



Hillwalkers Club

## June – September 2014

<http://www.hillwalkersclub.com/>

THE HILLWALKER



*Ascending Stob Coire nan Lochane (1115m), Glencoe  
Photo: Don Reilly*

### In this edition

Hike programme: June – September 2014	2
<i>Club News and Events</i>	6
Environmental notes, Committee 2013/14	7
<i>Club BBQ, August Bank Holiday Weekend</i>	8
There's no business like snow business	9
<i>Snowdonia Easter 2014</i>	17
Green, Orange and Pink (June weekend in the Glens of Antrim)	20
<i>Ring of Imaal Marathon Walk 2014</i>	26
Club Christmas party and weekend	29
<i>2013/14 membership application form</i>	31

## HIKE PROGRAMME

### June – September 2014

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**MEET:** Corner of Burgh Quay and Hawkins St

**DEPART:** Sundays at 10.00 am (*unless stated otherwise*), or earlier if it is full.

**TRANSPORT:** Private bus (*unless stated otherwise*)

**COST:** €12.00 (*unless stated otherwise*)

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**2nd pick-up point:** *On the outward journey, the bus will stop briefly to collect walkers at the pick-up point. Should the bus be full on departure from Burgh Quay, this facility cannot be offered.*

**Return drop-off point:** *On the return journey, where indicated, the bus will stop near the outward pick-up point to drop off any hikers. We regret this is not possible on all hikes.*

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## GENERAL HIKE NOTES

**PARTICIPATION** Mountaineering is an activity with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks. People who take part in our club activities do so at their own risk and are responsible for their own actions and involvement.

**CO-ORDINATION** If necessary, tickets are given out on Sundays to ensure that participants reserve a bus place as they arrive.

**LEADER** The leader has the right to refuse anyone who is not adequately equipped (e.g., without appropriate boots, rainwear, food, torch, hat, gloves, etc). The leader may alter the route from that described in the program. The leader sets the pace of the hike and walkers are expected to obey the leader's instructions at all times.

**EQUIPMENT** It is essential to bring good rain gear (both jacket and over-trousers) and to leave cotton t-shirts and jeans at home! Boots must be sturdy with proper ankle support and a rigid non-slip sole such as Vibram.

**WALKING STICKS AND RUCKSACKS** Remember that walking sticks and rucksacks cannot be brought onto the bus and must be stowed away in the boot during the journey.

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## ★★ Introductory hard hike ★★

The Hillwalkers Club offers an Introductory Hike, usually on one Sunday per month. Non-members are welcome to join us on this hike, as long as you provide your name, address and contact details for our records, which will be taken on the day of the hike. There is no need to book a place in advance, just turn up on the relevant Sunday morning. You can come on up to two more hikes without becoming a member of the club, but after that you must join the club.

Even though the name of these hikes is 'Introductory Hike', they should not be considered to be an introduction to hiking, but rather as an introduction to the Hillwalkers Club and its hillwalking activities. Therefore, participants need to have a good level of personal fitness and ideally have some prior experience of hillwalking.

All intending participants should be aware that hillwalking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or even death. By walking with the club, they are aware of and shall accept these risks. Moreover, they acknowledge that they wish to participate in club activities in a voluntary capacity and that they shall be responsible for their own actions and involvement. Please note that as non-members of the club, they do not enjoy personal accident insurance, which is otherwise offered to club members through Mountaineering Ireland. Further details are available from Mountaineering Ireland ([www.mountaineering.ie/membersandclubs/Insurance/default.aspx](http://www.mountaineering.ie/membersandclubs/Insurance/default.aspx))

*For further enquiries contact 086 356 3843*

For Sunday hike leaders, the contact people for Mullaly Coaches are:

- Austin O'Hagan, 086 466 4680
- James Mullaly, 086 383 7495
- Micheál Martin, 085 102 2204

### Sunday 15 June 2014

#### **\*\* Introductory Hard Hike \*\***

**Leader:** Tom Hennessy

**2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:** Bus stop before roundabout at Loughlinstown

**Route:** Glendalough Visitor Centre \* Military Road \* Cullentragh \* Mullacor \* Lugduff \* Miners' Track \* Glendalough

**Distance:** 19 km **Ascent:** 700 m

**Map:** OS 56 and 62, Harvey, East and West Mapping

### Sunday 22 June 2014

**Leader:** Neville Ransome

**2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:** Yellow House Rathfarnham

**Route:** Sally Gap \* Grouse Lodge \* War Hill \* Djouce \* Powerscourt Paddock \* Glensoulan \* Footbridge \* Calary Carpark

**Distance:** 18 km **Ascent:** 700 m

**Maps:** OS 56, Harvey, East and West Mapping

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**Saturday 28 June 2014**

**\*\* An Óige Ring of Imaal marathon walk \*\***  
**Club organised long walk**

**\*\* No Sunday hike \*\***

Further details on p26

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**Sunday 06 July 2014**

**Leader:** Dave McCann

**'An exploration of some of the Tinahely area  
waymarked trails'**

**2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:** Bus stop  
before roundabout at Loughlinstown

**Route:** Moyne \* Wicklow Way \* Kyle/Ballycumber  
Hill \* Coolafunshoge Mountain \* Coolafunshoge \*  
Wicklow Way \* Muskeagh Boreen \* Muskeagh Hill  
\* Haddens Hill \* Tinahely

**Distance:** 20 km **Ascent:** 610 m

**Maps:** OS 56, Harvey, East and West Mapping

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**Saturday 12 July 2014**

**\*\* Club BBQ at Glendalough Hotel \*\***

**\*\* No Sunday hike \*\***

*Bus leaves Dublin at 10.00, returning at 21.00  
BBQ at 1700*

**Hike leaders:** Liz Carey and Russ Mills

**Route:** Two hikes in Glendalough

**Maps:** OS 50 & 56, Harvey, East and West  
Mapping

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**Sunday 20 July 2014**

**\*\* Introductory Hard Hike \*\***

**Leader:** James Cooke

**2nd pick-up and return drop-off point:** Bus stop  
before the roundabout at Loughlinstown

**Route:** Enniskerry \* Knocksink Woods \* Prince  
William Seat \* Knocknagun \* Glendu \* Crough Mt  
\* Pine Forest Woods

**Distance:** 18 km **Ascent:** 630 m

**Maps:** OS 56, Harvey, East and West Mapping

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**Sunday 27 July 2014**

**Leader:** Frank Keoghan

**2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:** Bus stop  
before the roundabout at Loughlinstown

**Route:** Ballinafunshoge \* Zig-zags \* Arts Lough \*  
Cloghernagh \* Lugnaquilla \* Benleagh \* Barravore  
carpark

**Distance:** 18 km **Ascent:** 980 m

**Maps:** OS 56, Harvey, East and West Mapping

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**02 – 04 August 2014**

**\*\*No Sunday hike\*\***

Long weekend trip to Ben Lettery Hostel,  
Connemara

For further details, see p8

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### Sunday 10 August 2014

**Leader:** Brendan Dempsey

*Local hike, using Dublin Bus.* Meet at the bus stop on D'Olier St at 1000, for the 145 bus to Kilmacanogue. Can also meet at Kilmacanogue bus stop

**Route:** Kilmacanoge \* Great Sugar Loaf \* Ballyremon Common \* Paddock Hill \* Djouce \* Maulin \* Crone Woods \* Enniskerry

**Distance:** 18 km **Ascent:** 850 m

**Maps:** OS 56, Harvey, East and West Mapping (Lugnaquilla & Glendalough)

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### Sunday 17 August 2014

**\*\* Introductory Hard Hike \*\***

**\*\* A special price of €15 for the bus \*\***

**Leader:** Chris Byrne, 087 634 8651

**2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:** Bus stop (Dublin side) before roundabout for the Pavilions Shopping Centre, Swords

**Route:** Grd Ref 233 277 \* Rocky River C/P \* Hen Mtn \* Cock Mtn \* Pigeon Mtn \* Slievemoughanmore \* Wee Slievemoughanmore \* Tornamrock \* Rocky Mtn \* Shanky's River \* Rocky River car park

**Distance:** 14 km **Ascent:** 850 m

**Maps:** Mourne Activity 1:25,000

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### Sunday 24 August 2014

**\*\* Southern Blackstairs, Co. Wexford \*\***

**\*\* Special price of €15 for the bus \*\***

Usual start time of 1000 at Burgh Quay  
We will stop for a meal on the way back, and should be back in Dublin at about 2130

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**Leader:** Brian Madden, 085 756 5490

**2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:** Bus stop before roundabout at Loughlinstown

**Route:** Ballinlour (GR758355) \* White Mountain \* Cathier's Den \* Blackstairs \* Scullogue Gap (GR827477)

**Distance:** 17 km **Ascent:** 950 m

**Maps:** OS 68, East and West Mapping (Blackstairs)

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### Sunday 31 August 2014

**Leader:** Shauna O'Hara

**2nd pick-up and return drop-off point:** Bus stop before the roundabout at Loughlinstown

**Route:** Baravore car park \* Fraughan Rock glen \* Lugnaquilla \* Cannow mountain \* Camenabologue \* Table track \* Baravore car park

**Distance:** 15 km **Ascent:** 920 m

**Maps:** OS 56, Harvey, East and West Mapping

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### Sunday 07 September 2014

**\*\* Introductory Hard Hike \*\***

**\*\* A special price of €15 for the bus \*\***

**Leader:** Frank Rooney

**2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:** Bus stop (Dublin side) before roundabout for the Pavilions Shopping Centre, Swords

**Route:** Ravendale Park \* Black Mtn \* Spot Height 475 \* Long Women Grave \* The Foxes Rock \* The Ravens Rock \* Ballyonan \* Carlingford

**Distance:** 20 km **Ascent:** 800 m

**Maps:** OS 36

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## Club news and events

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### **Ring of Imaal Challenge Walk**

The Ring of Imaal Challenge Walk will be held on **Saturday 28 June**.

*Further details on p26 of this Newsletter.*

### **Hillwalkers Club BBQ**

The Hillwalkers Club summer BBQ will be held in Glendalough Hotel on **Saturday 12 July**.

*Further details on p8 of this Newsletter.*

### **August Bank Holiday weekend**

Some places are still left on the August Bank Holiday 'Back to basics' weekend away in Ben Lettery.

*Further details on p8 of this Newsletter.*

### **Annual General Meeting**

The next Annual General Meeting of the An Óige Hillwalkers will be held in the Teachers Club (*Club na Múinteoirí*) on **Friday 03 October**, starting at 8pm.

There will be further details in the next edition of the Hillwalker.

### **Club Christmas party and weekend**

Save the date: the Annual Christmas Festive Gala Dinner, Party & Weekend will be held on Friday 12 December to Sunday 14 December 2014. We'll be staying at the Cahir House Hotel, Cahir, Co Tipperary, and walking in the Galtees, Knockmealdowns or Comeragh mountains.

*Further details on p29 of this Newsletter*

### **Club membership**

Members are reminded that Club membership for 2013/14 is now due.

*A membership form is included on p31 of this Newsletter.*



## Environmental notes

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Hi, this is the first of a regular look at issues of conservation and protection in the upland environment that, as hikers, might concern us.

I recently attended a Club Environmental Officers day run by Mountaineering Ireland in the Wicklow area, and will be reporting back on this in the next newsletter.

Litter pick-up days seem like a good idea, and several clubs around the country organise these. The results of their labours, (often many bags of collected rubbish), can be seen on their Facebook pages. If there is an appetite for this within the Hillwalkers then I can organise our own litter pick day, please let me know your thoughts.

In the meantime why not take a small zip-lock bag with you on your hikes? In it you can put your own food waste, apple cores, banana peels, unwanted sandwich crusts etc...., and perhaps pick up any litter you find on the hike, sweet wrappers and plastic bottle tops for example.

If each of us brought down 2 or 3 items of dropped litter each time we hiked the hills it would soon have a big positive effect on the environment we love to walk in.

A few weeks ago I spent a day with Mountain Meitheal, helping to repair an eroded part of the Wicklow Way path. These guys are all volunteers, giving freely of their time and energy to make the hill paths safer, less prone to erosion and more durable. You can follow what they do on their website, [mountainmeitheal.ie](http://mountainmeitheal.ie).

We can help reduce the problem of path damage too. When we walk *around* a muddy section of path we trample the plants, leading to further loss of vegetation and erosion scars, eventually widening the path and increasing the damaged area.

It's hard to plough on through the wet section, keeping in the middle of the path, but this is perhaps what we should do. Wearing gaiters and ensuring our boots are waterproof will help, and so maybe, will changing our thinking.

See you in the hills.

*Russ Mills, Club environmental officer*

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<b>Committee 2013/14</b>	<i>Chairman</i>	Dónal Finn
	<i>Secretary</i>	Mel O'Hara
	<i>Administrator</i>	Mel O'Hara
	<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim Barry
	<i>Sunday Hikes Coordinator</i>	Frank Rooney
	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Simon More
	<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Lourdes Hernández
	<i>Club Promoter</i>	Liz Carey
	<i>Training Officer</i>	Dónal Finn
	<i>Club Social Coordinator</i>	Liz Carey
	<i>Environmental Officer</i>	Russell Mills
<b>Special thanks to:</b>	<i>Webmaster</i>	Matt Geraghty

## **BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN**

**THE HILLWALKERS CLUB BBQ**

**SATURDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JULY AT THE GLENDELOUGH HOTEL**



**LIMITED SPACES ON THE BUS SO  
BOOK YOUR PLACE **NOW**.**

**Booking instructions:  
email Mel O'Hara at [melohara@eircom.net](mailto:melohara@eircom.net)**

**BUS WILL DEPART BURGH QUAY AT 10AM.  
2 HIKES: MODERATE & HARD. BBQ AT 5PM sharp &  
BUS WILL RETURN TO CITY CENTRE AT 9PM.**

## **Some places still left on the August Bank Holiday**

**Back to Basics weekend away  
in Ben Lettery**

**Fancy a weekend in An Óige's Ben Lettery Hostel, Connemara,  
August 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> with, hopefully, some interesting hiking ?**

**(Hikes planned for the 12 Bens and Maumturks)**

**Please contact Mel O'Hara at 085 198 1248 or  
[melohara@eircom.net](mailto:melohara@eircom.net).**

**Transport will be by car pooling.**

# There's no business like snow business

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A drama over 5 days.

*Dramatis Personae:* 25 eejits from The Hillwalkers Club and 2 members of Her Majesty's Services.



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## Prelude: Inverwally Police Station

Hamish  
McMac: Those mad paddies are coming over again this Easter! Last year they ruined all the snow on the southern-facing slopes. We can't have a repeat of last year's headlines!

Jock McBean: What a shower of @%\*&s! However I have a cunning plan. Let's move all the snow to the northern slopes...they'll not mess with us this time!

H: That might just work! But these hillwalkers are known for being off their heads. I want you to tail them and send me daily reports. In fact, I want you to infiltrate them and try to get a sense of who they really are, what makes them thick(sic), what have they got against our snow, what have they got against life!

J: Consider it done Hamie lad...back in the war I successfully impersonated...

H: Leave it out Jock. Just do what I've asked...and don't ever call me Hamie again! Now let's go and grab some battered sushi...

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## Thursday April 17<sup>th</sup> 23:00

J: Boss, I quit! One day in and I'm knackered. When you said they were paddies, I assumed they'd all be hungover and wouldn't be doing anything more than a 2 hour walk! The leader had just spent 2 weeks at high altitude in Ecuador so he took off like a nervous rabbit – it was all I could do to keep up with the bugger!

H: Jock, laddie, I'm not paying you to have emotions! Just tell me what happened today!

J: Okay Fuhrer, here's what happened today. Unfortunately their plane landed safely this morning. It looked like something I flew back in the war but my one had...

H: Stick to the facts Jock!

J: Right boss. So there were 25 of them [against all expectations Carina had made

it]...mainly youngsters but a few pensioners too. Some very nice lassies involved...looking forward to this assignment!

H: Jock! Be professional or you're next assignment will be changing beds in the hostel on Iona!

J: Enough said! Okay, after a nice wee cuppa in Luss we all headed to the bay at the head of Loch Long...so called because it's a Loch and it's long...thanks for the insight Paul! From there we climbed up to Beinn Narnain...nice enough hill but seriously windy near the summit. The day was clear so we had good views all around. The original plan had been to head over to Beinn Ime afterwards but when the boss saw how low group morale was he took pity on us and we headed on over to The Cobbler instead. There was a bit of dissent among the rank-and-file when they discovered that the latter was not a Munro [*cue "what's a munro?!"...pay attention because i'm only saying this once!...a mountain in Scotland over 914.3 metres*] but they trudged along into the wind nonetheless. It was an easy enough trip across and no-one trampled in the snow on the way up! But on the way down!!! They walked and ran all over it as if snow fell from the skies every day of the week! Afterwards it looked like a scene from Napoleon's retreat from Moscow! Anyway, everyone got down safely and drove up to the hostel in Oban.

H: Now there's a place I haven't been to in years. What's it like these days?

J: Pleasant town on the waterfront with some nice views of nearby islands especially Kerrera. Only 2 hours direct from the airport [if only we could have gone direct!]. Some nice restaurants and pubs. The hostel is very comfortable with easy-going staff and great kitchen and chilling-out facilities. It's very central too, has free WiFi and you'll be glad to know that it's a lot cheaper than those SYHA hostels that my nephew Ewan goes to. Did I tell you that Ewan ...

H: As much as I'd love to hear about Ewan, get on with it!

J: Well there's nothing much else to report. Most of the hardier folk are down in the pub now drinking like there's no tomorrow! I'm off to bed...I hope you're proud of the way that I'm keeping the expenses down! That said, the physio bill might be higher than normal...you really should have sent two of us on this assignment so we could take alternative days off! Talk to you tomorrow night!

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### Friday April 18<sup>th</sup> 23:00

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J: I'm still not the better of today's hike boss...even after a couple of hefty malts in the pub afterwards! I overheard some of the laggards at the back talking about some dire warnings regarding fitness levels that the fuhrer had sent out a few weeks ago. I could have done with being cc'd on his email!

H: Stop complaining man! Where did you go today?

J: Ben Cruachan. It sounded like a doddle at the briefing [a couple of Munros and only 15 km] but it proved to be very tough. It took about 8 hours including plenty of stops...the glorious weather gave everyone loads of energy to sit down and gawk! There were lots of yearning stares at the wonderful snow slopes in the northern corries but, as they were out of the way, no-one went anywhere near them. Despite the long day it was an amazing walk : the skies were blue throughout and there was very little wind. Stunning views all around and, as I said, lots of snow in the northern corries and on the ridgelines. Ben Nevis stood sentinel to the north in all its glory. Some people spent a long time staring out to the Isle of Mull wishing they had gone on a day trip with a Spanish woman called Ines who I haven't got around to meeting yet. Within 100 metres of the cars, some chappie called Don missed his step and did a somersault on the track...there were no women nearby to assist him so he got up quickly and dusted himself off.

## Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> 23:00

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- J: We were supposed to go to the Isle of Mull today but the leader cancelled it because “the ferry times didn't suit”. A likely story indeed. In my opinion, the scruffy bampot read somewhere that there was no snow on the island and decided to assault the pristine snowfields of Glencoe instead. To be honest boss, it was carnage! They climbed up between two of the three sisters and reached the snowline when they entered the corrie below Stob Coire nan Lochan. To their credit they avoided the snow as much as they could on the way up and I was feeling optimistic that sense would prevail. The route up to the summit was a joy especially when we reached the main ridge and the amazing views opened up. We walked on a rocky ridge that fell precipitously on the northern side but was safe on the south. At the summit, we had a fantastic view...we could see some of the Inner Hebrides, Ben Cruachan, the Nevis range and over to Schiehallion in the east. Everyone was in great spirits until they discovered that the mountain was not a munro despite being over 1,100 metres and nearly killing everyone on the way up! How the leader kept calm I'll never know! We also met some local criminals who had trudged up to the summit in ski boots and were intent on skiing down to their tent below in the corrie. They descended in less than 2 minutes and made an unholy mess of the north eastern snowfield. Worse still, it got our leader thinking. Lo and behold, when we had descended past the dangerous ridge, most of the hikers went into horizontal mode and slid down snowfields that were simply not meant for sliding. A few kind souls resisted and were ably guided down the hill by a shy chap called Warren who had hurt his ass on a slide on day 1...that'll teach the cur! Anyway, everyone got down safely and seemed to have far too much fun. We also discovered that the quickest way down through the snow is when three people get together on one survival bag. Mental! Old men like Mel completely lost the run of themselves and were to be seen going up for two or three goes on the same slope! Even the otherwise stable Simon went a bit crazy and inducted Michelle into the dark arts in the process. The part-time hikers [*abem, Ali and Aveen*] who took a day off and went to Mull missed out on some great action.
- H: Great action? You're not starting to sympathise with these ne'er-do-wells Jock?
- J: Am, em, oh God nooo! But it did look like fun. Why do we really need to keep the snow fields clear?
- H: Any more talk like that and you'll be put on steward duty in Ibrox!
- J: Sorry boss. Anyway I'm off to bed...on the stingy allowance you give me I can't even afford a coke!
- H: It's far from coke you were reared! Don't be annoying me ya big numpty!

## Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup> 23:00

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- J: Howaya boss.
- H: Heavens above laddie you're talking like them now!
- J: Sorry boss!
- H: You sound a bit ropey today...I though you went to bed early!
- J: No, I foolishly got talked into going to the pub where I witnessed some awful efforts at producing music by some local soapdodger. Luckily Peter and a few others intervened to give us a break from the croaking. Peter sang “I'll tell me ma when I get home” and judging from the dancing that went on afterwards there was an awful lot to tell!
- H: I'm sorry I said anything! ... Okay fill me in on the latest feats of wanton destruction.
- J: Well, I'm finally getting used to this hiking business. I can actually talk to you now without using auxiliary oxygen. Today we had a magnificent day up in the Mamores

*[just to the north of Glencoe]* It was a long trek incorporating 3 munros...but not for a wee slip of a blond thing called Sharona or something who fell on her backside on an innocuous bit of ground and had to be helped off the ridge by Frank after a mere ONE munro! She may never walk again. The same girl is looking for a discount from the leader after being locked out of her dormitory on the second night and having to sleep on the corridor...she claims she was sober but I overheard the lads who know her saying that she hasn't been sober in about 4 years!

Anyway back to the hike. We started in Kinlochleven on yet another beautiful morning. Our first port of call was Na Gruagaichean, which was a long but fairly steady climb. We had great views of the nearby Ben Nevis and the Aonachs when we reached the ridge. After that we headed west to Stob Choire a' Chairn before turning south to Am Bodach. This was tricky because of its northerly aspect and there were more than a few buttocks clenched as a steep ascent was made through the compact snow. There was no one suggesting any slides this time but there was a great sense of achievement as we lolled about on the summit for a few minutes and had a well-deserved snack. Simon and Michelle viewed the ascent from the summit of the previous munro and were more than questioning the leader's judgement! And rightly so! ...the man's off his rocker! The descent, during which we disturbed a couple of ptarmigan, was long and there was a big sigh of relief when we picked up the West Highland Way near the end for a slightly easier track. We stopped off in The Tailrace Inn at Kinlochleven for a good feed and a pint before heading homeward. The lads were yet again raving about the quality of the Guinness – apparently they've stopped murdering the stuff down in London and all Guinness served in the UK since 2005 now comes directly from Dublin.

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### Monday April 21<sup>st</sup> 23:00

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J: Well boss it's over at long last and ja know what! I'll actually miss it! I had no idea that this seemingly purposeless pursuit could be such fun. Today was a right blast involving a very windy ridge walk to the top of An Caisteal...although those who followed Don Wiley to the lee of the hill would have avoided most of the wind. The last time I experienced such wind was that time you had the vindaloo when we were celebrating your promotion. It was unreal. On the way down it all kicked off. The leader brought us to a very steep and long snowfield...I had admired it on the way up and felt sure that no-one would dare besmirch this natural wonder. How wrong I was...most of them slid straight down it and some went back for a second go...I saw the leader clutching his back at the end after descending heid furst but sadly it looked like he'll live to slide another day. A Spanish girl called Medjugorge or something had been ranting and raving all weekend about how she loved her poles so much...would you believe that she left them behind after the last hike! Money must grow on trees in her part of the world. We drove down to the Drover's Inn for what was supposed to be a relaxed meal until some locals mentioned something about very heavy traffic on the approach to Glasgow. Tables were turned over and plates smashed in the rush to get to the cars. Word had is that it was a close call but everyone made it...strong friendships were quickly forgotten as nerves got the better of even the calmest of people although I'm guessing that Peter remained calm throughout. Catherine and Grainne breathed a huge sigh of relief when they heard that the leader was staying in Oban with Don and would not be driving them to the airport. I've never seen two ladies go from terrified to relaxed mode so quickly...something about both their driver and navigator [Ali!] forgetting their prescription glasses got them a bit excited! They've both already volunteered to be drivers next year if there's another Scotland trip. Meanwhile, John Butler has been put forward as a candidate on Mastermind following his virtuoso performance in the

pub table quiz last night...ably assisted by Brian Murphy who successfully blocked out all attempts by neighbouring teams to steal John's answers.

H: Thanks for the full account Jock!

J: No problem boss. I'll not be in tomorrow or anytime soon by the way...I've decided to stay on doon here...there's an amazing snowfield north of Ben Cruachan that I cannae resist...I'll hand over my badge when I get back.

H: You'll be no great loss ya dobber! Do you really think I cared about the snowfields? I sent you on this mission to get you out of our way while we tried to solve the case of the hikers who keep ruining the scree slopes on Skye.

J: And to think of all the whiskey I forewent in order to be fresh for the mornings' investigations! May you rot in hell boss!

H: A quick question before you defect, ya daft dunderhead. What was your disguise for the last few days?

J: Well on the first day I dressed as a sheep but that was ill-advised...that Spanish girl called Medjugorge or something took a liking to me but that was the least of my worries!

The end.

Many thanks to Mark for organising the weekend and to all those who helped out, especially Mel.

### **Stat attack**

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Distance covered [by the hardy bucks who did all 5 hikes]: 66 km

Ascent: 6,367 m

Mountains climbed: 10 [7 of which were munros...marked with an \* below]

\*Beinn Narnain, Ben Arthur [The Cobbler], \*Ben Cruachan, An Droichead Glas, \*Stob Diamh, Stob Coire nan Lochan, \*Na Gruagaichean, \*Stob Coire a' Chairn, \*Am Bodach, \*An Caisteal

Cars scratched or damaged: 0

Passengers scratched or damaged: 2 from Mark's car

### Overheard in Oban

Paul F - "Can I have a pack of tissues please?"

Shopman - "A large pack or small pack?"

Paul F - "A small pack. Does my nose look that big?"

Shopman, smiling - "No...No"

Paul F - "And you're in no position yourself to call my nose big!"

Shopman - big laugh!

*Text by an anonymous hiker*

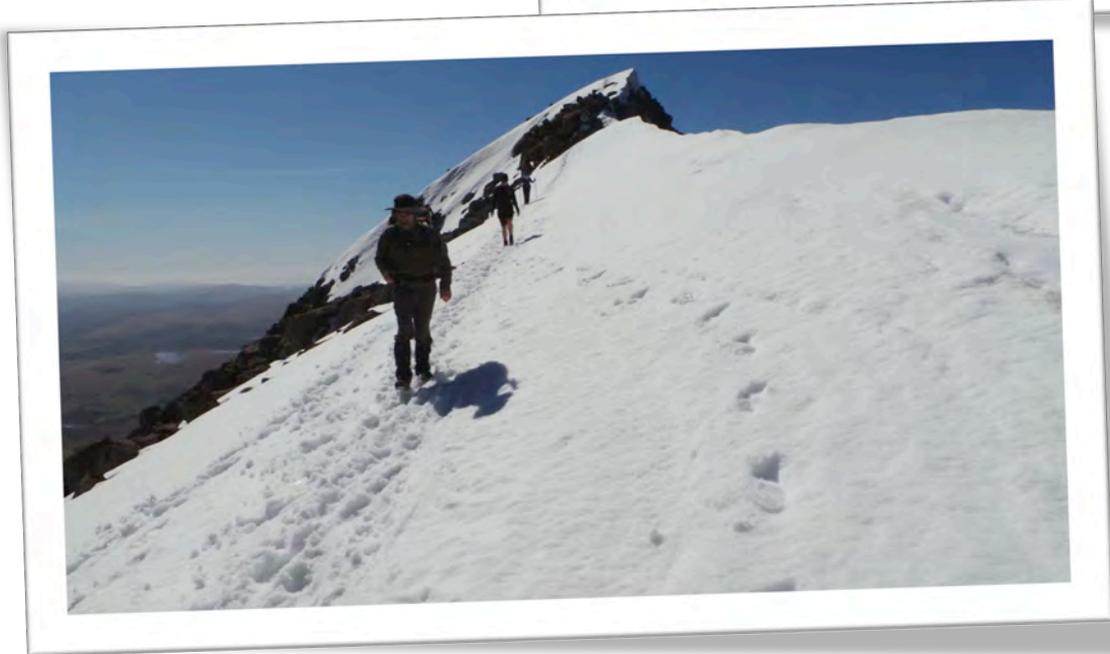


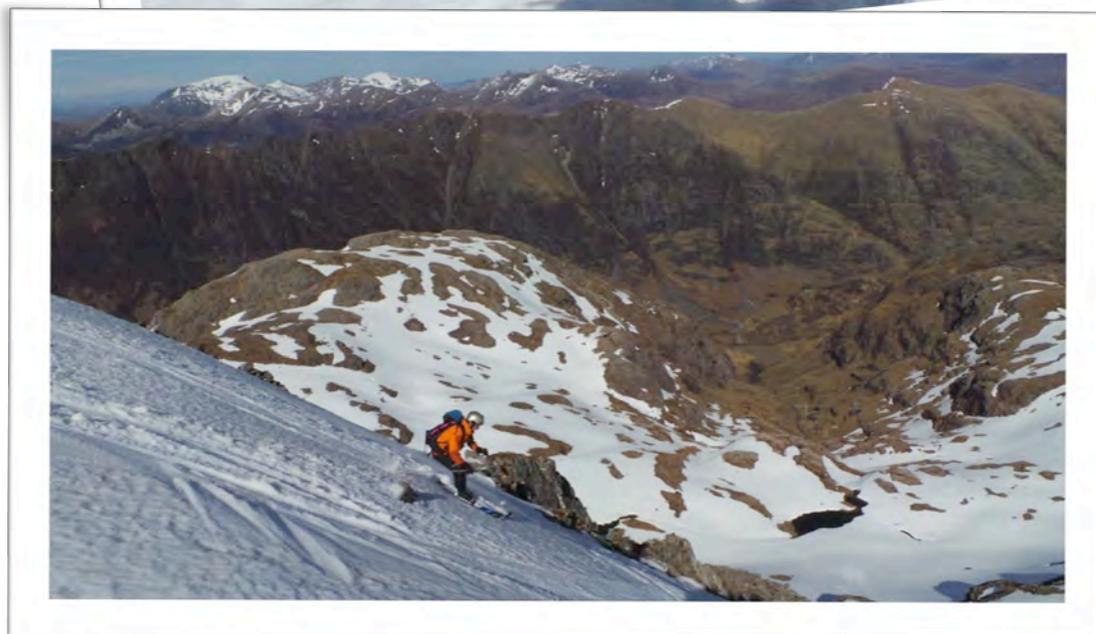
*Oban (top), Day 2. Start of circular hike below Cruachan reservoir (above),  
Some of the Hillwalkers (below) (Photos: Don Reilly)*



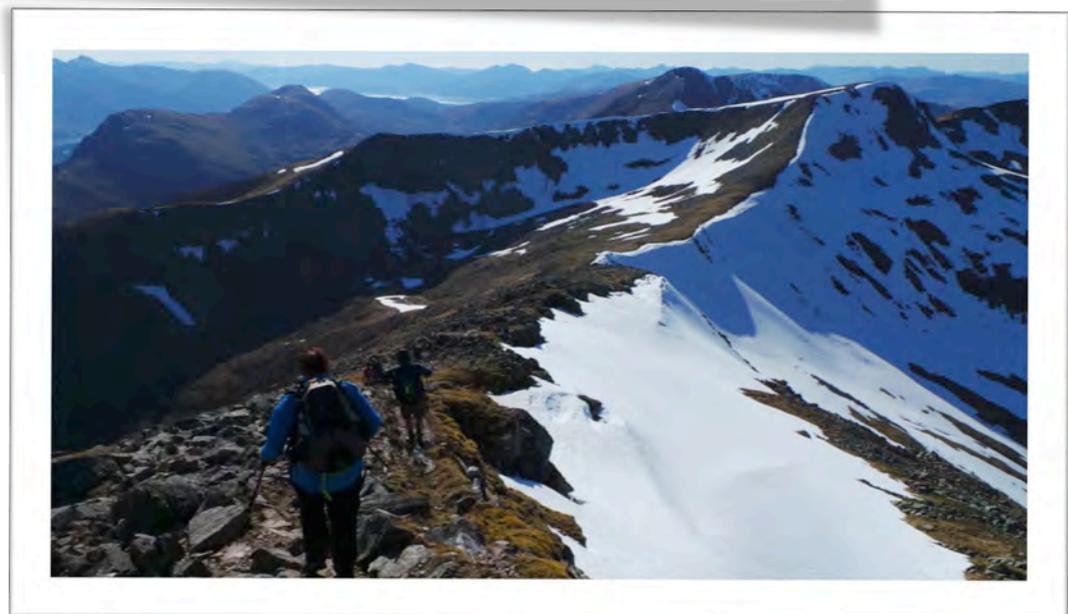


*Cockles and mussels ... in Oban (above), Carina and 'Mr Big' (right). Photos: Paul Farrell  
Day 2. Frank n Shanna descending Cruachan 1126m (below). Photo: Don Reilly*





*Day 3. Ascending  
 Stob Coire nan  
 Lochan 1115m (top),  
 Day 3. Skier on Stob  
 Coire nan Lochan  
 1115m, Glencoe  
 (above), Day 4. Am  
 Bodach 1032m in the  
 Mamores (right).  
 Photos: Don Reilly*



# Snowdonia Easter 2014

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*17-21 April 2014*

Another master plan from Jim and Tom. How did they manage to get Easter to come nice and late, so that our 5-day trip to Snowdonia was blessed with the best of weather?

Thursday April 17

Once more the annual trip was booked out with all on board on Holy Thursday. A fast boat on a balmy sea to Holyhead, met there by our coach, and then a short run to Llanberis. Having parked in the town, we walked up the familiar steep lane to the hostel, with our luggage ferried up separately (to our relief). Janet, the manager, greeted us and got our rooms sorted out. Later after dinner, we wandered down for shopping and a visit to some pubs to set us up for the following days.

Friday April 18

Today both groups did the Glyders, with the Hillwalkers taking the steep rout from Llyn Ogwen, whilst the Mods started from the opposite direction at Pen-y-Pas. I was with the latter group. It was a nice ascent, steep for the initial 10 minutes, then cross country on rising ground, with the trail well marked with red paint spots on the boulders. A rocky staircase led us on to open ground and up to Glyder Fawr (999 m) - a massive bouldery summit. We had just arrived and started lunch when the Hillwalkers arrived and passed us by to our surprise. Some mutterings but no offence taken! The views from Glyder Fawr were panoramic - to Llanberis and its reservoirs, to Nant Francom, and to Llyn Ogwen and the fine peaks behind - Carnedd Fach and Carnedd Dafydd. What a beautiful ridge walk after lunch to Glyder Fach (994 m) through Bwlch y Ddwy-Glyder, with a couple of dramatic drops on our left. Glyder Fach was even more remarkable with its impressive bastions of rock and awesome vertical pillars. It didn't require much imagination to visualise how frightening and horrendous this area would appear to be in bad weather. Just beyond was the famous natural phenomenon - the Cantilever - a flat horizontal flagstone projecting into the void. It was a must-do to clamber up on to it and the resulting photos were sensational. A brief wander over to the escarpment at the north end brought a fine view of Tryvan, an impressive stand-alone mountain, very steep and beloved of mountain climbers.

It was a very long descent to the road and Hotel Pen-y-Gwryd - a mixture of rocky sections and nice grassy areas, leading to a distinct stony path, easy to navigate but demanding at the end of a long day. It made us realise the difference in terrain between Wicklow and Snowdonia, and we began to appreciate how relatively straightforward our home patch is by comparison.

Our bus driver in the hotel carpark was glad to see us, as the police had moved him on at an earlier stage with a warning. Once the early arrivals got back and there were some passengers on board, his problems were alleviated, even if he had to wait a little longer as the parched walkers quenched their thirst at the hotel. It was a short trip back then via Pen-y-Pas. More pub visits, this time to Dalbadarn, a cosy spot where it was nice to hear the Welsh language in full flow. The TV was turned off - a bonus - and conversation flowed, the entertainment being enhanced by John's splendid harmonica playing.

Saturday April 19

A long drive from Llanberis to Croesor taking us through Rhyd Ddu and Beddgelert on narrow roads but beautiful countryside. Camper vans, caravans, buses etc made it difficult for the driver. A small 17-seater bus ferried us up the last 2 miles on a very narrow road to Croesor and through a former estate, once owned by a slate magnate. All the estate houses and buildings were painted in a turquoise colour - windows, doors and gates. Croeser is a tiny hamlet - its main raison d'être is as a starting point to climb

Cnicht. This mountain is known locally as the Matterhorn of Wales and it fits the bill visually, especially from our approach. Our route featured a series of steep false tops, culminating in a grassy plateau from where there is a very tough scramble to the summit (689 m). It was an easy descent on the far side and the main group did a clockwise circuit, passing some lakes and several disused quarries. Some of us avoided the steep scramble and returned in the opposite direction through nice grassy terrain and finding one particularly impressive shallow hole, over 60-foot deep with sheer vertical sides. Both parties rejoined at Croeser and after further ferrying made our way back to Llanberis on a better road via Criccieth and just bypassing Caenarvon. It had been a glorious summer-like day to a place none of us had been to before (apart from Tom and Jim), which added hugely to the enjoyment of the walk.

### Sunday April 20

Easter Sunday morning. A brave five took an early bus to Pen-y-Pas, planning to walk the notoriously difficult Crib Goch route to Snowdon. However, it was a very wild day, and they decided to turn back after more than an hour as it was too dangerous. A wise decision, as they later learned that there had been a fatality on the ridge on Friday, a less windy day. So, they retreated back to the start and took the Pyg route.

Back at Llanberis, some went to the 9am Mass, which proved remarkable for the extraordinary sermon, delivered by a priest, originally from Dublin! The opening words “And now for something different” put everyone on alert. He produced a violin and bow, analysed their components and then put on a CD for 3 minutes, featuring the lush violin and orchestral version of the Beatles “Yesterday”. This was a surreal 3 minutes, indeed. Some spiritual parallels were drawn but the nature of the sermon and its performance were truly unique.

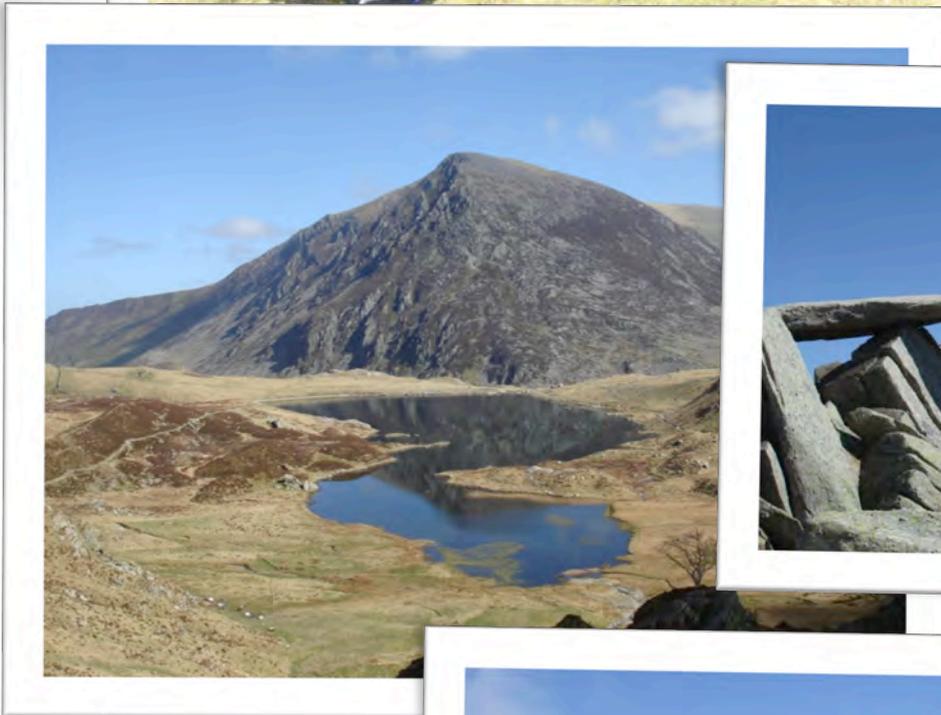
Back to the hillwalking. The main party (all except the special five) caught the 10 am bus to Pen-y-Pas and set out on the Pyg track. It was a rough and stony route (a la all of Snowdonia) but were well sheltered from the strong wind. A brief rest after joining up with the Miners’ Track and then the steepest section up to the zigzags, leading finally to the top of the ridge and the expected exposure to the powerful wind. A left turn and soon at the summit with its huge cairn and the comfort of the large restaurant. We took the Llanberis path downwards, being blown off our feet initially by wind gusts. The track keeps close to the rack and pinion railway line, which is said to have been built especially to enable Queen Victoria to get to the summit. The trains, in fact, didn't run for a few hours due to the weather conditions. There are six classic routes to Snowdon, and the Llanberis one is the longest - 7.5 km (the Pyg track is 5.5 km). We crossed the line via a tunnel close to the Clogwyn station, then on past Halfway station and down to Hebron station. Here we swung left over the railway tracks and took a more direct line to the hostel across the countryside.

### Monday April 21

A leisurely day with no walk scheduled. It was a delight to pass the morning savouring the comfort and pleasures of a bookshop/cafe - a well-earned reward for everyone. The customary stop was made in Llanfair PG (its short name) en route to Holyhead. It is the little town famous for having the longest name in the UK, and, possibly, in the world. It has, quite astonishingly, 58 letters and naturally trades on this unique feature. A slower boat home but again a very placid crossing. Our driver kindly came with us all the way and drove us up from Dublin port to George’s Quay, which was much appreciated.

This is an opportunity to express the sincere thanks of everyone on the trip to Jim and Tom for the enormous amount of work they put into the long weekend, both in its preparation and execution. Its success is largely due to them.

*Text by Pearse Foley*



*Almost back at the pub (top), Snowdonia (above, left), Tom very kindly holds up the Cantilever stone (above, right). Hillwalkers on top of the Glyders (right). Photos: Ruth Murphy*

# Green, Orange and Pink

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*June weekend in the Glens of Antrim*  
30 May – 02 June 2014

Friday 30 May 2014

Forty one hikers set off Friday at 3.30pm from Dublin. The grub stop on the way was Fairways Hotel, Dundalk. Nice friendly staff but the food was just passable. Our plan ahead was travel to Larne and then drive the coastal route to our destination, Cushendall Village, Antrim, where four B&Bs were booked. Our glorious leaders for the weekend was Simon and Frank. Liz was the PR/tour manager.

The north east coastal scenes past Belfast were beautiful to behold. As we travelled we speculated on the views of a faraway coastline. Was it Rathlin Island or Scotland? On view also along the whole coastal drive it seems as if another sectarian group formed called the Pink Order. The place was strewn with pink bicycles, pink flags and pink houses. To top it all, we even spotted pink sheep on the return journey. We speculated there was either a sale on pink paint on or that an international cycle race had spent a few days here (Giro D'Italia).

The four B&B's were The Meadows, The Village, Riverside and Glendale. I stayed in the Village which was right in the heart of the village opposite our second home, the pub. Heading across the room to McCollams (commonly known as John Joe's) I was surprised to hear traditional music coming out of every corner. The internal area was divided into a warren of very small rooms and corridors each comprising of cosy groups either singing, playing traditional music or chatting. After a period of setting in and hydration, the talents of Clare Rooney were displayed. She sang 'The Bonny Bog' and the beautiful 'Téir Abhaile Riú'. Our leader Frank followed, not to be outdone, with 'A Saunter in Dublin'. The locals were delighted with our show of colours. We were truly accepted into their fold after this.

Day 1 - Saturday 31 May

An early rise was necessary to get ready for an 8.45am start for the bus. We met Alex and Margaret, the couple running the Village B&B. There was a unanimous agreement that the breakfasts were top class right from the orange juice, cereals, porridge and all manner of the usual Ulster fry, including potato bread and farls.

The plan today was to join the local walking festival – *The Walk the Glens Festival* - <http://www.walktheglens.co.uk/festival.html>. We would drive to Carnlough and head for Drumnacole. At some point we would get mini buses which would arrange to take us over some rough tracks in fields to the walk start. We did not understand this logic but further information informed us that a bull peacefully lived in one of the fields.

We joined about 15 other people from all over who were participating in the festival. One of our astute club members could tell we had people from both sides of the community joining us. Our leader was Jimmy, a teacher, originally from Scotland was a commanding presence. He explained that the plan was to head for Berry Hill (363m), then Collin Top (429m), and on to Crocknavar (393m) and eventually to Greenaghan down the Glenariff valley.

Some say that Ulster and the South are very different places. I disagree. They have the very same swampy bogs up there with heather, rain and mist. I was a bit disappointed in the first part of the walk as it seemed like a 'walk in the park' with solid ground but little climbing. Stage two was the same with bog included. Later, I learned that up to 7 farmers had to be consulted in order to get permission to conduct the walk. Access for hikers is problematic up here. It was essential that we tagged to the festival, otherwise it would be impossible to negotiate this route on our own. Another difference in

culture between hiking clubs arose when we asked for a 'comfort stop'. Our leader Jimmy did not get it. When he understood he simply replied that their club has a 'leave no trace' policy. Was he joking?

I got chatting to a hiker who was one of the organisers of the festival. He turned out to be a devoted nationalist. We talked for at least one hour straight. He knew everything about Irish history and politics north, south, east and west. Essentially, this part of the Glens was historically populated by Catholics who may have been driven off better land towards this bare boggy landscape. He was incredibly interesting and inspiring. I felt a little ashamed how little I knew about the Nationalist tradition in the North. The last part of the walk made up for the uninteresting first part. We were rewarded with fine views of the valley Glenariff. We finished up here and returned to our bus.

Back in Cusendall, we were invited by the festival organisers to join them for tea and sandwiches in the local historical offices. You could see that the village were very proud of their Nationalist tradition as a big mural contained all the iconography associated with Gaelic Ireland. They are especially proud of their hurling and traditional music achievements.

Harry's restaurant was our feeding place in the evenings. The food choices were excellent. I went into mad holiday mode and out of the three course meal choices, I foolishly selected what seemed like three tonnes of solid calorie fuel. I ground to a halt and could only manage to fit a few Bushmills in John Joe's pub. The music was good tonight. It was the local Comhaltas going full belt with their complete céilí band including uilleann pipers. I found out that they were heading to Rathlin the next day to take part in the local annual Maritime festival. I am afraid I could not last the distance as a result of my belly busting dinner and retired early. Later, I learned that I was not so badly off. Noel, our driver, fell asleep when he dropped us off after our hike and awoke at 1am. He missed the dinner entirely. He was a man not to be messed with at the breakfast table next morning.

## Day 2 – Sunday 01 June

This started with a more sensible breakfast for 8.45am start. I chatted to Margaret, the landlady. She politely asked me why we had gaiters and the platypuses. She actually thought that platypuses were urine bags and only got brave enough to ask when she noticed so many of us had them.

This day proved the best as far as I was concerned. This was to be a coastal walk from Carrick-a-rede to Portballintae via Giant's Causeway. This walk was a section of the Causeway Coast Walk which stretches from Portstewart in Derry to Ballycastle in Antrim ([www.WalkNI.com](http://www.WalkNI.com)).

On the way to Carrick-a-rede, we watched in dismay the rain pelting at the bus. We were forewarned that a 'weather front' would greet us during the day and were resigned to this. I said to one of the couples on the trip that it looked like it was going to be a dirty weekend after all. They didn't agree and they were proved right. Thankfully, the heavy clouds cleared and we had almost no rain all day.

Our entire walk was along the coastline, walking west along a diverse terrain with stunning views at every corner. We strolled along wide swept beaches, around the base of steep cliffs as well as on cliff tops overlooking the sea. The coast line is quite jagged and shattered in places and we were carefully picking our way over slippery rock slabs. Poor Lourdes fell and cut her hand but a Spanish Armada of hikers in the group quickly mobilised and had an impressive bandage assembled complete with bow tie on her in no time.

We could now see clear views of Rathlin Island and the west coast of Scotland. We passed Ballycastle where the ferry to Rathlin can be caught. Tess, our wildlife expert helped us to recognise eider ducks (famous for eiderdown). They migrate to our shores in order to nest at this time of year. Oystercatchers were in abundance as well and have a distinct shrilling call. As far as flowers go, I could recognise daisies, bluebells, orchids and buttercups. The path was very well organised, and like everywhere up

here, toilet facilities were of a high standard. We passed by the ancient Dunseverick Castle and I thought that that was a strange place have a castle right on the coast with it being so cold.

As we reached the Giant's Causeway, we were reminded of the stories of Fionn MacCool who was attributed with the origin for this World Heritage Site. The facilities and guides were excellent and visitors centre's design is superb. The day before, over 3,000 people visited the place and every year 780,000 visit it. The best place to approach is from the east as we did. We were reunited briefly with the moderate walk who were surprisingly not far behind us. We headed on to our final stop at Portballintrae and had a well deserved tea and ice cream break. My feet were tired and sore from all the walking as we have walked 21 kilometres and amazingly ascended 887 metres in total despite being a coastal walk. We passed through the famous Bushmills, home to the whiskey distillery, which I help to support, and returned eastwards back along the coastline. We got a second chance to view the beautiful scenery. We detoured slightly to have a look at Cushendun village which was modelled as a Cornish village by Lord Cushendun.

Later that evening back to Harry's Restaurant, I curbed by appetite for heavy food. I went for the light option, fruit cheese, chicken and a fruit kebab. Once again, we could not fault the food. As no after dinner entertainment was forthcoming, a creative team headed by Patricia put together a catwalk fashion and pretend-Strippogram show featuring the irrepressible Fiona. With echoes of singer Lady Ga Ga and hat designer Philip Treacy, the group were dazzled in an array of zany napkin inspired designs which Fiona displayed as she paraded her styles. Some of which were pushing the boundaries of 21<sup>st</sup> century fashion. It was amazing what entertainment you can get from a napkin.

After this, we set about exploring some of Cushendall's other pubs. Was the social culture different to the Republic? The first one was a mistake. All patrons seem to have been hard drinking for 12 hours or more. Many were in a state of semi-comatose incapable of opening their eyes or speaking. We headed to another pub but it wasn't must better. We ended back in John Joe's, the best bar in town. There were a bunch of talented bluegrass and traditional bands performing together with locals. Jude inspired us to organise a set intending to carry the Wall of Limerick and the Siege of Ennis. It would not have won any prizes but we had a good craic along with the locals. Our best moment was our acclaimed Congo throughout the pub. Our lasting musical legacy to Cushendall, however was left by Fiona who bravely sang 'Seven Drunken Nights' complete with the naughty verse much to everyone's delight.

### Day 3 – Monday 02 June

The previous night Simon and Frank gave way to severe psychological pressure to push the start to 9am. A small but significant concession. Today was a cloudy start, warning of rain. We said good bye to the lovely Cushendall and headed to our final walk along part of the Antrim Hills Way. The entire way takes 2 days and goes from Glenarm on the coast to Slemish Hill. We did a small section of it. We headed out south on the B14 towards Corkermain. Just past Corkermain, we turned right to go inland and stopped at a car park cutting across the Antrim Way at Drains Bog. The hard group headed to Scrawt Hill (378m) while the moderates tore off in the direction of Robin Young Hill (384m). It was not exactly the Alps but there were plenty of nice rolling hills, fertile land and sheep dung underfoot. The hard group headed back from Scrawt Hill back southwards on the Antrim Way towards the Sallagh Braes which were steep inland cliffs affording a view of the Sallagh lowlands below. We then headed over more boggy terrain and up Andrew's Hill (474m) which was the highest point on the hike. The mist started to emerge around us and rain commences as the clouds darkened. Sadly, we did not have a consistent view as we crossed the ridge across Andrew's Hill. When the mist cleared, it revealed the rich farmland below us with patchwork fields. The Antrim Way increasingly wet and marsh underfoot as we headed further south. The skies opened just when we reached the bus, which was parked on the A36 in Ballyboley Forest at 3.30pm.

It was with weary hearts that we headed back South to Dundalk as our weekend up in the Glens of Antrim was over. I found that the food in the Fairway in Dundalk was as unappetising as it was on Friday but it did the job. Fiona, once again, played a starring role on the bus with her rendition of the Glens of Antrim song and her fine thank you speech to Simon, Frank and Liz for running a fabulous weekend away.

Many thanks to Simon, Frank and Liz for putting a brilliant weekend together for all of us. Let's do it again soon.

*Text by James Cooke*



*Walking with the local walking festival on day 1. Near Crocknavar (above) and descending to Greenaghan (left). Photos: Simon More*



*Walking along the Causeway coast on day 2. The moderates (top), coastal views (above) and flowers (right). Photos: Simon More*



*Napkin inspired fashion (Liz and Fiona) (left), the hard group on day 3 (below). Photos: Simon More*





## Ring of Imaal Marathon Walk 2014



### Ring of Imaal Marathon Walk, Saturday, 28 June, 2014

This event is being administered by the An Óige Youth Hostelling Association.

Intending participants are advised that the Ring of Imaal walk will take place on Saturday, 28 June, 2014.

*The walk will commence from Donard National School, Donard Village, Glen of Imaal, Co. Wicklow.*

Registration Times: 0700 hrs. to 08.15 hrs. only.

Entry Fee: €25.00

The event, which can take from 8 to 11 hours to complete, is for experienced and fit walkers with competent navigation skills.

#### Walk Details

**Route:** Donard Village – Davidstown - Keadeen Mtn - Ballinfoyle - Ballinabarney Gap - Ballineddan Mtn - Slieve Maan - Lugnaquilla Mtn - Camenabologue Mtn - Table Track - Table Mtn - Wexford Gap - Cavanagh's Gap - Lobawn - Track to Bolton's Yard - Road walk back to Donard National School.

**Checkpoints:** Donard National School - Base of Keadeen - Keadeen Mtn - Ballinabarney - Slievemaan - Lugnaquilla - Table Track – Lobawn - Donard National School.

PLEASE NOTE that the walk route may be altered without advance notice at the discretion of the organising committee.

Participants will be expected to have reached Table Track by no later than 1700hrs.

Certificates of Participation will only be awarded to walkers who have had their checkpoint card signed by an authorised official at each of the designated checkpoints. The card must then be presented at Donard National School on completion of the walk before a certificate can be issued.

Total Distance: 35 kilometres.      Ascent: 1800 meters

Completed registration form and entry fee (cheques or postal orders only please), should be posted to:  
Ring of Imaal Marathon Walk 2014, C/O An Oige Head Office, 61 Mountjoy Street, Dublin 7.

**Further Information: James Barry at: 087 2737338 (evenings only) or by email at: [barryja@eircom.net](mailto:barryja@eircom.net)**



## An Óige Ring of Imaal Marathon Walk 2014

Saturday, 28th June, 2014

### Conditions of Entry

1. It is a condition of entry that all persons taking part do so at their own risk.
2. Participants **are not** to undertake this marathon walk, if they have any known serious ailment or are on any form of medication that could hinder their ability to undertake the walk safely without possible risk to health and wellbeing. If in any doubt, this matter should be raised with your doctor prior to setting out on the walk.
3. Participants must commence the walk between 7.00am - 8.15am.
4. Walkers who have not arrived at the Table Track Checkpoint before 5.00pm must withdraw from the walk.
5. Walkers must advise a steward of their intention to withdraw from the walk and should surrender the entry card at this point. Participants must confirm their safe return in Donard by reporting back to the Control Centre at the National School prior to leaving for home.
6. A *Certificate of Participation* will be issued to participants who complete the walk before 8.00pm with a card containing authorised signatures from each of the designated checkpoints.
7. **PARTICIPANTS ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN TO ENTER ARMY LANDS OTHER THAN THE APPROVED WALKING ROUTE AND DESIGNATED ESCAPE ROUTES**
8. Participants should be prepared for adverse weather conditions and be suitably equipped as follows: wear suitable walking boots, bring protective clothing/rainwear, adequate food and water, map(s), compass, whistle, mobile phone, torch, small first aid kit, survival bag, etc.
9. Proficiency in mountain navigation is an essential requirement for all participants.
10. In all matters arising in connection with the walk, the decision of the organising committee is final.
11. It is a condition of entry that all persons taking part do so at their own risk.
12. **As most of the walk traverses both private property and Army lands, it is important not to deviate from the designated route.**
13. The organising committee or school authorities will not take any responsibility for personal belongings left at the school.



## An Óige Ring of Imaal Challenge Walk 2014

### APPLICATION FORM

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Age if under 18 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of next of kin \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number of next of kin \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide details if walking as part of a group or club:

\_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY FEE: €25.00      PAYMENT METHOD \_\_\_\_\_

**I have read the rules and accept all the conditions of entry.  
I accept that I am responsible for my own safety and  
accept that the walk organisers cannot be held responsible  
for any mishap or injury to myself, however caused.**

SIGNED: \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Christmas Festive  
Gala Dinner, Party & Weekend  
Cahir House Hotel, Cahir, Co Tipperary  
Celebrate the Club's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday!  
Walking in the Galtees, Knockmealdowns or Comeragh Mtns.  
Fri-Sat-Sun, Dec 12-14, 2014**



Following the very positive feedback about our recent forays to locations afar for our annual Christmas party (Carlingford and Kilkenny), the club has selected the Cahir House Hotel for this year's party. It offers close proximity to the Galtees, Knockmealdown and Comeragh mountain ranges, as well as interesting local sights including Cahir Castle, Swiss Cottage and the Rock of Cashel for those who may want to take it easy on one of the days.

Given that it's a long way to Tipperary, we have decided to organise the event around a two night weekend, maximising the walking opportunities as well as celebrating club's coming of age, so as to speak!

The dates for your diary are Friday Dec 12 to Sunday Dec 14, leaving Dublin by bus late on the Friday evening.

Although the overall event will be based on a two night weekend, a limited number of one night options will be available for those who cannot avail of the full programme and are prepared to travel by car on the Saturday afternoon.

Further details will be available in the September programme.



## Céilí Mór

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014

**Venue: Garda Club, Harrington  
Street**

**Live music by: Mick O'Connor &  
Friends**

**Fear an Tí: Jim Monaghan**

Set and céilí dances will be called by Jim. Dances will include Kerry set, Plain set, Connemara set, Walls of Limerick, Seige of Ennis and a few 2 hand dances, Shoe the Donkey and Waltzes.

**Tickets: €10**

Contact Ann for more details: 087 2036251





# Membership Application Form

The Hillwalkers Club  
2013-2014

Name (Applicants must be over 18)

Address

Were you a member before?  Yes, last year  Yes, some time ago  No

**New members:** How did you hear about the club? .....

**An Óige Membership Number** (Applicants must be a member of An Óige)

[Further information at <http://www.anoige.ie/membership>]

**Contact Telephone Numbers**

(If possible, please give a mobile number, which may be used for notification of programme changes)

Mobile ..... Evening ..... Daytime .....

**Email Address** (required) .....

The club issues a regular newsletter by email. The newsletter is also available through the Club webpage [[www.hillwalkersclub.com](http://www.hillwalkersclub.com)].

Please read and sign the following PERSONAL DECLARATION

## PERSONAL DECLARATION

I am over 18 years of age and wish to apply for membership of the Hillwalkers Club. (\*)

(\*) Please note that personal accident insurance is only available to members between 18 and 75 years of age.

I accept that mountaineering is an activity with a danger of personal injury or even death.

I am aware of and shall accept these risks and wish to participate in these activities voluntarily and shall be responsible for my own actions and involvement.

I accept that the Hillwalkers Club establishes the bounds on its activities through the constitution and rules of the club [[available at www.hillwalkersclub.com/constitution.htm](http://www.hillwalkersclub.com/constitution.htm)] and I agree to abide by these.

Members should not undertake any club hiking activities if:

- (i) they have any known medical ailment which may impair their ability to participate in club activities, or,
- (ii) they are taking any form of medication that will put their health or safety of others at risk.

If a member is in any doubt on these matters, a doctor should be consulted prior to undertaking any club hiking activity.

*If you agree and accept the terms of the PERSONAL DECLARATION, please sign and date here.*

Signature ..... Date .....

The 2013-2014 membership year runs from 01 October 2013 to 30 September 2014.

### 2013/14 Membership Fee €35.00

Please send this form with the membership application fee (cheque or postal order *only*, payable to the Hillwalkers Club) to **Lourdes Hernández, 228 St Donagh's Road, Donaghmede, Dublin 13**. Please allow two weeks for processing of the membership application.

**NB: PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR APPLICATION BY REGISTERED POST!**