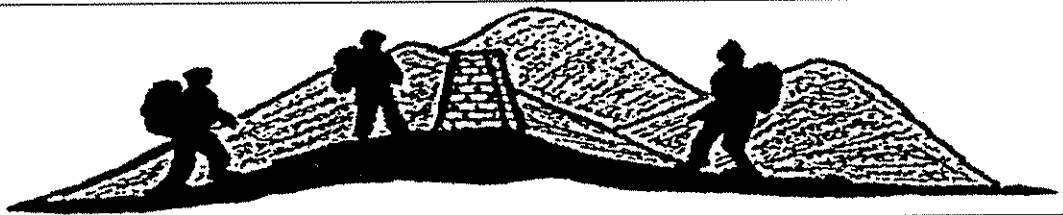


THE HILLWALKER
November-
December 2002



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

The Hillwalker



*More GR 20, Corsica,
August 2002*

Picture by Don Reilly



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. Cost €9.00.

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 LEADERS

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
3 rd November	Route: Dwyer – McAllister Cottage Car park – Rostyduff – Keadeen – Ballinabarney – Ballinfoyle – Ballineddan – Slievemaan – Camarahill – Banana Road – Fentons. [16km/950m Ascent]	Frank O'Rourke
10 th November	<u>Introductory Hard Hike</u> Route: Ballinstoe Lower(G.R 194 078)- White Hill – Djouce Mtn – War Hill – Spot Height 593m – Maulin – Crone Wood – Knockree – Curtlestown Carpark(G.R.186 168) [20km/750m Ascent]	Pat Drew
17 th November	Route: Track (G.R.097 135) – River Bank – Kippure – Seefingan – Corrig - Seahan – Ballymorefinn – Slievebanoge – Stone Cross. [15km/700m Ascent]	Brendan O'Toole
24 th November	Route:Drumgoff – Kelly's Lough – Corrigasleggaun – Lugnaquilla Mtn – Clohernagh – Art's Lough – Track to Road (G.R.079 928) [16km/850m Ascent]	Philip Roche
1 st December	<u>Introductory Hard Hike</u> Route: Carrig(G.R.993 124) – Lugnagun – Sorrel Hill – Ballynultagh Gap – Black Hill – Mullaghcleevaun (Leader Option) – Billy Byrne's Gap – Moanbane – Ballyknockan [19km/900m Ascent]	Jim Barry
Sat 7 th December	<u>Annual Christmas Party</u> Based at Glendalough Y.H. See Separate Itinerary	CO-ORDINATOR Martin Fagan
15 th December	<u>Don Reilly Memorial Walk</u> ...oops, I mean, the Don Reilly Walk to the Pub, with mince pies and hot whiskeys on Scarr-Kanturk, and craic agus ceoil in Roundwood afterwards.	Don Reilly
1st January 2003	<u>New Year's Day Lugnaquilla Walk</u> Arrange own transport there and back. Meet at Fenton's Pub, Glen of Imaal, for 11 o'clock (am).	



Christmas Party

The Club is holding its annual Christmas Party on Saturday December 7th and once again we are staying in Glendalough Hostel and eating in the lovely Wicklow Heather. You know the drill: its get there, walk, rest or drink and then eat and party. You can avail of bus transport (55 Euro option, or make your own way down by car and St. Kevin's Bus (45 Euro option).

Saturday morning

Bus at Burgh Quay @ 9.30 am.
Arrive at hostel (c.10.30am).
Walk in Glendalough
Soup in hostel after end of hike
Christmas dinner in the 'Wicklow Heather', Laragh.
Raffle and presentations.
P A R T Y !!!

Sunday morning

Walk (or relax or suffer)
Bus home after walk.

Cost: Euro 55, Bus, Hostel Overnight, & Party Dinner (Burgh Quay at 9.30am).
Euro 45, Hostel Overnight & Party Dinner (make your own way). Book via An Óige Head Office (ph 8304555). Don't forget your tinsel & tinnies!

Winter Season Notice

The hike co-ordinator has asked that we take note of the following points of safety for the late Autumn & 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. 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.

Club Slideshows

Naples and Sicily: From Phoenicians to Bourbons
(to include slides from Pompeii, Herculaneum, Syracuse and Etna)

Presented by Barbara Sudrow

Tuesday, November 12th 8.30pm, Upstairs Lounge, Palace Bar

Walking in Northern Italy: Club Trip Sept 2001
Dolomites and Lake Garda

Presented by Tony Crean

Tuesday, Dec 3rd 8.30pm, Upstairs Lounge, Palace Bar

Meanwhile, if anyone would like to present a slide show, please contact Donal Finn (01-4530617).



Penalty Points

Inspired by recent government measures, and ever anxious to improve your club, the Committee has announced a new penalty point system to be enforced on the hills. Any hillwalker who incurs 12 points in a year will be disqualified from walking for a month. Similarly, hike-leaders will be disqualified from leading.

- 1pp Staring over leader's shoulder telling him where to go.
- 2pp Running ahead of the leader.
- 3pp Having inadequate equipment.
- 4pp Not keeping pace with the group.
- 1pp Wearing ill-matching colours on the hills.
- 2pp Having a drink at the end of the walk.
- 1pp Leaving rubbish on Jim's bus.
- 2pp Losing windows on Jim's bus.
- 3pp Letting the air out of Jim's tyres whilst parked near a pub.
- 4pp Making fun of the Committee.
- 1pp Causing club scandal.
- 2pp Not telling others about club scandal.
- 0 pp Embezzling club funds.
- 12pp Snoring in hostel.
- 7pp Giving a speech on the bus for more than 10 minutes.
- 1 pp Bribing a Committee member.
- 1pp Robbing someone's seat in the Palace.
- 2pp Throwing popcorn and heckling during a slideshow.

Your suggestions for improving these regulations are of course welcomed by the Editor.

Horror at No. 19

Napoleon surveyed the field with the calculating eye of a born strategist: He carefully manoeuvred into an advantageous position near to his target and began his advance: "So Goldilocks, I like the wig. Tell us, do you wear it on the hills?". The Corsican general a.k.a Gerry Walsh, was one of several guests haunting the Editorial Headquarters till the early hours this Halloween.

Among the other guests was the super-hero Danger Boy, Dr. C. Looney the Sex Consultant, Bob the Builder, a Priestess, a Ninja, an Egyptian, Jamaican Dudes, a Witch and her entourage of Cats, Mad-Hatters, several She-Devils, and the Count & Countess Dracula (luckily we had the Vampire Slayers Buffy & Faith on hand to deal with them).

Alas, there was no sign of the beautiful Stephanie this year, which is just as well, as the memory of Stephen bare-legged in a tutu was enough to make grown men cringe. This year's popular choice of 'Best Dressed' was hotly contested but in the end has to go to the armed and robed fanatic Sandra 'Al-Queda' Brady. Philip Hayden was disqualified from the contest for trying to dress as everyone, "Its just an identify crisis I'm going through" said the multi-faced biker/devil/superhero/builder.

Even after all the guests had been kicked out, a low, eerie wailing was heard throughout the apartment. The mystery was solved when we found Brian O'Grainne unconscious on the floor. We let sleeping beasts lie and thankfully, this ghost was exorcised by mid-morning.

Varin Lawlesson the Viking



Young Hillwalkers

Saturday Hike – 9th November – Circuit of Howth.

Saturday Hike – 7th December – Bray Head & Christmas Party.

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

Club Notes

- ❖ Club Committee elections will be coming up early next year (at our AGM in January or February). If you are interested in helping out in one of the roles, then please speak to a member of the current committee. New blood is always welcome, as they say.
 - ❖ **Missing Stick.** Fiona Martin informs me that after last Sunday's walk, she took the last stick left at the front of the bus. Turned out it wasn't her stick, it was a brown leki stick. So if anyone took a red stick in error she has their one. Her mobile is 0868295061.
 - ❖ The An Óige Annual Dinner Dance is been held at the Kingston Hotel Seafront, Dun Laoghaire, Friday 13th December, 8.00pm - 1.00am. Tickets 33 Euros. Tickets available from Head Office: Tel 8304555. The latter is not to be confused with the An Óige Hillwalker's Glendalough party, details at the start of the newsletter.
 - ❖ Several of the 111 **email addresses** supplied to me are raising errors. If you have not received your email copy of the newsletter then check your email account is still active and mail me your correct address at warrenl@gofree.indigo.ie. Also if you have joined the Hillwalkers and have email but have not been added to the email list, then drop us a mail if you like.
 - ❖ Club member Joe Kavanagh is wondering if anyone else is interested in a skiing trip in February or March. Ring 01-8339563 or 086-8866653. [*Ed: I know a shallow scheme to distribute my phone number when I see one...*]
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The 2002 Committee

Chairperson:	Donal Finn (01-4530617 h)
Secretary:	Frank Rooney (01-8038102 h)
Treasurer	Prionsias Mac an Bheatha (01-8379897 h)
Editor	Warren Lawless (01-8786901 h)
Sunday Hikes:	Jim Barry (01-4556455 h)
Acting Membership Secretary:	Donal Finn (01-4530617 h)
Membership Secretary:	Gerry Walshe
Training Officer:	Joe Kellegher (01-8381973 h)
Young Hillwalkers:	Dave Rooney (01-8344811)
Distribution:	<i>Cyril McFeeney & Pearse Foley</i>
Webmaster:	<i>Matt Geraghty</i>

Note: Donal is currently handling membership applications for Ger.



2002 Membership Fees

The Hillwalkers Club annual membership fee is €19.

The club intends giving preference to members for places on the Sunday bus, so please be sure to renew your membership now. An application form is enclosed and should be sent to the Acting Membership Secretary at the following address: Mr. Donal Finn, 24 Glenmalure Park, South Circular Road, Dublin 8.

Queries regarding change of address or non-receipt the Hillwalker should be directed to Mr Donal Finn (acting membership secretary).

Photos & Articles

Walking holiday articles 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. A prize will be awarded for the best article and best cover photo featured in the newsletter at the annual club Christmas party.

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>

Mountain Skills ~ 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 Sleibhe - 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,



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- 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 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 €19.00 membership fee (no cash) to the acting membership secretary at the following address : Mr. Donal Finn, 24 Glenmalure Park, South Circular Road, Dublin 8.

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

Simple format :

Old Boleys – Knocknagun – Prince Williams Seat – Ravens Rock – Pet Cemetary.

Walk Length : 8 Km. Walk Duration : 4 Hours. Walk Level : Easier O.S. MAP 56

Take the Glencree Road out of Enniskerry and go past the Reconciliation Centre until you come to a hairpin junction approx. half a kilometer further on. Turn right onto the Military Road (R115) and travel for approx. one and a half Km. until you reach an entrance to a trail behind a wood on your right. You are now at Old Boleys.

This is the start point of the walk. Enter onto the trail and bear right, continuing along and passing over a good sized stream. After about 5 minutes from the start you will meet a fork in the trail, bear left and continue until you arrive at what looks like the remains of a small quarry. You will now leave the trail and take to the heather by going up and around the back of the quarry. Once behind the quarry look out for a finger of rock which you will see in the hillside below Knocknagun. You will see a narrow trail in the heather which leads towards this rock, follow it. When you reach the rock you will see a second rock beside it which could be described as a Mass rock. Swing around these rocks and take a straight line upwards to get above them. Once you have left them behind change your direction to two o'clock and you will be on line to reach the very large boulder on Knocknagun. You should have reached Knocknagun in a little over one hour. It's now time to drum-up. If it's very windy there is a hollow in the boulder which affords some shelter.

Now that you are refreshed it's time to go. Look for the tip of Knockree Hill, it's in general line with the Sugar Loaf. Walk on this bearing through the heather, there is no trail so due care must be exercised as the area may be wet and many holes encountered underfoot. Continue in this direction until you reach a trail which borders onto a forest. Bear left, continue on this trail, heading toward Prince Williams Seat. When you reach the brow of this trail turn left and head straight up to the triangulation point on top of Prince William. You should reach this point in a little over 30 minutes from Knocknagun. Having feasted your eyes on the sights of Dublin Bay and surrounding Wicklow Mountains take a bearing on the Sugar Loaf and walk on down a rough trail until you meet the Wicklow Way. When you meet the Way continue to the right until you meet a fence and trail junction about 50 metres on. (The forest in front of you is Curtlestown through which the Way continues until it reaches the Enniskerry/Glencree Road.)

To your left may be seen Ravens Rock. To reach this rock you will have to descend into a hollow, which is wet at the best of times. Keep to the trail and be careful in the centre of the hollow or you could get a bootfull of water. Enjoy the views from the rock and when ready turn your back on the valley and bear off to your right on a track which heads towards the forest. Upon reaching the forest wall keep to the left and move towards the fence. Climb over the stile where the fence meets with the wall. Continue on downhill until you meet with a good trail. Follow this trail downhill. After about 2 Km. you will arrive at a T-junction. Turn right and follow this trail, past the junction to the Pets Cemetary, until you meet with the Enniskerry/Glencree Road. Be very careful entering onto this road as it is always very busy. A good place to meet with the coach is at the bus terminus just around the corner to your right. Your walk is now ended.

SAMPLE STYLE RECORD FOR MODERATE AND HARD HIKES

Old Boleys – Knocknagun – Prince Williams Seat – Ravens Rock – Pet Cemetary.

Walk Length : 8 Km. Walk Duration : 4 Hours. Walk Level : Easier O.S. MAP 56

Take the Glencree Road out of Enniskerry and go past the Reconciliation Centre until you come to a hairpin junction approx. half a kilometer further on. Turn right onto the Military Road (R115) and travel for approx. one and a half Km. until you reach an entrance to a trail behind a wood on your right. You are now at Old Boleys. G.R. O 1415 1851.

This is the start point of the walk. Enter onto the trail and bear right, continuing along and passing over a good sized stream. After about 5 minutes from the start you will meet a fork in the trail, bear left and continue until you arrive at what looks like the remains of a small quarry, G.R. O 1580 1830. You will now leave the trail and take to the heather by going up and around the back of the quarry. Once behind the quarry look out for a finger of rock, G.R. O 1609 1835, which you will see in the hillside below Knocknagun, G.R. O 1636 1855. You will see a narrow trail in the heather which leads towards this rock, follow it. At G.R. O 1580 1830 you will find a turf bank, which looks like a peat hag, there is a fork to the left immediately after this bank, take it as it keeps to higher ground. When you reach the rock you will see a second rock beside it which could be described as a Mass rock. Swing around these rocks and take a straight line upwards to get above them. Once you have left them behind change your direction to approx. compass bearing 43 deg. and you will be on line to reach the very large boulder on Knocknagun. You should have reached Knocknagun in a little over one hour. It's now time to drum-up. If it's very windy there is a hollow in the boulder which affords some shelter.

Now that you are refreshed it's time to go. Look for the tip of Knockree Hill, compass bearing 150 deg. Walk on this bearing through the heather, there is no trail so due care must be exercised as the area may be wet and many holes encountered underfoot. Continue in this direction until you reach a trail which borders onto a forest, G.R. O 1681 1806. Bear left, continue on this trail, heading toward Prince Williams Seat. When you reach the brow of this trail turn left and head straight up to the triangulation point on top of Prince William, G.R. O 1768 1828. You should reach this point in a little over 30 minutes from Knocknagun. Having feasted your eyes on the sights of Dublin Bay and surrounding Wicklow Mountains take a bearing on the Sugar Loaf, compass bearing 138 deg. and walk on down a rough trail until you meet the Wicklow Way. When you meet the Way continue to the right until you meet a fence and trail junction, G.R. O 1842 1791, about 50 metres on. (The forest in front of you is Curtlestown through which the Way continues until it reaches the Enniskerry/Glencree Road.)

To your left may be seen Ravens Rock, G.R. O 1878 1783. To reach this rock you will have to descend into a hollow, which is wet at the best of times. Keep to the trail and be careful in the centre of the hollow or you could get a bootfull of water. Enjoy the views from the rock and when ready turn your back on the valley and bear off to your right on a track which heads towards the forest. Upon reaching the forest wall keep to the left and move towards the fence. Climb over the stile where the fence meets with the wall. Continue on downhill until you meet with a good trail, G.R. O 1909 1812.

Follow this trail downhill and pass a side trail at G.R. O 1928 1724. After about 2 Km. you will arrive at a T-junction, G.R. O 1942 1766. Turn right and follow this trail, past the junction to the Pets Cemetary, until you meet with the Enniskerry/Glencree Road. Be very careful entering onto this road as it is always very busy. A good place to meet with the coach is at the bus terminus just around the corner to your right. Your walk is now ended.