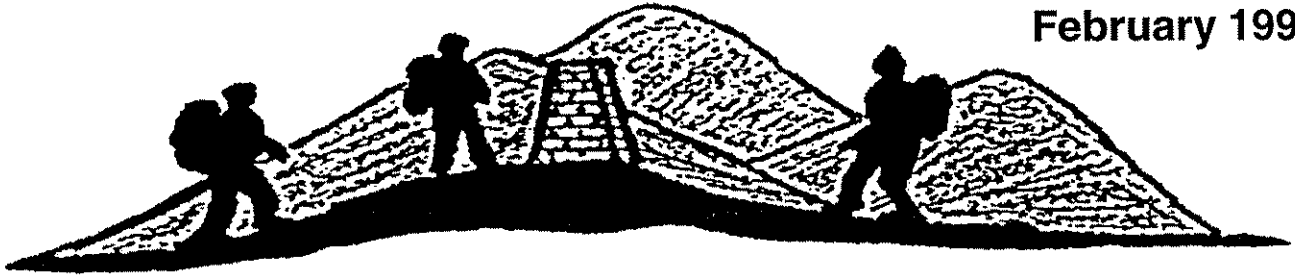


The Hillwalker

February 1998



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

The Hillwalker's innards this month include:

Sunday Hikes
Young Hillwalker's Club
Weekends Away
Holidays Away
Special Interest Hikes
Club Travel



Winter on the Iveragh Peninsula

Photo: Tom Shortall

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.

BRING A TORCH

Date	Route Description	Leader
1st Feb.	Glendalough (Upper Lake) - Lugduffs - Conavalla - Lough Firrib - Turlough Hill - Camaderry.	Joe Gilvarry
8th Feb.	INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE Carrigshouk - East Top - Mullaghcleevaun - Barnacullian - Stoney Top - Tonelagee - Glenmacnass.	Gary Byrne.
15th Feb.	SPECIAL 1798 DWYER-McALLISTER COMMEMORATIVE WALK (organised by Anne Carpenter) Seskin - Knockanarrigan - Coolmoney - Keadeen - Ballinabarney Bridge - Road - Dwyer-McAllister Cottage - Rostyduff Bridge - Knockanarrigan. (Part of this walk covers private land for which permission has been granted for this day only . Details of the rest of these walks later in newsletter.) The price for this special hike is £7 to include certificate and refreshments.	Martin Fagan.
22nd Feb.	Sallygap - Luggala - Knocknacloghoge - Military Road - Gravale - Carrigvore - Sallygap.	Tony Crean.
1st March	Ballinfoyle - Ballineddan - Camara Hill - Lugnaquilla - Canno Mtn. - Camenabologue - Table Track - Knickeen Ford.	Dave Rooney.

The hiking programme is subject to alteration during periods of extreme weather conditions.

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 FROM GLENCULLEN TO CURTLESTOWN

Date: Saturday 14th February 1998.
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.

ADVENTURE WEEKEND AWAY

Join the Young Hillwalkers Club for an adventure weekend staying in Aughavanagh Y.H. from 13th to 15th February 1998. Full details from John Guy or Dave Rooney at the numbers below.

For further information about our club phone the An Óige Head Office at 01-8304555 or either John Guy at 01-4524627 (h) or Dave Rooney at 01-8344811 (h).

HILLWALKERS NEWS



Hillwalkers Club t-shirts are now on sale. Sizes medium and large. Send £5 (cheque or postal order only - NO CASH) to cover post and packing to Maggie Greaney, stating the size required along with your name, address and telephone number, at the address on the back of the newsletter.

Club membership fees are now due for renewal. The membership fee will remain the same as last year at £10. Subscriptions *cannot* be processed without the fully completed membership application form. For further information contact Ger Walsh at the address on the back of the newsletter.

LEADERS URGENTLY WANTED

Contact Jim Barry at 4556455 (home between 7.00pm. and 10.00pm.) or Martin Fagan at 8553653 (h)

AN AFRICAN CHRISTMAS

There were seven people on the tour including my wife Jane and myself, group maximum 11. Also a driver/guide who is a tracker/guide by background. A cook did all the meals and both joined in the Social entertainments. Very friendly and professional. Flew Air Namibia scheduled via Frankfurt to Windhoek. Drove to Vic Falls and flew from there to Windhoek (in Tito's plane) for the return leg via 747. The other people on the trek were from England except one couple from Canada.

First few days were in the Namib - Nakluft desert area where the spectacular sand-dunes rise up to 300ft only a few miles from the sea coast. We climbed the dunes for sunset and did some game viewing during the day. Christmas day was in the desert in a campsite with proper showers and toilets. The sleeping areas were tents or 'A' frames made of wood which were open either end but had a roof and you are a few inches off the ground to stay clear of scorpions etc. They have had leopards in the camp in the past. That particular camp site had a few problems with the water supply as a Bull elephant had invaded the camp two days previously and knocked down one of the water towers to get a drink.

Christmas dinner was roast pork, roast potato, open log fire in heavy cast iron cauldrons. and cook) sat around our table with party

After Christmas we travelled all day to get border. There we visited some 'Native' vilhuts and semi-nomadic farming but some of strange mix of cultures but more Stone Age

Would you believe it started to rain - we had when it only manages 12mm per year, you drops that made it to the ground were more of the country however, we had heavy rains care of Technicolor thunder storms. We detoured towards the East of the country to the Etosha



Tom Shortall

toes, vegetables etc. all cooked over an open fire. The nine of us (seven guests, guide and cook) sat around our table with party hats on and pulled crackers.

the the North of Namibia to the Angolan border - they are still in the era of mud huts - they use pick up trucks to help. A bit more than modern.

had rain every day in the desert but we can appreciate that the three or four of us had a novelty that a bother. In the North during the night with lots of warning we decided to leave the next day and moved to Etosha Park.

This is where we spent New Year and we had an excellent time. Good weather, modern facilities and early morning / late afternoon game drives. It was too hot to do anything during the day except read in the shade or go to the swimming pool. New Year was in a campsite that had been built around an old colonial fort. Two thunder storms lit the skies either side of us but had the good grace to rain elsewhere. Jane made a wicked Brandy Punch which tasted just like fruit juice and we merrily sang Auld Langs Ayne at midnight.

We moved on from Etosha to Botswana after New Year travelling along the Caprivi strip which is green and lush compared to the arid brown / yellow / orange of the rest of the country. At the border post with Botswana, we waded through inches of mud to get our Passports stamped. That evening we dumped the idea of tents and booked into a lodge - luxury chalets made of logs with thatched roof in huge gardens by the riverside. Warnings to beware of crocodile and Hippo everywhere. Didn't feel tempted to use the swimming pool in case of crocs.

We were considering going back to tents for the second night but the campsite was too muddy and just as well. That night we had a torrential almost tropical rainstorm for over an hour. The next morning, in the blazing sun, we all congratulated ourselves for being softies. After Botswana we went to Zimbabwe and Victoria Falls. We went white water rafting down the Zambezi from just below the falls to about 25km downstream in Zambia. I could write a ream on it but suffice to say it was exciting, frightening, great fun and I will never do it again!

The flight back had an interesting feature. From Vic. Falls we flew to the capital of Namibia to pick up the 747 to London. The connecting flight was on a propeller plane, but the interior was like the Orient Express. It had been owned by the Yugoslavia military and was Marshal Tito's private transport. The seats were like armchairs and it had six bunk beds. I have never been in a plane with sleeping accommodation. Because it was a prop, it flew below cloud level and had huge windows so we got an excellent view back over Zimbabwe, the game parks, Botswana and then again the Namibian deserts. We felt like the cast from "Out of Africa".

Written by Tom Shortall and booked through Exodus.

WEEKENDS AWAY



CLUB WEEKENDS AWAY FOR THE COMING YEAR

MAY BANK HOLIDAY:

- ◆ The Burren, Co. Clare. Organisers: Martin Fagan & Frankie Comerford.

JUNE BANK HOLIDAY

- ◆ The Beara Peninsula, Co. Kerry. Organiser: Donal Finn.

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

- ◆ The Nephin Mountains, Co. Mayo. Organiser: to be decided.

OCTOBER BANK HOLIDAY

- ◆ The Galtee Mountains, Co. Tipperary. Organiser: to be decided.

DETAILS OF THE EASTER BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND AWAY TO KERRY/WEST CORK

Date: Thursday 9 April to Monday 13 April 1998

This weekend is suitable for moderate and hard walkers only.

Staying: Aghadoe YH, Killarney. Cost: Adults £55 and under 18's £50.

Meals are £18 extra and, there is a delicatessen in the hostel. Deposit of £30 (non refundable) to An Óige Head Office (01-8304555, credit cards accepted).

Bring: Winter clothing/boots/spare clothing/sheet bag/rucksack/valid An Óige Card/receipts of all payments to Head Office.

The bus departs from Custom House Quay on Thursday 9th April at 6.00PM. SHARP.

ROUTES:

Friday - Caherconeree/bauregaum. Dingle Peninsula. Sheet 71.

Saturday - Carrauntoohil. Sheet 78.

Sunday - Gaugane Barra Circuit. West Cork. Sheet 85.

Monday - Paps of Dana or Caherbarnagh if time permits. Sheet 79.

LONG DISTANCE WALKS



The Long Distance Walks Season will be starting again soon. As you may know, An Óige organise the Ring of Imaal Walk. This huge undertaking involves a lot of people and time.

The organisers urgently need experienced people to help in this organisation. Back-up support and people to man the checkpoints are needed. If you have a good knowledge of the hills, can navigate and are willing to lend a hand, please contact Jim Barry at the number on the back of the newsletter.

SPECIAL INTEREST HIKES

Anne Carpenter is organising a series of six commemorative 1798 hikes in Co. Wicklow. The Hillwalkers Club will be taking part in the February walk as our regular Sunday hike.

The details of these hikes are as follows:

February hike: See Sunday hikes section.

March hike: This hike on 17th March, will visit the area where Michael Dwyer lived as a young man.

April hike: Surrender walk.

May hike: Hike in historic Brusselstown Ring area.

July hike: Repeat of February hike.

September hike: Hike in the Donard area.

The full details of these hikes have still to be arranged. For further information of how to take part please contact Anne Carpenter at 045-404816 (h)

THE COMMITTEE



Chairperson & Sunday Hikes: Jim Barry (01-4554655 h)

Secretary: Donal Finn (01-4530617 h)

Treasurer: Proinsias Mac AnBheatha (01-8379897 h)

Training Officer: Joe Kellegher (01-8381973 h)

Weekends Co-ordinator & Holidays Away: Martin Fagan (01-8553653 h)

Membership Secretary: Pauline Morley/Ger Walsh (01-8225818 h)

Editor: Maggie Greaney (01-2834253 h)

Young Hillwalkers: John Guy (01-4524627 h) or Dave Rooney (01-8344811)

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 March newsletter should be sent before Friday 13 February 1998 to:
Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

An Óige Hillwalkers Club

Slide Show on Kilimanjaro and Zanzibar

in

The Palace Bar

on

Thursday 26 February

at

8.30pm. - free entry

The first in the monthly An Oige Hillwalkers slide shows will be held in the upstairs lounge of the Palace Bar on the above date. Proinsias Mac An Bheatha will tell us about his epic and exciting trip to Kilimjaro & Zanzibar last year.

These slide shows will run for the winter on Thursday evenings towards the end of the month. The dates will be published in the club magazine. Some future treats in store include shows on Peru, Equador and the Canadian Rockies. Anyone who would like to put on a show should contact Donal Finn at 01-4530617 (h).