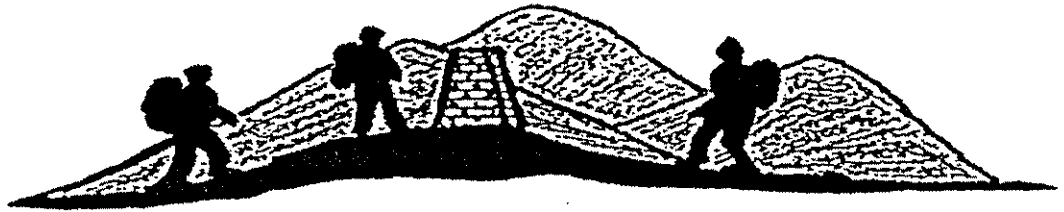


Hillwalker

Dec / Jan 2000 – 2001



*Seasons Greetings To All Our Members  
And Friends*



Photo: Paul Kavanagh Collection

The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

# The Hillwalker

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# Sunday Hikes December



**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.

Date	Route Description	Leader
December 3	Ballinastoe Wood G.R.195078(Not Pier Gates) – Barr Memorial – White Hill – Djouce Mtn – War Hill – Tonduff South – Maulin – Glensoulan – Crone Wood.	Warren Lawless
December 9 – 10	<b>ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY WEEKEND</b> Glendalough International Youth Hostel Contact An Oige Head Office for details	
December 17	<b>Christmas Hike</b> Oldbridge – Kanturk – Scarr – Paddock Hill – Laragh.	Don Reilly
December 24	<b>Christmas Eve</b> No organised walk	
December 26	<b>Annual St Stephens Day Hike</b> Circuit of Howth Meet: Sutton Cross at 11.AM	Martin Fagan
January 1	<b>Annual New Year's Day Hike</b> Glen of Imaal Fentons – Banana Road – Camara Hill – Lugnaquilla Mtn – Slieve Maan – Ballinaddan – Little Slaney River – Camara Hill – Fentons. Meet: Fentons at 11a.m	Jim Barry /Martin Fagan

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.

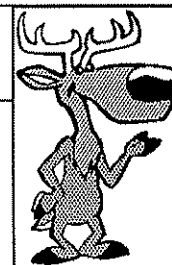
## LITTER

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.

# Sunday Hikes January



**MEET:** Outside Irish Press Offices, Burgh Quay  
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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.

Date	Route Description	Leader
January 7	No Sunday Hike	
January 14	Glenbride – Ballinagee River – Mullaghcleevaun – Cleevaun Lough – Billy Byrne's Gap – Moanbane – Silsean – Glenbride.	Donal Finn
January 21	Military Road – Duff Hill – Gravale – Carrigvore – Sally Gap – Crockan Pond – Tonduff South – Maulin – Crone Wood.	Gerry Cooke
January 28	Laragh – Paddock Hill – Scarr – Kanturk Mtn – Glenmacnass River – Tonelagee – Brockaghs – Laragh.	Ita O'Hanlon
February 4	Dwyer McAllister Cottage – Keadeen – Carrig – Ballinabarney – Ballinfoyle – Ballineddan – Slievemaan – Lybagh – Toorboy Mtn.	Tom Kenny

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### WALKING STICKS

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# Young Hillwalkers Club

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## SEPTEMBER SATURDAY HIKE DETAILS

**Date:** Saturday 9 December 2000 Bray Head and Christmas Party

**Route:** Crone & Djouce

**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.



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

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## An Óige Hillwalkers Club Christmas Party Weekend Away 9 – 10 December 2000

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The An Óige Hillwalkers Club annual Christmas Party Weekend Away will take place on the weekend of **9 – 10 December 2000**, in the Glendalough Youth Hostel. (*Please note the change in date from that published last month.*)

### Option One

Travel: Bus departs Saturday morning 9.00am from Custom House Quay and return Sunday evening.

Price: £40.00 (Includes transport to and from Dublin, hikes, dinner on Saturday night, slide show, spot prizes and one overnight)

### Option two

Arrive (own transport) Saturday evening by 6.00pm

Price: £30.00 (Includes dinner, spot prizes slide show, one overnight and hike on Sunday)

**Payment in full to An Óige Head Office stating either option one or option two.**

Money will *not* be collected by any committee member either beforehand or in the hostel.

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## The Club Slides

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### Hillwalking and Scrambling in Scotland: from Glencoe to Skye

Presented by

*Joe Kellegher and Donal Finn*

on

December 5th

at 8.30pm

Palace Bar, Upstairs Lounge Fleet Street

As always, any person interested in giving a slideshow should contact Donal Finn at 01 – 4530617.

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# Club Travel

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## Dodging Police and Terrorists in Central Asia.

*Proinsias Mac an Bheatha.*

We were expecting that the Police might try to take money from us, but we were not expecting an invasion of Islamic guerrillas from Tajikistan, but that is exactly what we got on our trip to Uzbekistan.

We flew there in August with Uzbekistan Airways from London, and because we and another group wanted to go to the town of Urgench, the airline duly obliged us by diverting there from Tashkent.

We spent the first week visiting the ancient silk road cities of Khiva, and Bukhara. Khiva particularly was amazing with its mosques, madresses and minarets. There were very few tourists there, and very often we were visiting deserted monuments.

On our second week the news came through that the mountains where we were due to go walking, had been invaded by Islamic terrorists from Tajikistan, where there is a civil war going on at the moment. We went to the Kyzylkum desert instead, and we spent two days riding on camels and walking in sweltering heat. We stayed in round tents called Yurts. Then we went to different mountains, but they were very hot and once your bottle of water ran dry, you had to turn back immediately or you would become dehydrated very quickly. Here we had our first encounter with the police. They stopped us by the roadside, and made us empty our bags. When they saw that they would get no money out of us, they suggested that if I gave them my playing cards that we would be allowed to go on our way. That was the end of our gambling anyway. Had Allah decided in his wisdom that we should not be gambling among his faithful? Would alcohol be stopped on us next?

We proceeded to the city of Samarkand, which was one of the high points of our trip. Many of the monuments date from the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The main mosques were centred in one square and had a wonderful uniformity. We visited a Carpet factory where the workers are treated properly and pure silk rugs are woven into amazing designs. A small rug cost \$200, and the larger ones cost \$700. Even the dyes are made from natural plant colours. To get from Samarkand to the Ferghana valley we took an overnight train which would take us through war torn Tajikistan. At the station a guard suggested that it would be wise to pay him a donation, in order to avoid any unnecessary delays. We were wakened many times during the night as we crossed and recrossed borders. Ferghana is a very Russian city with wide tree lined streets. But even here the Russians are beginning to return to Russia. They feel isolated with the growing nationalism of the Uzbekistan people. Russians we met were like the white South Africans. They felt the Uzbekistani government would not be able to run the country. We tried in our naivety to get to Shakimarden, which is a pocket of Uzbekistan surrounded by Tajikistan. We were turned back by the army at the border.

We finally went to Tashkent through a heavily guarded pass with attacks coming from Tajikistan on one side and from Kyrgyzstan on the other. With more police and Custom officers looking greedily at us we finally took our flight home.

The people of Central Asia are so friendly and welcome you to their country. They force you to take their photo, and even the females will greet you. They are a mixture of Mongol, Iranian, and Turk. There are also many Russians, who are very much involved in the tourist industry. The Government is a near dictatorship and the police totally corrupt. It is a very cheap country to visit with a bottle of coke for instance costing just 7 pence. But you must be prepared for a lot of hassle and delays, and maybe wait until the war is over.

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## St Patrick's Weekend Away 16 – 19 March

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Location:	Nepin Mountains, Co Mayo
Routes to include:	Nepin Bogs: Glendahurk Circuit
Hostel accommodation:	Traenlaur Lodge YH, accommodation limited to 30 persons so please book early
Leader:	Jim Barry
Booking :	An Oige Head Office from 1 January 2001.
Cost:	£65 APPROX. (meals extra).
Hikes levels:	Moderate and harder

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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.

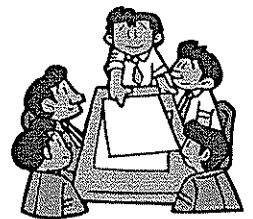
*Queries regarding change of address or non-receipt the Hillwalker should be directed to either Mr Ger Walsh (membership secretary) or Mr Joe Kellegher (telephone numbers below).*

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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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## The Hillwalkers Club AGM

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The Hillwalkers Club AGM will be held in early February 2001. The date will be published in February programme.

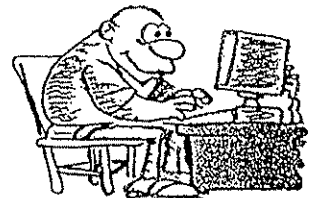
The committee would like a member to volunteer for the position of Editor. This person should be computer literate and ideally own their own. Please contact Martin Fagan if you are interested.

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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 2001 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 February newsletter should be sent before Friday 12 January to:**

**Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.  
(e-mail: [maggieg@eircom.net](mailto:maggieg@eircom.net))**



*An Óige*  
Irish Youth  
Hostel Association

61 Mountjoy Street,  
Dublin 7

61 Sráid Moinseó,  
Baile Átha Cliath 7

Telephone: +353 1 830 4555

Facsimile: +353 1 830 5808

E-mail: [mailbox@anoige.ie](mailto:mailbox@anoige.ie)

Web Site: [www.irelandyha.org](http://www.irelandyha.org)

6<sup>th</sup> December, 2000

Dear Friends,

Please find enclosed the final travel arrangements our New Year Trip to Ilam Hall Youth Hostel, in the Peak District.

For anybody who has not paid in full, the balance is now due. The total amount for the trip is £200.

Payment can be made by credit card by phone or by sending in a cheque or postal order.

The coach will leave at 8.30 am on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December, from the Dublin International Youth Hostel, 61 Mountjoy Street, Dublin 7.

Please find enclosed a copy of the menu for Thursday's evening meal and the Gala Meal on New Years Eve. Please return your choice of menu for Thursday's evening meal to Head Office as soon as possible. Please note all meals and bed linen are included in the overall price.

The trip is sailing from and returning to Dublin Port, North Wall.  
We will return back at Dublin Port, North Wall at 7.00pm on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2001.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2000.

*Regards,*

*Dave Rooney & Sean Dunne*



Uachtarán  
President  
J. Caulfield

Rúnaí Oinigh Náisiúnta  
Hon. National Secretary  
J. Moore

Cisteoir Oinigh  
Hon. Treasurer  
K. Kilkenny

Carthanacht Cláraithe  
Registered Charity  
CHY6557

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V.H.A. Ilam Hall  
*An Oige Young Hillwalkers*

Sunday 31/12/00

Starters

Melon and Home Made Sorbet

Fan of honeydew melon with home made sorbet of the day.

Home Made Thick Vegetable Soup

Soup made from a selected root vegetables.

Pate de Campagne

Slice of liver pate served with toast and salad garnish.

Entree

Roast Beef Topside

Succulent joint of beef sliced and served with horseradish.

Home Made Salmon Steaks with Lemon Pesto Butter

Lemon dill and classic Italian Pesto melts into salmon steaks  
 baked in paper parcels.

Cherry Tomato and Red Onion Tartlets

Puff pastry tartlets with a Mediterranean cherry tomato and red  
 onion filling oven baked to perfection.

All served with

Buttered Ginger Baton Carrots

French Runner Beans

Cabbage

Roast Potatoes and Mashed Potatoes

Dessert

Sherry Trifle

Traditional dessert made with to an old Ilam recipe containing  
 sherry and brandy.

Old English Syllabub

Fine spices and double cream with a generous helping of cream  
 sherry make this an all time favourite.

Rich Chocolate Custard Tart

Plain chocolate in a double cream custard if you dare!