

Sunday Hikes March/April 2005

<i>HIKE PROGRAMME</i>					
MEET: Burgh Quay		DEPART: Sundays 10.00 am		COST: Private bus. €10	
Date	Route Description			Distance	Leader
Mar 6 th	Introductory Hike: Circuit of Glenbride Route: Forest Entrance (GR 031 037) – Glenbride Hamlet - Silsean - Moanbane - Billy Byrnes Gap - Mullaghcleevaun -Glassnagollum Brook - Glenbride Hamlet			14km	Philip Roche
Mar 13 th	Route:Track/Road (Grid Ref: 052 858) - Farbrega - Aghavannagh Mountain - Lybagh - Toorboy Mountain - Road Walk -Carrig Mountain - Keadeen Mountain -Rostyduff Forest Track - Dwyer McAllister Cottage Carpark.			18m/ 850m	Peter O'Toole
Mar 20 th	Route: Troopertown Forest Entrance - Troopertown Hill - Clara Bridge - Kirikee Mountain - Shay Elliot Memorial - Ragmans Path - Green Road - Glendalough Visitors Centre.			18m/ 500m	Frank O'Rourke
Mar 24 th -28 th	Easter Trip to recon Beacons			Various	Jim Barry
Apr 3 rd	Introductory Hike Route: Barravore - Fraughan Rock Glen - Lugnaquilla - Corrignasleggaun - Caraway stick – Drumgoff.			17km/ 800m	Ita O'Hanlon
Apr 10 th	Route: Hell Kettle Bridge - Church mt. – Corriebracks - Lobawn - Cavanagh's gap - Wexford gap - Table Mt. Table track - Stranahely Wood - Knickeen Ford.			19km/ 850m	Brendan Magee
Apr 17 th	Route: Dwyer McAllister's Cottage Car park - Rostyduff - Keadeen Mt. – Ballinabarney Gap - Ballinfoyle - Ballineddan - Sliabh Meain - Banana Road - Fentons Pub.			19km/ 710m	Gerry Walsh

HIKE LEADERS If any member is interested in leading a hike, please contact either:

Tom Kenny Email: tomk2003@yahoo.ie

Philip Roche Email: philip.roche@boimail.com

WALKING STICKS In the interest of safety and comfort please keep the pointed end of your walking stick covered, especially when travelling on the bus.

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.

SUNDAY HIKES Participants on Sunday Hikes must be a member of An Óige Hillwalkers Club. If you are not a member of the Club, but are considering joining, we invite you to participate on our monthly Introductory Hikes.

INTRODUCTORY HIKES An Introductory Hike is organised once per month for aspirant members. Participants on these hikes must be a member of An Óige.

CO-ORDINATION 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.

TORCH During winter months it is essential to bring a (head) torch on all Sunday hikes. Check your batteries / bulb.

ENVIRONMENT Try to reduce the erosion and widening of trails, e.g. do not walk on the edge of worn tracks; walk through the centre of the original track or go several meters into the scruff where the ground is untrodden, walking parallel to but not on the track.

LITTER Litter is unsightly and dangerous to animals. Even bio-degradable items like orange peels and banana skins take years to disappear. Bring all your litter home and try to include at least one extra item from each day out. Do not bury litter – animals will dig it up.

Easter Weekend in Brecon Beacons

If you haven't booked already, hard luck! You're way too late! Even the waiting list has a waiting list!
(Just like the hospitals only healthier!)

If you have booked, remember all **outstanding monies €150 must be paid to An Óige Head Office by February 25th!**

Weekend Walking Itinerary to include:

Black Mountains: Bannau Sir Gear(Picws Du), Fan Brycheiniog.

Brecon Beacons:Cribyn, Pen y Fan

Black Mountains(East Region):Waun Fach, Pen y Gadair Fawr

Brecon Beacons Waterfall Country

Low Level walking facilitated at each of the above locations

Social Events

British Ordnance Survey Maps: 1:50.000 Landranger Series Sheet 160&161

Bring: Suitable Walking Boots, Winter Rainwear & Clothing/Towels/Toilet Gear/ Flask/Torch/ First Aid Kit/Camera/Binoculars/ Valid An Óige Membership Card, English (Not Northern Irish) Sterling for incidental purchases.

Meeting Place/Time: Stena Line Departure Terminal, Dunlaoghaire at 10.15am

Departure: Holy Thursday from Dunlaoghaire at 11am sharp on HSS Stena Line Ferry to Holyhead. Then onward by bus to South Wales.

Return: Monday evening from Holyhead on 6.30pm Ferry after bus journey from Brecon area to arrive back in Dunlaoghaire at 8.20pm approx.

Day Trip to the Mourne

Keep this date free: Sunday May 1st!

This will be an extended day trip to the Mourne Mountains, leaving Dublin at 9.30a.m.

**There will be a stop for an evening meal on the return trip.
Further details in next programme.**

Club Travel

Welcoming in the New Year - 10 go walking in the Peaks

The post Christmas period can be a bit dull, so what better way to spend it than go walking? For many years, Sean Dunne and Dave Rooney led a trip to the UK for the New Year. I have taken this task on in recent years, visiting either the Lakes or Peak District. 2003 saw us in the beautiful surroundings of Hartington Hall YH, in the Peaks. We had a rather surreal experience on New Year's Eve, with a snowball fight in a blizzard outside a local pub against some locals, one of whom was dressed as a bishop!

We visited the Peaks again in 2004, this time staying in Edale YH for 4 nights and Manchester for 1 night. Myself, Stephen, Alma, Fiona, Liam, Paul and Jenny flew to Manchester on the early flight on 27 December and took the trans-Pennine train to Edale village, from where we had a somewhat dodgy journey due to ice on the roads, to the hostel 1 ½ miles away. We met John in the train station, he had taken the boat over. Later we picked up Steven and Christina who had taken a later flight over. We were accompanied on the journey in the dark by the thundering sound of suitcase wheels on the road. English hostels are excellent bases for hikes. All meals are provided, dorms are comfortable and there are good drying and boot washing facilities. In short, a real home from home. A great advantage is that walks are literally door-to-door.

The weather proved to be quite varied with high winds, some snow and rain, but generally, it was excellent for walking. Edale is at the start of the Pennine Way, which wends its way 268 miles north to Kirk Yetholm in Scotland. The hostel itself is a rambling old manor house set in the middle of the Countryside built for the Bachelor family in the 19th Century. Walks can be done in all directions, giving great variety. I use the OS 1:25,000 series maps, of which there are two for the Peaks, the Dark and White Peaks. Tracks are shown as green dotted lines on the maps and these are so well walked on that they are usually very evident on the ground. You frequently encounter wooden signposts, which is quite a novelty from an Irish perspective.

The first day was somewhat wild and stormy, but with good visibility and bright sunshine most of the day. We headed east and soon found ourselves on a Roman road getting occasional glimpses of two large reservoirs below us. We reached Win Hill Pike at 462m and headed south-west to the Hope Valley. We avoided a heavy downpour by having our lunch in Hope railway station. We then began the long ascent to Lose Hill, 476m and avoided another downpour by sheltering in a barn, oh for such luxuries in Wicklow! Win and Lose Hill are reputedly named after the winners and losers in a battle fought long ago who gathered on their respective hill! We followed the ridge walk overlooking the hostel to Edale village, where we refreshed ourselves in the somewhat grandly named Rambler Country House Hotel.

The following day we headed up the ridge overlooking the hostel and down via very muddy tracks to Castleton, where we indulged in tea and buns in a café. Hiking can be so much more civilised in England! We headed up by some caverns to Mam Tor, 517m. This part of the Peaks is famous for its gemstones, in particular, blue john. We headed west along Rushup Edge but soon ran into thick fog and so we cut the journey short a little by taking tracks to Edale where we sampled the delights of the Old Nags Head Inn, the official start of the Pennine Way. The hardened drinkers left the pub a little late and headed back to the hostel on a high level track. We were met by a ferocious gale and were glad to reach the safety of the hostel in time for dinner.

Next day there was a split in the group, with some heading for the delights of retail therapy in Manchester, while the hardier souls (soles?), headed for the hills, taking the Pennine Way via Jacobs Ladder as far as Edale Cross, over Kinder Scout. I was apprehensive about the Jacobs Ladder section, having done it some years ago when it was just a mud-slide. However, things had moved on since and it has been tastefully rebuilt in stone. This is one of the nicest areas of the Peaks to walk and I regretted having to do it with some speed and not having more time to linger there.

For New Year's Eve we headed by train to Buxton and headed up the Old Macclesfield Road to the Cat and Fiddle Pub, where we indulged in mince pies and coffee. We went down through Wildboar Clough and lunched at Three Shires Bridge, with wild moorland scenery all round. A taxi to Buxton enabled us to get the early train back to get ourselves ready for the big lights that night. We rang in the New Year to the small hours in a local hostelry and enjoyed the music inside and the fireworks outside.

All in all, no better way to spend the post Christmas period. Where to next year, Edinburgh perhaps?

Be Warned!

There seems to have been a considerable upsurge in the number of cars being broken into while parked at mountain car parks in Wicklow, On February 13th at least three cars had been broken into by 11.30a.m. at the car park at the summit of Wicklow Gap. On Sunday the 20th a number of cars were broken into at Ballinagee Bridge.

Remember to conceal all tempting items out of sight before starting on a hike.
Report all suspicious activities around cars to the Gardaí.

Gone to the Dogs!

A total of thirty-four hardy gamblers turned up at Shelbourne Stadium for a night at the dogs on Thursday, February 3rd. It proved to be a most enjoyable night with supper and an appetite-whetting bet included in the entrance cost. Nobody lost his/her shirt. Indeed Mark Campion proved a winner, making a profit of at least E75!! He could be good for a round or two yet!!
Thanks to Steve Buckney for organising the event.

See next page for upcoming social events.

Social Diary

Bowling and Quasar

Date: Friday, March 11th, meeting at 7.45pm
Venue: Stillorgan Bowling Alley
Cost: €8.50 per person
Après bowling in local pub.

If interested contact Jacinta O'Reilly by email: jacintamoreilly@hotmail.com

Music Night

Ceol agus Craic

Le:

An Óige Musicians and Guests

When: Friday, April 8th, 9.00p.m.
Where: Westmoreland Pub, (downstairs), Westmoreland Street.

Musicians and singers welcome.

Interested musicians/ singers please contact Joe Kavanagh.

All others - audience just turn up.

Best Wishes

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Kevin McGinley who was injured in the course of a recce recently.

Competition Announcement

Hikes Less Trodden!

Tired of the same old hike routes in Wicklow????
Then do something about it!

How?

Suggest a route for a Sunday Hike in Wicklow. Send it complete with a brief description (start, finish, length, main points along the route etc.) or Tom Kenny or Philip Roche.

Your entry need not be a complete route card but only routes that work in practice will be accepted.

The winner will be drawn from all acceptable entries.

Entries can be emailed to Tom or Philip at:

tomkenny2003@yahoo.ie

philip.roche@boimail.com

Map & Compass

This year's course finished up on the last weekend in January with the Skills Consolidation Weekend in the Comeraghs. Although we had lower than usual number registering for the course attendance throughout the course seemed better than other years demonstrated by the fact that a total of 19 came on the Comeragh Weekend. This year's class were definitely an enthusiastic and motivated group and very rewarding to work with. I'd like to thank all those who help out on the course, namely, Tom Kenny, Ita O'Hanlon, Philip Roche, Joe Kellegher, Mark Campion, Ciaran King and any others who helped with the Course.

Jimmy McCullagh

Training Officer

To all would be Navigators, Map Readers and Compass Bearers

On behalf of all those who took part in the Map & Compass course I would like to give a testimonial to the fantastic course that Jimmy and the Leaders started last October.

The team of leaders imparted a knowledge, expertise, patience and good humour to our great group (and O what a group.....weren't we ??).

The course started in the class room for 3 nights and after the first night we were let loose on the mountains. Every morning we would start out, we would get the lecture from the General (Jimmy) as to what we were doing for the day. Each team went off with the chosen leader and then the most wonderful few hours spent out in the mountains finding that contour, re-entrant, confluence, spot height, handrail, saddles, cols, spurs, micro navigation, macro navigation, learning about risk & consequenceI could go on.....then when we would find the chosen location trying to convince the leader that we are where we are supposed to be.....that was great fun and very challenging.

To any aspiring navigator if you want to know what all those words mean I would highly recommend that you do the next course, which starts in October 2005.

You will be glad to know guys that I have been using all of what I learned. I have taken some of my own friends out on hikes and I haven't lost anyone yet and I didn't get lost! Yet! That has to be good!!! It has been one of the best courses that I have ever done.

The only complaint I have is that they never warn you the first day about the first night.....!!!!!!.....we operate Lambay Rules.....what goes on tour stays on tour!!!!!!!!!!!! All I will say is that it is very hard to see contour lines when **slightly hungover**.

Many thanks to Jimmy, Tom, Ita, Philip, Mark, Ciaran and Joe for giving up your time to do this course. You were all fantastic. The group really appreciated all you organised and all we learned from you.

Here's to brilliant map reading for 2005.

See you on the Hills

Enid Gallagher
Hill-walker and now Map/Compass Reader

Comhghairdeas! Congratulations

Two Hillwalkers Successful Ascent of Aconcagua

Congratulations and well done to two club members Gerry Cooke and John O'Mahony who completed a successful ascent of Aconcagua in early January. Aconcagua, at 6,962metres, is not only the highest mountain in the South America but the highest anywhere in the world outside the Himalayas. It was first summited in 1897 by Matthias Zurbriggen. Situated at 32°39" south and 70°14" south it can offer a range of weather challenges. Climbed by the non-technical 'Normal Route' Aconcagua offers one of the highest treks in the world. Gerry and John, climbing as part of a Pat Falvey expedition, reached the summit by means of the more technical Polish glacier route. This involves trekking through the less travelled Vacas Valley plus a high altitude mixed climb of ice and rock and has been described as an "intermediate/advanced route" and a "classic in international mountaineering".

Well done lads! What a way to work off the old Christmas Christmas turkey and plum pudding, not to talk of shaking off the winter cobwebs!
Next stop Everest????

Wicklow Spring Walking Festival

The Wicklow Spring "Celtic" walking festival will be taking place this May bank holiday weekend (April 30th - May 2nd) in the magnificent, unspoilt and relatively unexplored are of Manor Kilbride, (near Blessington), West Wicklow. This year we have added a Celtic theme in order to create something a little bit different to other walking festivals and I am extremely confident that it will be more popular than ever before! There will be ceili dancing, live traditional music and Druids telling stories of folklore! In addition, we have of course, some outstanding walks, with a variety to cater for all levels of walker.

Furthermore, with the event being based around the magnificent Kippure House Estate, we will have excellent facilities including self catering accommodation, restaurant, bar etc. As a result of all of this, I think there will be a brilliant festival atmosphere which will lead to a memorable event!

Full details of the festival are available on our website, www.wicklow.ie/tourism, including a downloadable

application form.
Alan Shanley,
Wicklow County Tourism

Contributions

Contributions to the Hillwalker are always welcome and should be sent to:

Deirdre McMahon at mcmahond@eircom.net or by snailmail to:
11, Aspen Road, Kinsealy Court, Swords, Co. Dublin

Club Committee

Club President and Chairperson: Prionnsias MacAnBheatha
Secretary: Frank Rooney
Treasurer: Jim Barry
Sunday Hikes: Tom Kenny and Philip Roche
Membership Secretary: Anne Russell
Training Officer: Jimmy McCullagh
Editor: Deirdre McMahon
Social Officer: Steven Buckney

In addition, four club members work behind the scenes as follows:

Distribution: Cyril McFeeney & Pearse Foley
Webmaster: Matt Geraghty
MCI Environmental Officer: Patricia Goodman