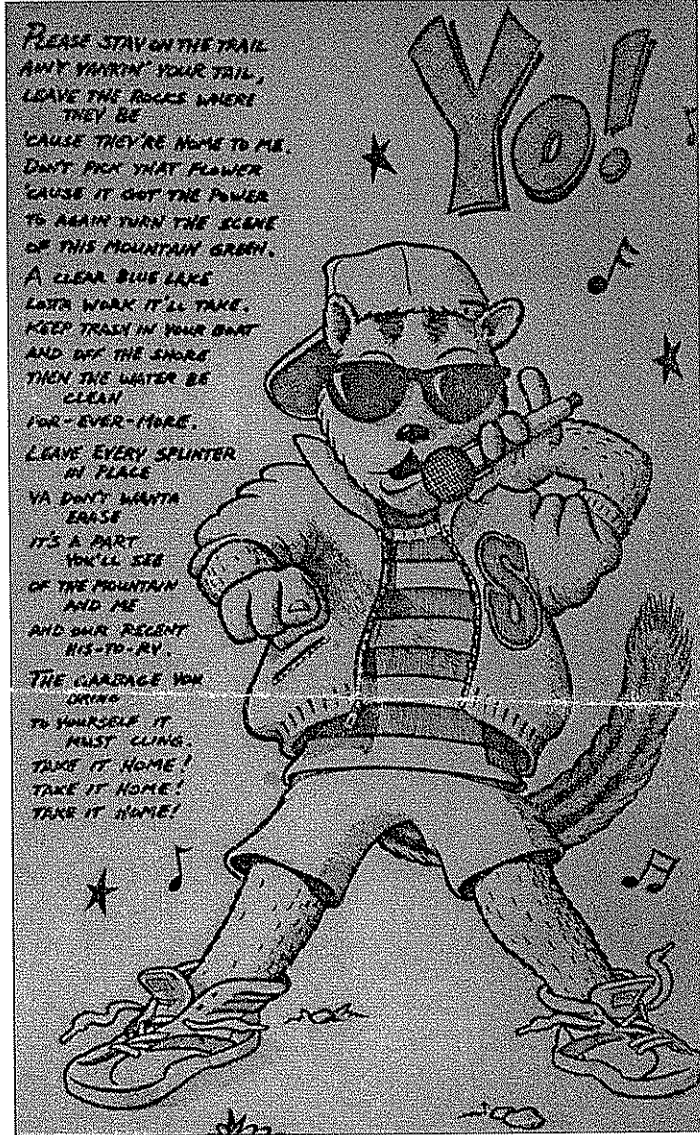


Happy New Millennium to all our members



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

The Hillwalker



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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
January 1	ANNUAL NEW YEARS DAY HIKE Fenton's Pub – Bannana Road – Camara Hill – Lugnaquilla – Slieve Maan – Ballinaddan – Camara Hill – Fenton's Pub. N.B. There will only be one hike on this day. People intending to do this hike must organise their own transport. Meet at Fenton's Pub at 11.00 A.M. SHARP.	Jim Barry
January 9	Ballinacorney – Ballymorefinn – Seahan – Seafingan – Kippure – Lough Brays – Glencree.	Frank O'Rourke
January 16	Laragh – Brockagh's – Tonelagee – Wicklow Gap – Turlough Hill – Camaderry – Glendalough.	Donal Finn
January 23	INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE Military Road – Gravale – Carrigvore Luggala – Pier Gates – White Hill – Ballinastoe Wood.	Jim Barry
January 30	Stranahely Wood – Table Track – Camenabologue – Table Mtn. – Cavanagh's Gap – Lobawn – Sugarloaf – Ballinaclea Y.H.	Brian Madigan
February 6	Killybeg – Keadeen – Ballinabarney – Ballinfoyle – Ballinaddan – Slieve Mann – Camara Hill.	Monica Cadden

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 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.

The Hillwalkers Club Christmas Party

The Committee of the Hillwalkers Club would like to thank all those people who helped make our annual Christmas Party Weekend Away to Glendalough Y.H such a success.

The Committee would also like to thank all those companies and individuals who sponsored a spot prize. Some people have asked not to have their names mentioned.

Army Bargains
Capel Camping & Clothing
The Great Outdoors
K2 Camping & Clothing
Millets Camping Ltd. (Mary St.)
Outdoor Adventure Store
The Outdoor Store (Dundrum)
Rambler's Way

Rambler's Way
The Scotsman's Hut
Millets Leisure, Blanchardstown
Millets Leisure, The Square
Maxwell Travel
Dowling Coach Hire
Lowe Alpine Shop
Pagagonia

Arnotts & Co.
The Palace Bar
O'Brien's Off Licence, Dalkey
An Óige Head Office

The Hillwalkers Club A.G.M.

The Hillwalkers Club Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 25 January 2000 at 8.30p.m. in **The Central Hotel, Exchequer St.** (From Dame St. turn on to South Great George's Street, take the second turn left on to Exchequer St. The hotel is on the corner of South Great George's St. and Exchequer St.) Car parking with walking distance is in Drury St. car park and in Trinity St. car park.

The meeting will be held in the Restaurant Annex Meeting Room.

All members are requested to attend.

St. Patrick's Weekend Away

Date: Friday 17 – 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.

The hikes for the weekend will include the following:

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

A visit to Kilkenny City is also planned

Martin's Holidays Abroad 2000

Ski holiday in Andorra for one week at the end of February 2000.

The Hillwalker's Christmas Party 1999

The weekend kicked off on Friday night with a wine reception, and was followed by an entertaining slide show on Peru given by *Proinsias Mac AnBeatha*. The truly breathtaking scenes no doubt sowed the seed of ambition among some members of the audience to explore this country in future. After this the music was struck up downstairs. A fringe dancing event was instigated by *Lillian Grandfield* and developed into a quite amusing game of charades.

Saturday morning dawned dry but overcast. The hostel was soon a busy hive of walker-bees, all getting ready to swarm over the surrounding valley. Three walks were organised by *Pat Heffernan*, *Frankie Comerford* and *Proinsias Mac AnBeatha*. Proinsias's walk was a circuit of Glendalough and ran into tremendous gale force winds; the sub-title of this article could almost be 'Gone With the Wind', as our hardy walkers were tossed around like leaves in a storm. Luckily they all made it back in time for tea.

The An Óige crowd were treated to a wonderful spread of food and a truly wicked selection of deserts, all accompanied by freely flowing wine. *Brendan Dempsey* pulled a few crackers, and made ample use of the rings contained within them to propose to no less than five women. *Father Leahy* was almost called upon to perform the rites there and then, until it was pointed out to Brendan that by Christian law he was allowed a wife, not a harem. *Carmel NiChatháin* was 'Lord of the Rings' with four toy rings on her fingers (she wouldn't divulge if she had four toy boys to go with them). The afterdinner entertainment included a slideshow, ceili, and raffle. *Linda Woolhead* presented a slide show on the by now legendary trip to Kilimanjaro by members of our band earlier in the year. With sound effects provided by *Don Reilly* and much heckling by the crowd, she took us through the pain, beauty and triumph of climbing the highest mountain in Africa. The crowd waited in anticipation for the parties' Zanzibar beach photos, but these were deemed too spicey for viewing and were duly censored [copies available from Linda at £20 a set].

The ceili was organised by *Deirdre Gubbins*. The An Óige men, with a few noble exceptions, were glued to their seats throughout. Stars of the set dancing were *Carmel NiChatháin* and *Michael 'Flatley' Courtney* [Hmrrn, Lord of the Rings meets Lord of the Dance...]. The raffle which followed is now the subject of a tribunal, after which all members of the Hillwalker committee are expected to resign *en masse*. For legal reasons, the author is unable to comment further; suffice to say the first name pulled out of the hat was that of the raffle organiser, *Proinsias Mac AnBeatha*. That said, there was a very generous flow of gifts (including several brown envelopes - contents unknown) and most of the crowd had something extra to bring home with them.

Following on from the raffle, we had awards for the best foreign holiday article, Irish holiday article and cover photo published in the Hillwalker newsletter that year. The judges selected fine examples in each category as the winners, but in giving their results on best photo, they dealt traumatic blows to *Philip Hayden* (overexposed), *Don Reilly* (lack of horizontal sheep), and *Colette Nolan* (spoiled her photo by being in it). While these failed contestants were weeping into their beer, there was a big gust of wind, a flash of lightning, and there standing in the doorway was *Helen Madden*, fresh from an epic cycle all the way from Dublin city. A lesser person would have been worn out by this feat, but Helen showed she had plenty of energy left as the dancing phase of the night began.

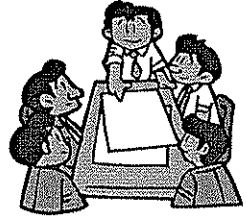
Fiona Moore was our DJ for the night and keep a steady flow of tunes coming which had the crowd permanently on their feet, and giving it loads on the dance floor. No one could compare, however, to the jive master *Brendan Dempsey* who was strutting his stuff with gusto. As the night grew merrier, the Xmas decorations were employed in an original manner by the group, and most were sporting tinsel somewhere on their person; style cat *Colette Nolan* had bobbles as ear rings, and even the holly wreath did not escape use as a hat. Yes, by this stage they had all had too much to drink. Yours truly longed for his sleep but knew he must see things through to the bitter end to provide a true chronicle of events. I will not bore you with details of the limbo dancing, and bull fighting; suffice to say, a great time was had and the tired, worn revellers went to bed content with their day.

Bad weather on Sunday brought the weekend to an early close, but the quiet tone of the group was ample testimony to the energetic time everyone had the day before. In closing it only remains to congratulate all those who helped make the weekend such a success and to thank the organisers, especially *Martin Fagan* and *Sean Dunne*, for what was a well managed and very relaxed event.

Warren Lawless

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/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)
Distribution:	Cyril McFeeney & Pearse Foley



Membership

Annual membership fee of £15 includes 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 following address:

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

The Club AGM

Details of the Hillwalker's AGM will be published in the January *Hillwalker*.

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 February newsletter should be sent before Thursday 13 January to:
Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
(e-mail: maggieg@tinet.ie)

