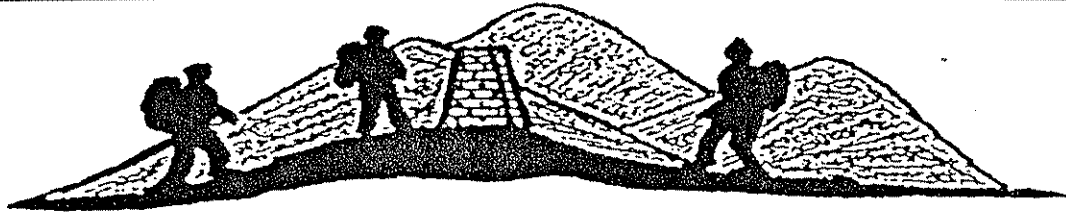
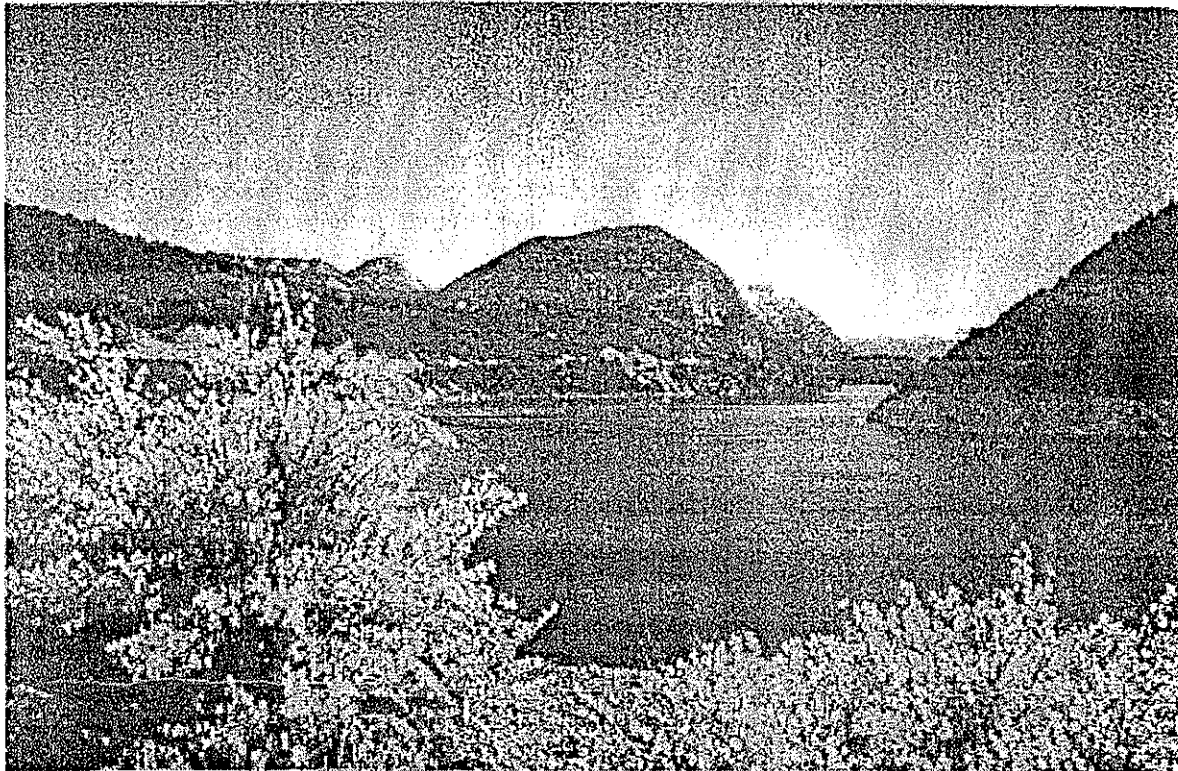


THE HILLWALKER
July - August 2001



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

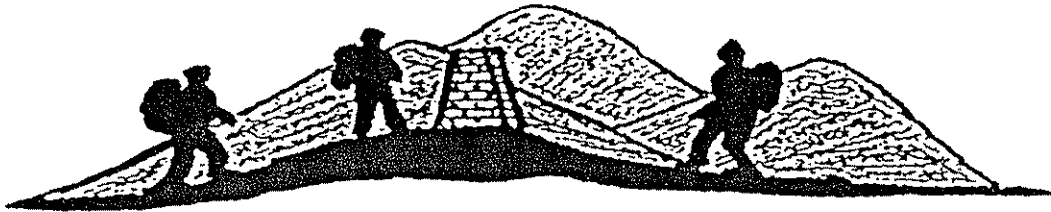
The Hillwalker



San Martín de los Andes by Lacar Lake, Argentina

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Sunday Hikes July - August

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.

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 and widening of trails, e.g. do not walk on the edge of tracks.

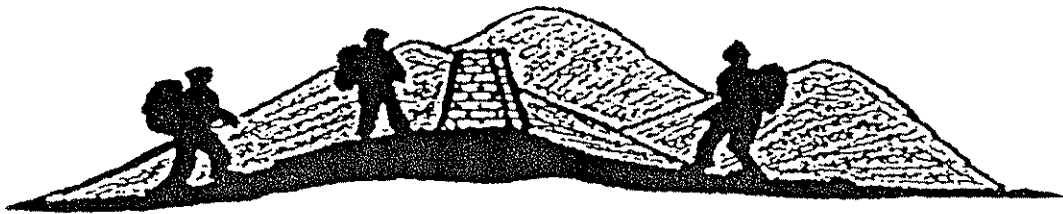
WALKING STICKS

In the interest of safety and comfort please keep the pointed end of your walking stick covered, especially when travelling on the bus.

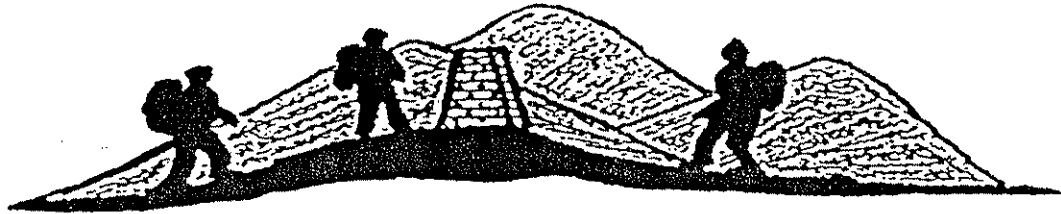
HIKE CO-ORDINATOR

Jim has asked us to include his email for queries regarding the walking schedule, including offers to lead for the September/October period, and weekend away queries. Virus free correspondence please.

Email address: jamesab@gofree.indigo.ie



| Date | Route Description | Leader |
|---|--|----------------------|
| 1 st July | Sunday Bus Trip to Blackstairs/Mount Leinster | Martin Fagan |
| 8 th July | Introductory Hard Hike Route: Ballinagee Bridge – Kings River – Glenreemore – Oakwood – Lough Firrib – Arts Cross – Conavalla Mtn – Lugduff Ridge – The Spink – Glendalough . [650m Ascent /20km] | Pat Drew |
| 15 th July | <u>70TH Anniversary Memorial Day in honour of Dr Thekla Beere</u> See separate Note in this programme. Route: Glenmačnass Waterfall – Tonelagee - Brockags — Wicklow Way Track - Wicklow Gap Road – Glendalough Y.H. [550m Ascent/14km] | Ger Walsh |
| 22 nd July | Route: Ballyknockan – Black Rocks – Silsean – Moanbane – Billy Byrne's Gap – Mullaghcleevaun – East Top – Duff Hill – Gravale – Carrigvore – Sally Gap. [1150m Ascent/17km] | Philip Hayden |
| 29 th July | Route: Trooperstown Forest Entrance(G.R.156972) – Avonmore River – Trooperstown Hill – Clara Vale Bridge – Kirikee Mtn– Shay Elliot Memorial – Ragman's Path - Laragh. [500m Ascent /18km] | Tom McCart |
| 3 rd -6 th August | Bank Holiday Weekend to Benllettery Y.H. Co Galway See separate itinerary | Proinnsias McBhearha |
| 12 th August | No scheduled Sunday Hike Members may organise public transport hike from usual meeting Place or consult moderate walks programme. | |
| 19 th August | No scheduled Sunday Hike Members may organise public transport hike from usual meeting Place or consult moderate walks programme. | |
| 26 th August | Introductory Hard Hike Route: Killybeg(G.R.945910) – Keadeen Mtn – Ballinfoyle – Ballineddan Mtn – Slievemaan – Lybagh – Farbreaga – Track – Aghvannagh Bridge. [950m Ascent / 18km] | Pearse Foley |
| 2 nd September | Route:Kippure Gates – Powerscourt Mtn - Grouse House – Tonduffs – Dargle River – War Hill – Djouce Mtn – White Hill – J.B. Malone Memorial – Ballinstoe – W.W. Way route - Ballinafunshoge – Oldbridge. [650m Ascent / 19km] | John-Barry Lowe |



Young Hillwalkers

Killarney Weekend Thursday 19th – Monday 23rd July

Killarney An Óige Hostel,

Cost £60.00. Includes 4 nights in hostel and transport by train. Self-catering, with food available in the hostel.

Saturday Hikes – Meet at Messrs Maguire Bar, O'Connell Bridge, Dublin at 8.45 a.m.

Bring: Packed lunch, wet weather gear and torch

Wear: Boots, tracksuit bottoms (no jeans), hat and gloves

Stepaside to Knockree Saturday 14th July

Rockbrock to Marley Park Saturday 11th August

For further details of all the above trips contact An Óige Head Office at 01-830455

70th Anniversary Memorial Day

Sunday 15th July marks the first in a series of 70th anniversary celebration events with the unveiling of a commemorative seat in honour of Dr Thekla Beere, founder member of the Association. The unveiling ceremony will commence at 4pm sharp and the Hillwalkers hike will finish at the hostel in time for the event. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Dolomites Expedition

There are still a number of places available on Martin Fagan's trip to Italy. This trip to the Dolomite mountains will take place 1st–15th September 2001 and is priced at £1200, with a deposit of £200 required. See committee details for Martin's number.

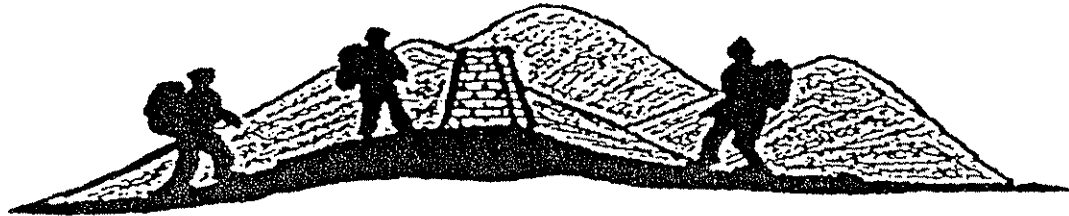
Ben Lettery, Co. Galway, August

Booking has opened on this August bank holiday trip to Galway (see detailed programme at back of Hillwalker):

Leader: Proinsias MacAnBheatha
Dates: Friday 3rd August – Monday 6th August 2001
Routes to include: Benlettery Horseshoe (Glencaghan Circuit), Benchoona Mts (incl Kylemore Abbey & Killary Harbour), Failmore Circuit (Maumturk Range)
Hostel accommodation: Ben Lettery YH, near Recess, Co. Galway. Accommodation limited to 50 persons so please book early
Booking: An Óige Head Office. £35 non-refundable deposit.
Cost: £70. (meals extra).
Hikes levels: Moderate and harder

Club Travel

Patagonia, South America 2000



I started my adventurous 5-week trip to Patagonia (southern Argentina and Chile) in mid-October 2000, so it was early spring in the Southern Hemisphere.

At least I arrived in style as I flew business class into *Buenos Aires* and then got a lift from my neighbour's private driver into the city centre. The rest of my journey was more humble as they dropped me off in front of a youth hostel.

I immediately hooked up with my Lebanese-Australian roommate to explore the Argentinean capital. Tango on the streets is commonplace in certain areas so no need to pay to enter a show. The popular tourist area *Caminito* with its colourful metal houses, situated in La Boca, one of the poorer parts of the city, is where the ever-famous football player Diego Maradona started his career. We ended up cooking dinner in one of the local's modest shelter and had a taste of mate, a strong bitter tea that one drinks through a pipe. I later found out that all Argentineans are addicted to it.

After a few days of acclimatisation I headed south to *Península Valdéz NP (National Park)*. Because of its remoteness I was forced to join a bus tour. For most people the highlight is the boat trip which gets you very close to the (*Eubalena australis*) whales, others got really excited observing copulating sea elephants, whereas my weakness lies with the cute Magalan pinguins.

Next destination was the island of *Tierra del Fuego* in the far south which is half Argentinean, half Chilean. I only spent some time on the Argentinean side. The mountainous surroundings of *Ushuaia*, the southernmost city in the world, are simply captivating. There were good hiking possibilities from the city to *Glaciar Martial* but sudden snowfall and poor visibility made me return early. Inside the national park a choice of easy tracks along the lakes or somewhat more challenging ones up high.

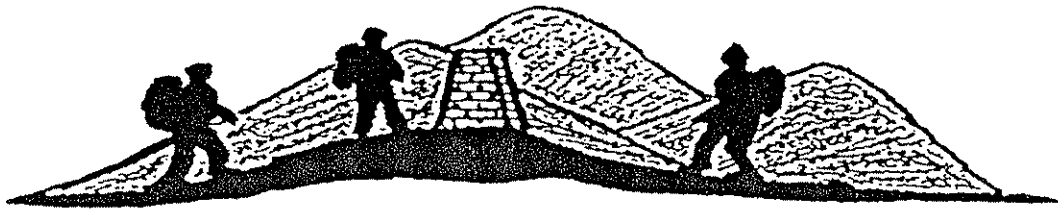
Back on the mainland in *Los Glaciares NP*, I firstly joined a tour to the biggest tourist attraction the 60m high glacier *Perito Moreno*. Frequently big blocks of ice create an immense sound and light spectacle. More up north the *Fitz Roy Range* offers excellent hiking. I ended up camping with other backpackers. A bit too cold for me as it was still freezing at night but the harsh conditions were worthwhile as at sunrise the red glow on the famous peaks of *Cerro Torre* and *Cerro Fitz Roy* were absolutely breathtaking.

Crossing the border into Chile, The little seaside town *Puerto Natales* was the starting point of my backpacking trip in the huge *Torres del Paine NP*. A large choice of tracks. I did a popular 5 day hike carrying all my gear and food. The park was not yet invaded by the masses, which allows you to enjoy its sheer beauty even more. The most famous feature of the park are the Torres: 3 granite columns reaching 2600 to 2800 metres. On the eastern side via a steep climb over rock blocks you can see the Torres in full but when I reached that point they were hidden by fog. Staying in huts is rather dear but the Chilean hut wardens were extremely friendly. In one hut they spontaneously started singing beautiful Chilean songs.

Further north to the volcanic Lake District. *Puerto Montt* is a booming tourist fishing town, with several national parks nearby. I did a few day trips. The fairly unfrequented and difficult accessible *Alerce Andino NP* is famous for its alerce trees, huge native conifers. I undertook a marathon hike in the volcanic *Pérez Rosales NP* partly climbing up the perfectly shaped *Osorno* volcano. I seemed the only hiker and was only surpassed by cars.

Eastwards into the Argentinean Lake District. *Bariloche* is the most famous ski resort of the country having undergone many European influences (p.e. Hotel Edelweiss, Mont Blanc ...). The city overlooks the large *Nahuel Huapi Lake*. Plenty of hiking possibilities, weather permitting. A must is to pop into the prestigious remote *Lloa Lloa* hotel built in an idyllic area overlooking mountains and lakes. Thick snowflakes changed the spring landscape suddenly into a beautiful winter scene.

The little town *San Martín de los Andes* by *Lacar Lake* was my final destination. I was invited to join 2 other hikers to climb *Cerro Colorado* volcano. Track invisible due to the thick snow layer so we had



to make our own often sinking way. The top was coloured red, offering spectacular views. My last few days I took it fairly easy just walking along *Lacar Lake*.

Back to the hustle and bustle of hot *Buenos Aires* felt like a slight shock after several weeks of peace and quietness in the outback. I never had the impression I was making that trip all by myself as I met a lot of other backpackers and bumped into them at various locations.

Annick Van de Venster

Editor's note: As this goes to print, Annick is once again exploring South America. This time she is on a five week trip to Brazil. Well for some...

Walkers in the Mist

There follows an article by the famed nature observer *Sir David Attenborough*. The commentary is from a soon-to-shown TV program on the wildlife of Wicklow.

"Gazing out over the barren hills on a chill winters day, nothing, you would believe, could survive in this harsh environment. But one creature not only survives, but indeed flourishes in these harsh conditions. For this is the territory of the *walkus hillus*, also known to nature lovers as the 'hillwalker', 'mad ejjit' or 'bog trotter'.

The *walkus hillus* can be readily identified by their bright outer plumage. Unlike other creatures of the wild they have not developed the use of camouflage. Whether this is a sign of their dumbness or their lack of predators we have not determined. Whichever, this outer fur does have the advantage of extreme water-resistance (it is even thought they were hunted in the past for their skins, which were made into clothes for humans). They also have thick soles and large humps on their back.

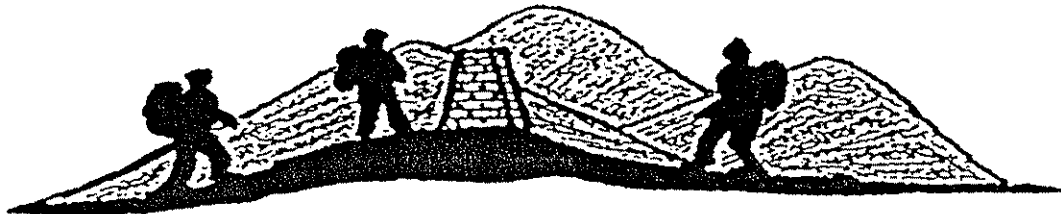
In hotter months their appearance changes, with the shedding of their heavier outer fur and the display of hairy legs. Devoid of their natural protection from the sun, many turn a deep brown or burnt red.

The *hillus walkus* can be found in small groups or by itself, giving it greater stealth. However, many have grouped into large herds, perhaps for greater protection. These enormous herds thunder across the hills, driving off all other wildlife and leaving wide trails in their wake. More than once I and my camera crew had to flee out of the path of the rumbling mass.

These herds exhibit strange behaviour. In one herd stragglers were carefully nurtured and encouraged to rejoin the main group; in another they were mercilessly abandoned and left behind. We made a special study of this herd, calling it the "*hillus walkus hardus*". The same herd seemed to have an organised system of scouting ahead, as several of the creatures were always observed out in front. It was hard to tell sometimes if they belonged to the herd or not, so far ahead were some of these scouts, but most likely they were carefully looking for threats, food or trails.

Within the group there was a loose hierarchy – the dominant male was an old, white-furred creature, who clearly had special privileges with the females. Several young bucks were challenging him for their attentions, but they were no threat to his dominance. The same great stag was observed in three different herds, no doubt trying to increase the spread of his genes.

The herd would gather together when food was found and then move off after half an hour (always half an hour!!! We never figured out why, even though some of the creatures evidently wanted to eat or rest more). As they moved off they would split into male and female clusters and then regroup some minutes later. Any males still lingering in the female group as they split were ruthlessly driven off.



Several of these herds had a instinctive ritual of gathering at a great watering hole called "the Palace". Here the creatures engaged in social interaction and mating rituals. The waters of the Palace must have some potent chemicals as some of the creatures who had drunk deepest from it were to be observed staggering weakly as they left the area.

The *hillus walkus* was also found to sometimes undertake long distance migrations to other parts of their native isle and even beyond. Whether thirst or hunger drove them, we have not established. But they always returned to Wicklow, probably because they found the far southern regions too dry and hot and missed the damp climate of their homeland.

I have been observer these fascinating creatures for many years now and it is with a tinge of regret that my documentary ends. For the days of the *hillus walkus* may be ending. Devoid of natural predators, the creatures numbers have increased greatly. Many people, farmers and environmentalists included, decry the damage done to the hills by their large herds and a cull is now been sought. It will be a sad end for these strange, noble, walkers in the mist...

David Attenborough

p.s contributions to the 'Save the *Hillus Walkus* Fund' can be sent to the Editor c/o The Boar's Head, Capel Street, Dublin 1.

2001 Membership Fees

The Hillwalkers Club annual membership fee is £15.

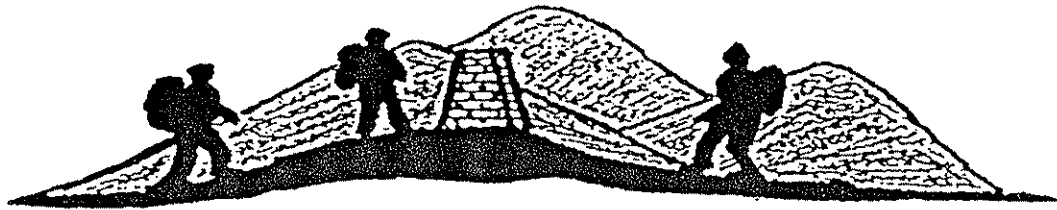
Membership for the new year is due for all of us. An application form is enclosed and should be sent to the membership secretary at the following address: Mr. Ger Walsh, 15 Summerfield Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

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 2001 Committee

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chairperson: | Donal Finn (01-4530617 h) |
| Secretary: | Frank Rooney (01-8038102 h) |
| Treasurer | Prionsias MacAnBheatha (01-8379897 h) |
| Editor: | Warren Lawless (01-8786901 h) |
| Sunday Hikes: | Jim Barry (01-4556455 h) |
| Weekends/Holidays: | Martin Fagan (01-8553653 h) |
| 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



Announcements

News has reached us that Steven James has been in trouble with the cops in Arizona for speeding down a motorway. The fact that he was walking on foot at the time did not mitigate the offence...

We would like to congratulate Ger, our membership secretary, and Pauline on the birth of their child Feargal. He has a healthy set of lungs, according to Ger, and baby sitters are welcome to apply.

Anti-Litter Day

Philip Hayden led a successful cleanup expedition to Knockree hostel back there in June. We tackled the abundance of rubbish along the section of river that runs through An Óige property. Members of all three walking sections of An Óige were present. The unopened bean and beer cans were gratefully recycled by the editor, ensuring that the occupants of No. 19 had no need to shop that week.

Camping Trip

Fabien Heinen and *Gerry Cooke* have taken up the idea raised at this year's AGM to organise a camping section for interested members. They purchased tents and planned a trip for the end of June. Gerry Cooke had to pull out at the last-minute due to car problems, but the others went ahead with the trip and were blessed with beautiful summer weather,

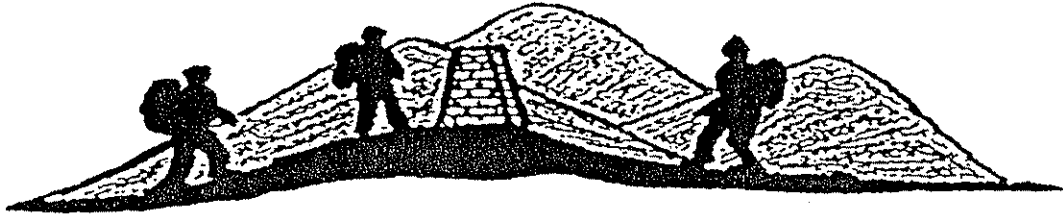
We had to bring all our own food on the trip. There was little risk of us starving but as a precaution I made sure my flatmate Matt was well fed and fattened up in the week before hand. Just in case, just in case...

On a beautiful Friday evening, Fabien, Matt & I followed the Lough Brook from the Glenmacnass road and arrived at Lough Ouler. We gazed in admiration at the waters of the lake. As we choose our spot to pitch camp we were overwhelmed by a hoard of midges and retreated to the ridge below Toin le Gaoith. Here we had a nice breeze to keep off the midges. We pitched our tents, ate and enjoyed daylight until after 10.30 PM. As the darkness gathered, we gazed at the bright stars and the Red Planet, Mars.

That night on the ridge was very cold. But next morning we were revived by a cup of tea and were joined by *Sean O'Reilly* who had arrived after us and spent the night down by the lake. We then made our way across to Turlough Hill, had a nice *siesta* in the sun and wandered toward a blue, sparkling Lough Forrib and then onto Three Lakes. We made camp here, sheltered by bog banks and enjoyed a hot meal, after which we took a casual stroll over to Art's Cross.

The Saturday night was much milder and we broke camp early next morning, bid a fond farewell to the Three Lakes and headed east along Clonavalla, Lugduff, Glendalough and down by the old Green Road into Laragh. Here we quenched our thirst and filled our bellies.

I had joined the trip as a novice camper but learned a lot from it and would encourage others to try it out (well, I had camped once before...but I'm told it does not count if you get milk and cookies brought out to you at midnight). Camping was a very different exercise from hillwalking in terms of the extra equipment and endurance needed, but with the extra benefits of being able to thoroughly enjoy the wilderness at leisure: No timetable, no undue haste, with plenty of wildlife and solitude.



The Editor

Note: The club has purchased two quality 2-man tents. Members wishing to organise small club camping trips can contact Gerry or Fabien and arrange a loan of the tents. We have not yet worked out how this will work exactly. Club members using the tents are of course responsible for the prompt return of the tents, cleaned and dried. And no, they're not available for Witness or U2 concerts...

Walkers on the Web

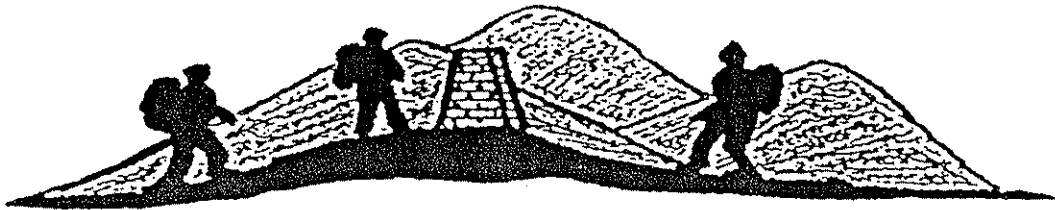
A star-studded gathering were present at the official launch of The Hillwalker web-site. Tastefully put together by Matt Geraghty (when he was meant to be working), it will shortly be on view at <http://homepage.eircom.net/~thehillwalker>. There will also be a link to it from the main An Óige page <http://www.anoige.ie>. This site will offer the advantage of allowing people to download the newsletter in whatever format of Microsoft Word they like, as well as allowing us to display more photos where possible (no, not THOSE sort of photos!).

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 must be in electronic form where possible or at least typed, and should be a maximum of 500 words. A **stamped addressed envelope** should accompany any photographs or printed articles to ensure their return. Articles will generally be published in order of receipt.

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



Mountain Skills Course 2001-02

The Club is organising its annual Map and Compass course (Mountain Skills) commencing in October 2001. The course will include three Tuesday evening introductory sessions, each of duration 2 hours, to be held in the An Óige International Youth Hostel, Mountjoy Street. In addition, there will be two weekend training sessions as well as one night navigation session, all based in Wicklow. Accommodation for the two Wicklow weekends will be provided in the Glendalough International Hostel. An additional training session will be organised in the Commeragh Mountains, Co. Waterford, on the weekend of the 2nd & 3rd of February, 2002.

Evening Sessions (3): 7.30 pm, October 9th & 23rd, November 6th (Tuesday nights)

Evening Venue: An Óige International Youth Hostel, 61 Mountjoy Street, Dublin 3

Requirements: (1) *Ordnance Survey Map*, Sheet 56 - Wicklow (Scale 1:50,000)
Laminated version is highly recommended (approx.£12)

(2) *Compass, Silva Type 4* graduated into **360 degrees** (approx £30)

NB: A 10% discount is available on all outdoor equipment in either *The Great Outdoors*, Chatham Street, off Grafton Street, or *The Outdoor Adventure Centre*, Liffey St. (opposite Arnotts) on production of a valid An Óige membership card.

First Weekend: October 13th & 14th, Wicklow Mountains
Accommodation in the Glendalough International Hostel (Saturday overnight) is included in the course cost.

Second Weekend: November 10th & 11th, Wicklow Mountains
Accommodation in the Glendalough International Hostel (Saturday overnight) is included in the course cost.

Night Hike: December 2nd, meet outside Lynam's Pub, Laragh at 5.00 pm

Course Cost: £40 - Price includes Course +
2 overnights in the Glendalough International Hostel
Price does not include
Transport costs to/from Wicklow for both weekends

Booking: It is essential that interested persons book in advance through the An Óige Head Office, Tel (01) 830 4555

Booking Deposit: £20 (non-refundable)

Refresher Weekend: February 2nd & 3rd, 2002, Commeragh Mountains, Co. Waterford. (transport/accommodation to/in Waterford city is not included in overall course cost)

Course Organisers: Joseph Kellegher and Donal Finn.

August 2011 - 11th - 18th

Visit to the Wild and Beautiful West of Ireland

Moderate/Hard Walkers Welcome

Leader : Proinnsias Mac AnBheatha

Strictly Bus Only Trip

Weekend Walking venues to include:

Benlattery Horseshoe [Glencoaghan Circuit]

Benchoona Mts [incl Kylemore Abbey & Killary Harbour]

Failmore Circuit [Maumturk Reange]

Also

Social Events

Notes

Hostel accommodation: limited to 50 persons /Please book early

Booking: £35 NON REFUNDABLE deposit to An Oige Head Office by credit card or cash deposit (8304555).

Cost: £70(includes 3 bednights & Transport costs)

Meals: available locally – more details on bus.

Food: bring sufficient amount for at least one breakfast.

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

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

Return: Monday evening /arriving Dublin City centre at 8pm(2000hrs) approx.