

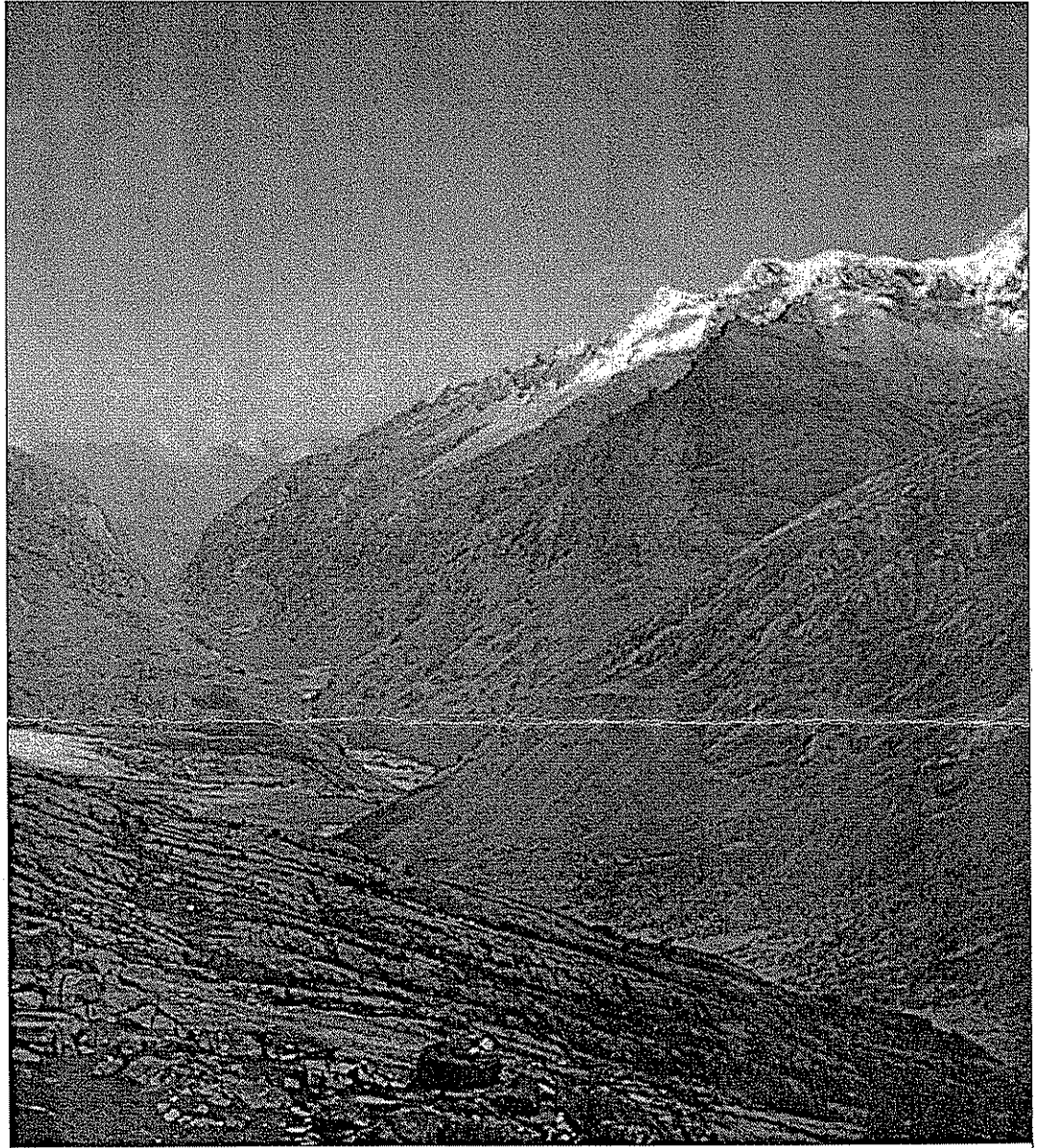
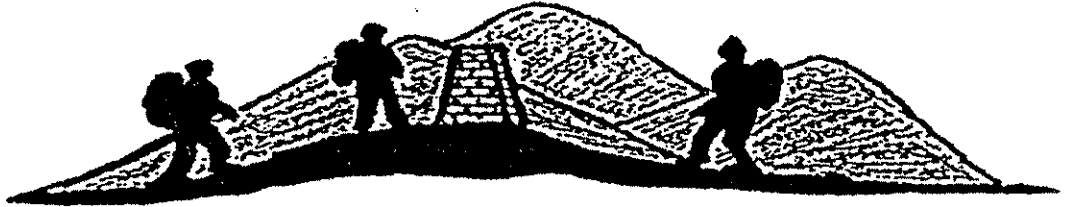
Hillwalker

February 2000



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

The Hillwalker



Laguna Grande, Peru. Photo Colette Nolan Collection

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Sunday Hikes January

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 |
|-------------|--|---------------|
| February 6 | Killybeg – Keadeen – Ballinabarney – Ballinwoyle – Ballineddan – Slievemaan – Camarahill – Fentons. | Monica Cadden |
| February 13 | Ballinagee Bridge – Glenreemore Brook – Arts Cross – Lough Firrib – Turlough Hill – Seven Churches – Glenealo River – Glendalough – Laragh | Pat Drew |
| February 20 | Wicklow Gap – Tonelagee Mtn. – Marnacullian – Mullaghcleevaun – Billy Byrne's Gap – Moanbane – Silsean – Ballyknockan | Gerry Cooke |
| February 27 | INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE Liffey Head Bridge – Grouse House – Tonduff South – Maulin – Crone Wood – Knockree Hill – Curtlestown – Prince William Seat – Knocknagun – Oldboleys – Glencree. | Tom Kenny |
| March 5 | Glenmalure – Arts Lough – Clohernagh – Lugnaquilla – Corrigasleggaun – Carrawaystick Mtn. – Kelly's Lough – Drumgoff Bridge | Noel Kerley |

Important Notice

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.

Young Hillwalkers Club

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.



FEBRUARY HIKE

Date: Saturday 12 February
Route: Stepside to Shop River

ADVENTURE WEEKEND AWAY

Date: 18th to 20th February 2000
Location: Glencree

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

The Club Slides

Peru in September

Presented by Colette Nolan

In

The Palace Bar (Upstairs Lounge), Fleet Street

On

Tuesday 22 February, 2000 at 8.30 p.m.

Admission Free.

St. Patrick's Weekend Away

Date: Thursday 16 – Sunday 19 March 2000.
Accommodation: Foulksrath Castle Y. H., Co. Kilkenny.
Cost: £50.00 (this price will be confirmed closer to the date). This price includes three overnights and transport.
NB: this price does not include meals.
Evening meals: Inquire on booking (from early January 2000) at An Óige Head Office, tel. 01-8304555.
Booking: By non refundable deposit of £25 to Head Office.

Please Note: The bus will leave Custom House Quay at 7.00 p.m. SHARP.

The hikes for the weekend will include the following:

1. Brandon Hill (Graiguenamanagh, Co. Kilkenny)
 2. Slieve Blooms
 3. Barrow Tow Path
-

Easter Weekend Away

Date: 20 – 24 April 2000
Location: Ballydavid Wood Y. H.
Leader: Martin Fagan
Details: Details will be published next month.





Peru in September

On our arrival in Lima, Peru's capital city, all four of us were collected by Leo our hostel owner. Having experienced the traffic at rush hour we gladly settled in for our two day stay of exploring the sights, sounds and smells of this hectic city.

After an eight hour bus trip north of Lima we arrived in Huaraz, one of the most important trekking and backpacking centres of Peru, which is surrounded by the Cordillera Blanca and lying in the shadow of Peru's highest mountain Huascarán (6768m). This town has great atmosphere, with a combination of friendly locals and tourists, lots of colourful markets selling locally produced souvenirs. Its cafe's and restaurants were a great place to mingle and plan our forthcoming Santa Cruz trek. We were given lots of advice on coping with altitude and 'mate de coca' tea did the trick – chewing leaves just couldn't be justified not with that taste!!!

We spent a couple of days acclimatising (sometimes at night in the local salsa bars!), in the surrounding hills and valleys. Finally it was time to begin our trek. We set out early one morning towards our trekking route. We had been cajoled into using the local transport system of *colectivo's*. We travelled by minibus, at a cost of eight soles*, and spent the entire journey worrying about the state of our rucksacks which were stored on the roof of the bus with a consignment of chickens!

On reaching Huascarán National Parque we registered and paid a fee of sixty-five soles for a four-day backpack. We had an option here to hire an *arriero* (mule driver) and a couple of pack animals for our camping gear – but being ones never to take the easy/sensible option we headed off into the mountains – map in hand. There are designated campsites along the route with the only facilities being a *banio* (pit latrine).

After three days (and gaining altitude all the time) we arrived at the highest pass of the trek, Punta Union (4750m). Here we gazed at amazing snow-capped peaks surrounding beautiful valleys before beginning our descent and return to Lima.

The second leg of our trip was a one hour internal flight to Cusco, which is the centre of Peru's travel network. With its massive Inca stone walls, this is the archaeological capital of the Americas. This was the starting point for the four day/40 km Inca Trail, with its archaeological sites, spectacular scenery, tropical jungle and views of the snow-capped Andes. We joined an organised group to trek this most famous route. Our most difficult day was over 'Dead Woman's Pass' (4200m), but worth it as we were rewarded next day at Intipunku (the sun gate) with amazing views of Machu Picchu bathed in sunshine. In this fantastic location high on a forested mountain with views of the Urubamba River below, we took a guided tour and explored the ruins. Afterwards we descended to Agus Calientes for a night's entertainment and the return train to Cusco.

For the final leg of our trip we took another flight to Arequipa set amongst the mountainous desert of western Peru. Many of the buildings are built from a very light coloured volcanic rock called sillar and these dazzling buildings have earned Arequipa the title of 'The White City'. We spent time exploring the city and visiting infamous Santa Catalina monastery. We then took a two day trip to Colca Canyon to see the Andean condors who thankfully obliged by putting on an impressive display.

Twenty-six days gave us ample time for a very relaxing trip. Other well known highlights to be seen are the Nazca Lines and Pisco, Lake Titicaca and Puno. We found travelling safe and easy, accommodation and food relatively reasonable and the people culturally diverse and friendly. There's something for everyone in Peru. Our return flight to Lima with KLM cost £625 punds, with internal flights costing between £30 – £50 punds. The total cost of the trip like this is £1,200 – £1,400 for a very good time.

* £1 punt = 4.51 Peruvian Nuevo Sol.

Colette Nolan

- ◆ **Colette will give a slide show of her trip to Peru on Tuesday 22 February. See The Club Slides on page for details.**

Membership Fees Now Due

Annual membership fee of £15 is now due. This will be the last *Hillwalker* until fees are renewed.

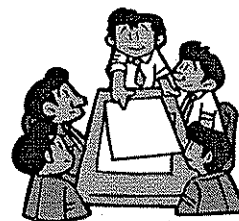
Fees should be sent to the membership secretary at the following address:
Mr. Ger Walsh, 15 Summerfield Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

The Hillwalkers AGM

The An Oige Hillwalkers Club AGM was held on Tuesday 25 January 2000, in The Central Hotel, Exchequer Street. The committee of last year have agreed to sit for another year. Names and contact numbers listed below.

The 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 (01-8225818 h) |
| Training Officer: | Joe Kellegher (01-8381973 h) |
| Young Hillwalkers: | Dave Rooney (01-8344811) |



Distribution: Cyril McFeeney & Pearse Foley

Committee Meeting

The next Hillwalkers Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th February 2000.

A Note from the Editor

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 2000 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 March newsletter should be sent before Wednesday 16 February to:
Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
(e-mail: maggieg@tinet.ie)

