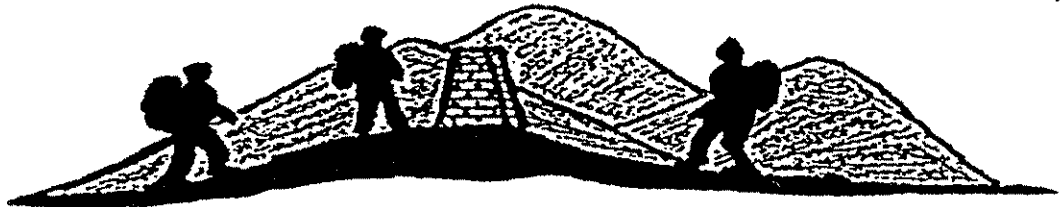


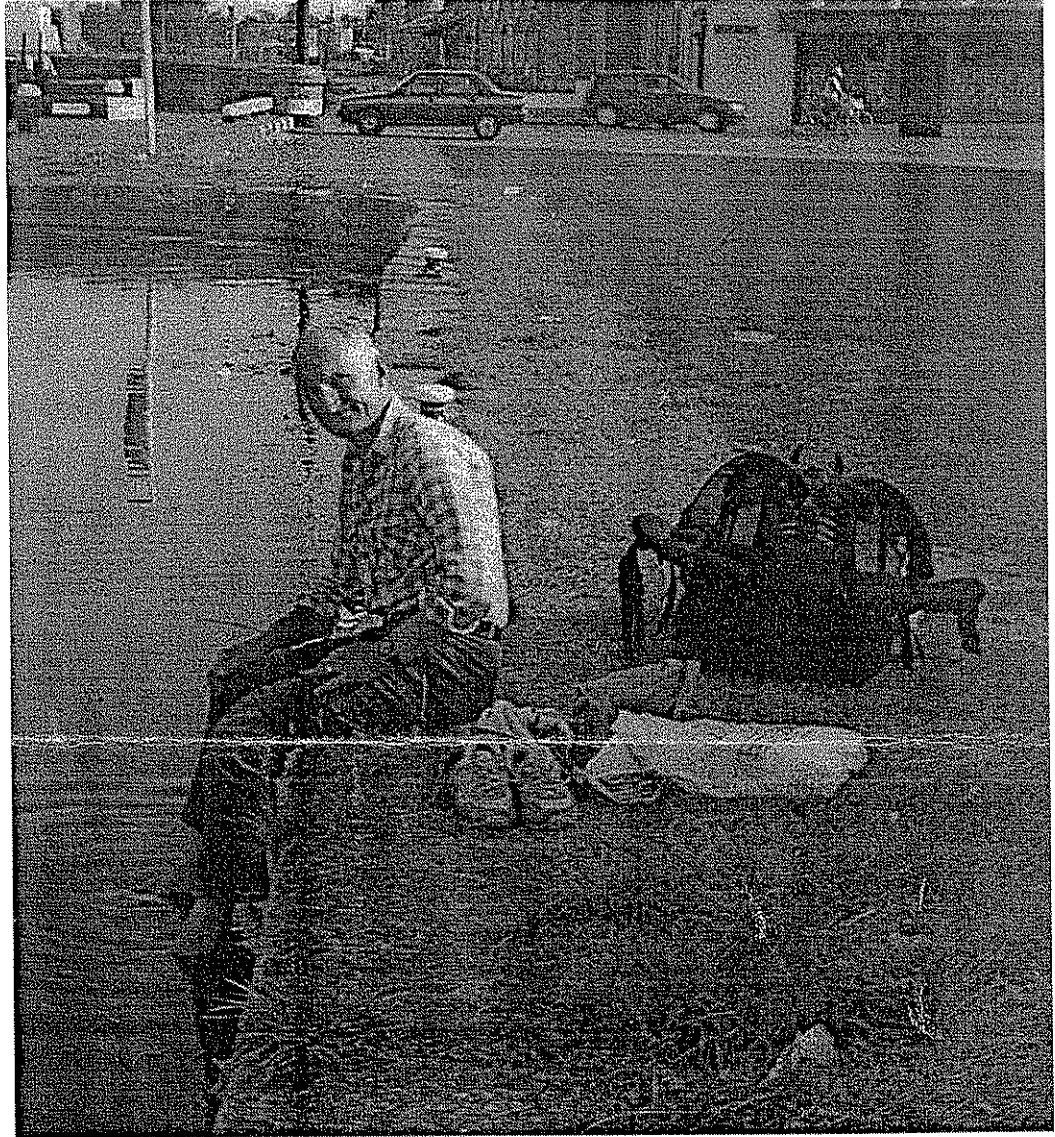
Hillwalker

April 2000



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

# The Hillwalker



Just paddling my toes...

Photo: Noel Kerley collection

## Inside this issue:



|                                              |   |
|----------------------------------------------|---|
| Sunday Hikes                                 | 2 |
| Young Hillwalkers                            | 3 |
| Club Slide Show                              | 3 |
| Weekends Away                                | 3 |
| Feature Article "Central Highlands Backpack" | 4 |
| Editorial and committee notes                | 5 |

# Sunday Hikes April

**MEET:** Outside Irish Press Offices, Burgh Quay  
**DEPART** Sundays 10.00 A.M. (or when the bus is full)  
**COST:** Private bus. £5.00 (unless otherwise stated)



**NOTE:** The leader has the right to refuse anyone who is not adequately equipped (i.e. without adequate rainwear, spare clothes, food, torch and hiking boots). The leader has the right to extend, curtail or alter the route from that described in the program. The leader sets the pace of the hike and walkers are expected to obey his/her instructions at all times.

  During winter months it is essential to bring a (head) torch on all Sunday hikes and weekends away. Don't forget to check your batteries and bulb.

| <i>Date</i>   | <i>Route Description</i>                                                                                                                             | <i>Leader</i>    |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| April 2       | Aghavannagh – Ow Valley – Lugnaquilla – Cannow – Camenabogue Mtn. – Table Track – Stranahely Forest – Knickeen                                       | Philip Hayden    |
| April 9       | Ballinastoe (G.R. 194078 ) – White Hill – Djouce Mtn – War Hill – Tonduff South – Maulin – Glensoulan – Crone Forest – Car park.                     | Deirdre Corrigan |
| April 16      | <b>Introductory Hard Hike</b><br>Shay Elliot Memorial – Cullentragh – Mullacor – Lugduffs – Conavalla – Table Mtn – Table Track – Baravore Car park. | Paul Smith       |
| April 20 – 24 | <b>Easter Weekend Bus Trip to Ballydavid Y.H. Co Tipperary</b><br><b>No Dublin Sunday Hike</b>                                                       |                  |
| April 30      | Military Road (G.R. 116072 ) - Duff Hill – East Top - Mullaghcleevaun - Carrigshouk Mtn – Kanturk – Scarr – Annamoe.                                 | Martin Fagan     |
| May 7         | <b>Introductory Hard Hike</b><br>Gilberts Bridge – Toberlownagh – Croghan Mtn – Woodenbridge ( OS Sheet 62 )                                         | Frank Rooney     |

## Important Notice

Your club membership card **MUST** be carried and produced, if requested on all Sunday hikes. Numbered tickets will be given out on the quays by a committee member. People with a valid membership card and ticket will be given preference on the bus.

### MOUNTAIN SAFETY NOTE

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.

The Committee requests that anyone who is on medication or with a medical condition inform the leader before the start of the hike.

### 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.

### 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.

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# Young Hillwalkers Club

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Meet: Maguire's Bar, O'Connell Bridge  
Time: 8.45 a.m.  
Bring: Packed lunch, wed weather gear, torch.  
Wear: Boots, tracksuit bottoms (no jeans), hat and gloves.



## APRIL HIKE

Date: Saturday 8 April  
Route: Little Sugar Loaf & Bray Head

## ADVENTURE WEEKEND AWAY

Date: 21st – 23rd April  
Location: Glencree – Knockree Backpack

For further information about our Club, please phone the An Óige Office at 01-8304555

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## The Club Slides

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*Tuesday 4th April*

Majorca, presented by Martin Fagan,

*Tuesday 18th April Double Bill*

Dolomites (Italy) – A Walking Holiday, presented by Donal Finn

Andalucia – A Cycling Holiday, presented by Barbara Sudrow

in

The Palace Bar (Upstairs Lounge), Fleet Street

Admission Free.

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## Easter Weekend Away

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Date: Thursday 20 – Monday 24 April 2000  
Location: Ballydavid Wood Y. H., Tipperary  
Cost: £55.00, deposit £25.00  
Meals: Evening meals will be provided on Friday, Saturday and Sunday – please book meals in Head Office  
Meet: The bus will leave Custom House at 6.00 p.m. SHARP  
Leader: Martin Fagan



## ROUTES

Friday: Circuit of Mountain Lodge.  
Galtymore from Ballydavid to Mountain Lodge  
Saturday: Knockmealdowns  
Sunday: Lyreacappul to Temple Hill  
Monday: Slieve Maan

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## Get well wishes

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Word has reached us that one of our members, Tom Kenny, has not been well. Tom, we wish you a very speedy recovery and hope to see you in the hills very soon.

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# Central Highlands Backpack 1999

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*This is an account of a backpacking trip which I undertook during September 1999, in the Central Highlands of Scotland. I followed a route taken from a recently published book The Central Highlands – Six Long-distance Walks. The route extended from Roybridge to Tomatin on the A9 Inverness-Glasgow trunk road, a few miles north of Aviemore. It is a walk through (rather than over) the Monadhliath mountain range and is 102km in length. I completed it in 4 days.*

## Day 1

Having spent last night in Aviemore Y.H. I caught a bus along Glen Spean to Roybridge and began walking before 10.00 a.m. Most of my walking today was on a tarred or dirt surface which extended a long way up Glen Roy. It is very scenic and there is much evidence of past glacial activity here. After 21km I arrived at Luib Chon-nal bothy and made an instant decision to spend the night here. The bothy is very well-maintained by the Mountain Bothies Association. I was the only person here tonight. It has been a very pleasant and sunny day and the bothy is in a delightful and remote location.

## Day 2

A glance out the window clearly indicated that today promised to deliver rain and misery in abundance – and it did! I contemplated sitting it out for an extra day in the bothy but gave myself a severe talking-to and a strong nudge to get a move on. After several kilometres of rough track I crossed the top of the pass at the head of Glen Roy. From here I saw Loch Spey below – the start of the River Spey. A moderately difficult river crossing and a few more kilometres more brought me to Melgarve Bothy at the southern end of the Corrieyairack Pass, at the northern end of which lies Fort Augustus and Loch Ness. By now I was thoroughly wet and miserable and the rain showed no sign of letting up. Fortunately I was now on tarmac for about 15km to the Spey Dam at the southern end of Glen Markie. The countryside around is very wild and scenic and on a fine day the walking would be delightful. The route I took is the line of an old military road constructed by General Wade (an Irishman). I left the road at the dam and turned up Glen Markie along a farm track and soon found a suitable place to camp for the night.

## Day 3

Today was a bit of a toughie so I made an early start. Up to the upper reaches of Glen Markie, a difficult river crossing (I am always very wary of this as I travel alone) and then a steep climb (with a heavy backpack) which must be like climbing up Tonelagee from the Wicklow Gap with a rucksack full of rocks! The scenery here is wild and delightful. At the top I crossed a broad boggy plateau and dug out my compass for the first time as this is completely trackless country. Soon Lough na Lairige is clearly visible in the distance. After a rough descent I picked up the river flowing from the loch. In due course I arrived at a very large and derelict old mansion called Sronlairig Lodge, which is picturesquely situated at the meeting point of four glens. I now headed up one of these which is called Glen Markie (no relation to the previous one). After a couple of hours slogging up this glen I pitched camp for the night and was sent to sleep by the sound of the water gurgling over the rocks – nice, very nice. During this entire day I did not see another human being.

## Day 4

This day was not so much tough as L-O-N-G; I covered 35km. I was in two minds whether to camp along the way and make two days of it (I originally planned to do the entire walk over 5 days) or go for broke and finish it out in one day. I decided to see how the day went. I soon reached the watershed at the head of Glen Markie and picked up the infant River Findhorn which I followed for the rest of the day. The countryside hereabouts is very wild with not a trace of humanity for miles. I picked up a rough track which became a green road and the walking, while spectacular, was technically easy right through to Tomatin. The glen I was now in is called Strath Dearn and is over 25km long. It weaves left and right through the mountains so that exciting new vistas are constantly presented. I reached Tomatin (and welcome refreshment) on the A9 at about 6.00 p.m. and before long I checked into the Aviemore Y.H. By now I was eagerly anticipating a good shower, shave and comfortable bunk.

**In conclusion:** the maps I used were the OS Landranger Series nos. 34 and 35, together with the guidebook already mentioned. During the 4 days I did not pass near a single village or shop – I was self sufficient for 5 days, plus a small emergency backup.

**MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!**

Noel Kerley

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## Membership Fees

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### **The Hillwalkers Club annual membership fee is £15.**

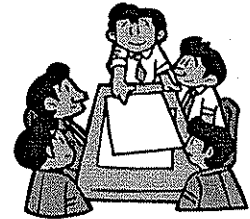
Fees should be sent to the membership secretary at the following address:  
Mr. Ger Walsh, 15 Summerfield Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

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## The Committee

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|                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chairperson:          | Martin Fagan (01-8553653 h)           |
| Secretary:            | Donal Finn (01-4530617 h)             |
| Treasurer:            | Prionsias MacAnBheatha (01-8379897 h) |
| Editor:               | Maggie Greaney (01-2834253 h)         |
| Sunday Hikes:         | Jim Barry (01-4556455 h)              |
| Weekends/Holidays:    | Martin Fagan                          |
| Membership Secretary: | Gerry Walshe (01-8225818 h)           |
| Training Officer:     | Joe Kellegher (01-8381973 h)          |
| Young Hillwalkers:    | Dave Rooney (01-8344811)              |



*Distribution:* Cyril McFeeney & Pearse Foley

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## Committee Meeting

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The next Hillwalkers Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 26 April 2000, at 8.00 p.m.

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## An Oige Clean-Up Day

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The next An Oige Clean-up Day will take place on Sunday 9 April 2000.

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## A Note from the Editor

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During 2000 all articles published in *The Hillwalker* will be entered in a competition under the categories of holidays/weekends abroad and holidays/weekends at home. Prizes will be awarded at the 2000 Christmas Party so please put pen to paper and send your articles or items of interest to the address below for inclusion in the newsletter. If possible the articles should be typed or in electronic form and should be a maximum of 500 words. A stamped and addressed envelope should accompany any photographs or articles to ensure their return.



**Articles for inclusion in the May newsletter should be sent before Friday 15 April to:  
Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.  
(e-mail: [maggieg@tinet.ie](mailto:maggieg@tinet.ie))**