

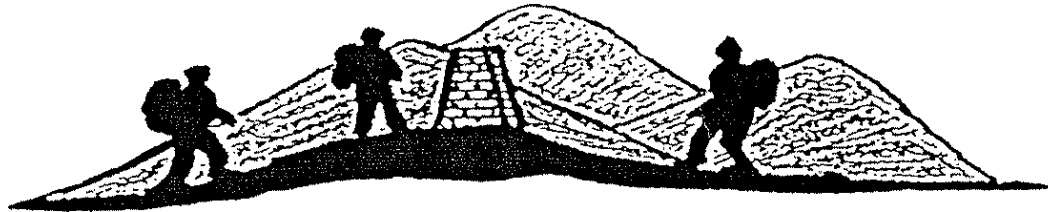
FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

As a result of the current foot and mouth situation, the Hillwalkers Club will not be organising any Sunday hillwalks or weekends-away during the month of April.

However during April, members can meet at 10.00am on Sunday mornings at Burgh Quay for urban walks. Further details available within the programme.

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Sunday Hikes April

MEET: Outside old Irish Press Offices, Burgh Quay, down from Spar shop.
DEPART Sundays 10.00 A.M.

NOTE: In view of the current situation, it might be wise to 'dress down' and dispense with the standard gear, such as backpack and walking stick, so as not draw undue attention to the group. All walks are in accordance with current guidelines, but we do not want to risk any verbal or media criticism. False identity papers and fake beards will be issued to all participants to complete the deception...

<i>Date</i>	<i>Route Description</i>	<i>Leader</i>
<i>1st April</i>	Dublin Bay Coastal Stroll Route: Sutton Cross – Tour of Bull Island Nature Reserve – Bull Wall – Clontarf (Finish).	Proinnsias MacAnbheatha
<i>8th April</i>	Dublin Bay Coastal Stroll 2 Route: Dunlaoghaire Dart Station – Blackrock – Booterstown – Sandymount Green – Irishtown – Poolbeg Wall – Ringsend – South Quays – O'Connell Bridge.	Ger Walsh
<i>15th April</i>	Easter Weekend No walks organised	
<i>22nd April</i>	Dodder River Walk	Donal Finn
<i>29th April</i>	Howth Circuit	Martin Fagn

SAFETY NOTE

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.

ENVIRONMENT

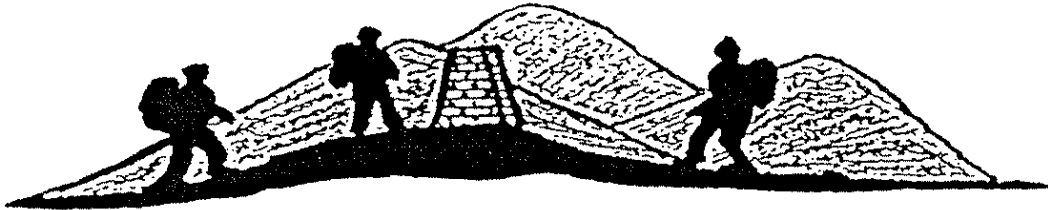
Bring all your litter home or bin it and try to include at least one extra item from each day out.

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.

Young Hillwalkers

Activities suspended due to F&M



FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

All that you wanted to know but didn't know who to ask

What is the Club's current position whilst the FMD situation continues?

No organised hillwalks or countryside rambles until further notice.

How does the Club decide on its position?

The club interprets the advice issued by the following sources and then formulates its position:

The Department of Agriculture (DOA)
Mountaineering Council of Ireland (MCI)

The Club also monitors advice issued by Bord Failte.

What's the outlook for rambles/hillwalking in May?

We have absolutely no idea... we will tell you in the May programme !

When will we be able to get back to normal activities?

How long is a piece string? Again absolutely no idea.... but the DOA tell us it will be months rather than weeks.

Would the Club consider engaging in a resumption of activities against the advice of the DOA or MCI

Most unlikely.

What are the factors affecting the resumption of normal activities?

The FMD situation in Ireland and Britain.

Currently the MCI are recommending that hillwalking should only commence one month after the last confirmed case in Ireland or Britain.... which means things maybe in for in for the long haul. This could change as time goes on.

Once Ireland has the all clear why can't we forget about the British situation?

According to the Department of Agriculture no...

There is still a risk that British hikers could come to Ireland and, it is unlikely that farmers will tolerate hillwalking walking as long as the situation continues in Britain.

Waiting for the last British case looks like we're in for the long haul, can the Club do anything?

The MCI are and Bord Failte are lobbying Government. We will have to wait and see.

In the meantime, what is the Club doing?

Extra slideshows in the Palace Bar. 8.30pm upstairs lounge

Tuesday, April 10, Deirdre McMahon, Walking in Andalusia
Tuesday April 24, Colette Nolan, Walking in Africa
Tuesday May 8. To be confirmed (see May programme).

Regular Sunday nights in the Palace from 7.00pm onwards

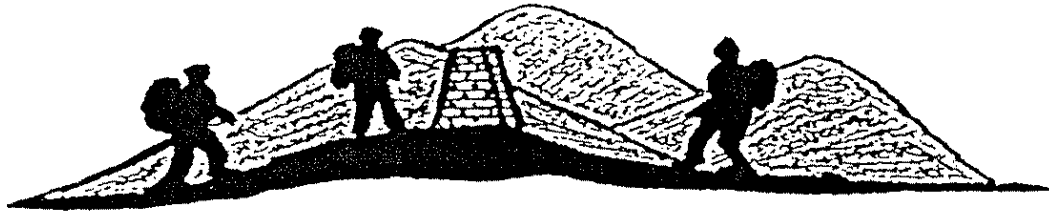
Urban Walks in April... meet as usual Burgh Quay 10am
Hill of Howth, South Bull wall, Bull Island, Dodder Banks. etc

What can I do to help?

Keep away from the countryside. particularly farmland
Assist the Wicklows Upland Council in weekend warden duty, contact Maire McDonnell, An Oige.

Can we sum up the current situation?

Yep... we're caught between a rock and a hard place!



Club Policy on FMD

The committee had a meeting on March 27th to discuss the crisis and our reaction. The overall decision, outlined above by Donal, is that we adhere to the position taken by the Mountaineering Council of Ireland. This states that clubs should not organise hillwalking activities and should urge their members to stay away the countryside or any farming areas.

There are various factors influencing the club's decision:

Threat FMD poses to farming livestock and livelihoods

Threat to wildlife – *Duchas* have plans to wipeout all deer, badgers, foxes, et cetera in the vicinity of an FMD outbreak, as potential carriers of the disease. Our not walking reduces the chances of this drastic action been taken (for example against the wild deer of Wicklow).

Hillwalking/Farming relationships – Lack of responsible conduct by clubs or individual walkers will create bad feelings and may be used as an excuse by some farmers to bar access to their lands in future.

Standing of the club in MCI – If would reflect badly on the club and *An Óige* in general if we broke ranks and walked whilst other clubs exercised restraint.

Unfortunately the belief is that restrictions of access to the countryside should not be eased until one month after the last outbreak of FMD in BRITAIN. This is because the disease could easily be introduced here by visitors (e.g hillwalkers) from Britain. In view of the current state of FMD in Britain this means a potentially long period of abstinence from the hills. By the way, in case you do not know, practically all of *An Óige's* hostels are shut until the start of May. On the plus side, the crisis provides a time for our over-walked hill trails to recover.

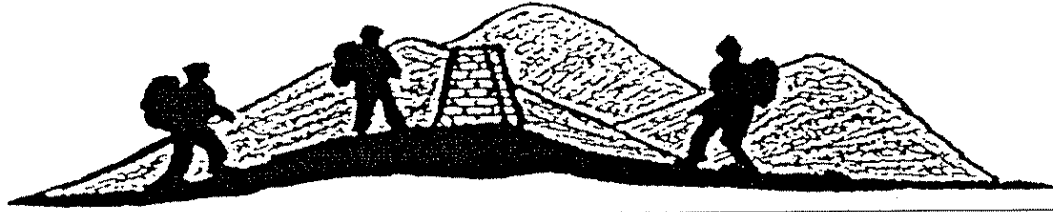
As yet, we do not foresee any long term problem for the club as we trust that our dedicated members will be just as anxious, addicted and eager to walk when the crisis ends.

Dolomites Expedition

There are still places left on this exciting trip if you are interested. Please contact *An Óige* Head Office or ring Martin Fagan at home (855363). This expedition to the Dolomite mountains in Italy will take place 1st-15th September 2001 and is priced at £1200, with a deposit of £200 required.

Announcements

We are delighted to announce the birth of Aidan Jack Branigan, born to Megan and Shane on March 13th. This little bundle of joy weighs in at 6 pds 13 ozs. All three are doing well.



Letters to the Editor

Dear editor,

Thanks for another stupendous instalment of your outstanding literary publication "The Hillwalker". As the Spanish say "*Estupido!*".

However, with regards to the Foot and Mouth scare, you fail to inform your legions of fans that the Palace Bar cannot be frequented on a Sunday evening, unless patrons are prepared to sufficiently douse themselves in alcohol (which has well known disinfectant properties) to prevent any possibility of spreading this virulent disease. Also, any hillwalker with itchy feet this weekend must immediately report the incident to the Department Of Agriculture.

Yours, Philip Hayden

Poetry

A little poem arrived in my letter box, evocative of so many nice days on the hills:

RAIN

It rained and it rained and rained and rained
The average fall was well maintained
And when the tracks were simply bogs
It started raining cats and dogs

After a drought of half an hour
We had a most refreshing shower
And then the most curious thing of all
A gentle rain began to fall

Next day was also fairly dry
Save for the deluge from the sky
Which wetted the party to the skin
And after that the rain set in

(Nellie Cullen)

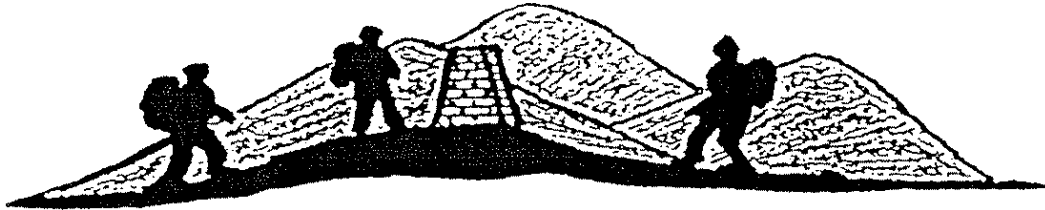
Club Travel

Tanzanian Travels!

Jambo!

Tanzania is probably most famous for its wildlife reserves of the Serengeti, Lake Manara and Ngorongoro Crater, and for the island of Zanzibar lying off the Indian Ocean coast. But for trekkers, like ourselves, the biggest attraction is the massif of Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Tanzania and indeed Africa. Mount Meru, the country's second highest peak is equally dramatic and exhilarating.

So with these facts in mind the two of us set off for a month (Feb. 2001), with our only booking being flights to Dar es Salam, Tanzania's capital (IR£615), to see what adventures we could find. And did we succeed? Read on!



Firstly, a little background. East Africa is dissected by one of the worlds' largest geological features, the Great Rift Valley. It is due to this rift that most of Tanzania's major mountains such as mount Kilimanjaro and Meru exist. The country consists mainly of highland plains, covered by a light woodland and grassy savannah. February is an ideal month to visit, its during the short dry season, when its warm, with an average 28 degrees c on the plains by day and cool at night. In the mountains the max daytime temperatures were from 15 - 20 degrees c falling to a chilly 5 degrees c at night. Tanzania's population is approx 30 million, mostly of Bantu origin, with the distinctive Maasai semi-nomadic people inhabiting the plains. The main language is Swahili with English common in the tourist areas.

So on to our trip! After our arrival night in Dar es Salam we headed off with Scandanavia Bus (the only recommended company) on an 8 hour, terrifyingly fast journey to Arusha. Arusha is a busy tourist town and an excellent base for the mountains and safari. Our basic accommodation - family run, safari guest house in the residential part of town cost us about IRE3 per night. We booked the three day Momella route up Mount Meru (4566m) costing IRE250 + 10% tips. Mount Meru is a spectacular classic volcano cone and the trek involved hiking through Arusha national park grasslands and forest on the first day, steeply up to the summit on the second night. The views of the sun rising behind Kilimanjaro across the plains were absolutely spectacular and unforgettable.

Following this 'little' warm up we arranged our six day Machame route up Kilimanjaro. The mid- range tour company we used were Shidolya tours and we found them to be excellent. We joined a group of six at the competitive price of IRE 500 + 10% tips. The guides, porters cooks were all really helpful. This route is a camping route and has the advantage of the best acclimatisation even though the distances trekked each day are longer than other routes. We started at Machame Gate on day one and gladly reached the summit of Uhuru peak (5896m) for sunrise on day five. The distance is 61km, an overall altitude gain of 4096m with an average daily hike of 5-7 hours, culminating in the 14 hour to the summit and partial descent on day 5. The affects of the dark, the altitude and cold make it a challenging but extremely rewarding trip to the summit. An experience never to be forgotten!

After a recovery time we spent four days on safari around Lake Manara, Ngorongoro Crater and Nduto where we were delighted to see the 'big five' with some surprises thrown in. This was the start of our relaxation that brought us to Zanzibar for a week's 'R & R'. This island is all and more than the name 'exotic spice island' signifies.

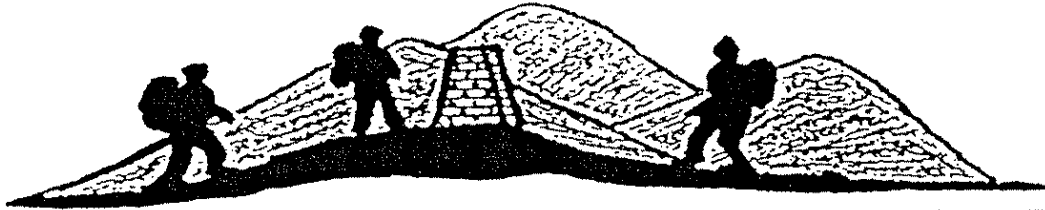
From wandering through stone towns winding street and alleys ways to gorging on the fresh seafood and fruits at Fodrahani at the waterfront. We vegetated in a hammock at kendwa, a pristine white sandy beach with its bamboo huts, palm trees and a great cocktail bar.....what more could a girl ask for!

Tanzania is not a cheap place to travel in, especially doing the tourist thing! Tanzanian schillings (Tzs) are the local currency with American dollars being the easiest 'hard' currency to deal with. A selection of travellers cheques and cash is best, there is an ATM in most of the large towns.

All in all it was a great trip, the forth coming slide show is a must to capture the real essence of our adventures.

Colette Nolan & Elaine Brennan

[Editor's Note: Apologies folks, but after the 1999 club trip to Kilimanjaro, I was forewarned of the sort of going's on that might occur on Zanzibar, and so thought best to cut out the full account. Needless to say the cover photo was unpublishable and the slide-show alluded to above is best to be avoided...]



The Club Slides

Walking in Sierra Nevada, Spain
Presented by
Deirdre McMahon, April 10th 8.30pm

Kilimanjaro 2001
Presented by
Colette Nolan, April 24th 8.30pm

Regular venue: 8.30pm
Palace Bar, Upstairs Lounge, Fleet Street

Any person interested in giving a slideshow should contact Donal Finn at 01 – 4530617.

2001 Membership Fees

The Hillwalkers Club annual membership fee is £15.

Membership for the new year is due for all of us. An application form is enclosed and should be sent to the membership secretary at the following address: Mr. Ger Walsh, 15 Summerfield Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

Queries regarding change of address or non-receipt the Hillwalker should be directed to either Mr Ger Walsh (membership secretary) or Mr Joe Kellegher (telephone numbers below).

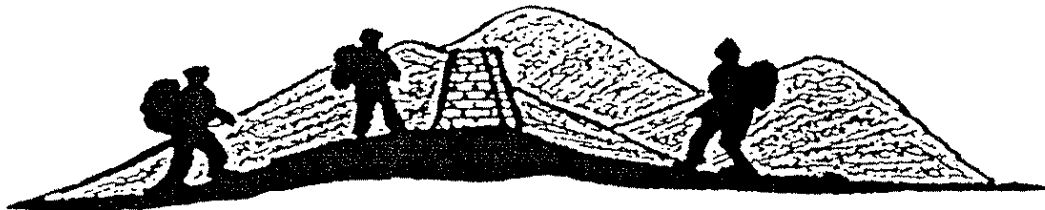
The 2001 Committee

Chairperson:	Donal Finn (01-4530617 h)
Secretary:	Frank Rooney (01-8038102 h)
Treasurer	Prionsias MacAnBheatha (01-8379897 h)
Editor:	Warren Lawless (01-8786901 h)
Sunday Hikes:	Jim Barry (01-4556455 h)
Weekends/Holidays:	Martin Fagan (01-8553653 h)
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*

A Note from the Editor

During 2001 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 2001 Christmas Party so please put fingers to keyboard and send your



articles to the address below for inclusion in the newsletter. Articles and pictures must be in electronic form where possible or at least typed, and should be a maximum of 500 words. A stamped addressed envelope should accompany any photographs or printed articles to ensure their return. Articles will generally be published in order of receipt.

Also, the Editor will be running a subsidiary competition for the most scandalous piece of gossip published in *The Hillwalker*. All gossip must be 500 words or more and include ill-founded rumours, idle gossip and innuendo. Any basis in fact is purely optional. The judging will be done by a qualified panel of likeminded people. Accompanying pictures (doctored or original) may accompany each article but won't be returned by the editor.

Articles for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to *Warren Lawless*
Email: warrenl@gofree.indigo.ie
(Post: 19 Jervis Place, Upper Abbey Street, Dublin 1)

Hill Wardens Wanted

Here is a request issued during March by the MCI for wardens to oversee the voluntary restrictions on walking arising from FMD. The scheme is still running, if you wish to help out:

Wicklow Uplands Council Wardens Scheme

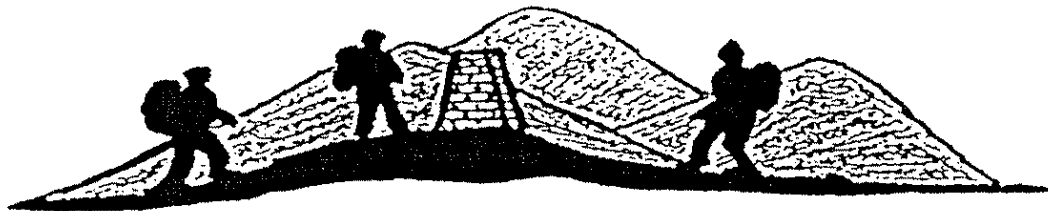
Although media reports last weekend may have given the impression that hill-walkers were swarming over the hills, there were in fact relatively few "hill-walkers", but a large number of "walkers", causing concern. These are primarily people "out for a drive" who head for inappropriate areas, and then decide to go for a walk.

The Wicklow Uplands Council (WUC) wardens have been asking such people, and the very few real hill-walkers they meet, to turn back. They rely on the goodwill of those they talk to, and this goodwill has generally been present as these are in most cases people who simply have not given any thought to what they are doing, and do not even realise that they are in an area of farmland. (One warden alone reported that he spoke to the occupants of 78 cars, 29 of which were foreign tourists). The wardens have no sanctions to apply should their advice be ignored, and are acting in an advisory rather than policing capacity (and advising the general public, rather than MCI members).

The WUC is planning the operation of the warden scheme over coming weekends. Based on warden de-brief on Sunday, they are looking at manning requirement of 14 people on Saturday, and 26 people on Sunday at key locations in South Dublin & North Wicklow excluding the National Park. This requirement is based on last Sunday's experience and traffic. It may be necessary to adjust the number of people and hopefully reduce the numbers in line with advice if the general public comply with the government campaign.

The WUC have requested volunteers from MCI clubs. An Oige will also be asked to provide people, and the WUC will solicit help from IFA and community panels.

The area is being divided into regions under the management of an existing experienced warden, as follows: South Dublin, Glencree



An Óige Hillwalker Application Form

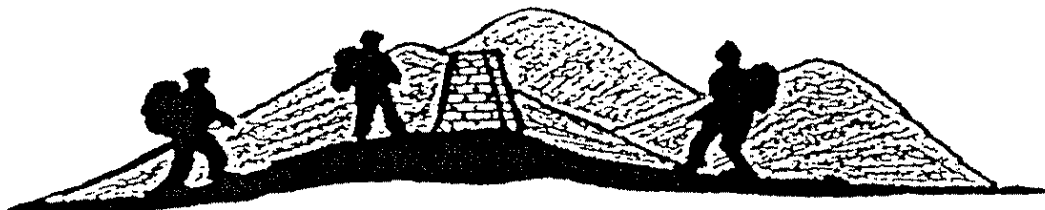
Name
Address
Date of Birth
Telephone Number (Home)
Telephone Number (Work)
Were you a member last year?
An Óige Membership Number
Email Address (to receive the newsletter by email)

Declaration

I accept that mountaineering is an activity with a danger of personal injury or 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 agree to abide by the rules of the club as stated in the *Hillwalker* newsletter.

This fully completed membership application form should be sent together with £15.00 membership fee (no cash) to the membership secretary at the following address : Mr. Ger Walsh, 15 Summerfield Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Signed
Date
<i>Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18 years of age)</i>
<i>Date</i>
<i>Full Name and Address of Parent or Guardian</i>



Valley, Sugarloaf / Djouce / Crone, Lough Dan, Glenmalure.

You are being asked to "give up hill walking and become a warden for a day". The role of the warden in this case is protection and security in line with the national campaign and will request people not to visit the countryside and not to walk.

This is not normal countryside warden duty. There is a need to protect the wildlife deer population from f&m as they are vulnerable and also lethal vectors of the virus.

Unlike last weekend, when as an immediate emergency response a request was made for volunteers who would be available at short notice if needed to make contact through the MCI, volunteers should now contact the WUC office directly at (0404)43958, office hours up to 5.30 pm. Contact as soon as possible would be appreciated to facilitate manpower planning and provision of warden jackets if possible.

This is an ideal time to show farmers and landowners that climbers and walkers are responsible users of the countryside, who can work with, not against those who earn their living in the areas in which we play.

If you are volunteering, e-mail to PeterONeill@wuc.ie would also be helpful, so that we can directly monitor the response.

Declan O'Keeffe
Public Relations Officer
Mountaineering Council of Ireland