



APRIL PROGRAMME

- MEET:** Outside the Irish Press Offices, Burgh Quay.
- TIME:** Sundays 10.00 am.
- BRING:** Rainwear, flask, sandwiches, torch, reflective armbands and a change of clothes.
- WEAR:** Hiking Boots. **RUNNERS NOT ALLOWED.**
- TRANSPORT:** Private bus. Price £5 (unless otherwise stated.)
- NOTE:** The leader has the right to refuse anyone who is not adequately equipped. On the day of the hike, the leader may extend, curtail or alter the route in any way from that described in the programme.

The leader sets the pace of the hike and walkers are expected to obey his/her instructions at all times.

BRING A TORCH AND REFLECTIVE ARMBANDS

Sunday 2nd April INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE

Route: Pier Gates, White Hill, Djouce, Djouce Woods.

Leader: Cyril McFeeney

Sunday 9th April

Route: Glenmacmass, Brown Mtn., Knocknaclohoge, Lugalla, Sally Gap.

Leader: Liam Reinhardt

Sunday 16th April No hike due to Easter trip to Westport.

Sunday 23rd April Laragh to Pier Gates.

Route: Laragh, Paddock Hill, Scarr, Brown Mtn., Lugalla, Pier Gates.

Leader: Tony Crean

Sunday 30th April SPECIAL HIKE (Hard and moderate hikers)

Blackstairs Mountains.

Leader: Jim Barry

Sunday 07th May INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE

Route: Donard, Church Mtn., Corriebracks, Lobawn, Sugar Loaf, Ballinlea

Leader: Joan McDonald and Anne Marie McIntyre

NOTE TO LEADERS: THERE IS A FIRST AID KIT ON THE BUS.

WALKIE TALKIES MUST BE USED ON ALL HIKES, PLEASE BRING

THEM WITH YOU.

Mountain safety note

As hill walking can sometimes be a hazardous activity, it is requested that any walkers on medication, or with a medical condition, inform the leader of their condition before the hike.

**MEETING PLACE AT END OF HIKES
THE PALACE BAR - FLEET STREET.**

Hill walkers Saturday club

This club is for young people aged 13 to 16 years and hikes take place on one Saturday of every month. Transport is by local bus / DART - depending on the area the hike is being organised in.

SATURDAY HIKE FOR APRIL

DATE: SATURDAY 08TH April
MEET: Irish Press Office, Burgh Quay.
TIME: 8.45 am For 9am Bus to Enniskerry.
Arrive back in Dublin at 6 pm. approx.
HIKE ROUTE: MAULIN/CRONE WOODS
LEADERS: Colm Mac Mahon & Shane O Sullivan
WEAR: *HIKING BOOTS AND A TRACK SUIT*
DO NOT WEAR JEANS.

You don't have to be a teenager to hike with the Saturday Club - why not make up a party? Remember, two adults and up to four children can travel on a family ticket for £6.

WEEKENDS AWAY

SATURDAY CLUB

Overnight Map & Compass Training at Ballinaclea

COST: 1 Overnight £3.50 and Bus Fares £3.50
DATES: 22nd and 23rd April.
HOSTEL: Ballinaclea Youth Hostel.
BOOKING: An Oige head office, Mountjoy Street, Tel.8304555.
(Overnight only)
MEET: Irish Press Office. Saturday 22nd April at 10:00 hrs.
for 10.20 Bus to Donard.
Return to Dublin before 7 PM on Sunday 23rd.
BRING: Two packed lunches, one breakfast, and one evening meal.

WICKLOW WAY BACKPACK.

- DATE:** Friday 28th April - Monday 01st May 1995.
HOSTELS: Knockree, Glendalough and Aughavannagh.
COST: £14.50 for three overnights and special bus on Monday evening (approx £6 per person).
Visa accepted. Tel.830 4555.
MEET: Craft shop Marley Park at 6.00p.m. on Friday 28th April for hike to Knockree YH. We will arrive back in Dublin at 7.00pm approx. on Monday 01st May.

This was a very enjoyable hostel to hostel backpack last time and is being repeated this year in response to numerous requests.

WALKING WEEKEND IN WALES

This is a joint trip with the newcomers committee.

DATE: Friday 02nd June - Monday 05th June 1995
arriving back in Dun Laoghaire at approx 06.00am on Tuesday 06th June.

HOSTEL: Snowdon Ranger

COST: approx £120 with a deposit of £60 required.

ROUTES: *Saturday* - Welsh 3000 challenge, hike from the sea to the top of Snowdon, all the 3000ft mountains on the way(17 miles to top of Snowdon and 5 easy miles down).

Sunday - a short day on the Mole Hebog ridge

Monday - classic circuit of Cader Idris.

MODERATE HIKES WILL BE ORGANISED EACH DAY

As we have had to turn people away for the last two years, please book at Head Office as soon as possible to secure a place. Everything is included in cost- all transport, meals, sheetbag hire. Only pocket money required. Vegetarians are very well catered for at this hostel.

BACKCHAT - The Hill walkers social column.

Any news or views, articles for sale, get well wishes, holiday ideas, give Dave Rooney a buzz, on 8344811(h) after 7p.m.

AN OIGE SOCIAL NEWS

SWIMMING: Every Tuesday evening, in the E.S.B. Sports Co.
South Lotts Road, Ringsend, between 9p.m. and 10p.m.

PRICE: £1.50

ANOTHER SOCIAL NIGHT

KEVIN PARKER and JIM SMITH are running another of their very successful social nights.

FRIDAY 21st APRIL 1995

IN

THE RINGSIDE CLUB
(Beside the National Stadium)

FROM 8pm TO 12.30 pm

(Last admission 10.30 pm)

TICKETS £3 Limited to 300

(Meals available on the evening at extra cost.)

Tickets available from An Oige Head Office. Tel. 8304555
Kevin Parker. Tel. 4534627. Jim Smith. Tel. 4535854



PUB QUIZZES

(In aid of Dublin/Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team)

DATES : April 11th 8.00pm

May 9th 8.30pm

VENUES: Lantern Lounge

The Comet Lounge

Harolds Cross Road

Old Swords Road

Opposite Hospice

Santry Village.

PRICE: £12 Per table of 4

£12 Per table of 4

CONTACT: Martin Rooney Ph.8425395 Mary McInerney Ph.4907344

MAY PROGRAMME

Articles for inclusion in the *May Hillwalker*
should be sent to -

Ger Walsh,
14 Londonbridge Drive,
Sandymount,
Dublin 4.

on or before the 12th April.

BASIC FIRST AID COURSE

- VENUE:** St John Ambulance Brigade of Ireland
29 Upper Leeson St
Dublin 4. Tel. 6688077
- DURATION:** 8wks. Seven lectures and exam on eight night.
- COST:** £40 + £9 for First Aid manual.
Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to St John's Ambulance Brigade and sent directly to the above address and not to An Oige, before the course commences.
- DATE:** Course commences on the 11th April 1995.
The course is run on Tuesday night from 8 - 10pm.
There will be a lecture for the first hour and a practical for the last hour based on the lecture. Please arrive early on the evening of the first lecture for enrolment.
- NOTE:** Anyone who intends doing the Mountain Leadership course needs to have a current basic first aid certificate.

MAP AND COMPASS PRACTICE WEEKEND

This weekend is for people who have already completed a basic map and compass course. The idea is that the participants plan out a route card, and each person on the weekend leads a particular section of the walk. Two experienced people will be on the weekend to assist.

DATE: 28th April to 1st May 1995 (May Bank Holiday weekend)

ORGANISERS: Don Reilly 8428874 (h) Antoin Spain 4906913(h)
Deirdre Ni Choilean (h)8423656
Staying in Letterfrack. Cost £40.

AREA: Maam Turks walk and Bens area.

DEPOSIT: £10. Contact the above organisers for details.

PLACES: Now Limited to 35 people (was 30).

Experienced people interested in doing the Maam Turks long distance walk 29th April may go on this weekend. Map and compass skills are needed to this walk. Distance 15 miles and ascent 7000ft. Start is at spot height 99 between Maam and Maam Cross.



DOING A ROUTE CARD SHOULD BE QUICK
AND EASY, USING NAISMITH'S RULE.

J.B. Malone Memorial Hikes

Sunday May 28th 1995

Our committee has been asked to organise these hikes this year. This event requires a very large team,- Catering at Knockree Hostel

- Checkpoints
- Hike leaders, etc.

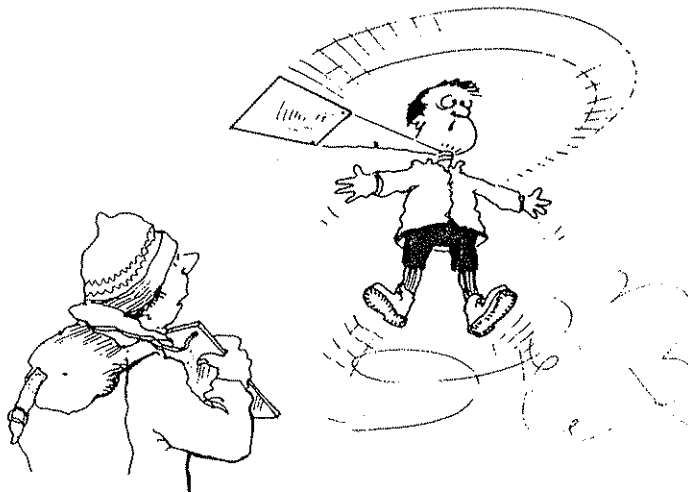
We will need at least 30 people to do the job properly.

A planning meeting will be held at Mountjoy Street on Wednesday 19th April at 8 PM. Please come and offer your support. This is your chance to give something back to the club , your help is needed.

LONG HIKES PROGRAMME FOR COMING MONTHS.

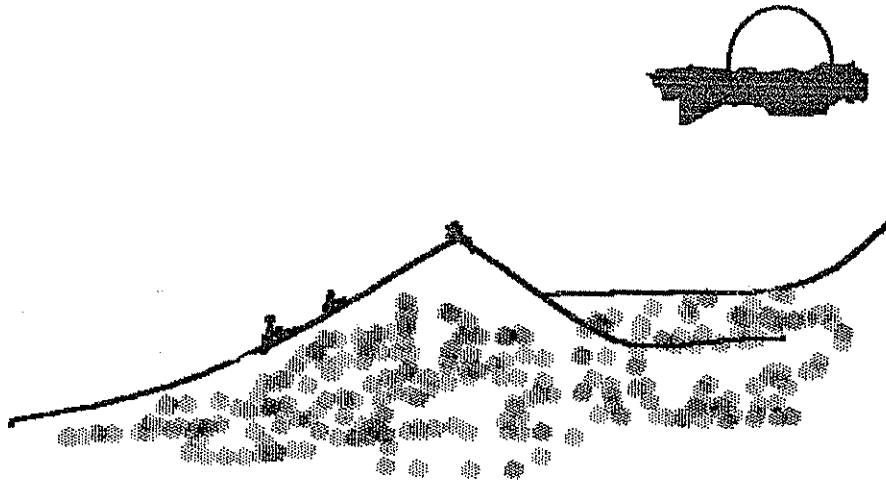
- 1) 22nd April - Comeragh Bog Trot
- 2) 29th April - Maam Turks Walk
- 3) 06th May - Barrow Walk
- 4) 13th May - Blackstairs Walk
- 5) 27th May - Galtees Walk

(Further updates will be given in future programmes)



MAKE SURE YOU'RE MAP COVERS SECURE.

A little bit of History



On Friday 24th February, 14 Hillwalkers left the Custom House on the Club's first ever night hike. After a short stop in Ballinaclea for a cup of tea and to deposit surplus gear, we were on our way to Ballinfoyle to start the walk.

Ballineddan is never easy but bright twinkling stars in the sky and the distant lights through Co. Kildare helped to break the never ending slog to the summit. From Ballineddan to Slievemaan and onto the foot of Lugnaquilla the mist closed in - no more stars to guide us on our way.

A welcome cup of tea and sandwich revived the spirits for the ascent ahead. There was plenty of snow which made the climb up Lug interesting. Seeing freak footprints, we thought we might meet some more mad souls who might be camping at the summit. Having finally found the summit, - with no happy campers, we set off for Camara Hill and the long road walk back to the Hostel.

Thanks to Dave Rooney and Sean Dunne whose idea it was to try a night hike. To honour this historic occasion Dave had appropriately designed certificates presented to all participants. I certainly look forward to the next one.

Ita OHanlon.

An Irishman's Diary

I LOVE walking and usually, after breakfast on Sundays, I go for a ramble which could take me 10 or 12 miles from home and I am never sure where I'll end up. I could find myself in a friend's house or at one of my sisters' where I'll stay for tea, if invited.

I try to vary my route, and, a few weeks ago, I unintentionally found myself near two of my old schools. The first, St Brigid's, is on the Howth Road. Standing outside, I thought of the summer days when our teacher would bring us out for lessons under one of the trees in the grounds.

And later, back inside, he'd blow these huge smoke rings, the like of which I have never seen again, from his cigarette and we'd climb in and out of them like circus clowns.

About a mile up the road, I came upon my first *alma mater*, another St Brigid's, in Killester. In fourth class, we boys were moved out of there to the Howth Road, and it became an all-girls' school.

Cementing Relationship

I saw through the railings my old prefab classroom and memories of a cold, winter's day came back to me. It was snowing all over the country and an incident, which was to cement the fragile relationship between teacher and pupil, was about to take place.

I must have been punching or pulling at someone when the teacher's back was turned. But this day I was caught and sent, by my cigarette-smoking teacher, to stand outside in the falling snow. It seems I drove him mad because it was over two hours later before the door opened and he allowed me back inside to thaw out. From that day onwards he warmed to me and seemed always to give me the benefit of the doubt in any future controversial situations.

Some weeks later, he met my mother at a parent/teacher meeting. And how I dreaded those things. He told her of the day I was sent to stand outside and of his surprise at finding me there two hours later, expecting me to have run home whingeing to her. Little did he



An Oige Hillwalkers Club: caters for all levels of walker

know that had I gone home, my mother, busy looking after the younger ones, would have sent me back with a good kick in the backside or a clip around the ear.

My capacity to cope with standing out in snow and bitter cold without complaint has deteriorated over the years. Recently, I joined the An Oige Hillwalkers Club which caters for all levels of walker, and you can join a moderate or hard-hiking group within the organisation.

Hard Hiker

A few weeks ago, I turned up at Burgh Quay to meet the hard-hikers for an introductory hike. And with visions of myself as an accomplished walker, I thought I'd have no difficulty with a six or seven miler in the Wicklow hills. How wrong I was.

My hiking gear wasn't the best and in the near-polar conditions of that March day I needed every ounce of stamina I could muster. We went over the top of a snow-covered hill, and as we went down to a lower altitude the snow and sleet turned to rain and the snow on the ground to pools of water. There and then I swore to invest in good rainwear and hiking boots.

In the Time's Eye column, on March 11th, Y praised the life-preserving qualities of modern outdoor wear and cited Robert Lloyd Praeger's book, *The Way That I Went*, to support him: "Ireland, especially in the west, is an amphibious kind of land; if you want to probe effectually

into the corners, some sort of amphibious costume becomes necessary." And Y wrote: "He (Praeger) could have his pick today". Indeed he could.

But good outdoor wear costs money. Top quality boots could knock you back £110 to £150, a pair of gaiters anything up to £17 and a good jacket and leggings about £250. And you never, ever, go out on the mountains without carrying a hat and gloves, especially not in winter.

Our latest trip was to the Galtee Mountains in Tipperary, on St Patrick's weekend. If you thought the weather was bad on the lowlands, you should have seen it at 3,018 feet above sea level. Those of us who made it to Galtymore on the Friday did so through driving snow and storm-force winds sometimes making only a few yards in half an hour.

We held on tightly to one another or lay prostrate so as not to be blown away and the pilot of a passing plane might have reported seeing a dozen or so bodies on top of a mountain and wondering how the hell they ever got there on a day like that.

At one stage a young woman and I were lifted off the ground by the wind and plonked a couple of feet away on rocks. But we received only superficial wounds and later the excellent map-reading and compass skills of our leaders saw us safely back to base.

More Leisurely

A more leisurely hike the next day took us from Sugar Loaf Hill just over the Tipperary border, into Waterford across the Knockmealdowns and down to Mount Melleray.

But it's not all uphill, if you'll forgive the pun. At night, everyone goes to the pub for a few pints. And invariably there'll be a couple of musicians and some who might sing, if they're not too shy. And afterwards you'll go back to your dorm and have probably the best sleep of your life.

You can telephone An Oige's headquarters at Dublin 01-830 4555.

SEÁN ARCHBOLD