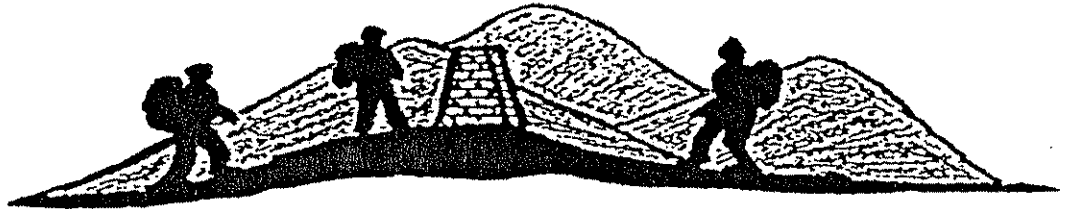


Hillwalker

September 2000



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

# The Hillwalker



Reiko, Fabien, Mieko and Rihito Akame 48 Waterfalls, Mie, Japan

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# Sunday Hikes July

**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
September 3	Ballyknockan – Selsean – Glenbride – Gallinagee River – Mullaghcleevaun Mtn. – Cleevaun Lough – Billy Byrne's Gap – Black Hill – Kilbeg – Lackan.	Pearse Foley
September 10	Ballinagee Bridge - Kings River - Knocknadroose - Table Mtn - Cavanagh's Gap - Lobawn - Corriebracks - Church Mtn - Hell Kettle Bridge (G.R. 934986).	Stephen James
September 17	Carrigshouk - Mullaghcleevaun East Top - Duff Hill - Gravale - Carrigvore - Sally Gap - Grouse House - Powerscourt Mtn - Kippure Gates.	Martin Fagan
September 24	Athdown Wood - Seefin - Seefingan - Kippure - Lough Brays - Dodder River - Castle Kelly - Bohernabreena Reservoir.	TomKenmy
October 1	Ballinagee Bridge - Glenreemore Brook - Oakwood - Lough Firrib - Conavalla - Lugduffs -Mullacor - The Spink - Glendalough (Lower Lake Carpark).	Noel Kerley

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.

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# Young Hillwalkers Club

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## SEPTEMBER SUNDAY HIKE DETAILS

Sunday 9 September 2000 Knocksink Woods

**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 September: Knockree

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

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## An Óige Hillwalkers Club Christmas Party Weekend Away

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The An Óige Hillwalkers Club annual Christmas Party Weekend Away will take place on the weekend of 24 / 25 November, in the Glendalough Youth Hostel.

Full details will be published in the October *Hillwalker*.

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## New Year in the Peak District

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### An Óige Hillwalkers Club New Year Revels To Ilam Hall Youth Hostel

This youth hostel is a magnificent historic mansion owned by the National Trust and is located in the beautiful Peak District.

**Date:** 28th December 2000 to 1st January 2001

**Travel:** The coach will leave An Óige Mountjoy Street 8.30 am Saturday December 28th and arrive back to Dun Laoghaire 8.30 pm (approx.) January 1st. Coach travels on ferry.

**Cost:** £200 (including all meals – breakfast, substantial packed lunch and evening dinner)

Festivities include gala dinner on New Year's Eve

Hikes will be arranged to suit all participants (easier, moderate and harder)

Booking now open in An Óige Head Office at 01 – 8304555 (credit cards welcome)

To all the people who have taken part in our trips over the years:

As I will be going abroad for a year, New Year in Ilam Hall Youth Hostel will be my last trip with An Óige for some time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been with us on our many visits to Snowdon Ranger for the June Weekend and to various venues for our New Year breaks. None of these events would have happened without the help offered so unstintingly by, among other, Margaret D'Arcy, Ita O'Hanlon, Lorraine Brady and Dave Rooney.

For me, it has been a pleasure to take part in so many wonderful trips. I will always cherish the memory of the friendships I made, discovering the beautiful Welsh and English countryside.

I would like to give a final word of thanks to all those moderate walkers who trusted me not to overdo it on the hikes. I hope I did not let you down.

Seán Dunne

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# Club Travel

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## Hiking In Japan

I had such wonderful experiences of walking in Japan in 1997 and 1998 that I was really looking forward to hiking again in the Japanese Alps. Japanese people worship the simple beauty of nature and arrange trees, flowers and stones to make their environment look even more attractive.

My first walk had everything to fulfil my adventurous desire in summer 97:

Having escaped the security of a well kept Japanese city we moved into the unpredictable and stifling jungle. We started in Mino at the foot of steep mountains (where Kobe's suburban sprawl ends) and climbed quite high up to get to a small temple. Before we finished this hike we accidentally startled away a black and yellow snake basking in the sun on the footpath, saw several cheeky monkeys and also a fascinating leaf looking insect called a praying mantis - not to mention some terrific species of mosquito and spider!

This year's walk was far less audacious although very enjoyable and full of interesting encounters.

We arrived at Kansai International Airport, Osaka on 30th April. We stayed at Reiko's parents' house in Tsutsujigaoka, a new residential area outside Nabari. Reiko's parents sold their apartment Osaka where housing prices are very high - even more than in Dublin, and bought a new comfortable and spacious house in the "country side" (depends on one's point of view) to enjoy their retirement.

We arranged an appointment with a small group of hikers from a club called "Kansai Ramblers", then met them at Akame station and got a bus to the foot of the nearby mountains, where the stream (Takigawa) finishes its terrific journey down the mountain slope.

A series of shops along the road offer sushi, that can be carried along to eat later as lunch (O-Bento), and also sell various souvenirs. A little museum at the beginning of the footpath showed the magnificent flora and fauna, found near the riverbed, and indigenous to the region.

The highlight was unarguably a big dead Japanese salamander kept in a jar of formalin preservative. It was reputed to be the first salamander implanted with false teeth. The batrachian, unable to chew food, was saved from an almost certain death by Japanese scientists who transplanted the teeth. It was amusing to see a black and white picture of the group of surgeons grinning with glee after the successful operation.

After this lesson in culture, we set off and started to follow the banks of the Takigawa (literally the river of the waterfalls) from which one can marvel at the 48 waterfalls (more than that actually). At this time of year many Japanese take their holidays (Golden Week). Consequently there was a veritable procession of people climbing the stairs.

We stopped several times to take in the beauty of the nicest waterfalls, to take some pictures, and to have our lunch under the spray of one of them. Words do not describe the beauty of the scene.

Each waterfall has a unique name, here are a few samples:

100 Tatami Sized Rock Waterfall / Hyaku-jo Iwa, 7 Colored-rock Waterfall / Nana-shoku Iwa, Couple's Waterfall / Meoto Daki, Skeleton Waterfall / Gaikotsu Daki, Motionless Waterfall / Fudo Daki...

By the time we got back to "base camp" I had become well acquainted with my fellow hikers. Before leaving them at the station, we exchanged e-mail addresses and expressed the hope of meeting again in the future. "What about doing this again next year during the blossom season" was one such suggestion I overheard.

*Fabien Heinen*

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# Map and Compass Course 2000

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## NAVIGATION TRAINING

## MAP & COMPASS COURSE 2000

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<u>Three evening sessions:</u>	October 10 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> , November 7 <sup>th</sup> , An Óige, Mountjoy St.
<u>First weekend:</u>	October 14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> , Wicklow Mountains
<u>Second weekend:</u>	November 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> , Wicklow Mountains
<u>Night Hike:</u>	December 9 <sup>th</sup> , Laragh at 17:00
<u>Third weekend:</u>	February 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2001, Comeragh Mountains
<u>Cost:</u>	£30 (Not including cost of transport & third weekend)
<u>Deposit:</u>	£15 (non-refundable)

Book through the An Óige Head Office. Tel (01) 830 4555

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## The Club Slides

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The hugely popular season of Slide Shows has returned. This season will kick off with:

### *Israel*

on  
Tuesday September 26th  
at 8.30pm

Presented by Tony Crean

In  
Palace Bar, Upstairs Lounge Fleet Street

Other dates will include:

Tuesday, October 17

Tuesday, November 14

Tuesday, December 5

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

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## MCI News

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### **Euro Ramblers Rally - Strasbourg 23 - 30.09.2001**

The European Ramblers Association (ERA), The French Ramblers Association and the Vosges-Club have organised the Euro Ramblers Rally 2001, a major event gathering thousands of hikers coming along ten routes leading to Strasbourg. Members of various national associations from the 23 ERA countries will alternately take turns carrying "relay batons" as symbols of European unity along the European routes to Strasbourg during the period from May 2000 to the end of September 2001.

The event culminates in a week long programme from 23-30 September 2001 including a symposium on the preservation and protection of the European hiking trails, the congress of the ERA plus an interesting hiking programme for all levels in the Vosges Mountains, Alsace and the Black Forest.

Brochures available from the MCI Office, <mc@tinnet.ie>.

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## Membership Fees

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### **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 sent to either Mr Ger Walsh (membership secretary) or Mr Joe Kellegher (telephone numbers below).*

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## The Committee

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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



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## A Note from the Editor

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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 October newsletter should be sent before Friday 15 September to:**  
**Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.**  
**(e-mail: [maggieg@eircom.net](mailto:maggieg@eircom.net))**