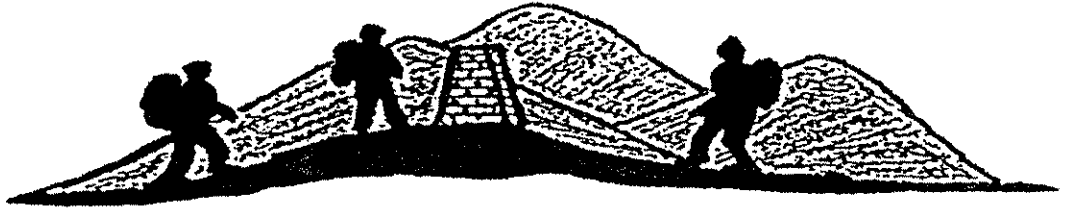


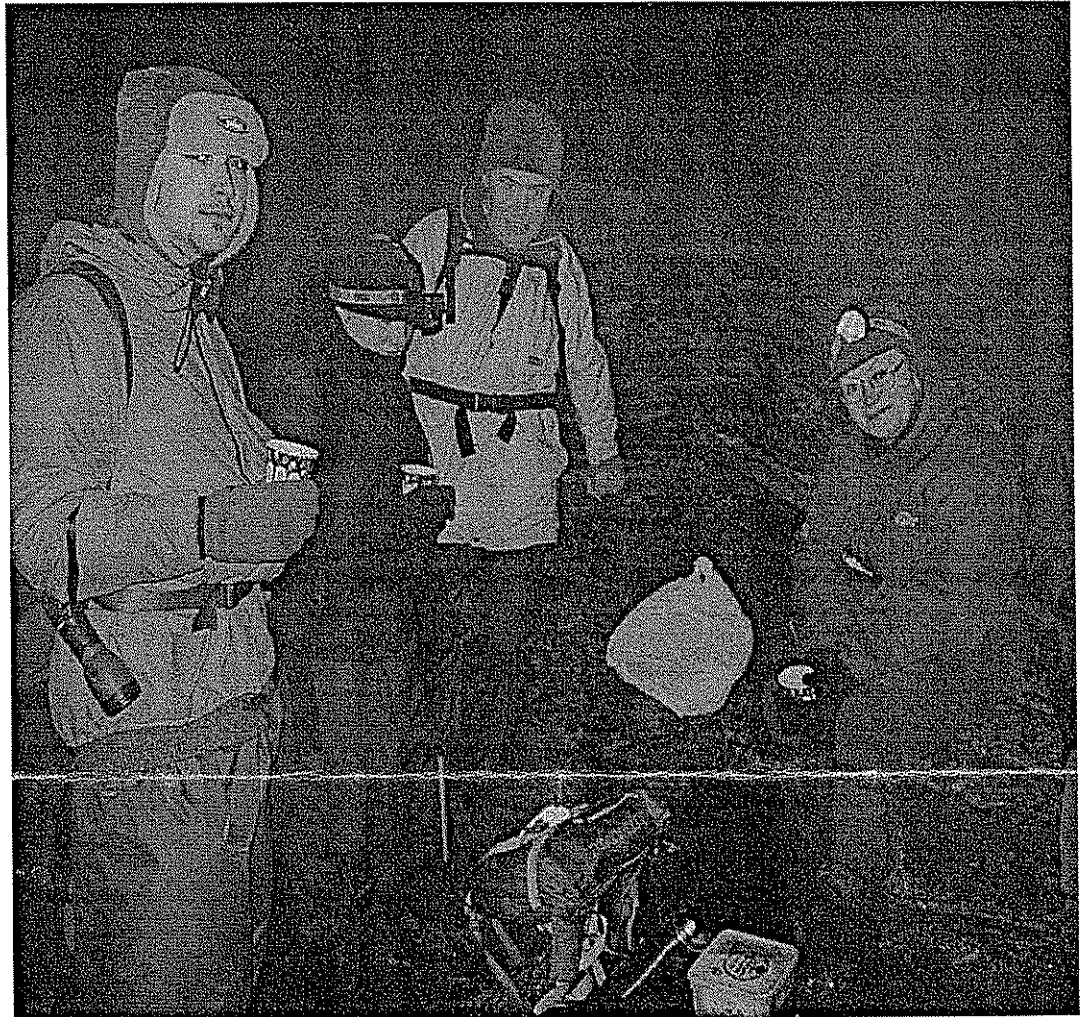
Hillwalker

March 2000



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

The Hillwalker



Ringin' in the Millennium on Lugnaquilla

Photo: Pat Heffernan

Inside this issue:



Sunday Hikes	2
Young Hillwalkers	3
Club Slide Show	3
Weekends Away	3
Feature Article "Peru in September"	4
Editorial and committee notes	5

Sunday Hikes March

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.
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<i>Date</i>	<i>Route Description</i>	<i>Leader</i>
March 5	Glenmalure – Arts Lough – Clohernagh – Lugnaquilla – Corrigasleggaun – Carrawaystick Mtn. – Kelly's Lough – Drumgoff Bridge	Noel Kerley
March 12	INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE Shay Elliot Memorial – Kirikee Mtn. – Carriglineen – Drumgoff – Fananierin – Croaghanmoira Mtn. – Ballincor Mtn. Strand Bridge Drumgoff	Don Reilly
March 17	St. Patrick's Weekend Away Trip to Foulksrath Castle Y.H. Co. Kilkenny	See Weekends Away Notes
March 26	Kippure Gates to Kippure (off road) - County Boundary to Military Road (GR 132197) - Killakee Mtn. – Cruagh/Pine Forest – Tibbradden Mtn. Fairy Castle – Three Rock Mtn. – Fern Hill Tunnel – Stepside	Steven Buckley/ Stephen James
April 2	Aghavannagh – Ow Valley – Lugnaquilla – Cannow – Camenabologue Mtn. – Table Track – Stranahely Forest – Knickeen	Philip Hayden

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.



MARCH HIKE

Date: Saturday 11 March
Route: The Dublin Hills

ADVENTURE WEEKEND AWAY

Date: 31st March to 2nd April
Location: Ballinclea – Glenmalure Backpack

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

The Club Slides

Australia, presented by Val Daly, on Tuesday 14 March
Majorca, presented by Martin Fagan, on Tuesday 4th April
in
The Palace Bar (Upstairs Lounge), Fleet Street
Admission Free.

St. Patrick's Weekend Away

Date: Thursday 16 – Sunday 19 March 2000.
Accommodation: Foulksrath Castle Y. H., Co. Kilkenny.
Details: See February *Hillwalker*.

Easter Weekend Away

Date: Thursday 20 – Monday 24 April 2000
Location: Ballydavid Wood Y. H., Tipperary
Cost: £55.00, deposit £25.00
Meals: Evening meals will be provided on Friday, Saturday and Sunday – please book meals in Head Office
Meet: The bus will leave Custom House at 6.00 p.m. SHARP
Leader: Martin Fagan

ROUTES

Friday: Circuit of Mountain Lodge.
Galtymore from Ballydavid to Mountain Lodge
Saturday: Knockmealdowns
Sunday: Lyreacappul to Temple Hill
Monday: Slieve Maan



Millennium Night – Lugnaquilla



It was a brilliant idea – where better for a walking group to be at midnight on New Year's Eve to celebrate the advent of the new millennium than on top of Lugnaquilla – Leinster's highest mountain.

It required some organisation (nothing new to Martin Fagan), and also a modicum of luck that the weather on the night would not be too disagreeable. Fortune favours the brave! It was a beautiful night – a clear sky with a forest of stars, very little breeze and not a trace of frost – even balmy.

Twenty-three hardy souls, armed with torches of various sizes and various levels of dependability set out at 8 o'clock from Fentons at Seskin. Anne Carpenter had thoughtfully organised permission for us to use the new military road via the target range, bringing us out at Camara Cross, thus avoiding most of the 'Banana Road' with its deadly water-filled craters, big enough to conceal a tank almost.

Once Camara Hill was negotiated, a testing hill even in daylight, we were set fair for the top. A drum-up at the second set of rocks beyond Camara used up some surplus time, as we didn't want to reach the summit too early. This we did at 11.30 p.m. and we were astonished to find no one else there. What a view from the top! Many towns and villages – east and south of us – were clearly visible – Wicklow, Bray and Aughrim, for example.

We counted down the clock to the witching hour – 10 – 9 – 8 2 – 1 – 0. A big cheer, uncorking of the bottle of champagne, release of a dozen or more fireworks and huge hand-holding circle, singling a lusty chorus or two of Auld Lang Syne. The occasion was truly celebrated! In the distance, fireworks could be seen shooting into the sky, some possibly from ships out in the Irish Sea.

As a cool breeze picked up we did not delay unduly and carefully we picked our way down over the infamous rocks near the summit. Apart from an adjustment or two of the bearing it was fairly plain sailing back down our route.

By 3.30 a.m. we had made it safely back to the cars at which we had parked at Fenton's Pub, and we repaired to the hostel at Ballinaclea, where a super buffet meal had been prepared – thanks here to Phyllis Flanagan (from Baltinglass) and Anne (again!). Frankie Comerford had brought his faithful guitar along with him (not on to the mountains, of course!) and obliged with a great variety of tunes. The warden's husband has a nose for a party too and contributed in his own inimitable way.

Some never made it to be at all, but then it was that kind of a special night – one to be remembered and treasured – yes – even for a thousand years!

Pearse Foley

Weekends to look forward to...

June Bank Holiday – 2nd to 5th June, Ball Hill Y.H., Donegal
August Bank Holiday – 4th to 7th August, Cong Y.H., Mayo
October Bank Holiday – 27th to 31st October, Newcastle Y.H., Mourne Mountains
Christmas Party Weekend – 24th to 27th November, Glendalough, Co. Wicklow

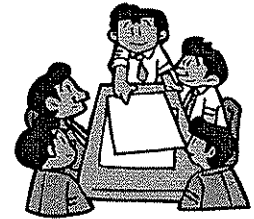
Membership Fees

The Hillwalkers Club annual membership fee is £15.

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

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 Wednesday 15 March 2000, at 8.00 p.m.

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