



The newsletter of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

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.

Date	Route Description	Leader
4th May	Transport: LOCAL BUS Rockbrook - Tibbradden - Cruagh Mtn. - Lemass Memorial - Kippure - Seefingan - Slade Brook - Bohernabreena Waterworks - Old Bawn	Jim Barry
11th May	INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE Anemoe Village - Scarr- Tonelagee - Lough Ouler - Carrickshouk - Inchivore River - Oldbridge. NB Larger bus will be available	Dennis McMahon
18th May	SPECIAL SUNDAY HIKE TO THE Blackstairs MOUNTAINS Price: £7. Ballyward - Blackstairs Mtn. - Scullogue Gap - Mt. Leinster - Gap.	Martin Fagan
25th May	JB Malone Memorial Walk (There will be no Hillwalkers hike due to this special walk) For details see page 5.	Various
2nd June	Bank Holiday Sunday Hike Transport: LOCAL BUS Mystery hike.	To be decided

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.

WEEKENDS AWAY FOR 1997



- ◆ **August Bank Holiday Weekend in Galway** (August 1st to August 4th)
Organisers: Donal Finn and Dave Rooney.
- ◆ **Halloween Weekend in the Mourne** (October 24th to October 27th), staying in Newcastle YH.
Organiser: Martin Fagan.

PLEASE NOTE the bus for each of these weekends will leave the Custom House Quay at 6.00PM. SHARP for the outward journey and will arrive back in Dublin at approx. 9.00pm. on the return trip. An Oige Cards must be carried by each individual on these weekends. If you are not a member of An Oige, you can take out membership at head office.

SPECIAL SUNDAY HIKES IN 1997



- ◆ **MAY** Blackstairs Mountains 18th May - see Sunday Hikes section for details.
- ◆ **JUNE** Cooley Mountains 15th June
- ◆ **JULY** Slieve Bloom Mountains 27th July
- ◆ **AUGUST** South Leinster 24th August
- ◆ **SEPTEMBER** Slieve Gullian 21st September

Full details of these special hikes will be given in future newsletters

HOW MAD ARE YOU?

Last year Mick Rice completed the entire Wicklow Way in just 22 hrs. and 42 mins. This year the same event is taking place on Friday 23rd May at 6.00PM. from Marley Park. Mick is the only person to have completed the walk in less than 24 hrs., though four other have tried.

Are any of our club members up to the challenge? Anyone interested should contact Mick Rice at 1 The Brook, Arklow, Co. Wicklow, or Tim Milligan at 2883312.

YOUNG HILLWALKERS CLUB

**SITE
FOR
SALE**

SATURDAY HIKE

Date: 10th May. Location: Maulin and Crone
Meet: Irish Press Office, Burgh Quay.
Time: 8.45AM.
Bring: Packed lunch, flask, hat, gloves, wet weather gear and torch.
Wear: Boots, tracksuit bottoms (no jeans), warm sweater.

ADVENTURE WEEKENDS AWAY

20th to 22nd June to Glencree. Details will be published next month.

COMPETITION

How talented are you? We are looking for a logo for The Young Hillwalkers Club. Entries should be done in black on white paper and given to Dave Rooney or John Guy. Prize for winner. Good Luck!

LONG WALKS PROGRAMME FOR 1997



Walk	Date	Organising Club	Contact Person
Maam Turks Walk	3 rd May	UCG MC	Martin Butler 091-524411 ext. 3271, Coleen Parsons 091-553241 (h)
Barrow Walk	Not this year	HF Walking Club	Not this year
Blackstairs Walk	17 th May	Wayfarers Association	Maurice McLoughlin 01-8336295 (h) Maura O'Connor 056-63867
Galty Walk	14 th June	Tyndall MC	Caroline McNeelis 056-63654 (h)
Bangor Trail	21 st June	Nephin Beg MC	Colm Geraghty 098-41834
Lug Walk	21 st June	Ramblers Club	Catherine Fenton 01-2955648 (h)
Circuit of Imaal	Not this year	An Oige	Not this year
Benbulbin Challenge	19 th July	Sligo MC	Michael Mulligan 071-41267 (h)
Mourne Seven Sevens	9 th August	Spartan Red Sox	Jim Browne 0801247-465121 (h)
Burren Walk	30 th August	Thomond Orienteers	Alan Shaw 061-343959
Glover Highlander	13 th Sept.	North West MC	Alan Tees 0801504-810834

BLACKSTAIRS WALK 1997

Date: 17th May 1997.
Organising Club: Wayfarers Association, Dublin.
Map No: OS Sheet No. 19.
Fee: £5.00 (payable on the day)
Opening checkpoint: The walk starts at Killanure (Grid Ref.: S 890 537) and finishes at Byrnes Pub, Glin (Grid Ref.: S 745 395).
Checkpoint opening time: 7.30a.m. Latest start time: 8.30a.m..
Checkpoint list: Killanure - Top of Track - (Blackrock Mtn. 1,973ft) - Mt. Leinster 2,610ft. - (Knockroe 1,777 ft.) - Scullogue Gap - Blackstairs Mtn. 2,409ft. - (Cahir Roe's Den) - (1,813ft.) - Carrigalaghan Gap - (1,679ft.) - Ballycinnigan Rock - (Base of Dranagh Mtn.) - Glynn.
Distance: 16 miles.
Height gain: 5,000ft.
Average time: 9 hours.

Note from the organisers:

Participants must be over 17 years of age. The latest time to reach the checkpoint at Scullogue Gap is 1.00p.m. and the walk must be finished by 6.30p.m. A campsite is available at St. Mullins. Two busses will leave at 6.45a.m. for the start of the walk. One will leave from St. Mullins (the campsite, the other from Glynn. The bus trip will cost £2.00, payable on the bus. Participants are advised not to drive to the start of the walk as there is no official transport from the finish back to the start. The bus should be used to the start.

PLEASE NOTE These walks are NOT led hikes. Participants need to know how to navigate and have a high level of fitness. You are responsible for yourself during these walks. A necessary amount of training should be undertaken before participating.

HOLIDAYS AWAY IN 1997



◆ Pyrenees Mountains

Leader: Martin Fagan

Date: 16th to 30th August 1997.

BOOKING CLOSED - NO PLACES LEFT.

LEADERS URGENTLY WANTED

Contact Jim Barry at 4556455 (home between 7.00pm. and 10.00pm.) or Martin Fagan at 8553653 (h)

SOCIAL NEWS



◆ **After Hike Meeting Place:** Palace Bar, Fleet Street.

◆ **Swimming:** Every Tuesday evening in E.S.B. Sportsco, South Lotts Road, Ringsend.
Cost: £2 per person. Time: 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Congratulations to Deirdre NiChoileáin and Tom Gubbins on their marriage. We wish them every success for the future.

WOMEN ON TOP!!



What kind of woman leaves loved ones, luxuries and loos behind and heads for the North Pole?

Recently skincare company Neutrogena - whose Norwegian Formula Hand Cream was developed to protect the skin of Arctic fishermen - issued a challenge to find Britain's 20 toughest women to take part in the first all female expedition to the North Pole which includes walking 420 nautical miles to get there.

Of all the applicants fifty were chosen to attend a four day Polar Selection Course last September. At the end of the course this number was whittled down to two teams of eight with four others held in reserve. The contenders - of all ages and backgrounds - earned their places on the expedition purely on merit. although as part of the challenge they had to raise £5,000 sponsorship.

Caroline Hamilton (33) was chosen to head the group which is called the Polar Relay Team. She was chosen because of her backpacking experience in Asia, East Africa, South America, Russia and Europe. The part of the trip she is most looking forward to is while at the North Pole she is going to walk in a small circle three times through every time zone in the world!

The women have been training in various locations around Britain. Part of their training also included learning how to cross-country ski at Resolute Bay.

The expedition headed out in early March and they are expected back at the end of May.

Maggie Greaney

IRELAND'S BEST KEPT SECRET

Five Hillwalkers set off to take part in the Easter Walking Festival at Manorhamilton. On Saturday we paid our entrance fee of £10 which allowed us to take part in 3 days hiking with local guides. The walks were graded easy, moderate and not too difficult. Our first hike "The Swiss Valley Trail" brought us up King's Gully and on to Benbulbin summit where excellent views of the surrounding Sligo landscape, north Leitrim mountains and further afield to Slieve League in Co. Donegal were enjoyed by all. Later we visited the disused Barytes mines at Carbery before descending towards Glencar through the hidden and beautifully named Swiss Valley.

Day two we led on a hike with the intriguing title of "Gibbons Mill Wheel Hike". We went from the small hamlet of Mullies up to the Dartry Range which has many hidden treasures. The hills here have many interesting features which include many small attractive lakes, a majestic standing stone and a number of very well constructed and maintained cairns. And of course the mill wheels. It seems that in the last century one Mr. Gibbons set about fashioning 4 massive stone mill wheels, two of which were soon carted off and put into use in local mills. The second pair for some unknown reason were left behind. They now lie forgotten in the heather desert of Mill Wheel Hill, a testimony to a past age and they somehow remind one of the two "vast and trunkless legs of stone" of Ozymandias which also lie forgotten in the sand of a far off desert. The hike finished in spectacular fashion descending from the height of Arroo Mtn. down the cliff on a narrow sheep path. Under the cliffs we were fortunate enough to spot a Peregrine Falcon flying high up beside the sheer rock-wall of the escarpment. A road walk brought us to the village of Kinlough where refreshments were had with great gusto in the "Tickled Trout"

On our third day a 3 hour combined hike for all walkers was arranged to the "deserted village of Crumpaun". The route was from Cloontyprughlish (I kid you not) up to the spectacular Eagles Rock and down through the deserted village of Crumpaun.

I feel I speak for all our group when I say Deirdre, Fiona, Joan Ray and I left with an overall feeling of having taken part in something special. It was a lovely friendly event and a credit to the organisers.

Dennis McMahon

AN ÓIGE ANNOUNCEMENT

As a result of An Oige's recent A.G.M. the following four people were elected to the National Council.

Eilish Ryan.
Andrew Petter
Norman Campion
Maeve Zeni

JB MALONE MEMORIAL WALK

Date: Sunday 25th May 1997
Route: Pier Gates to Knockree YH.
Leader: Various leaders will lead groups from the Pier Gates to Knockree YH. where light refreshments will be served.
Transport: An Oige members should take the bus they would normally take for their Sunday hike from town. These busses will leave at the normal times. There will also be shuttle busses leaving from the monument in Enniskerry to the Pier Gates. The last one will leave at 11.45a.m.

BOOK REVIEW

"A Hard Day's Summer" by Alison Hargreaves, Price £6.99 (Coronet Books) ISBN 0340647027

In her lifetime Alison Hargreaves achieved more than many modern mountaineers could have ever dreamed of accomplishing, sadly she died recently on K2. The book "A Day's Summer" describes her attempt to climb the six major Alpine north faces solo in one season.

The book catalogues her attempts on the famous (and infamous) mountains of the Grandes Jorasses, the Matterhorn, the Eiger, the Badile, the Dru and the Cima Grande. In addition to the compelling descriptions of the various north face routes the book also describes how she balanced the climbing and her family life together with her two young children and husband who accompanied her on her Journey through France, Switzerland and Italy.

Unfortunately the author reveals little of herself in the book and resultantly it lacks some of the passion which generally accompanies mountaineering literature. Another disappointing feature of the book is the frequency with which she mentions her sponsor's products. This may be attributed though to the very real requirement of funding her subsequent expeditions.

This book, being her only work, will stand testament to her ambition and ability as a mountaineer.

Don't miss next month's review of Heinrich Harrer's classic *"The White Spider"*

Paul Kavanagh

BRAINWAVE

"The Big Brainwave Walkabout"

Brainwave, the Irish Epilepsy Association are running a fund raising project called "The Big Brainwave Walkabout". They have planned a series of walks around the country to take place on Sunday 25th May/

They are looking for walkers to join with them on the day! They would welcome the participation of walkers intending to take part in the JB Malone Memorial Walk.

Any Walker who wishes to support epilepsy research and services throughout the country, can get their sponsorship card from Martin Fagan (tel: 01-8553653).

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Have you travelled anywhere abroad or indeed in Ireland that you think members would like to read about?

Please put pen to paper and send some articles or items of interest to the address below for inclusion in the newsletter.

Also, book reviews on hillwalking and related topics would be very welcome.

Articles for inclusion in the May newsletter should be sent before Wednesday 14th May to, **Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.**

