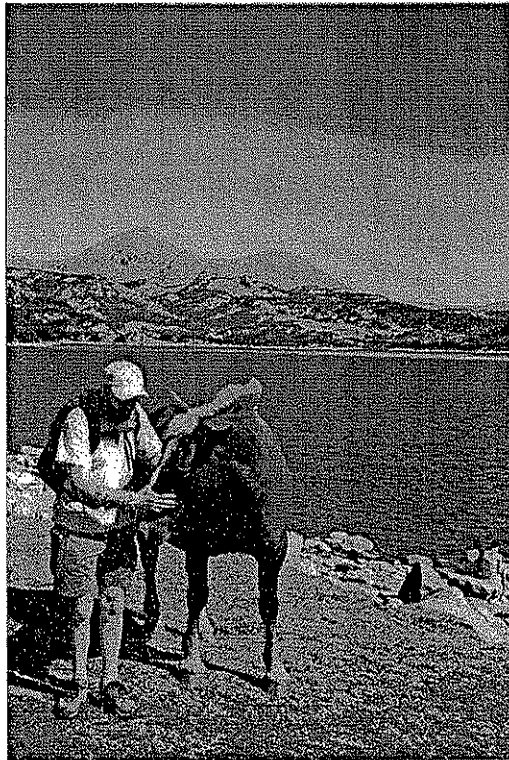


The Hillwalker



Tom getting to know one of the locals at Lake Bouillouses, French Catalan Pyrenees.
Picture Patricia Goodman

Inside this issue:

Sunday Hikes	2-3
Young Hillwalkers	4
Weekends Away	4
Club Travel	5
Club Notes	4-11



Sunday Hikes November/December

MEET: Outside old Irish Press Offices, Burgh Quay, down from Spar shop.
DEPART Sundays 10.00 A.M. (or when the bus is full)
COST: Private bus. £6.00 (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.

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.

ENVIRONMENT

Try to reduce the erosion and widening of trails, e.g. do not walk on the edge of worn tracks; walk through the centre of the original track or go several feet into the scruff where the ground is untrodden, walking parallel to but not on the track.

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.

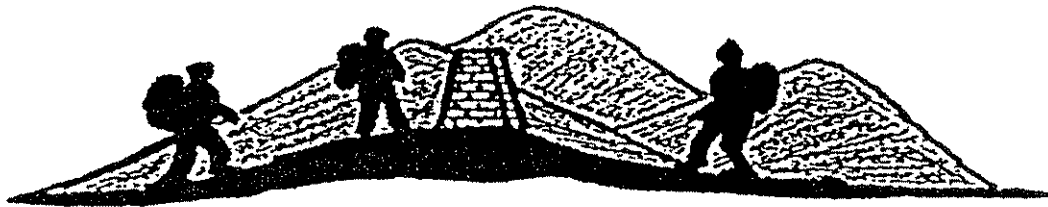
WALKING STICKS

In the interest of safety and comfort please keep the pointed end of your walking stick covered, especially when travelling on the bus.

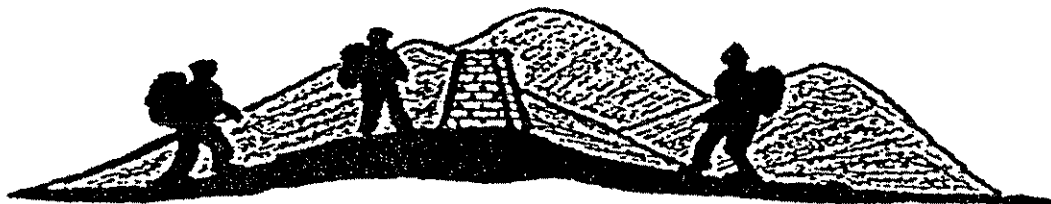
HIKE LEADER

Jim has asked us to include his email for queries regarding the walking schedule including **offers to lead** and weekend away queries.

Hike co-ordinator email address: jamesab@gofree.indigo.ie



Date	Route Description	Leader
4 th November	<p style="text-align: center;">Introductory Hard Hike</p> <p>Route: Lackan – Kilbeg – Cock Brook – Maonbane Mtn – Billy Byrne’s Gap – Cleevaun Lough – Mullaghcleevaun Mtn – Black Hill - Ballynultagh Gap.</p> <p>[16km/900m Ascent]</p>	Monica Cadden
11 th November	<p>Route: Wicklow Gap – Turlough Hill – Lough Firrib – Lugduffs – Mullacor – Cullentragh Mtn – Shay Elliott Memorial.</p> <p>16km/450m Ascent]</p>	Tom Kenny
18 th November	<p>Route: Athdown Wood - Seefin Mtn – Seefingan – Kippure – Cot Brook – Castlekelly – Glenasmole – Bohernabreena Waterworks.</p> <p>[17km/700m Ascent]</p>	Matt Geraghty
25 th November	<p>Route: Stranahely Wood – Table Track – Wexford Gap – Cavanagh’s Gap – Lobawn – Corriebracks – Toor Turf Cutter’s Track – Slievecorragh Hill – Hollywood Village.</p> <p>[17km/800m Ascent]</p>	Noel Kerley
2 nd December	<p style="text-align: center;">Introductory Hard Hike</p> <p>Route: Ballinstoe Wood – White Hill – Djouce – Coffin Stone – War Hill – Tonduff South – Maulin – Crone Wood – Knockree Hostel.</p> <p>[16km/700mAscent]</p>	Philip Hayden
8/9 th December	<p>Annual Christmas Party Glendalough International Youth Hostel Walks on Saturday & Sunday</p>	Donal Finn Martin Fagan
16 th December	<p>Route: Laragh Bridge – Paddock Hill – Scarr – Kanturk – Oldbridge – Bus to Roundwood Pub for Christmas <i>ceol agus craic</i>.</p> <p>Please Note: Bus returning to Dublin at 1830hrs</p> <p>[13km/500mAscent]</p>	Don Reilly
1 st January	<p>Annual club New Year’s Day walk around the Glen of Imaal. Transportation must be arranged by yourself.</p>	



Christmas Party

The club's annual Christmas party will be held on the 8th December in Glendalough hostel. It will be a one night format again, with opportunities to walk on Saturday and Sunday. Booking is open now at An Óige head office. Moderate and 'social' walkers welcomed as well!

Option #1 £40

Bus at 9.30am from Liberty Hall
2 Day walks (long and short)
Soup in hostel on walk completion
Dinner, Wine and Party
Overnight stay
Return bus 4pm

Option #2 £30

Arrive Glendalough by your own means, preferably by 5.30pm for the soup & food
Soup in hostel on arrival
Dinner, Wine and Party
Overnight stay

Booking only through head office, Ph. 830 4555. Please specify the Glendalough Christmas party. Full amount payable on booking.



p.s If you have a portable stereo for playing cds/tapes that you can bring to Glendalough, give the editor a buzz or email. Good party music also welcomed.

Winter Season Notice

The hike co-ordinator has asked that we take note of the following points of safety for the Winter walks, especially hike leaders:

All hike participants should carry suitable waterproof torches, reflective armbands or strips and adequate winter attire from the end of October until the end of the winter period (March - April 2002). Leaders should insist that all participants are suitably attired and using torches when required. Leaders should plan to finish all hikes between 1700 and 1730hrs (earlier if severe adverse weather conditions prevail). Every effort should be made (without dragging or hurrying the group) to reach a recognised safe track or road way before the onset of darkness. Leaders should slow the pace down when encountering any type of awkward or difficult terrain, steep or slippery inclines etc. Extra vigilance should be exercised during the periods of dusk, darkness, dense fog or mist, snow and icy conditions etc. Walks should be altered or shortened to take account of adverse weather conditions e.g. possible flooding or icy roads.

Young Hillwalkers

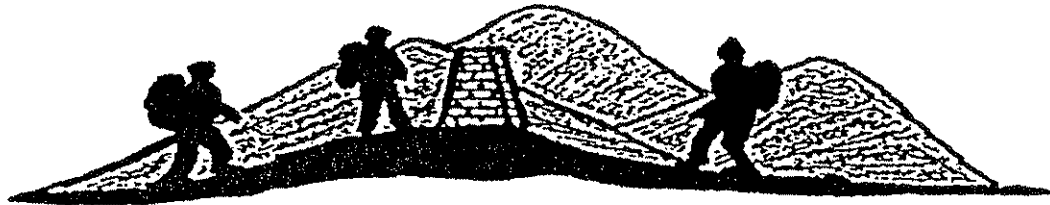
Saturday Hikes – Meet at Messrs Maguire Bar, O'Connell Bridge, Dublin at 8.45 a.m.

Bring: Packed lunch, wet weather gear and torch

Wear: Boots, tracksuit bottoms (no jeans), hat and gloves

Circuit of Howth Head

Saturday November 10th



Knockree Weekend Away November 2nd-4th

For further details of all the above trips contact An Óige Head Office at 01-830455

Hillwalking Skills & Courses

That academic duo Joe Kellegher and Donal Finn are organising several events to improve our outdoor skills and knowledge. The Map & Compass and First Aid courses are detailed elsewhere in the newsletter; below are the details of the Weather course. Please note that October 26th is the last date for registration for the First Aid course.

Commencing Tuesday, Feb 5, 2002 and running for 6 weeks, the Club will be organising a short course on ***Weather Interpretation and Understanding*** which will be given by *Mr Gerry McDonald*, Meteorologist (retired, formerly of the Irish Meteorological Service). Further details in later programmes.

Glenmalure Youth Hostel

Fellow walkers, the simplistic yet famed hostel in Glenmalure is without a warden. An Óige is endeavouring, however, to arrange voluntary wardens to look after the hostel on Saturdays, enabling its use by hikers and travellers one night a week. Please take a moment to read the details elsewhere in the newsletter and ponder if a night of self-sufficiency and solitude (fortified by a trip to the Glenmalure lodge) would suit you.

If interested, contact head office with your details at 830 4555 or An Óige General Manager David Owens at 8822569.

Club Slideshows

The following dates have been arranged for our regular slideshow venue at the Palace Bar:

Swiss Alps Walks

Presented by Peter Brown, Irish Mountaineering Club

November 13th, 8.30pm, Upstairs Lounge, Palace Bar

December 4th

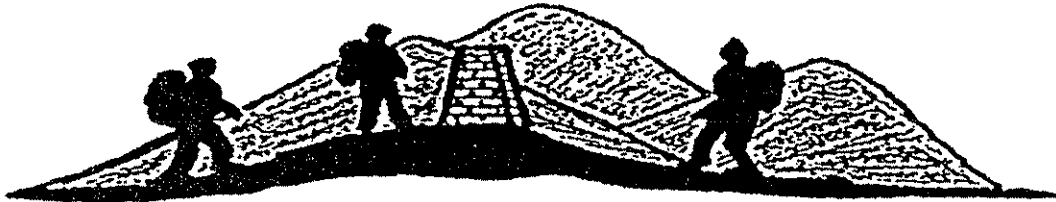
Details when decided will be announced by email and on the bus

Meanwhile, if anyone would like to show their slides please contact Donal Finn (01-4530617).

Club Travel

Sojourn In The Pyrenees

This Summer we decided to spend our holidays in the Pyrenees, but we found it hard to make up our minds about which part to go to. However, finally we decided to follow in the footsteps of Martin Fagan's trip of 1997 and head for the French Catalan Pyrenees. We flew to Barcelona, arriving on a very hot afternoon. Wanting to stay close to the Train Station we headed for a youth hostel which seemed close on the map, but was actually quite a long walk away, to find that it was full. After trudging back down the road and checking out a few four star hotels which were, of course, expensive, and full anyway we found a pension just across



from the Station. Being close to the Station was about the only good thing you could say about the place, apart from being a rip-off price. The room was small, hot and very noisy, as it fronted on to a main road. So, next morning, after that less than perfect start to our trip, we took the train to *La Tour de Carol* in France. From here we caught the Yellow Train (lie *Train Janne*) to our hotel, which was about 4 km from the town of *Mont Louis*, at *Col de Perche* (1579 m). This was a lovely spot, but somewhat spoiled by a very busy main road which ran right past the door of the hotel. We spent four nights here and went walking every day. Some of the walks were easy strolls on tracks which led through fields and woods, linking the many pretty villages in the area.

The most challenging hike we did while at La Perche was up to *Col d Nuria* on the frontier with Spain. I have read quite a few books on the Spanish Civil War, including accounts of people crossing the Pyrenees from France to join in the fight against fascism. So I had a bit of a bee in my bonnet about getting up to the frontier. As we followed the trail up the *Valle de Eyne* my head was full of thoughts about those men in their uncomfortable clothes and bob nailed boots, who may have taken this very route, and what awaited them if and when they reached Spain.

It was a beautiful walk up through forest then out into high pasture with formidable slopes on each side, and the *River Eyne* flowing beside us. Eventually, we reached a steep scree slope, and a zig zag trail led up onto *Col d Nuria* (2500 m). So here we were, with one foot in France and the other in Spain. We had enough energy left to go on to *Pic d Eyne* (2780 m) before resting and beginning the long walk back to our hotel. A few days later we moved on to *Lao des Boiillouses* (2005 m) where we stayed at the mountain refuge. There was also quite a large hotel at the lake. The refuge was cosy and the food was great. From here we did several walks of which the longest and hardest was *Pic Carlit* (2921 m). We made an early start for this, leaving at about 730 a.m. We thought we were ahead of the pack, but later that morning, when we were getting closer to the summit, the trail became very crowded. One Spanish group were particularly noisy. Perhaps they were excited by the scramble involved in getting to the top! The day was very hot and we took lots of rests on the way up. On the way back down we cooled our feet in one of the lakes and finished up with a cold beer on the terrace of the Hotel. Early next morning we set off on the second half of our trip, which included a quick stop in *Andorra La Ville*, a few days by the sea at *Blanos* on the *Costa Brava*, and finished up with, three days of being culture vultures in Barcelona. All in all a very busy holiday.

Patricia Goodman

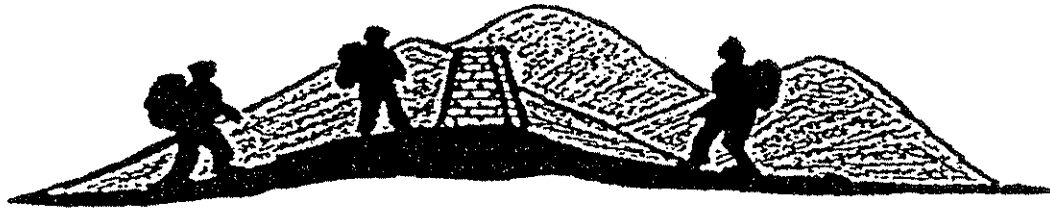
Club Notes

Congratulations to our chairman Donal Finn who has successfully completed his Mountain Leadership (M.L) course after a final gruelling weekend on the hills. See elsewhere in the newsletter for details of how you can progress your mountain skills.

William Parle

The sad news has reached us of the death in October of William Parle. He was a member of the old Mountaineering group and continued as a member of the An Óige Hillwalkers until his death. William will be better known to frequent attendees on trips to England and Wales over the years. William will be sadly missed by all who knew him for his good natured humour and style of wit, not to mention the famous runners which he always insisted on wearing across the hills and bogs. Sympathies are extended on behalf of the The Hillwalkers Club to his life long partner Catherine, who always accompanied him and to his family. May he rest in peace.

Jim Barry



The 2001 Committee

Chairperson:	Donal Finn (01-4530617 h)
Secretary:	Frank Rooney (01-8038102 h)
Treasurer	Prionsias MacAnBheatha (01-8379897 h)
Editor:	Warren Lawless (01-8334694 h)
Sunday Hikes:	Jim Barry (01-4556455 h)
Weekends/Holidays:	Martin Fagan (01-8553653 h)
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

Membership Fees

The Hillwalkers Club annual membership fee is £15.

An application form is enclosed and 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).

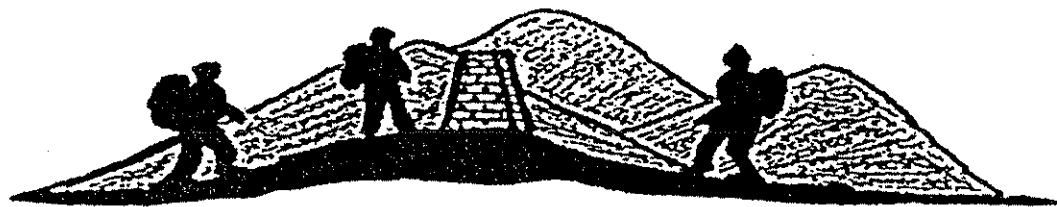
Burren, Co. Clare Weekend Away

The Clare Weekend (Sponsored by Spar)

Another successful trip was enjoyed by the club on the October bank holiday weekend. There was a good crowd of both Moderate and Hard Hike members, including a number new to the rigours of An Óige weekend away. We all stayed in the historic and comfortable Doorus hostel, just over the county border in Galway.

As ever, sleep eluded many amid the night time noises of a country hostel: the owl hooting, the plastic bags rustling, the drunken rabble coming in late from the pub, and the full nasal symphony playing in the bunk overhead you. It was a bizarre sight waking up in the morning to step out into the fresh air and have one's yawn suddenly stopped by the sight of gagged and struggling body hanging from the trees: Tut, tut, yet another snorer. Rumour has it that the male Dorm-C was down to 3 people by the end, the rest having been strung up outside for noise offences. One lady even went as far as Doolin to get away from the noise in her dorm.

Other focal points of the weekend included the Spar shop in Ballyvaughan, which we seemed incapable of passing without first disembarking and emptying its shelves. And of course there was Fahy's pub, a nice local just down the road from the hostel. For many, the highlight of the weekend will be the pool games played here. The club's pool sharks came to the fore, *Sean O'Reilly*, and *Philip Hayden* to name a few. But most unforgettable of all was the epic contest between *Stephen James* and *Carmel NiChatháin*. The stakes were high, the onlooking crowd very partisan, but ultimately it was Carmel who emerged victorious. (Sorry Steve, the bribes you offered in exchange for me to omit that little fact were an insult to my integrity as an editor and purveyor of truth...).



When the club was not shopping in Spar or drinking in Fahy's, we managed to do some walking. On Saturday the group was in the Slieve Elva/Aghaglinny area. The Burren offered very different terrain from Wicklow, with its long, low ridges of stony limestone. It was a pleasure to be able to walk on such dry and solid ground, though there was a taste of Wicklow when the main hike passed through a tough bog to get to Lisdoonvarna. No reports of any match making there, though several female members of the club were spotted in discreet negotiations with local farmers.

An easy stroll along the Cliffs of Moher was done on Sunday, after some fancy driving by our bus driver down narrow country lanes. One last hike on Monday around the mist shrouded ridge of Cappanawalla was a perfect end to a lovely weekend.

Thanks to *Martin Fagan* for organising the weekend and to the many individuals who helped out over the weekend in the hostel and on the hills. Our thanks also to *Tony & Kay O'Sullivan* for their warm hospitality.

Trick or Treat

As Matt and Warren surveyed the can-strewn wasteland that was their apartment, they asked themselves how had it come to this? Ah yes, they had wanted to hold a party, but that would have meant having to clean up the apartment, lest their friends sensibilities be offended by all the dirt in which their home was buried. The solution was brilliant: simply have a Halloween party when the cobwebs and spiders co-inhabiting the apartment would actually add to the ambience!!!

So the invitations went out and on the appointed day creatures and characters out of myth descended unto the Editorial Office. There were Mummies, Vikings, Lords of the Sith, School Girls, 80s Roller Bladers, Reggae Men, African Tribal Girls, Witches, Priests, Superheroes (fuelled by the power of Heineken), Old Hags, Geishas, Squaws, Clowns and Rocks Chicks (not to be mistaken, as the Editor first thought, for a hooker). But all eyes were on the fair Stephenie, a wand-waving fairy, bedazzling in her tutu and high heels. But some lads began to worry when they surveyed her steely and hairy legs. Could it be Stephenie was not all she appeared? As the Environmental Hazard Officer observed "At least we will not need to buy a fairy for on top of the Glendalough party Christmas tree"...

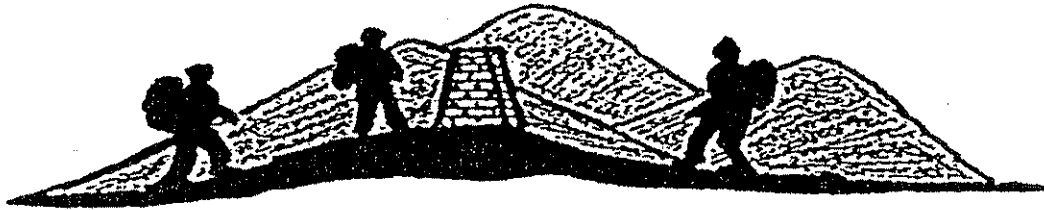
Note from the Editor

Walking holiday articles and pictures must be in electronic form where possible or at least typed, and should be a maximum of 500 words. A **stamped addressed envelope** should accompany any photographs or printed articles to ensure their return. Articles will generally be published in order of receipt.

Articles for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to *Warren Lawless*
Email: warrenl@gofree.indigo.ie
Post: 19 Jervis Place, Upper Abbey Street, Dublin 1

Current and back issues of the *Hillwalker* available at online at:
<http://homepage.eircom.net/~thehillwalker/index.htm>

Remember if you want to be subscribed to the newsletter by email, send us an e-mail. Do likewise if you are already receiving the newsletter by email and you wish to be removed from the postal list. Email: warrenl@gofree.indigo.ie



Glenmalure - Note from *An Óige*

HELP KEEP GLENMALURE OPEN!

It is the smallest Youth Hostel in Ireland with just 16 beds. It is surely the most primitive hostel in Ireland and you would find it difficult to find its equal worldwide. The running water is the river that passes the front door, the toilets are the 'old fashion type' and you cook and eat your meals by magic gas light.

Last February we had a special request from 30 youth hostel managers from Belgium to visit the hostel. Glenmalure's fame in Belgium was increased after that visit on a cold crisp day. The managers said the hostel had a magic atmosphere and with the big fire and homemade scones and hot beverages they indicated a desire to spend the overnight but their tour programme did not permit.

In August 1 met 6 Dutch people in Mountain Lodge Youth Hostel in Tipperary and they raved about wonderful Glenmalure. It was the first Irish hostel they visited. They were fascinated by our voluntary Warden there at the time. Gerry Callanan, a senior life member, volunteered to keep the hostel open when no permanent warden was available.

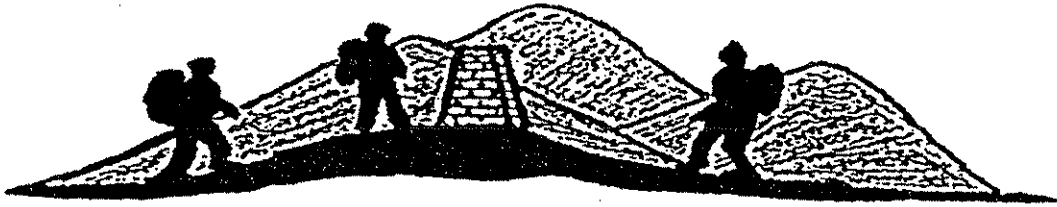
Will we close Glenmalure Hostel? Well, just now that this winter depends on you, the membership of *An Óige*?

We need voluntary wardens immediately, only for weekends in the winter months! The hostel has operated that system for many years but fewer people are helping this 'spirit of *An Óige*' work.

Doctor Kathleen Lynn, a long-standing friend of *An Óige*, had that spirit. She bequeathed the small house to the Association in 1955 in one of the remotest and most historic glens in Wicklow. The necessary extension to house the men, known as the 'Ice Box', was largely financed by a donation of £100 from Dr. George Hadden, our Vice President at the time. Dr. Lynn's old friend Eamonn De Valera T.D. (later President of Ireland) formally opened this mountain hostel in June 1956 with a large scale rally of members present.

To sum up, if you are available to help out one Saturday night in the coming months, please contact head office with your details at 830 4555 or *An Óige* General Manager David Owens at 8822569.

Eddie McCrane



Mountain Skills Assessment

CLUB Bursaries

Since its founding in 1993, the Hillwalker's Club has organised a popular *Map and Compass* programme each year. The course aims to provide a comprehensive grounding in *Mountain Skills* and it typically involves three indoor evening sessions followed by three outdoor training weekends. The syllabus covered in the course is similar to the Mountain Skills courses (MS1 and MS2) prescribed by *Bord Oiliunt Steibhe - Irish Mountain Training Board* and offered by the various Irish outdoor adventure centres (eg, Tiglin, Delphi, etc).

In order to further promote and develop mountain skills amongst club members, financial support in the form of bursaries will be made available to members who successfully complete a *Mountain Skills Assessment* in 2002.

The Mountain Skills Assessment (MSA) is based on a skills evaluation programme and is held over a weekend. It involves a number of stages as follows:

- A written (multiple choice type) assessment on general navigation issues.
- Practical assessment of day navigation skills.
- Practical assessment of night navigation skills.
- Near and far feature recognition.
- Steep ground awareness.

To undertake the Mountain Skills Assessment (MSA), it is necessary to fulfil the following requirements:

- to have completed at least 30 hill walks in Ireland or Britain over a period of 24 months,
- to present a Mountain Skills log book detailing the above walks,
- to hold a valid Rescue and Emergency Care (REC2) certificate or its equivalent (Basic First Aid Certificate).

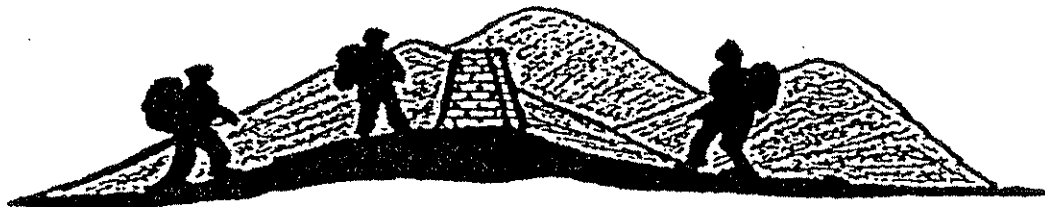
The National Adventure Centre at Tiglin, Wicklow (www.tiglin.com) amongst others, organises the MSA at a current cost of £125.

In 2002, the Hillwalker's Club plans to make available at least five bursaries each of £125 to members of at least 24 months standing who successfully complete the MSA.

The financial resources to support these bursaries will be made available from the surplus associated with the Club's annual *Map and Compass* training programme. Support in future years is contingent on sufficient funds being available from this source.

Further details of MSA, including dates in 2002 and application procedures will be available in the next programme.

Further enquiries from Donal Finn or Joseph Kellegher.



An Óige Hillwalker Application Form

Name
Address
Date of Birth
Telephone Number (Home)
Telephone Number (Work)
Were you a member last year?
An Óige Membership Number
Email Address (to receive the newsletter by email)

Declaration

I accept that mountaineering is an activity with a danger of personal injury or death. I am aware of and shall accept these risks and wish to participate in these activities voluntarily and shall be responsible for my own actions and involvement. I agree to abide by the rules of the club as stated in the *Hillwalker* newsletter.

This fully completed membership application form should be sent together with £15.00 membership fee (no cash) to the membership secretary at the following address : Mr. Ger Walsh, 15 Summerfield Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Signed
Date
Signature of Parent or Guardian <i>(if under 18 years of age)</i>
Date
Full Name and Address of Parent or Guardian