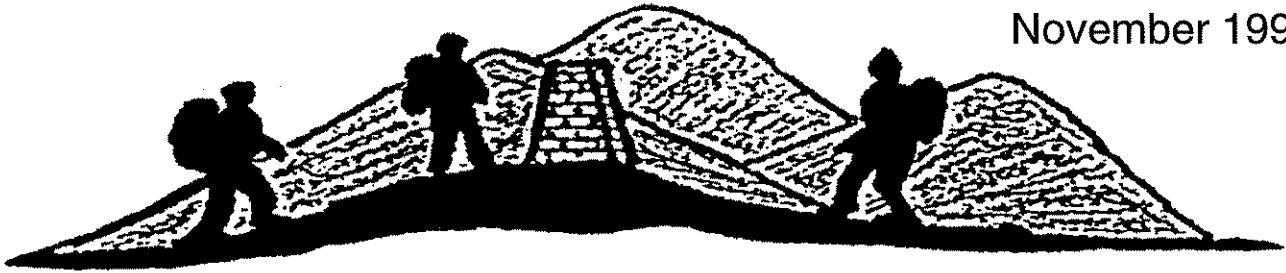


# The Hillwalker

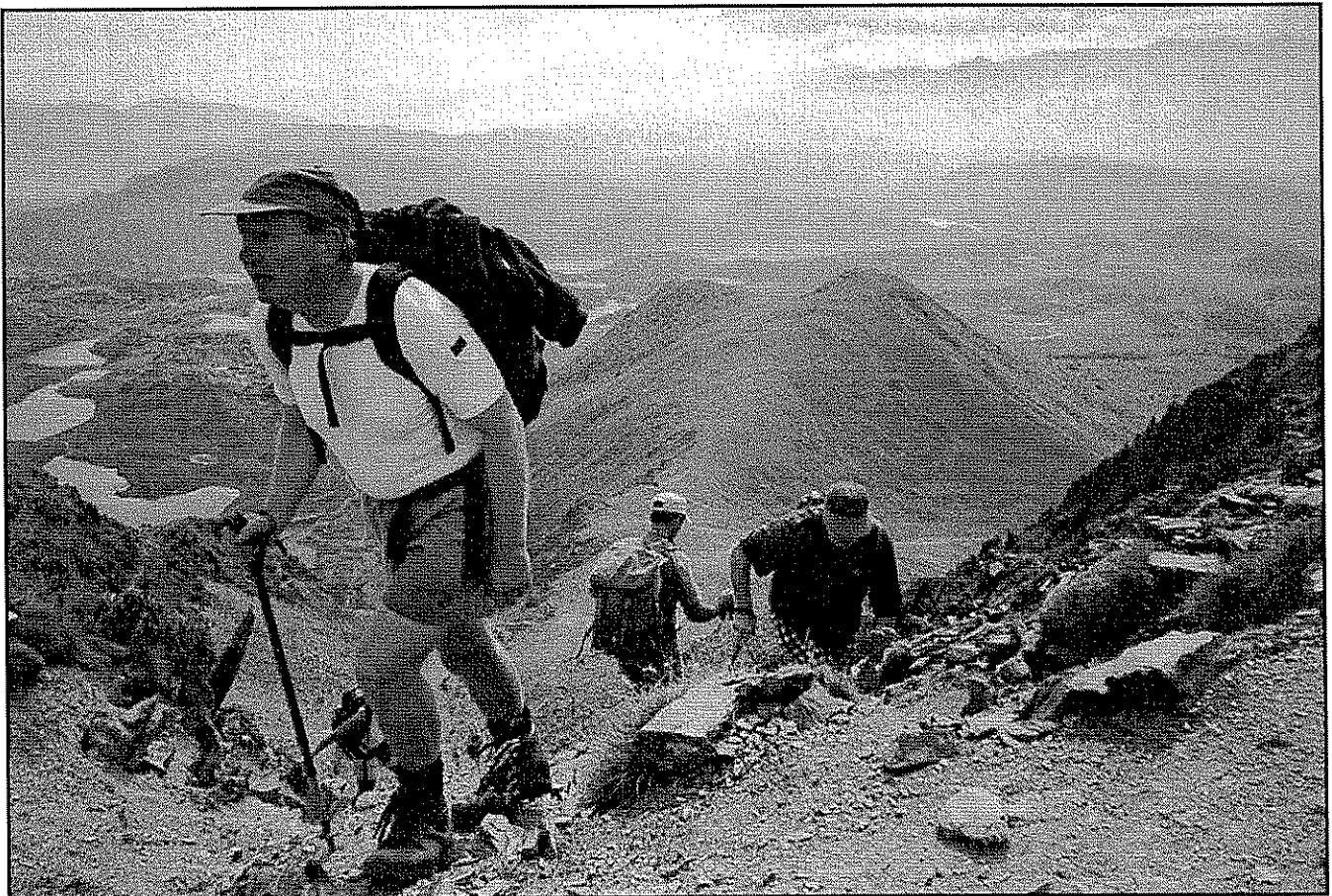
November 1997



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

The Hillwalker's innards this month include

- ◆ Sunday Hikes
- ◆ Young Hillwalkers Club
- ◆ Weekends Away
- ◆ Holidays Away
- ◆ Club Travel
- ◆ Book review



*The Hillwalkers Summit-Out on Pic Carlit (Pyrenees 1997)*

*Photo: Dorothy Cleary Collection*

# 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
9th Nov.	Glashboy - Stoney Top - Tonelagee - Brockaghs - Lough Nahanigan - Camaderry - Glendalough.	Deirdre Corrigan
16th Nov.	INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE Sallygap - Grousehouse - War Hill - Djouce - Maulin - Crone Woods.	Ita O'Hanlon
23rd Nov.	Glendalough (Upper Lake) - Camaderry - Glenealo River - Lugduff - Mullacor - Derrybawn - Laragh	Gerry Walsh
30th Nov.	NO SUNDAY HIKE Annual Reunion Weekend, Baltinglass (See Social News)	Martin Fagan/ Sean Dunne
7th Dec.	Glendalough (Upper Lake) - The Spink - Glenmalure - Arts Lough - Clohernagh - Lugnaquilla - Camarahill - Fentons	Martin Rooney

## 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.

## LEADERS URGENTLY WANTED

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

# YOUNG HILLWALKERS CLUB



## SATURDAY HIKE: CIRCUIT OF HOWTH

Date: Saturday 8th November, 1997.  
Meet: Irish Press Office, Burgh Quay.  
Time: 8.45AM.  
Bring: Packed lunch, flask, water, hat, gloves, wet weather gear and torch.  
Wear: Boots, tracksuit bottoms (no jeans), warm sweater.

For further information about our club phone the An Óige Head Office at 01-8304555 or either John Guy at 01-4524627 (h) or Dave Rooney at 01-8344811 (h).

# SOCIAL NEWS



## IT'S PARTY TIME!

### THE HILLWALKERS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY WEEKEND AWAY

Date: Travel to Baltinglass by special bus on evening of Friday 28th November and return on evening of Sunday 30th November 1997.  
Cost: £45. This covers transport, two overnights, a cheese and wine reception on Friday evening, and dinner on Saturday evening. You will need to bring two breakfasts and two lunches.  
Transport is by bus. Two busses will leave the Custom House at 6.30PM. on Friday.

There will be a harder and an easier hike on Saturday and one hike on Sunday. On Saturday evening after dinner there will be a sing-song so we ask you to bring along your musical instruments and singing voices. There will also be a slide show and ceili.

Payment is non-refundable and to be paid in full by Friday 14th November. Cheques and postal orders only - no cash please, made payable to The Hillwalkers Club, and sent to Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Money will **NOT** be collected by any other club member or collected on hikes. Unfortunately due to some problems the Organisers has last year it was decided that admittance will be by invitation card only. These cards will be sent on receipt of money and this card will be collected on the bus by a committee member.

**THERE ARE STILL SOME PLACES LEFT, BUT THEY ARE BOOKING UP FAST SO HURRY!**

# CLUB TRAVEL



## Pyrenean Peaks - August 1997

It was on an optimistic note (fully realised) that our party of 15 headed off on Saturday, August 16th from Dublin Airport bound for Barcelona. After all, Martin (Fagan) had organised the trip - his talents in this field are almost legendary. We didn't anticipate that he had also organised the most beautiful weather - à la Scotland in 1995.

We overnighted in Barcelona in an International Youth Hostel .

On Sunday, we travelled north by train to the French border at Latour-de-Carol, where we changed to a delightful train called the Train Jaune (the Yellow Train). It runs on a single narrow gauge track, so trains can only pass at certain stations, which can cause some delays. One such - at Fontpédrouse - lasted over half an hour. All aboard disembarked and wandered around the station - definite echoes of the West Clare Railway! It's essentially a fun ride - some of the carriages are open-air, and the youngsters kick up a great racket when the train runs through a tunnel, of which there are many.

Our first day's trip (on Monday) was by train to Villefranche-sur-Conflent some 20 miles away. It's a fine old fortified town (it dates from 1092), dramatically situated in a narrow gorge. A walk up to and beyond Fort Liberia, which overlooks and at one time protected the town, afforded some magnificent views.

The following day will live long in our memory. It is said that we recall our misadventures more readily than our successes. If so "Canigou" will never be forgotten.

The plan was to climb Pic Canigou (9200 ft.). Martin's book (admittedly in French) described a round trip of 8 hours from Casteil, our starting-point. Ominously (and indeed presciently), our minibus driver asked us did we have our night torches with us! I won't dwell on the gory details. Suffice it to say, the leading group walked for 5 hours, at which stage they discovered the peak was still 2 hours away. They turned back, arriving at Casteil at 6 p.m. after a 9½ hour walk, to find no sign of the second group. Their particular misadventure lasted over 1½ hours and they,

too, failed to get to the top. At least, no one was hurt or lost - just a lot of aching limbs! The most relieved people, perhaps, were the bus driver and our host Francois. The latter received us with open arms, even though we arrived back 1½ hours late for dinner. He even gave us extra helpings to express his delight and relief at seeing us back safe and sound.

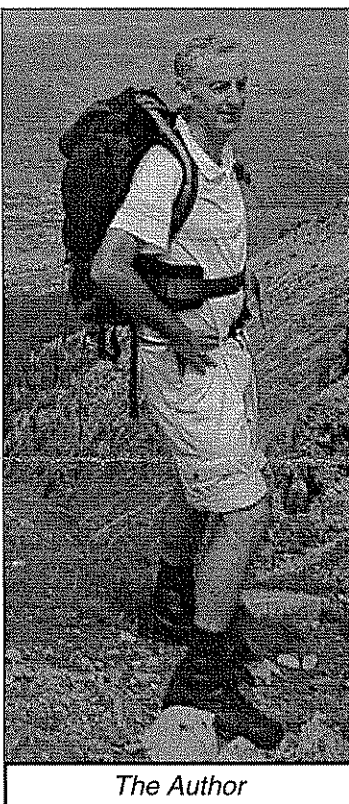
It was success all the way after that. Cambre D'Aze (8940 ft.) Seurat de les Fonts (9140 ft.) and Pic de Finistrelles (9330 ft.) were all conquered without any problems. The navigation proved straight-forward. Not only were the detailed maps excellent, but the on-the-ground markings were most helpful. Regularly, boulders, rocks or trees would have the colours of the route marked on them. Of course, the magnificent weather also contributed, as visibility was crystal clear at all times. A trip up the Eyne Valley one day was a pleasant change from the higher walks. This valley has a unique microclimate and boasts a wealth of flowers and herbs in its meadows. A large herd of Isard (Pyrenean deer) was spotted at the top of the valley.

The two outstanding walks there were to Pic Carlit and to Portella de la Grava/ Étang de Lanoux. The former is the highest peak in the Eastern Pyrenees at 9600 ft. The final part of this climb is a nice challenge with some interesting scrambling involved. From the sum-

mit, looking west, you can see how vast the entire Pyrenean range is. The walk to Portella de la Grava (literally, the gateway of the Grava river) is a handsome one along a broad river valley with a good climb to the pass at 8000 ft., and then a steep descent to the Etang (Catalan for Lake).

The Pyrenees are an ideal spot for walking, particularly the eastern side. The mountains there are not as alpine nor as difficult as those in the western or central sections. Being nearer the Mediterranean, the climate is more pleasant and the scenery is simply sparkling.

Pearse Foley



*The Author*

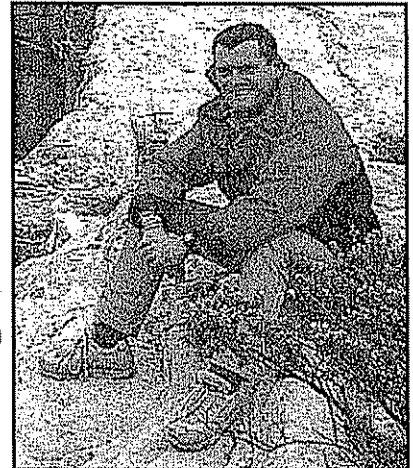
## BOOK REVIEW



**"Dark Shadows Falling" Joe Simpson ISBN 0-244-04368-4**  
(Recent Hardback Release - Paperback due soon)

In recent years Joe Simpson has left a considerable impression on the world of mountaineering literature. His most recent book "Dark Shadows Falling" is his fourth publication since the award winning "Touching The Void".

"Dark Shadows Falling" is a thoroughly enjoyable book. Unlike many of his contemporaries who vilify the Mountaineer's obsession with the summit at-all-costs attitude, Joe Simpson uses his book to expose the ugly side of commercial mountaineering and urges a more humanitarian and conservational attitude to the worlds high mountain areas.



*Joe Simpson*

As with all Joe Simpson's publications, this book is a thoroughly absorbing read which I can recommend. As it is currently only available in hardback it may be prudent to wait for its paperback release.

Paul Kavanagh

## IRISH K2 EXPEDITION

The expedition received two launches - in Belfast and Dublin - on Monday and Tuesday of this week thus emphasising the cross - border nature of the endeavour. Eddie Cooper (Deputy Leader), Paul Dunlop and Ian Rea from the North will join Expedition Leader and honorary Southerner Calvin Torrans along with Donie O'Sullivan and Martin Daly when they leave for Pakistan next summer. Not content with outfacing David Hanly on Morning Ireland Calvin was later spied on the Evening News climbing above the danger line on the indoor wall in UCD - presumably he's starting as he means to continue.

## LUG WALK 1997

The appalling weather conditions and poor visibility made this year's Lug walk one of the most difficult in terms of organisation and participation. The Rambler volunteers had their work cut out for them but came up trumps if not smiling. Everything ran smoothly at the Sally Gap where 222 of the 249 starters continued on to the next section.

The Wicklow Gap was a different matter. More than 150 walkers dropped out at or before this point instead of the 50 or less which would normally be the case. This put a considerable strain on the transport, catering and roll-up teams.

Of the 249 starters only 57 finished, the last of them at 11.00.PM.

# HOLIDAYS AWAY



## THE CANADIAN ROCKIES FOR THREE WEEKS IN THE SUMMER OF 1998

Does the prospect of spending three weeks in the Canadian Rockies in the summer of next year sound appealing? If so, Martin Fagan will hold a meeting in the International Youth Hostel, Mountjoy Street, on Tuesday, 21st October at 8.00pm. to discuss his plans.

# AN ÓIGE NEWS



## An Oige Annual Christmas Party

**Date:** 6th December 1997

**Venue:** Hollybrook Hotel

Dinner 8:30 (sharp) with dancing to 1AM

Tickets available from Head Office Tel: 01-8304555 or Martin Fagan

Price £17 (Credit Cards also accepted by Head Office)

# THE COMMITTEE



Chairperson & Sunday Hikes: Jim Barry (01-4554655 h)

Secretary: Donal Finn (01-4530617 h)

Treasurer: Proinsias Mac AnBheatha (01-8379897 h)

Training Officer: Joe Kellegher (01-8381973 h)

Weekends Co-ordinator: Martin Fagan (01-8553653 h)

Membership Secretary: Pauline Morley/Ger Walsh (01-8225818 h)

Editor: Maggie Greaney (01-2834253 h)

Young Hillwalkers: John Guy (01-4524627 h) or Dave Rooney (01-8344811)

# 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. If possible the articles should be typed or in electronic form and should be a maximum of one A4 page of text. A stamped and addressed envelope should accompany any photographs to ensure their return.

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

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