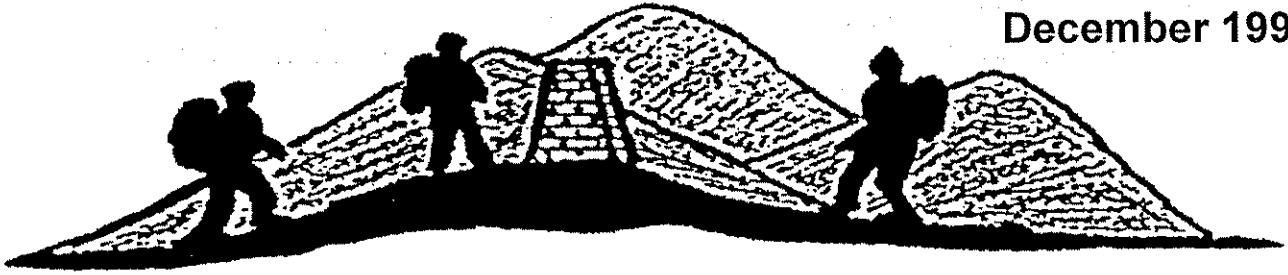


The Hillwalker

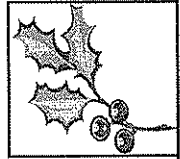
December 1998



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club



**SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL
OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**



Inside the The Hillwalker this month:

Sunday Hikes

Page 2

Young Hillwalker's Club

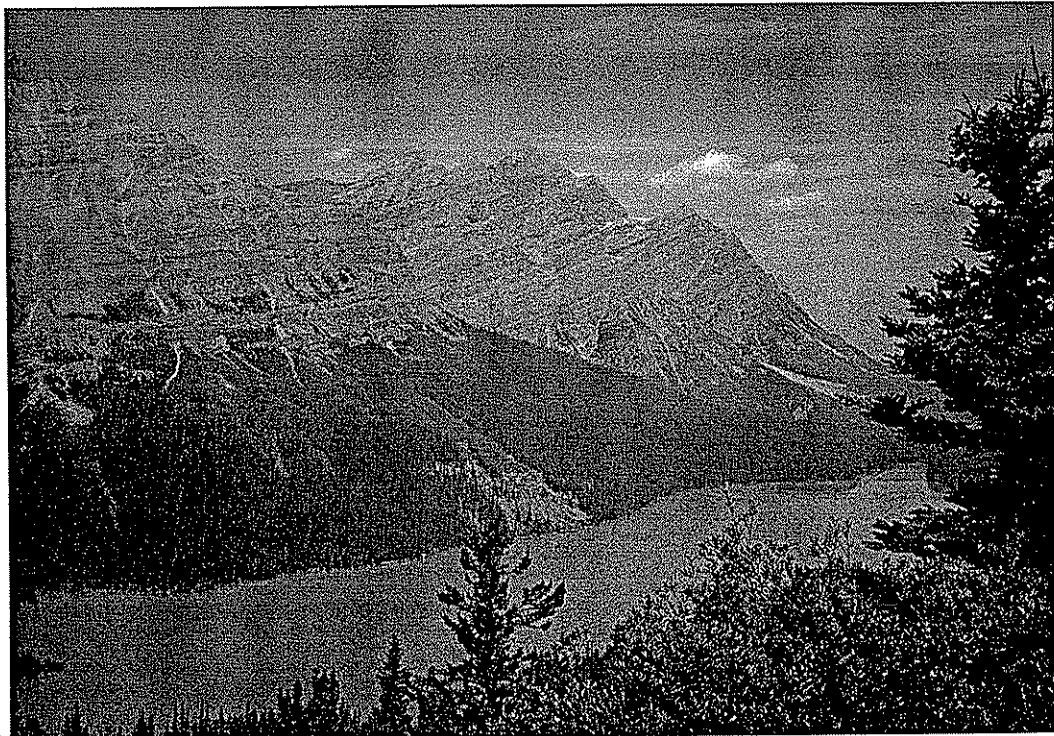
Page 3

Club Travel - Rambles in Canada

Page 4

Committee Notes

Page 5



Canadian Rockies

Photo: Martin Fagan collection

SUNDAY HIKES



MEET: Outside Irish Press Offices, Burgh Quay

DEPART Sundays 10.00AM. (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.

PLEASE CARRY A HEAD TORCH ON ALL HIKES DURING WINTER MONTHS

Date	Route Description	Leader
6 Dec.	Sally Gap - Carrigvore - Gravale - Duff Hill - East Top - Mullaghcleevaun - Billy Byrne's Gap - Moanbane - Black Hill - Kilbeg - Lackan.	Dave Rooney
13 Dec.	INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE Knickeen - Stranahely Wood - Table Track - Camenabologue - Cannow - Lugnaquilla - Camara Hill - Seskin.	Frank O'Rourke
20 Dec.	PRE-CHRISTMAS HIKE  Old Bridge - Scarr - Laragh West - Paddock Hill - Laragh - Lynham's Laragh Inn for music and craic. Musicians should bring their instruments. Return to Dublin at 6.00PM.	Don Reilly
26 Dec.	St. Stephen's Day hike around Howth Head. Meet at Sutton Cross (opposite hotel) at 11.00AM.	Martin Fagan & Noel Kearley
1 Jan.	New Year's Day hike up Lugnaquilla with meal afterwards in Ballinlea YH. Musicians most welcome. Contact Martin Fagan at 01-8553653 (h) to book. Transport by car.	Martin Fagan
3 Jan	No hike	
10 Jan	Fernhill Tunnel - Three Rock - Fairy Castle - Tibbradden - Pine Forest - Cruagh - Killakee - Glendoo - Knocknagun - Prince William Seat - Raven's Rock - Shop River.	Ita O'Hanlon

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Your club membership card **MUST** be carried and produced 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 hike.

YOUNG HILLWALKERS CLUB



SATURDAY HIKE

Date: Saturday 13 December 1998.
Route: Bray Head.
Meet: Irish Press Office, Burgh Quay.
Time: 8.45AM.
Bring: Packed lunch, flask, water, hat, gloves, wet weather gear and torch.
Wear: Boots, tracksuit bottoms (no jeans), warm sweater.

For further information about our Saturday hikes, weekends and holidays away contact An Óige Head Office at 01-8304555 or either John Guy at 01-4524627 (h) or Dave Rooney at 01-8344811 (h).

THE CLUB SLIDES

This very popular slide show series will return in January. Details in next month's Hillwalker.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The date and venue for the Hillwalkers Club Annual General Meeting will be published in the next issue.

LOCAL HISTORY

LARAGH

The village of Laragh in Co. Wicklow gets its name from the Irish word láithreach meaning a site or place. The name itself dates back to 1601 when it was called 'The Laragh.

Prior to 1845 when a new road was built people had to cross the mountains on foot or else go round via Dublin to get from east to west or from Kildare to the Glendalough area.

Derrybawn House, north of the village, was built in the 18th century and belonged to Mr. James Critchey. It was burned down in 1798 and the present Derybawn House was built by a man named Bookey from which Bookey's Bridge is named. There were at least eleven United Irishmen from around the Laragh area who were among the rebel Michael Dwyer's ablest volunteers. Killafeen is the site of an old church. It is possible that the Abbey of Glendalough had a house of shelter there for travellers in early mediaeval times.

The barracks at Laragh which was built in 1803 as one of a number of such buildings on the Military Road by the British Government. There were one hundred men and a captain stationed here and their job was to suppress the many rebels active in the area.

Many battles have been fought in the district even as late as 1922 when a garrison based at the Royal Hotel in Glendalough was attacked.

Maggie Greaney

Rambles in the Rockies

Martin Fagan directed his attentions to the New World this year. Gathering an enthusiastic group of 16 walkers, we headed for the Rocky Mountains in Canada last July for three weeks. We took an 8-hour flight from London direct to Calgary in Alberta. After an overnight here we had a short trip to Ribbon Creek Y.H. in Kananaskis Country, passing the Olympic site en route (The Winter Olympics were held in Calgary in 1988). Kananaskis Country is a Provincial Park and was a wilderness until 1977. Still quite underdeveloped it has a nice non-tourist flavour. Three hikes here – the Ribbon Creek trail, the Centennial Route to Mount Allan (9550 ft.), and Old Baldy Mountain. Unfortunately, we failed to reach any of our destinations as the weather was too hot (between 27°C and 35°C). However, the alpine meadows on the Centennial Trail were delightful – a feast of flowers, some familiar such as asters, harebells and aquilegias, but also the extraordinary Indian Paintbrush, a most vivid red flower. Next port-of-call was Banff. The after our arrival here was White Water Rafting Day – a memorable highlight. A long bus trip took us to the wonderfully-named Kicking Horse River. We were fitted out with suitable gear and headed down river on a 2-hour journey. It was terrific fun and not dangerous.

After some local walks in Banff (Sulphur Mountain and Mount Sanson), we travelled to Lake Louise – a gorgeous turquoise lake. The trek up to the Plains of the six Glaciers was dramatic, terminating on the rim of a major lateral moraine. We were prevented from exploring the slopes of Mount Whitethorn as there were reports of grizzly bears in the area!

On to Edith Cavell Hostel near Jasper for one night. It is quite remote and facilities were basic but it was very homely. No drinking water, so water from a nearby pipe had to be boiled. The good news was that a fridge and two sets of lamps were delivered just before we arrived – operated on bottled gas. The popular walk here is to the handsome Angel Glacier. The trail ended at the Cavell Meadows, via another lateral moraine. An encounter with a moose enlivened our return journey, whilst others spotted a woodpecker in their travels. Compared to the Irish mountains, where one sees little wild life, Canada is very rewarding as we came across blue jays, chipmunks, bighorn sheep, coyotes, deer, etc.

In Maligne Canyon a few miles from Jasper we walked the full length of the canyon on our first evening. Next morning, I succumbed to an accumulation of mosquito bites and spent the day at Jasper Hospital getting medical attention. Everyone in the party suffered from bites to a greater or lesser extent during the holiday.

An amusing incident occurred at this hostel, where a Canadian hosteller strangely left his contact lenses overnight in a mug on the kitchen table. Next morning he came looking for them and found one of them lying at the bottom of the mug from which I had just drunk some orange juice. One can guess where the other lens disappeared to! Some witty colleagues seemed to think my eyesight had suddenly improved!

From Jasper International Hostel we had treks to Whistler Mountain, the Marmot Basin and a rest day in the grounds of the elegant Jasper Park Lodge, engaging in horse-riding, canoeing and pedal-boating and some easy hiking.

Homeward bound with a two-night stop at Beauty Creek – a tiny hostel with no running water a la Edith Cavell, but it is superbly situated on the banks of the Sunwapta River.

Back to Calgary via Banff. We had a full day there so we got a flavour of this fine city with its towers, skyscrapers, attractive parks and a fine selection of restaurants.

Despite the misadventures with mosquitoes and the excessive heat, it was a most successful trip with the Canadian hospitality being especially memorable.

Memories of buffalo burgers, international camp-fire sing-songs and Kokanee beer will not fade away easily.

Pearse Foley

THE CLUB COMMITTEE



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/Pauline Morley (01-8225818 h)
Training Officer:	Joe Kellegher (01-8381973 h)
Social Events:	Donal Finn / Martin Fagan
Young Hillwalkers:	John Guy (01-4524627 h) or Dave Rooney (01-8344811)
Other members:	Frankie Comerford
Distribution:	Cyril McFeeney

To facilitate quicker processing of membership, please send application forms and fees directly to membership secretary and not to An Óige Head Office.

Committee meeting on Wednesday 13 January 1999 at 8.00PM.

LEADERS URGENTLY WANTED

Contact Jim Barry at 4556455 (home between 7.00PM. and 9.00PM.)

SPECIAL NOTICE

A bag was found in Glandalough YH belonging to one of the people who attended the Christmas party. Contact Prionsias Mac AnBheatha at number above for details.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Have you travelled anywhere abroad or indeed in Ireland that you think members would like to read about?

Please put pen to paper and send some 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 *one A4 page of text*. A stamped and addressed envelope should accompany any photographs or article to ensure their return.

Also, book reviews on hillwalking and related topics would be very welcome.

Articles for inclusion in the January newsletter should be sent before Friday 4 December 1998 to:
Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
(e-mail: maggieg@tinet.ie)



Hillwalkers Christmas Party

FRIDAY 27th November

- 7.00pm Leave CUSTOM HOUSE
Hostel: Cheese & Wine Reception in Conference Room
- 10.30pm Slide Show on K2 and Pakistan by Maggie Greaney
in the Games Room Upstairs.
- Music in the Conference Room till late.

SATURDAY 28th November:

- 9.30am Two hikes in the area
- 5.00pm Soup & Roll
- 7.00pm Mass upstairs in the Games Room for those who wish to attend.
- 8.00pm Buffet in the Conference Room
- Main course - Turkey & Ham in the Kitchen/Dinning Room
- Desserts in the Conference Room
- 10.30pm Slide Show on Canadian Rockies by Martin Fagan
in the Games Room
- Music in the Conference Room/Ceili Dancing in the Dining
Room.

SUNDAY 29th November

- 9.30am Hike in the area.
- 4.30pm Depart Hostel