

BERE ISLAND TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP NEWSLETTER



***‘Promoting tourism and
protecting our island
landscape and marine
environment.’***



Welcome to the first edition of the Bere Island Tourism and Environment Group Newsletter. We plan to publish this newsletter twice a year, bringing you news on all the latest projects the group are working on, and how you can help us in our work to promote tourism on Bere Island and protect our environment.

Who We Are

The current committee of the Bere Island Tourism and Environment Group are: Chair: Gemma Hunt, Vice-Chair: Rachel Harrington, Joint Treasurers: Caitriona Hanley and Barry Hanley, Secretary: Maria Murphy.

All island residents over the age of 18 are welcome to join the group, membership is not restricted to those involved in tourism businesses, and you can be as involved as you want. Meetings are held every 6-8 weeks either in person in the community centre, or online.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact Helen Riddell at bereconservation@gmail.com or on 027 75099.

Background

The Bere Island Tourism & Environment Group (BITE) was formed in 1995 in order to work towards protecting the island’s natural environment, whilst also encouraging visitors to the island to enjoy its unique landscape and heritage.



Like all offshore islands, waste management and removal of waste is a challenge. Since its formation, BITE have been responsible for instigating an island waste management plan, which has seen the construction of a purpose built

recycling centre on the island, as well as a monthly collection of household rubbish. A white-goods collection is held annually, and scrap cars are regularly removed.

BITE is composed of a voluntary committee of island residents, and are facilitated in their work by Bere Island Projects Group and assisted by island workers on the FAS and RSS schemes.

The group are also responsible for the island's entry into the Tidy Towns Competition, they source funding for tree planting initiatives, arrange beach cleans and litter picks. Projects the group have been involved in over the years include designing and printing the Bere Island map, creating amenity areas at the west end and east end piers, maintaining the grotto, placing benches and picnic tables throughout the island, maintaining the shelter on the west end pier, placing planters throughout the island and maintaining these and working with local artists to paint the wall at the playground and school and running the island's waste management service

Bere Island Tourism and Environment Group Win 2023 Tidy Island Award

Bere Island Tourism and Environment Group were delighted to hear that Bere Island has won the Island Award of the 2023 Supervalu Tidy Town Competition, the fifteenth consecutive year the group have won the competition. Bere Island first entered the competition in 2001 and achieved their first win in 2007.

Bere Island received a total of 358 points (out of a possible 550) in the 2023 competition, up 11 points from last year.

In their report the adjudicator noted that it was their first visit to Bere Island and praised several initiatives. *'This was a first time visit to Bere Island for your adjudicator and from the moment of arrival on the ferry, it was obvious that there*

is a great pride taken in the upkeep and maintenance of the island. Bere Island was a pleasure to visit and the amount of work that has been undertaken is highly commended. Keep up the good work and best wishes for this and future competitions.'



Rubbish Collection Dates 2023



Tuesday 14th November

Tuesday 5th December

Tuesday 19th December

Please leave all rubbish out for collection by 5.00pm on the day of collection. Waste stickers are €10 and can be purchased from Murphy's Shop. The Heritage Centre and the Projects Group Office.

Recycling Centre and Waste Collection

The recycling centre is located on the west end pier and the following items can be recycled:



Cans (food and drink cans)

Glass bottles

Plastic bottles

Plastic wrapping

Paper and cardboard

There is also a clothing bank, although please note this cannot accept duvets or pillows.

The centre is staffed by RSS workers John and Teddy. If you have large quantities of recycling, or large items of cardboard these can be dropped to the centre during working hours: Mondays and Thursdays 9.00am to 5.00pm and Fridays 9.00am to 1.30pm.

Glass is crushed on site and the crushed glass can be used domestically in building projects or as garden mulch.

There is an honesty box at the recycling centre and all contributions made go to the upkeep of the centre and in running costs for the monthly rubbish collection.

Please ensure all materials you bring for recycling are clean and are placed in the correct container.

In 2019 the recycling centre was converted to run entirely on renewable energy.

For all items that cannot be recycled, BITE operate a monthly (bi-monthly in June, July and August) waste collection service. Bags are collected from outside your home and transported to the mainland to Cork County Council's Civic Amenity Centre in Castletownbere. The cost is €10 per bag, in order to keep costs down please ensure that you recycle as much as possible and only items that cannot be recycled are left out for collection.

We were delighted that our recycling centre received praise from the adjudicator in the Tidy Towns Report:

'The recycling centre at the pier is very well equipped and no doubt a great amenity for residents..... the area was clean and tidy. This is no mean feat in any recycling centre so well done to all concerned.'

Special Report:

Eradicating Invasive Species on Bere Island

One of the actions of the Bere Island Conservation Plan is to prevent the spread of any invasive species on Bere Island which could have a detrimental impact on our island landscape. Two main invasive species have been identified on the island, Japanese Knotweed and Gunnera. However, in certain areas of the island we are aware that Rhododendron coverage could also become invasive.

Japanese Knotweed



Japanese Knotweed is a tall, vigorous herbaceous perennial which grows in dense patches and can reach up to 3 metres in height. It has distinctive hollow bamboo like stems which are green with red/purple speckles during summer. The leaves are green, shield shaped with pointed tips and a flat base. It produces off-white coloured flowers in small clusters which hang from the joint of the stem and the leaf. They flower from August to October. The roots are tough, thick and wood like in their appearance.

Japanese Knotweed is one of the most problematic invasive species and if left untreated it can seriously damage buildings and infrastructure by growing through concrete, tarmac and other hard surfaces if any cracks exist. It is spread via the deliberate or accidental movement of rhizome fragments of the plant or through cut stems. Even tiny amounts of cut stem, or rhizome are capable of producing a new plant.

Landowners are being asked to be on the lookout for Japanese knotweed, and if you find any sign of it, it is imperative not to cut back the plant. Japanese Knotweed should only be treated by an experienced contractor using an approved herbicide. It can also spread through construction, if you are having work done on your property we would advise to check first for Japanese Knotweed.

If Japanese Knotweed is growing on your property near a public road, please notify the Projects Group Office (027 75099) so that its location can be marked to prevent hedge cutting in that area.

Treatment of Japanese Knotweed

National Biodiversity Ireland recommends that the only control of Japanese Knotweed involves the use of herbicides, the plant should be treated in the spring and again in the autumn. However, these chemicals can post a risk to human health, and for that reason it is essential that qualified and experienced contractor undertakes all treatment work.

Gunnera



Gunnera is a fast-growing, clump forming, perennial plant, which can grow over 2m in height and has huge leathery leaves on thick stalks arising from a scaly rhizome. It forms dense clumps which prevent native vegetation from growing. It can also contribute to flooding by blocking drains and streams and can quickly dominate large tracts of land. Each plant is capable of producing up to 250,000 seeds every year.

Gunnera was originally introduced as an ornamental garden plant, however it quickly outgrows most domestic gardens and can escape into the wild.

Treatment of Gunnera

Again, National Biodiversity Ireland recommends the use of herbicides to treat Gunnera, however if the plant is located near a water source it should be cut back and the stumps covered in black plastic.

Rhododendron



Rhododendron was first introduced to Ireland during the 18th century as an ornamental garden plant because of its attractive flowers. There are over 900 species of Rhododendron, but only Rhododendron ponticum is invasive in Ireland. It can form dense thickets which can crowd out native plants and impact streams and rivers and can block access to sites by the sheer mass of plant material and can produce chemicals which prevent native species from

growing in soil in which it is present. Each plant can produce over one million seeds. Rhododendron can also spread by layering as branches can root anywhere they touch the ground.

Treatment programmes can be divided into three main stages: initial removal, control of stems and roots, and follow up. Rhododendron regrows vigorously when cut so some method of treating or removing the stump is necessary. When the plant is cut back the stump should be treated by painting it with a herbicide immediately after it has been cut. A handheld applicator will help avoid spray drift onto other species nearby. The use of a vegetable dye is recommended to mark treated stumps. The final part of the treatment is to dig the stumps out, either manually or with a small digger. To avoid any potential regrowth, stumps should be turned upside down and soil should be brushed off roots.

How you can help

If you discover Japanese Knotweed or Gunnera on your property, please notify the Projects Group on 027 75099 who will advise of the best course of action and put you in touch with a licensed contractor who will treat the plants.

Supporting Tourism on Bere Island

Bere Island Tourism and Environment Group actively work to promote tourism on the island and produce the annual map/flyer:

The Admiral's House
Self-Catering & Walking Centre hosted on Airbnb
theadmiralshousebi@yahoo.com | 086 109 4284

Bere Island Holiday Homes
086 884 5709 | info@bereislandholidayhomes.com
www.bereislandholidayhomes.com

Bere Island Hotel - B&B, Bar & Restaurant
027 75018 | 086 162 8344 | hotel18@hotmail.com

Bere Island Lodge B&B and Self-Catering
027 75988 or 75004 | 086 809 1204
edel@bereislandlodge.com | www.bereislandlodge.com

Martello View B&B
086 198 1541 | martelloview@gmail.com

West End Holiday Cottage
087 628 3235 | maeveharngt12@gmail.com

Wild Atlantic Glamping
086 602 7819
info@wildatlanticglamping.ie | www.wildatlanticglamping.ie

Zoe's
Entire Cottage on Airbnb
085 733 4000 | zoeifell@hotmail.com

Check www.airbnb.ie for more accommodation.

Bere Island Ferries
086 2423140

1st June - 21st September		22nd September - 31st May	
Monday to Saturday		Monday to Saturday	
Bere Island	Castletownbere	Bere Island	Castletownbere
7.45am (Mon - Fri)	8:00am (Mon - Fri)	7.45am (Mon - Fri)	8:00am (Mon - Fri)
8.30am	9.00am	8.30am	9.00am
10.00am	11.30am	10.00am	11.30am
12.30pm	1.30pm	12.30pm	1.30pm
2.30pm	3.30pm	3.15pm	4:15pm
4.30pm	5.30pm	6.00pm	6.30pm
6.00pm	6.30pm	8.00pm (Fri only)	8.30pm (Fri only)
8.00pm	8.30pm		

Sunday

Bere Island	Castletownbere	Bere Island	Castletownbere
11.00am	11.30am	11.00am	11.30am
12.00pm	12.30pm	12.00pm	12.30pm
2.30pm	3.00pm	4.30pm	5.00pm
4.30pm	5.00pm	6.30pm	7.00pm
6.30pm	7.00pm		
7.30pm	8.00pm		

Murphy's Ferry
www.murphysferry.com - 087 2386095 | 086 8091204
no 7.30am/8am sailing on Bank Holidays

22nd June - 31st August		1st September - 21st June	
Bere Island	Pontoon Pier	Bere Island	Pontoon Pier
7.30am (Mon - Fri)	8:00am (Mon - Fri)	7.30am (Mon - Fri)	8:00am (Mon - Fri)
8.00am (Sat only)	8:30am (Sat only)	9.30am	10:30am
9.30am	10.30am	12.30pm	1.30pm
11.00am	11.30am	2.30pm	3.30pm
12.30pm	1.30pm	4.30pm	5.30pm
2.30pm	3.30pm	6.30pm (June/Sept)	7:00pm (June/Sept)
4.30pm	5.30pm	7:30pm (Fri only)	8.00pm (Fri only)
6.30pm	7.00pm		
8.00pm	8.30pm		



BERE ISLAND

www.bereisland.net

Bere Island Bakehouse
027 75988 | 027 75004 | WhatsApp 086 151 3612

Bere Island Hotel - B&B, Bar & Restaurant
027 75018 | 086 162 8344 | hotel18@hotmail.com

Lookout Cafe & Restaurant
027 75999

Dessie's Bar
027 75192 | walshmw@gmail.com

Bere Island parkrun
Every Saturday at 9:30am.

For up to date details of all events taking place on Bere Island see:
www.bereisland.net

Accommodation

Food & Drink

Events



CASTLETOWN BEARHAVEN

BERE ISLAND FERRY
086 242 3140

PONTOON MURPHY'S FERRY
087 238 6095

- Ferry Service
- Beara Way
- Cycle Way
- Places of Interest
- Services & Facilities
- Food, Drink & Accommodation
- Shore Angling

PLACES OF INTEREST	SERVICES & FACILITIES	FOOD, DRINK & ACCOMMODATION
1 St Michael's Holy Well	1 Bere Island Heritage Centre 027 75956	6 Bere Island Holiday Homes
2 Dun Beag	2 Bere Island Health Centre 027 75003/087 3659017	7 Martello View B&B
3 St Michael's Church	3 Bere Island Projects Group Office and Community Centre 027 75099	8 Murphy's Shop, Post Office & Bere Island Bakehouse
4 Lawrence Cove	4 Kayaking Tours - book online at www.wildatlanticglamping.ie	9 Bere Island Lodge B&B
5 Rerrin Military Barracks	5 Lawrence Cove Marina & Gift Shop 087 9125930	10 Dessie's Bar
6 Lonehort Viking Harbour	6 Lonehort Battery Tours & Tour Guide Services	11 Admiral's House
7 Tra na bhFrancach/The French Beach	Barry Hanley 086 8845709 and Teresa Hall. 086 1981541	