

*Happy New year To All Our Members
And Friends*



Ann, Carmel, Joe, Colette, Don, and Fiona enjoy the festive fun at the Christmas party

The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

The Hillwalker

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Sunday Hikes February



MEET: Outside old Irish Press Offices, Burgh Quay, down from Spar shop.
DEPART Sundays 10.00 A.M. (or when the bus is full)
COST: Private bus. £6.00 (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 11	An Óige 70TH Anniversary - Special Interest Hike North Dublin Coast Partmarnock Village – Baldoyle Estuary – Velet Strand – Martello Tower – Malahide Village – Malahide Estuary – Ballymadrough – Newbridge Demense – Donabate Village – Portrane – Costal Walk – Donabate(Dunnes Hotel). Scenic Views include: Howth Peninsula - Irelands Eye – Lambay Island – Newbridge House – Malahide Estuary – Scenic Coast Line.	Frank Rooney
February 18	Barravore Circuit: Barravore Carpark – Avonbeg River – Ballinagoneen – Conavalla – Three Lakes(optional) – Table Track – Camenabologue – Benleagh – Forest Track – Barravore Carpark.	Ger Walsh
February 25	Introductory Hard Hike: Hollywood Village – Slievecorragh – Green Road – Corriebracks – Lobawn – Cavanagh's Gap – Wexford Gap – Round Hill - Track – Douglas River Crossing- Road – Finish(G.R. 980005).	Noel Kerley
March 4	Lugnaquilla via Ow Valley: Forest Entrance (G.R.055862) – Forest Route – South Prison – Lugnaquilla – Clohernagh – Arts Lough – Bendoo – Forest Track - Footbridge Road.	Jim Barry

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.

ENVIRONMENT

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. Try to reduce the erosion of trails: Do not walk on the edge of tracks.

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.

Club Weekends Away

If it is rest, luxury and relaxation you want, look elsewhere. But if its wilderness and good company you seek then sign up for a club weekend away! Here is a brief summary of trips planned for the year so far, to help you plan your involvement:

March	<i>Traenlaur, Co. Mayo</i>	Jim Barry (see details elsewhere in the newsletter)
March	<i>Wales</i>	Donal Finn
Easter	<i>Errigal, Co. Donegal</i>	Ita O'Hanlon
May	<i>An Óige 70th Anniversary</i>	
June	<i>Ball Hill, Co. Donegal</i>	Tony Crean
June	<i>Wales</i>	Sean Dunne
August	<i>Ben Lettery, Co. Sligo</i>	Proinsias MacAnBheatha

Club Messages

Congratulations to Brian & Bronagh Madigan on the birth of their first child, Caoimhe. Doubtless Brian will be on nappy detail for the next while.

We also want to wish Brendan Dempsey well as he retires from the musical instrument business. We hope he enjoys the extra freedom to go walking. By the way, rumour has it that Brendan will be in the Palace on Valentine's Day handing out kisses, chocolates and flowers to any ladies who venture in. You've been warned...

St Patrick's Weekend Away 16 – 19 March

Location:	Nepin Mountains, Co Mayo
Routes to include:	Nepin Bogs: Glendahurk Circuit
Hostel accommodation:	Traenlaur Lodge YH, 8km from Newport. Accommodation limited to 32 persons so please book early
Leader:	Jim Barry
Booking :	An Óige Head Office from 1 January 2001.
Cost:	£70. (meals extra).
Hikes levels:	Moderate and harder

The Club Slides

Travels in Central Asia

Presented by
Prionnsias MacAnBheatha
February 6th 9.15 (after the AGM)

Walking in Scotland: Glencoe to Skye

Presented by
Donal Finn & Joe Kellegher,
February 27th

March 13th To be announced

Regular venue: 8.30pm
Palace Bar, Upstairs Lounge, Fleet Street

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

Club Travel

'Falling Around the Christmas Tree'

An Óige Hillwalkers Christmas Party 2000

It was that time of year again, when An Óige's hillwalking hordes descend *en masse* on Glendalough Y.H for festive fun and games. This time round the party was condensed into one night with walks planned for the Saturday and Sunday.

There was a dramatic start to events when the Mod walk ran into trouble. One of our walkers, *Philip O'Reilly*, slipped on the infamous Sphinx and broke his leg. His location and the nature of his injury required the assistance of the emergency services (Gardai, Ambulance, FCA, Army, Civil Defence, Mountain Rescue, Coastguard...there was even an Navy vessel seen sailing up the lake). Philip was quickly airlifted by Coastguard helicopter to hospital, his Christmas party cut very short. We wish him a speedy return to the hills. Our sincere thanks also to those who assisted in the rescue operation.

Those who travelled down separately from the group arrived over the course of the day and a good crowd of members (from hardened walkers to social members) were gathered together. As the evening progressed the formal events began. Mass was again celebrated by *Father John Joyce*. Dinner was a traditional Yuletide spread with a plentiful supply of wine and beer to wash it down.

We were graced with the presence of *John Guy*, last seen pictured in the press on top of Mount Elbrus. John treated us to a slide-show of the Millennium Youth Initiative's summer expedition to the Caucasus Mountains. There were breath-taking pictures of these incredibly rugged mountains. In the course of the show, several ladies were noticed to be fainting, claiming the room was too hot (and steamy). We suspect that it was more due to John's presence than the lack of cool air...

Having wine'd, dined, and oooh'd and aaaah'd at the photos, it was time for the raffle and prize giving. *Proinsias Mac An-Beatha* was again in charge of the raffle despite the rumours of corruption hanging over his stewardship of last year's draw. When *Warren Lawless* found his name drawn from the raffle hat, this cunning lad seized a bottle of Baileys and was soon floating around the room, filling the glass of every young lady he could corner. Among the remaining prizes was a lovely painting by Proinsias. There was some debate over how this should be awarded, but that rogue *Matt Geraghty* settled the matter like a good art thief and seized the prize.

With the formalities over it was time to crank up the music and start dancing!!! There were several battles for control of the stereo, but very soon the crowd were merrily bopping, all nicely attired in the hostel's decorations. *Fiona Shaugnessy* added a stylish flair to her clothes with a reel of golden tinsel and set the fashion for the rest of the party crowd. *Brendan Dempsey* was again the oldest swinger in town, and led the group off on a Can-Can, oops, I mean a line. However, this year, Brendan was upstaged by that young whipper-snapper, *Mick Henihan*. We watched in amusement as Mick did the dance of the thirty veils (or dirty vests, in his case), until he was dancing nearly bare-chested around the floor. Luckily he rediscovered his jumper before a riot began.

It must be mentioned that in the course of the party, all the lads were completely upstaged by *Stephen Burke's* baby, young *David Burke*. If he has as many women flocking round him when he grows up, he'll be a happy fella. But as *Don Juan De Reilly* remarked, 'Who'll be bringing the baby next year?'

Dedication to the task required the author party till late, but he made notes of what he had heard, witnessed and imagined before he went to bed. Alas, when he sat down to write this article he could not decipher his drunken scrawl. So you may all breath a little easier, those of you who trembled in fear at the memory of your deeds that night.

The next morning was very wet and only a few hardy souls took to the nearby hills. Overall, the one-night format had worked very well. Our thanks to all involved in the hostel, the committee and their volunteers, for organising another memorable An Óige event.

Warren Lawless

P.s Property lost at the party include a French tape and Christmas music CD. Contact editor if found.

2001 Membership Fees

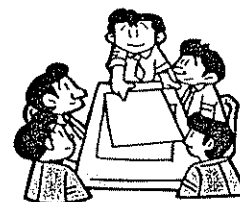
The Hillwalkers Club annual membership fee is £15.

Membership for the new year is due for all of us. Application form is enclosed and should be sent to the membership secretary at the following address: Mr. Ger Walsh, 15 Summerfield Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15. All applications received on 29th February will go into a raffle to win a lovely dinner for two prepared by Matthew Geraghty.

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).

The 2000 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

The Hillwalkers Club AGM

The Hillwalkers Club **AGM** will be held upstairs in The Palace bar, at 7.45pm Tuesday **6th February 2001**. New committee members will be appointed and Club reports issued. This is your chance to depose the corrupt junta that runs our club and appoint new blood, people of principle and vision. [Did I mention I was standing for election?] All members are welcome and encouraged to come along.

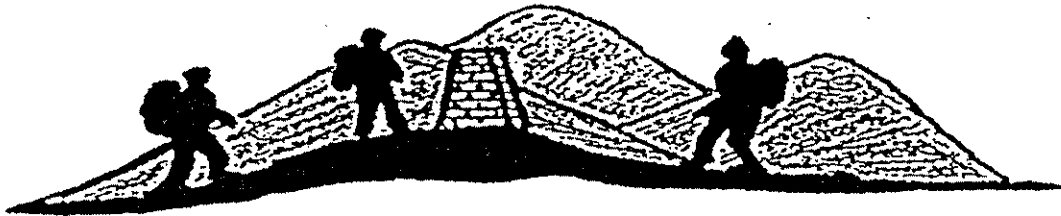
Note: the AGM will be immediately followed by a slide show on walking in Central Asia by Prionsias MacAnBheatha

A Note from the Editor

During 2001 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 fingers to keyboard and send your articles to the address below for inclusion in the newsletter. Articles and pictures should in electronic form where possible or at least typed, and should be a maximum of 500 words. A stamped and addressed envelope should accompany any photographs or printed articles to ensure their return. Articles will be published in order of receipt (unless accompanied by a £100 note).



Articles for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to **Warren Lawless**
Email: warrenl@gofree.indigo.ie
(Post: 19 Jervis Place, Upper Abbey Street, Dublin 1)



An Óige Hillwalker Application Form

Name
Address
Date of Birth
Telephone Number (Home)
Telephone Number (Work)
Were you a member last year?
An Oige Membership Number
Email Address (to receive the newsletter by email)

Declaration

I accept that mountaineering is an activity with a danger of personal injury or death. I am aware of and shall accept these risks and wish to participate in these activities voluntarily and shall be responsible for my own actions and involvement. I agree to abide by the rules of the club as stated in the *Hillwalker* newsletter.

This fully completed membership application form should be sent together with £15.00 membership fee (no cash) to the membership secretary at the address below:
Mr. Ger Walsh, 15 Summerfield Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Signed
Date
<i>Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18 years of age)</i>
<i>Date</i>
<i>Full Name and Address of Parent or Guardian</i>

An Oige Hillwalkers Club

St Patrick's Weekend 2001
St Patrick's Weekend 2001

Friday 16th - Monday 19th

Nephin Mountains Co. Mayo

Traenlaur L. Youth Hostel

Hillwalk for moderate and hard hikers
hillwalk for moderate and hard hikers

Leader : Jim Barry

Strictly Bus Trip Only

Weekend walking itinerary to include:
Nephin Mountain

Nephin Bogs: Bangor Trail - Nephin Beg - Western Way

Nephin Bogs: Glennamong Circuit

Nephin Bogs: Birrencorragh (Alternative Walk (less strenuous))

Hostel accommodation limited to 32 persons /Please book early

Booking : £40 NON REFUNDABLE deposit to An Oige Head Office by credit card or cash deposit(8304555).

Cost: £70 (2meals extra/ please advise office when booking) /otherwise self catering weekend.

Food: bring sufficient amount for at least one breakfast/one drum up .

Grocery Shops : large supermarket at Newport (5 miles).

Bring: winter walking wear/ walking boots/rain wear/change of warm clothing/ sheet bag/towels/toilet gear/flask/torch/ first aid kit/ valid An Oige membership card.

Departure: Friday evening from Custom House Quay at 6pm(1800hrs) sharp.

Return: Monday night /arriving Dublin City centre at 830pm(2000hrs) approx.

Snowdonia

Extended Walking Weekend

Friday, March 16th to Monday March 19th, 2001

Background

An extended walking weekend to include some of the following Snowdonia peaks (Cnicht, Moelwyns, Daffyds, Snowdon, Tryfyn, Glyders or Y Garn). However, the walks chosen will depend on snow cover and weather conditions. One grade of walk will be provided on each day and will be of a typical Hillwalker length (i.e., approximately 15 km, 1000m ascent and of 6-8 hrs duration). There will be places for approximately 8-12 people.

Organiser

Donal Finn

Transport

Transport will be by ferry and car. Each car will accommodate four people. Currently one car/driver is available. One/two additional cars/drivers will be necessary.

Itinerary

Friday March 16th

Meet Point Depot at 16:45hrs, Friday, March 16th for 18:00hrs ferry departure from Dublin Port to Holyhead (Irish Ferries Dublin Swift fast ferry service).

Arrive Holyhead approximately 19:50 hrs. Drive to hostel arriving approximately 21:30 hrs (40 miles).

Saturday March 17th

Walk: Daffyds, 16 km, 1200m, 6-9 hrs.

Sunday March 18th

Walk: Glyders / Tryfyn or Y Garn 16 km, 1100m, 6-8 hrs. (Weather and snow conditions dependant)

Monday March 19th

Walk: Snowdon or Cnicht / Moelwyns 15 km, 1200m, 6-8 hrs. (Weather and snow conditions dependant)

Return Journey: Depart Snowdonia at 18:00 hrs to arrive in Holyhead by 20:00 for Irish Ferries 20.45 fast ferry service to Dublin. Arrive Dublin Port 22:35

Cost

All costs to be shared to include: ferry, petrol, 3 overnights, 3 breakfasts, 3 packed-lunches and 2 evening meals. It is expected that the overall cost will be of the order of IR£125 per person. Not included are evening meals on Friday and Monday.

Booking

If interested please contact An Oige Head Office directly of the organiser Donal Finn (4530617(h), 7061947(w)). A deposit of IR£50.00 will be required at time of booking. The balance will be payable by March 1st.

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