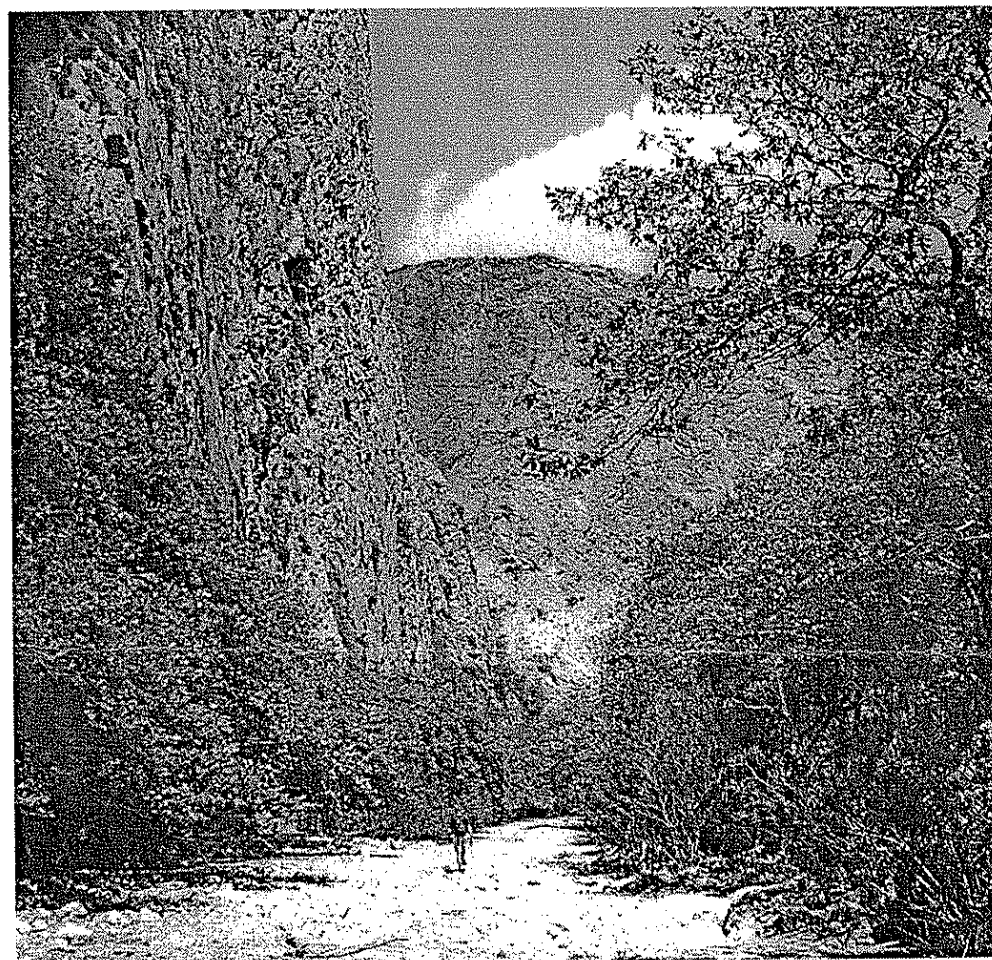


Hillwalker

February 1999



Prassanos Gorge, Crete,  
Photo: Warren Lawless

The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

# The Hillwalker

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## Points of Interest:

- *Easter Weekend to Kerry*
- *Feature article – hiking in Crete*

# 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.



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
7 Feb	Fenton's Car Park – Camara Hill – Lugnaquilla – Slievemaan – Ballineddan – Camara Hill – Fenton's Pub.	Tom Kenny
14 Feb	Glendalough – Lugduffs – Lough Firrib – Camaderry – Glendalough.	Ita O'Hanlon
21 Feb	Ballinagee Bridge – Glenreemore Brook – Oakwood – Lough Firrib – Art's Cross – Three Lakes – Glenreemore – Ballinagee Bridge.	Joe Kellegher
28 Feb	Wicklow Gap – Glashboy – Circuit Lough Ouler – Tonelagee – Wicklow Gap Road – Lough Nahanagan – Camaderry – Glendalough.	Deirdre Corrigan
7 Mar	Kippure Bridge – Athdown Wood – Seefingan – Kippure – Lough Bray's – Glencree.	Pierce Foley

## 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.

## Leaders

People interested in leading a hike should contact Jim Barry at 01-4556555 (h).

# The Young Hillwalkers Club

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## SATURDAY HIKE FOR FEBRUARY

Date: Saturday 13 February 1999.  
Route: Stepside to Shop River.  
Meet: Harp Bar, O'Connell Bridge, Dublin.  
Time: 8.45 a.m.  
Transport: Local bus (unless otherwise stated).  
Bring: Packed lunch, wet weather gear and torch.  
Wear: Boots, tracksuit bottoms (no jeans), hat and gloves.



## ADVENTURE WEEKEND AWAY IN FEBRUARY

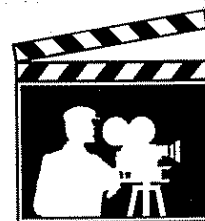
Date: 19th to 21st February 1999  
Location: Glendalough

For further information about our monthly hike, weekends away or about the club in general, contact An Óige Head Office at 01-8304555

# The Club Slides

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Via delle Bocchette  
(Via Ferrata or iron way)  
Scrambles in the Brenta Dolomites, Italy  
Presented by  
Maggie Greaney  
On  
Tuesday 16th February 1999  
In  
The Palace Bar, Fleet Street



A via ferrata or iron way is an adaptation by man of the weakness common in limestone. Nature has laid down the rock like layers of a sponge cake. Some of the layers, being stronger than others, are more resistant to weathering, so that frequently a ledge is left where an upper softer layer has worn back from a lower harder one. Such a ledge might well run right across the face of a cliff, providing a narrow but exposed path: in some places a couple of metres wide, in others no more than a few centimetres. Obviously such a path has its dangers and to help overcome these a stout wire is stanchioned to the rock face as a sort of handrail. The ledges are seldom continuous for very long, so to connect these ledges iron ladders have been bolted to the wall between ledges. This slide show details the a series of routes which make up the famous Via delle Bocchette, in the Brenta Dolomites, Italy which is listed as one of the Great Walks of the World.

Admissions is free. Parking in Temple Bar Car Park.

# Club Travel – Two Cripples in Crete

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Philip Hayden and Warren Lawless have been two rare faces these last few months, the former has been troubled by a dodgy knee, whilst the latter was recovering from a sprained foot. Unable to match the pace of their Hillwalker compatriots, the two decided to set their own pace on a foreign adventure. A glance at the travel literature highlighted sunny Crete as a good destination for a mixture of relaxation and walking. Apart from being dominated by three impressive mountain ranges, the land is littered with navigable gorges, and has the attraction of being dry and warm.



So with plenty of factor cream stowed in their packs the duo set out, arriving in Heraklion, the Greek island's main city, in the early hours of September 9th. Over the course of the next two weeks, we managed to do seven assorted gorge and coastal walks.

Our first walk was in the Prassanos Gorge. We took a taxi from the north coast into the countryside. There was an impressive view at the mouth of the gorge, and as we walked on its walls loomed over us. The scene at times put us in mind of the Hollywood 'Wild West'. We grew slightly disconcerted when we spotted three buzzards circling overhead us, but their 'dinner' had plenty of energy left and we made it to the gorge's seaward end. Passing an ugly scattering of buildings we reached the main coastal highway and got our bus back to base.

The second gorge required an early morning bus journey that took us deep into the countryside amid beautiful views of hills, mountains and farmlands. We walked from the village of Kambi down to Katochori, pausing frequently to take in the wonderful scenery. From the village we set out east to walk the gorge between Katochori and Stilos. This gorge proved more lush than Prassanos, providing welcome shade and plenty of bird life. When we reached Stilos we collapsed in the shade of a eucalyptus grove, with a cool drink as our reward, followed by a siesta until the bus home came.

Constant interlopers on our walks were mountain goats and tiny lizards; people were far rarer, with us meeting only two on the second walk. This sense of solitude was totally absent from our next walk in the famous Samaritan Gorge, the longest gorge in Europe and a 'must do' on any visit to Crete, not just for walkers, but for all visitors to the island. It is spectacular, being deep and well forested in parts.

This trek brought us to the south coast of the island. We had dumped the bulk of our gear in Hania. This enabled us to travel along the coast without being tied to one location. We first took the ferry further westward to Paleohora and then travelled back east along the coast, on foot or by ferry, to Hora Sfakion. The coastal walks were punctuated with plenty of R&R in the small tourist towns along the way.

Our final walk had us up before dawn, to catch a bus inland to Kares. In the chill of the morning we wandered through farmland, past an old Turkish fort and up into a mountain glade (complete with singing shepherd and his flock). We then managed to miss the trail into the gorge we intended to walk in and instead found ourselves high above, looking down. Having taken in this grand sight we then made a perilous descent down into the gorge. Once there we relocated the trail and sauntered down to the coast. Reaching the main road, Philip's well-tanned legs ensured we quickly got a lift home.

Our last day was spent travelling, first to Hania to pick up our belongings, and then on to Heraklion for our flight home. It was great to experience this different culture and very beautiful landscape.

Warren Lawless

# Hiking weekend to Kerry

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- Date: Easter Weekend bus trip to Dingle Peninsula, Co. Kerry – Thursday 1 April to Monday 5 April 1999.
- Cost: £65 (excluding meals).
- Meals: £20 (payable on bus) for three evening meals. Please advise office when booking if meals are required.
- Boat: £8 approx. to Blasket Island.
- Hostel: Dun Chaoin YH.
- Travel: The bus will depart from the Custom House Quay on Thursday 1 April at 1400 hrs. (2.00 p.m.) SHARP. The bus will return on Monday 5 April at 2030 hrs. (8.30 p.m.) approx.
- Bring: Sufficient food for Friday breakfast and drum up. (There will be ample opportunities to purchase food daily). Hiking gear, boots, rainwear, head torch, sheet bag etc. An Óige membership card and payment receipts must be produced on request.

Moderate and harder walks will take place daily.

## ITINERARY

1. Walking on Brandon Ridge to include Brandon Mtn. – Brandon Peak – Gearane – Ballysitterah – Dingle. Starting at GR 4902 (OS Map sheet no. 70).
2. Anascaul Glen GR 583052 to include Beenoskee and Stradbally Mtns.
3. Dun Chaoin GR 0031 to Mt. Eagle and Dunmore Head GR 312982.
4. Boat trip and walking on the beautiful Blasket Island (weather permitting).
5. Opportunities on each outing to walk some of the scenic sections of the Dingle Way if desired.

Booking is now open through An Óige Head Office tel. 01-8304555.

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLY DEPARTURE TIME OF 2.00 P.M. ON THURSDAY 1 APRIL.

## An Óige elections

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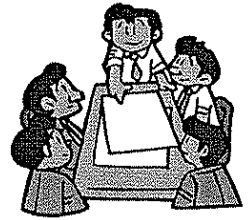
The following candidates have been nominated to contest the Council Elections at AGM.

Candidates	Proposed By
Brian Graham	Gerry Beare, Jacinta Moore, Ann Prendergast, Christopher Greer, Kathleen Greer
William Maher	Don Gleeson, Don Reilly, Declan Tighe, Dennis Kenny, Joe Kavanagh.
Marie McDonnell	Martin Fagan, Gretta Drea, Liam Lambert, Niamh Nic Giollapadraig Seán Ó Cinnide.
Tony O'Sullivan	Eilish Ryan, Ann Prendergast, Val Duffy, Arthur Byrne, Carthage O'Leary.

# 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/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



## Membership

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Annual membership fees of £15 include the monthly club programme, insurance and a copy of the Irish Mountain Log which is published four times a year. Fees should be sent to the membership secretary at the address below.

Mr. Ger Walsh,  
15 Summerfield Avenue,  
Blanchardstown,  
Dublin 15.

## Next Committee meeting

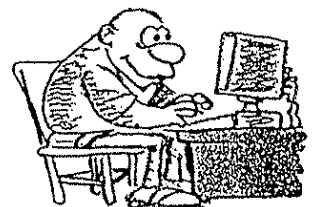
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Next Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 23 February 1999.

## A Note from the Editor

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During 1999 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 1999 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.



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

Articles for inclusion in the March newsletter should be sent before Tuesday 15 February 1999 to:  
**Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.**  
(e-mail: [maggieg@tinet.ie](mailto:maggieg@tinet.ie))