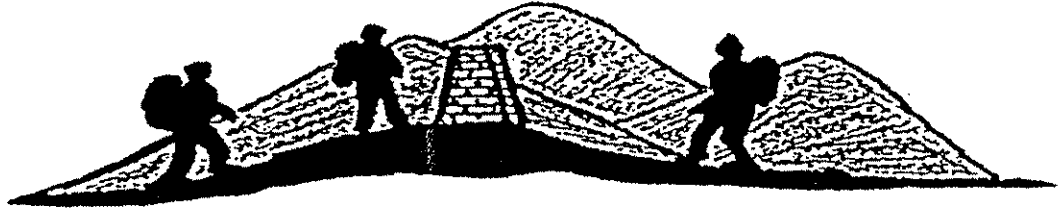


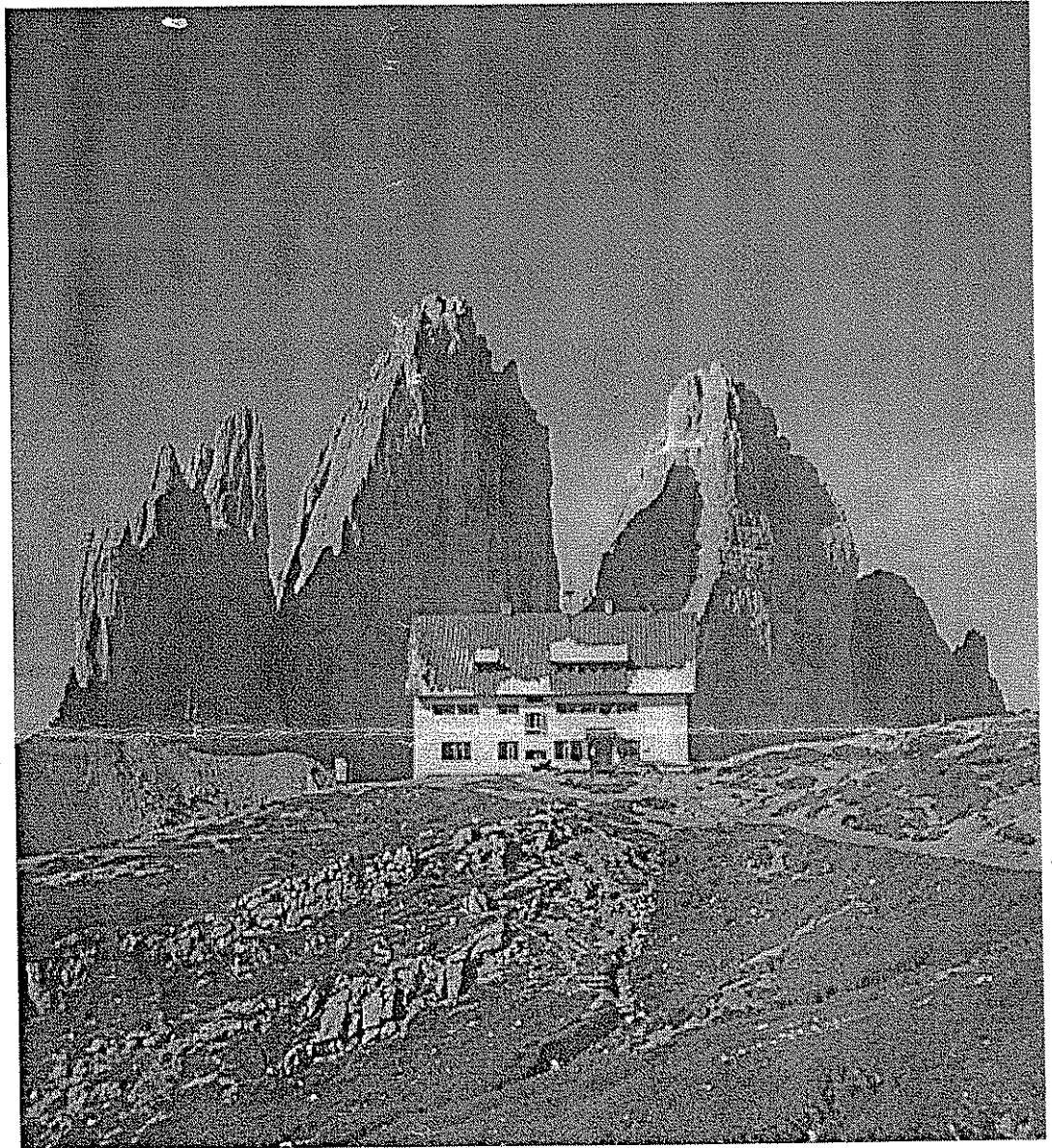
Hillwalker

November 2000



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

The Hillwalker



Tre Cime de Lavaredo /Drei Zinnen with Refugio Locatelli in the foreground taken in the Dolomites

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Sunday Hikes November

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.

Date	Route Description	Leader
November 5	Kippure Gates - Lough Brays - Glenree - Oldboley's - Knocknagun - PrinceWilliam Seat - Boranaraltry Bridge - Ballybrack - Two Rock Mtn - Fairy Castle - Three Rock Mountain - Fern Hill Tunnel (Stepside)	Pat Drew
November 12	Lugnagun - Sorrel Hill - Ballynultagh Gap - Black Hill - Cleevaun Lough - Mullaghcleevaun - Billy Byrne's Gap - Cock Brook - Kilbeg - Lackan.	Brian Madigan
November 19	INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE Stone Cross - Slievebawnoge - Ballymorefinn - Seahan - Corrig - Seefingan - Kippure - Kippure Gates.	Deirdre Corrigan
November 26	Ballinagee Bridge - Glenreemore Brook - Art's Cross - Three Lakes - Table Track - Table Mtn - Cavanagh's Gap - Lobawn - Sugarloaf - Ballinlea Y.H.	Philip Hayden
December 3	Ballinastoe Wood G.R.195078(Not Pier Gates) - Barr Memorial - White Hill - Djouce Mtn - War Hill - Tonduff South - Maulin - Glensoulan - Crone Wood.	Warren Lawless

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

SEPTEMBER SATURDAY HIKE DETAILS

Date: Saturday 11 November 2000
Route: Crone & Djouce
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.



NOVEMBER ADVENTURE WEEKENDS AWAY

3rd to 5th October: Knockree

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

An Óige Hillwalkers Club Christmas Party Weekend Away 9 – 10 December 2000

The An Óige Hillwalkers Club annual Christmas Party Weekend Away will take place on the weekend of **9 – 10 December 2000**, in the Glendalough Youth Hostel. (*Please note the change in date from that published last month.*)

Option One

Travel: Bus departs Saturday morning 9.00am from Custom House Quay and return Sunday evening.
Price: £40.00 (Includes transport to and from Dublin, hikes, dinner on Saturday night, slide show, spot prizes and one overnight)

Option two

Arrive (own transport) Saturday evening by 6.00pm
Price: £30.00 (Includes dinner, spot prizes slide show, one overnight and hike on Sunday)

Payment in full to An Óige Head Office stating either option one or option two.
Money will *not* be collected by any committee member either beforehand or in the hostel.

An Oige Hillwalkers Club Holidays Abroad 2001

Martin Fagan is currently making arrangements for the Hillwalkers Club Holidays Abroad 2001

Next year there will be two options:

Skiing holiday to Andorra - February 2001 - 1 week.

Morocco walking holiday May 2001 - 2 weeks - limited to 15 places.

Interested parties should attend a meeting to be held by Martin in the An Óige Head Office, Mountjoy Street at 8.00pm on 16th November 2000.

Club Travel

Eight Days in the Dolomites

The first British and Austrian climbers to visit the Dolomites in the early 19th century described them as '*the most beautiful mountains in the world*' and it is easy to see why. The scenery here is truly spectacular.

The area of the Northern Dolomites which we visited is known as the Alto Adige or Sudtirolo. Italian and German are spoken here; place names are in both languages and even the food reflects the mixture of cultures. Our chosen route was a 70km trek from Val Gardena across the mountains to Val Fisselina and passed through only one village. This would take about six days plus an extra day to climb Picco di Valandro (2839m).

Our first night in the mountains was spent in the town of Balzano. From here we took a bus to Ortisei, then a cable car up to the meadow of Seceda (2456m) and the start of our trek. It was a tough eight hour walk made all the tougher by the fact that we had spent rather too long in the Irish Pub the night before! The first few hours were easy enough, then we had a steep climb up to a saddle 'Forcella Forcella de Sielles' (2505m) where we rested, had lunch and enjoyed the view. Then we had a short section of Via Ferrata to tackle. It wasn't difficult but the heavy back packs unbalanced us a little which made it a bit tricky. We continued over rocky ground to the highest point of the day 'Passa Gardenaccia' (2543m) followed by a long descent to Refugio Gardenaccia.

The first day turned out to be fairly representative of the days ahead, as we climbed up zig-zag tracks to high passes, where we were rewarded with spectacular views across towering peaks, crossed high alpine meadows and wound our way down steep trails into green valleys. Twice we descended over 1,000m and then had to regain that height and more before reaching our refugio. It often felt like we would never get there. On one such occasion I vowed silently to retire from hill walking while Tom planned to bivvy out if the refugio didn't turn up soon! A few hours later we were drinking tea and laughing about the extremes of emotion that can arise in the course of a day's hike.

The refugios provide an excellent service. As well as a bed for the night you can eat dinner, enjoy a few beers in the cosy bar and have breakfast in the morning, so that rested and well fed you are ready to face another day. What more could any hill walker ask for? Well, maybe a bit more sunshine! We had mixed weather, thunderstorms, hail showers, hot sun and cold wind! We were even grounded for a day by snow. This was unexpected in mid July, but just one more highlight in an exciting and rewarding trip.

Guide books used: *Walking in Italy* published by Lonely Planet

Maps: Tabacco Scale: 1:25,000 Nos. 3, 5, 7, and 10 – available from The Great Outdoors

Patricia Goodman

The Club Slides

Poland

Presented by
Martin Fagan

on
Tues Nov 14th,
at 8.30pm

Palace Bar, Upstairs Lounge Fleet Street

As always, any person interested in giving a slideshow should contact Donal Finn at 01 – 4530617.

Poetry In Motion

RTE has just commenced broadcasting a new series of television programmes from the lens and pens of cameraman John Murray and Renaissance Man Dermot Somers. Entitled "Turas Feasa - Seven Walking Journeys Into The Wild Heart Of Irish History" it is a series of programmes which ranges across the uplands of Ireland from Wicklow to Skellig Michael touching down in the Cooley Mountains, the Galtees, the Slieve Blooms, Mourne and the North Antrim Coast.

Doffing his trilby to "Foras Feasa Ar Eireann" le Seathrún Céitinn (from which the series playfully takes its name) Dermot sets out on foot through some of the remoter recesses of the Irish landscape. Following in the footsteps of such historical and legendary figures as Queen Maeve, Art O'Neill, Red Hugh O'Donnell and Sweeney the mythical half mad bird man he explores the landscape of seven adventures from our past.

The first programme, Cill Mhantáin travelled the Wicklow landscape in winter and evoked the memory of one of the tragic journeys in Irish History - the flight from Dublin Castle of Red Hugh O'Donnell & Art O'Neill. Our heart has been in thrall to the Wicklow Uplands for over twenty years and the programme succeeded in distilling what is most precious about Wicklow and in putting clothes on the bones of "The Old Story" (one of Dermot's short-stories from his award-winning collection *Mountains And Other Ghosts*). The lyrical script was beautifully illustrated by producer John Murray whose deft touch with the camera was unerring.

It made our heart soar and soul sing.

Lest we wax too serious may we finish by saying that Dermot's riposte to Mallory made us laugh out loud. When faced with the eternal question as to why people climb mountains he replies: "Maybe because the mountain is there - or more likely because I'm there"

Turas Feasa is broadcast on RTE 1 on Thursdays at 7.30pm until 30th November.

*Declan O'Keeffe
Public Relations Officer
Mountaineering Council of Ireland*

An Óige Annual Dinner Dance

The Annual An Óige Dinner Dance will take place in the Rochestown Lodge, Dun Laoghaire on Saturday 2nd December 2000. Tickets are £20.00. Contact Martin Fagan at 8553653.

Membership Fees

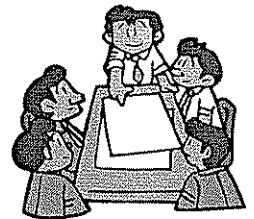
The Hillwalkers Club annual membership fee is £15.

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

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).

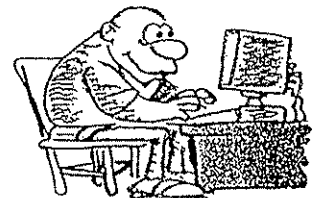
The Committee

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)
<i>Distribution:</i>	Cyril McFeeney & Pearse Foley



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 combined December / January newsletter should be sent before Friday 17 November to:
Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
(e-mail: maggieg@eircom.net)**