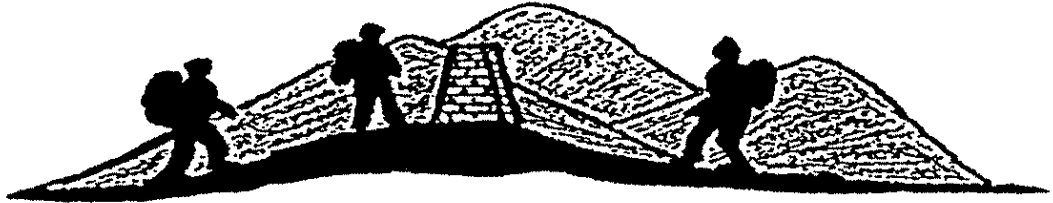


Hillwalker

March 1999



Capileira, Alpujarras Mountains, Spain (Photo: Patricia Goodman)

The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

The Hillwalker

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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 Mar	Kippure Bridge – Athdown Wood – Seefingan – Kippure – Lough Bray's – Glencree.	Pierce Foley
14 Mar	Coronation Plantation – Carrigvore – Gravale – Duff Hill – Mullaghleevaun East Top – Cleevaun Lough – Black Hill – Ballynultagh Gap.	Joe Gilvarry
21 Mar	INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE Aughavanagh Bridge – Farbreaga – Lybagh – Toorboy – Carrig Mtn. – Keadeen Mtn. – Derrynamuck – Dwyer-McAllister Cottage car park.	Paul Smith
28 Mar	Ballyknockan Quarry – Silsean – Moanbane – Billy Byrne's Gap – Mullaghleevaun – Ballinagee River – Black Banks – Ballyknockan.	Frank O'Rourke
4 Apr	No Sunday hike due to bank holiday weekend.	

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.

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.

Leaders

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

The Young Hillwalkers Club

SATURDAY HIKE FOR FEBRUARY

Date: Saturday 13 March 1999.
Route: The Dublin Hills.
Meet: Harp Bar, O'Connell Bridge, Dublin.
Time: 8.45 AM
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: 16 – 18 April 1999.
Location: Ballinaclea – Glenmalure Backpack.
Meet: Custom House on Friday 16 April 1999 at 6.00PM (and arrive back at Eason's Bookshop, O'Connell St. on Sunday 18 April before 6.00PM).
Cost: £18 for people under 18 years of age and £23 for people over 18 years of age. This cost included a special bus and two overnights.

Please note that this is a tough and demanding trek. Those who have been on this before will know that it takes a lot of determination to carry off your gear over the mountains from Ballinaclea to Glendalough. Keep your rucksack as light as possible – do not bring cans or bottles as they weigh too much. Minimum gear required.

NEWSFLASH

To avoid disappointment we have added an extra backpack to our programme. When the Ballinaclea trip is full we will take bookings for a Glenree-Knockree Backpack.

Meet: Harp Bar O'Connell Bridge on Good Friday 2 April 1999 at 8.45AM (and arrive back in Dublin before 6.00PM on Sunday 4 April 1999).

Cost: £9 for people under 18 years of age and £11 for people over 18 years of age, plus bus fares. This will be a tough 34 mile trek over three days. For further information ring Dave Rooney at 01-8344811

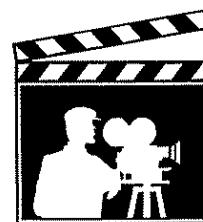
For further information about our monthly hike, weekends away or about the club in general, contact An Óige Head Office at 01-8304555

The Club Slides

"Alpine Summers"
A show slide show presented by John Guy
in

The Palace Bar, Fleet Street
on Tuesday 23 March
at 8.00PM

Admission is free. Parking in Temple Bar Car Park.



Exciting future destinations include Zambia presented by Gerry Brady in April, Chile presented by Tony Crean in May and Fiji presented by Steve Buckley in June.

An Óige Hillwalkers holiday to Majorca

Martin Fagan is organising a two week holiday in Majorca, for twenty people, for the second and third week of September 1999.

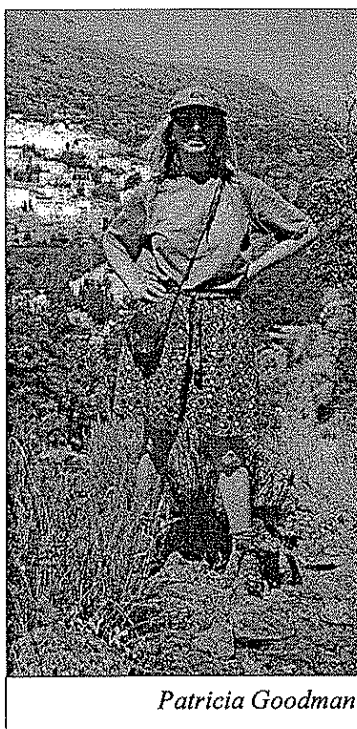
Those interested in joining Martin should attend a meeting in Room 101 in An Óige Youth Hostel, Mountjoy Street on Thursday 11 March at 8.00PM.

Club Travel – Backpacking in the Sierra Nevada

Last September Tom and I spent our holidays in the Sierra Nevada and the Alpujarras Mountains in the South of Spain. We flew to Malaga and from there took a bus to Granada. From here we traveled on to Alpujarras and Berchules.

Here we were a little worried to find what seemed like the only pension in the village closed. But as it turned out, the room we found was the best we had on this trip and cost 4,000 ptas. £20 including breakfast. The following morning we set out on our first day's walking. From the highest part of the village we followed a trail heading west. All went well for an hour or so until our track met a forestry road. We were unable to find our route on the other side of the road. We headed up a fire break which seemed to be roughly where our track should have been. By now the day was hot and trudging up a steep fire break with full packs was a real killer. We passed a gate with a track on the other side. Could this be the track we were looking for? The sign on the gate read PRIVATE and something about dogs. We decided not to risk it. Fortunately a forestry worker showed us the track map. We thanked him and set off again climb at a fairly easy gradient up to our here we could look down into the Rio another fire break and on to a dirt road. highest village in Spain came into view a

the top of the valley. From Trevalaze we made our first mainland Spain's highest mountain. We out of the village to begin with. After were too far north. We started to correct time. Finally, we stopped for lunch and reckoned it would take an hour or more another 800m to the top of Mulhacen. we would not reach the summit until at decided to call it a day. We had reached were fantastic. The air was fresh, cool sage. We had planned to walk form overnighiting in Portugos. We opted would give us more time in Capileira and Malhacen from there. The walk to good track with not too much height gain, But, we were tired and both had badly on tarmac was hell. We hobbled into A few days later we made another not difficult walk up to the ridge of Cl reached the point where the route leaves



Patricia Goodman

to the summit. This road continues on round the west side of Mulhacen and as the cloud was right down over the mountain we decided to stay on it for a while longer in the hope of finding a track that would take us safely to the summit. Eventually the time came to decide. Should we risk ascending into thick cloud or not? Neither of us were prepared to go up into unknown territory in these conditions, so once again we called it a day. We were very disappointed.

Back in Granada we decided to climb Veleta (3,396m) as a day hike. This was easily done by taking a 9.00am bus for the Sierra Nevada (this bus returns by 5.00pm.). The road goes practically all the way to the top. It was a sunny morning when we set out. However, by the time we reached the summit cold wet cloud had obliterated all the views. After our failed attempts of the past few days we were glad to be on the summit.

Overall the trip was good with no shortage of excitement. We would both like to return to this area some time. Let's hope the weather and the mountains will look more kindly on us the next time.

Guide books used: "Trekking in Spain" published by The Lonely Planet and "Walking in the Sierra Nevada" published by Cicerone.

Map used: IGN 1:50,000 Map of the Sierra Nevada.

Patricia Goodman

Easter weekend in Dingle, Kerry

The Hillwalkers Easter hiking weekend to Dingle is now fully booked up.

May Weekend in the Mourne Mountains

Date: 30 April to 3 May 1999.
Cost: £55.
Deposit: £20. Non refundable.
Booking: Through An Óige Head Office tel. 01-8304555. Credit cards accepted.
Hostel: Newcastle Youth Hostel.
Leaders: Martin Fagan and Shane Clarke.

THE BUS WILL LEAVE THE CUSTOM HOUSE QUAY AT 6.00PM SHARP ON 30 APRIL.

Routes

SATURDAY

Harder hike

Dunny Water Bridge – Carrick Little – Slieve Binnian – The Black Castles – Blue Lodge – Slieve Imagan – Cove Mtn. – Slieve Beg – Brandy Pad – Slieve Donard – Glen River – Hostel.

Easier Hike

Bloody Bridge path – Bog of Donard – Slieve Donard – Glen River – Hostel.

SUNDAY

Harder hike

Slieve Bernagh – Slieve Meelmore – Slieve Meelbeg – Slieve Loughshannagh – Carn Mtn. – Ott Mtn.

Easier hike

Slieve Muck – Carn Mtn.

MONDAY

Ballyedmond Wood – Slieve Meen – Slieve Martin – Kildrone park.

All hikes will leave the hostel at 9.00AM sharp each morning.

June Weekend in the Black Valley, Kerry

A hiking weekend for twenty-five people to Kerry, staying in the Black Valley YH will be organised by Donal Finn and Joe Kellegher for the June Bank Holiday Weekend. Booking details next month.

June Weekend in Snowdonia, Wales

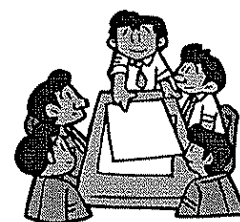
A hiking weekend for fifty people to Wales, staying in the Snowdon Ranger YH will be organised by Séan Dunne and Dave Rooney for the June Bank Holiday Weekend. Booking details next month.

August Weekend in Galway

A hiking weekend to Galway, staying in Ben Lettry YH will be organised by Donal Finn and Prionsias Mac AnBheatha for the August Bank Holiday Weekend. Booking details will be published at a later date.

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)
Other members:	Frankie Comerford
Distribution:	Cyril McFeeney & Pearse Foley



Membership

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

Next Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday 13 April 1999.

Lost and found

Navy blue men's toilet bag found after the October club weekend away. Contact Pearse Foley at 01- 4933787.

A Note from the Editor

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.



Articles for inclusion in the April newsletter should be sent before Monday 15 March to:
Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
(e-mail: maggieg@tinet.ie)