCIENTIFIC NAME	ENGLISH NAME	NOTES	SEEN
Pteridophytes - non seed plants			
Polypodiales (Ferns)			
Asplenium adiantum-nigrum	Black Spleenwort		KH
Asplenium marinum	Sea Spleenwort		PS
Asplenium ruta-muraria	Wall-rue		
Asplenium trichomanes	Maidenhair Spleenwort		
Athyrium filix-femina	Lady-fern		StCM
Ceterach officinarum	Rustybach		
Cystopteris fragilis	Brittle Bladder-fern		StCM
Dryopteris affinis	Scaly Male-fern		RD
Dryopteris dilatata	Broad Buckler-fern		StCM
Phyllitis scolopendrium	Hart's-tongue		
Polypodium cambricum	Southern Polypody		RD
Polystichum setiferum	Soft Shield-fern		StCM
Pteridium aquilinum	Bracken		
Equisetaceae: horsetail			
Equisetum agg			RD
Spermatophytes - seed plants		Gymnosperms	
Cupressaceae: cypress			
Juniperus communis	Common Juniper		LG
Angiosperms		Flowering Plants	
Dicotyledons			
Aceraceae: maple		Order Sapindales	
Acer pseudoplatanus	Sycamore		
Apiaceae: carrot		Order Apiales	
Anthriscus sylvestris	Cow Parsley		
Conopodium majus	Pignut		
Crithmum maritimum	Rock Samphire		I
Daucus carota	Wild Carrot		I
Eryngium maritimum	Sea-holly		I, F
Sanicula europaea	Sanicle		R, StCM
Smyrniolus olusatrum	Alexanders		I
Aquifoliaceae: holly		Order Aquifoliales	
Ilex aquifolium	Holly		
Araliaceae: ivy		Order Apiales	
Hedera helix	Ivy		
Asteraceae: daisy		Order Asterales	
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow		KH
Antennaria dioica	Mountain Everlasting		PS, CV, F
Bellis perennis	Daisy		
Carlina vulgaris	Carlina Thistle		LG
Cirsium dissectum	Meadow Thistle		LB
Cirsium vulgare	Spear Thistle		I
Eupatorium cannabinum	Hemp-agrimony		PS
Helminthotheca echioides	Bristly Oxtongue		RD

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<i>Hieracium agg.</i>	Hawkweeds		
<i>Hieracium maculatum</i>	Spotted Hawkweed		LG
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy		
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall Lettuce		C
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed		I
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort		
<i>Solidago virgaurea</i>	Goldenrod		PS
<i>Taraxacum agg.</i>	Dandelions		
<i>Taraxacum palustre</i>	Turlough (Marsh) Dandelion		LG
<i>Tripleurospermum maritimum</i>	Sea Mayweed		F
<i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Colt's-foot		L
<b>Betulaceae: birch</b>		<b>Order Fagales</b>	
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch		
<b>Brassicaceae: cabbage</b>		<b>Order Brassicales</b>	
<i>Arabis hirsuta</i>	Hairy Rock-cress		StCM
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower		LG
<i>Lobularia maritima</i>	Sweet Allison		PS
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum subsp. maritimus</i>	Sea Radish		I
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	Water-cress		C
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge Mustard		
<b>Caprifoliaceae: honeysuckle</b>		<b>Order Dipsacales</b>	
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle		PS, LG
<i>Lonicera nitida</i>	Wilson's Honeysuckle		RD
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder		R
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder Rose		LG
<b>Caryophyllaceae: carnation</b>		<b>Order Caryophyllales</b>	
<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Field Mouse-ear		R, I
<i>Cerastium diffusum</i>	Sea Mouse-ear		B
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear		
<i>Minuartia verna</i>	Spring Sandwort		PS
<i>Honckenya peploides</i>	Sea Sandwort		F
<i>Silene uniflora</i>	Sea Campion		I, CM
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed		
<b>Celastraceae: spindle</b>		<b>Order Celastrales</b>	
<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle		PS, KH
<b>Chenopodiaceae: goosefoot</b>		<b>Order Caryophyllales</b>	
<i>Beta vulgaris subsp. maritima</i>	Sea Beet		I
<b>Cistaceae: rock rose</b>		<b>Order Malvales</b>	
<i>Helianthemum oelandicum subsp. Piloselloides</i>	Hoary Rock-rose		PS
<b>Convolvulaceae: bindweed</b>		<b>Order Solanales</b>	
<i>Calystegia soldanella</i>	Sea Bindweed		F
<b>Corylaceae: hazel</b>		<b>Order Fagales</b>	
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel		LG, BNP
<b>Crassulaceae: sedum</b>		<b>Order Saxifragales</b>	
<i>Sedum album</i>	White Stonecrop		B
<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort		K



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<b>Droseraceae: sundew</b>	<b>Order Caryophyllales</b>		
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Sundew		KH
<b>Ericaceae: heather</b>	<b>Order Ericales</b>		
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather		RD
<i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Bilberry		RD
<b>Euphorbiaceae: spurge</b>	<b>Order Malpighiales</b>		
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea Spurge		F, I
<b>Fabaceae: pea</b>	<b>Order Fabales</b>		
<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney Vetch		PS
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil		PS
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover		I
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse		LG
<b>Gentianaceae: gentian</b>	<b>Order Gentianales</b>		
<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Yellow-wort		F
<i>Gentiana verna</i>	Spring Gentian		
<b>Geraniaceae: geranium</b>	<b>Order Geraneales</b>		
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill		R
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill		I
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb-Robert		
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody Crane's-bill		PS, LG, KH
<b>Hypericaceae: St Johns wort</b>	<b>Order Malpighiales</b>		
<i>Hypericum androsaemum</i>	Tutsan		PS, LG
<i>Hypericum pulchrum</i>	Slender St John's-wort		RD
<b>Lamiaceae: mint</b>	<b>Order Lamiales</b>		
<i>Ajuga pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Bugle		PS
<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Bugle	including <i>albiflora</i>	PS, BNP
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water Mint		P
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal		
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage		
<i>Thymus polytrichus</i>	Wild Thyme		
<b>Lentibulariaceae</b>	<b>Order Lamiales</b>		
<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>	Common Butterwort		LB
<i>Pinguicula grandiflora</i>	Large-flowered Butterwort		C
<b>Liliaceae</b>	<b>Order Asparagales</b>		
<i>Allium ampeloprasum</i> var. <i>babingtonii</i>	Babington's Leek		I
<i>Allium ursinum</i>	Ramsons		StCM
<b>Malvaceae: mallow</b>	<b>Order Malvales</b>		
<i>Lavatera arborea</i>	Tree-mallow		I
<b>Menyanthaceae</b>	<b>Order Asterales</b>		
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bogbean		RD
<b>Onagraceae: willowherb</b>	<b>Order Myrtales</b>		
<i>Fuchsia magellanica</i>	Fuchsia		I
<b>Orobanchaceae: broomrape</b>	<b>Order Lamiales</b>		
<i>Orobanche alba</i>	Thyme Broomrape		I
<i>Pedicularis sylvatica</i>	Lousewort		PS, BNP, F
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle		F

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<b>Plantaginaceae: plantain</b>	<b>Order Lamiales</b>		
<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved Toadflax		K
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buck's-horn Plantain		I
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain		BNP
<i>Plantago maritima</i>	Sea Plantain		I
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell		R
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field-speedwell		
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell		R
<b>Plumbaginaceae: plumbago</b>	<b>Order Caryophyllales</b>		
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Thrift		I, PS
<b>Polygalaceae</b>	<b>Order Fabales</b>		
<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common Milkwort		KH, RD
<b>Polygonaceae: dock</b>	<b>Order Caryophyllales</b>		
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel		
<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Amphibious Bistort		P pond
<b>Primulaceae: primula</b>	<b>Order Ericales</b>		
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet Pimpernel		F, I
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	Yellow Pimpernel		StCM
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip		I
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>	Primrose		
<i>Primula x polyantha</i>	False Oxlip		R
<b>Ranunculaceae: buttercup</b>	<b>Order Ranunculales</b>		
<i>Anemone nemorosa</i>	Wood Anemone		BNP
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine		C
<i>Caltha palustris</i>	Marsh-marigold		Pond
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup		F
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup		
<i>Thalictrum minus</i>	Lesser Meadow-rue		LG
<i>Thalictrum flavum</i>	Common Meadow-rue		KH
<b>Rhamnaceae: buckthorn</b>	<b>Order Rosales</b>		
<i>Rhamnus cathartica</i>	Buckthorn		LG
<b>Rosaceae: rose</b>	<b>Order Rosales</b>		
<i>Alchemilla xanthochlora</i>	Pale Lady's-mantle		KH
<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	Parsley Piert		R
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn		
<i>Cotoneaster agg.</i>	Cotoneaster		I
<i>Dryas octopetala</i>	Mountain Avens		PS, CV, KH....
<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild Strawberry		StCM
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	Barren Strawberry		StCM
<i>Geum rivale</i>	Water Avens		StCM
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens		StCM
<i>Potentilla anglica</i>	Trailing Tormentil		C
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil		KH
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed		KH
<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i>	Shrubby Cinquefoil		LG
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn		LG



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<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>	Burnet Rose		PS, LG
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Brambles		
<i>Rubus saxatilis</i>	Stone Bramble		LG
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder		
<i>Sanguisorba minor</i> subsp. <i>minor</i>	Salad Burnet		BNP
<i>Sorbus aria</i>	Whitebeam		LB
<i>Viburnum opulus</i>	Guelder-rose		LG
<b>Rubiaceae: madder</b>	<b>Order Gentianales</b>		
<i>Asperula cynanchica</i>	Squinancywort		PS
<i>Galium boreale</i>	Northern Bedstraw		KH
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw		KH
<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild Madder		PS, KH
<b>Salicaceae: willow</b>	<b>Order Malpighiales</b>		
<i>Salix aurita</i>	Eared Willow		RD
<i>Salix caprea</i>	Goat Willow		
<i>Salix repens</i>	Creeping Willow		PS, LG
<b>Saxifragaceae</b>	<b>Order Saxifragaceae</b>		
<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage		StCM
<i>Saxifraga hypnoides</i>	Mossy Saxifrage		StCM
<i>Saxifraga rosacea</i> subsp. <i>rosacea</i>	Irish Saxifrage		I
<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved Saxifrage		R
<b>Scrophulariaceae: foxglove</b>	<b>Order Lamiales</b>		
<i>Erinus alpinus</i>	Fairy Foxglove		PW
<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>	Brooklime		C
<b>Urticaceae: nettle</b>	<b>Order Rosales</b>		
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall		Co
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle		
<b>Valerianaceae: valerian</b>	<b>Order Lamiales</b>		
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian		roadsides
<i>Valeriana officinalis</i>	Common Valerian		roadsides
<b>Violaceae: violet</b>	<b>Order Malpighiales</b>		
<i>Viola canina</i>	Heath Dog-violet		BNP
<i>Viola persicifolia</i>	Fen Violet		LG
<i>Viola riviniana</i>	Common Dog-violet		LG
<b>Araceae: arum</b>	<b>Order Alismatales</b>		
<i>Arum maculatum</i>	Lords-and-Ladies		
<b>Cyperaceae: sedge</b>	<b>Order Poales</b>		
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge		LB
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cottongrass		RD
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Hare's-tail Cottongrass		RD
<i>Schoenoplectus lacustris</i>	Common Club-rush		
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black Bog-rush		LB
<b>Iridaceae: iris</b>	<b>Order Asparagales</b>		
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris		ponds
<b>Juncaceae: rush</b>	<b>Order Alismatales</b>		
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Wood-rush		RD

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<b>Orchidaceae: orchid</b>		<b>Order Asparagales</b>	
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal Orchid	leaves	F
<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common Spotted Orchid		LB
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata subsp. incarnata</i>	Early Marsh Orchid		
<i>Dactylorhiza incarnata subsp. cruenta</i>	Flecked Marsh Orchid		LG
<i>Dactylorhiza maculata subsp. ericetorum</i>	Heath Spotted Orchid		PS
<i>Dactylorhiza majalis subsp. occidentalis</i>	Irish Marsh Orchid		I
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved Helleborine	leaves	BNP
<i>Neotinea maculata</i>	Dense-flowered Orchid		F, KH, PS
<i>Neottia ovata</i>	Common Twayblade		
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	leaves	I
<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly Orchid		BNP
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early-purple Orchid	incl.var. <i>alba</i>	
<b>Poaceae: grass</b>		<b>Order Poales</b>	
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	Marram Grass		F, I
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking-grass		F
<i>Catapodium marinum</i>	Sea Fern-grass		B
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass		
<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common Reed		LB
<i>Sesleria caerulea</i>	Blue Moor-grass		LG, LB
<b>Nostocaceae</b>		<b>Order Nostocales</b>	
<i>Nostoc agg.</i>	Nostoc alga		PS, KH

### ABBREVIATIONS - sites

B - Ballyvaughan  
 BNP - Burren National Park  
 C - Cappanawalla  
 CM - Cliffs of Moher  
 Co - Corcomroe Abbey  
 CV - Caher Valley  
 F - Fanore  
 I - Inisheer  
 K - Kilfenora  
 KH - Keshilla (Slieve Carran)  
 L - Lisdoonvarna  
 LB - Lough Bunny  
 LG - Lough Gailain  
 P - Poulmabrone  
 PS - Poulsallach  
 PW - Pinnacle Well  
 R - Rine Peninsula  
 RD - Roadside Ditch nr Lisdoonvarna  
 StCM - St Colman Mac Duagh's hermitage

## BIRDS

<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan
<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>	Shelduck
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard
<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>	Common Pheasant
<i>Fulmarus glacialis</i>	Northern Fulmar
<i>Morus bassanus</i>	Northern Gannet
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>	Great Cormorant
<i>Phalacrocorax aristotelis</i>	Shag
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Grey Heron
<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Peregrine Falcon
<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Common Moorhen
<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Common Sandpiper
<i>Numenius arquata</i>	Eurasian Curlew
<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	Black-headed Gull
<i>Larus argentatus</i>	European Herring Gull
<i>Larus marinus</i>	Great Black-backed Gull
<i>Rissa tridactyla</i>	Black-legged Kittiwake
<i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>	Sandwich Tern
<i>Fratercula arctica</i>	Atlantic Puffin
<i>Cepphus grylle</i>	Black Guillemot
<i>Uria aalge</i>	Common Guillemot
<i>Alca torda</i>	Razorbill
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	Common Wood Pigeon
<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	Eurasian Collared Dove
<i>Cuculus canorus</i>	Common Cuckoo
<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	Common Skylark
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow
<i>Delichon urbicum</i>	Common House Martin
<i>Anthus petrosus</i>	Rock Pipit
<i>Anthus pratensis</i>	Meadow Pipit
<i>Motacilla alba</i>	Pied Wagtail
<i>Prunella modularis</i>	Dunnock
<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>	European Robin
<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>	Northern Wheatear
<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	Song Thrush
<i>Turdus merula</i>	Common Blackbird
<i>Sylvia communis</i>	Common Whitethroat
<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>	Winter Wren
<i>Parus major</i>	Great Tit
<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>	European Blue Tit
<i>Corvus cornix</i>	Hooded Crow
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven
<i>Pica pica</i>	Common Magpie
<i>Corvus monedula</i>	Western Jackdaw
<i>Corvus corone</i>	Carrion Crow
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Common Starling
<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Martin
<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	European Chaffinch
<i>Carduelis cannabina</i>	Common Linnet
<i>Pyrrhula pyrrhula</i>	Eurasian Bullfinch
<i>Emberiza citrinella</i>	Yellowhammer



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### BUTTERFLIES

<i>Pyrgus malvae</i>	Grizzled Skipper
<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	Large White
<i>Pieris rapae</i>	Small White
<i>Pieris napi</i>	Green-veined White
<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	Orange Tip
<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	Small Copper
<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	Wall Brown

### MOTHS

<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i>	6-spot Burnet	larvae
<i>Lasiocampa quercus</i>	Oak Eggar	larva
<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Lackey	larvae
<i>Semiothisa wauaria</i>	Latticed Heath	

### MAMMALS

<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	Common Bottlenose Dolphin
<i>Phoca vitulina</i>	Common Seal/Harbour Seal

### OTHER

<i>Rana temporaria</i>	Common Frog
<i>Arion ater</i>	European Black Slug
<i>Cetonia aurata</i>	Rose Chafer