

HIKE PROGRAMME

June 2006

MEET: Burgh Quay

DEPART: Sundays 10.00 am

COST: Private bus. €10

2-5 June: Bank Holiday Weekend Hillwalkers' Trip to Killarney

Leader: Tom Kenny

11 June: Introductory Hard Hike

Leader: Eoin Moroney

Route: Pier Gates * Lough Dan * Knocknacloghoge * Luggala * Military Road * Carrigvore * Gravale * Coronation Plantation.

Distance: 19km **Ascent:** 850m

18 June: Glenmacnass Area

Leader: Steve Buckney

Route: Oldbridge * Scarr * Glenmacnass Car Park * Glenmacnass River * GR 075 058 * Barnacullian * Tonlegee * Wicklow Gap.

Distance: 18km **Ascent:** 900m

25 June: Knocksink Woods

Please note: There will be no Sunday Bus on the 25th, because of the Ring of Imaal Marathon the previous day!

Further details for Ring of Imaal on page 6.

Different Meeting Time & Place:

Bus stop outside the Screen Cinema. Public bus leaves at **9.30 am**.

Leader: Garry Byrne

2 July: Introductory Hard Hike

Leader: Jimmy McCullagh

Route: Ballinagee Bridge * Carrig * Table Mt * Camenabologue * Cannow Mt * Lugnaquilla * GR 043 919 * Fraughan Rock Glen * Barravore Car Park.

Distance: 18km **Ascent:** 830m

GENERAL HIKE NOTES

PARTICIPATION 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.

INTRODUCTORY HIKES An Introductory Hike is organised once per month for aspirant members. Participants on these hikes must be a member of An Óige.

CO-ORDINATION Tickets are given out on Sundays to ensure that participants reserve a bus place as they arrive.

LEADER The leader has the right to refuse anyone who is not adequately equipped (e.g., without appropriate boots, rainwear, food, torch, hat, gloves, etc). The leader may alter the route from that described in the program. The leader sets the pace of the hike and walkers are expected to obey the leader's instructions at all times.

TORCH During winter months it is essential to bring a (head) torch on all Sunday hikes. Check your batteries / bulb.

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 meters into the scruff where the ground is untrodden, walking parallel to but not on the track.

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.

HIKE LEADERS If any member is interested in leading a hike, please contact:
Garry Byrne
Mark Campion

SUNDAY ADVENTURE

Jacksons Falls, 7th May

HILLWALKERS GO A-RAFTING

Carrick Mountain to Jacksons Falls on Sunday, 7 May, was one of our 'new hikes', which Garry and Mark are very keen on. Spring was in the air. The gorse was startling and pungent. Nineteen walkers enjoyed a nice blend of forest tracks and paths, with stunning views of well-known places from unusual angles. Weather was magnificent from start to finish. Sun cream was in vogue, and there was the usual dispute about factor numbers.

There were some moans about the pace from a well-known committee member during the fairly stiff climb from Ballylusk to Carrick summit. But that was soon forgotten as we settled down to a nice collection of downhill woodland paths, before exiting onto tarmac for about half a km. Next was Ballinastraw Wood. The short-cut entry went a little awry, and there were some expletives about thorns from those using shorts. But this became ancient history as we settled down to lunch in the warm sun under Garryduff Crag. We could have stayed there all day, but we were not faring well on the Naismith scale, so we had to move on.

Cronybyrne, with its fine variation of deciduous and conifer trees, is always a joy to visit. In fact, we only took in a corner of this fine wood. When tracking uphill heading for the road, Sandra was unfortunate enough to snag her head on a very dangerous piece of barbed wire in a fence post stay. Ali displayed her best nursing skills, got to work on the scalp wound, and did a great job. No combing of hair allowed for at least 3 weeks!

After a short road walk, we were in forest again. The gradient was noticeable as we toiled up Glenwood. There is a Tolkienesque path here which follows a ditch until you break out into the open heather. There we picked up a track which leads eventually to Trooperstown Hill. Once over Trooperstown, we rolled downhill to the forest road. A narrow gorse-lined track brought us downhill to Ballard Wood. Jacksons Falls, the enigmatic end of our journey, is located in Ballard Wood, on the Annamoe River, just before it joins the Glenmacnass River. This was our last stop, within drink-ordering distance from Lynams Pub in Laragh. Very few had seen Jacksons before or even heard of it. It is an impressive sight. The river pours down a narrow fall into a brief gorge, and then drops again to join the Glenmacnass. Canoeists head for Jacksons whenever the river is in flood. By previous

arrangement, canoeists and hikers David Quinn and Kevin O'Connor had set up a makeshift ferry in a quiet patch of the river about 200m downstream.

A small raft was constructed using kayaks and platforms. The 'ferry' was roped across the river with three aboard each time. A well-known committee member did express some hydrophobic concerns, but with encouragement, he eventually agreed to make the crossing. And so the group arrived at Lynams, dry shod, and with a healthy thirst. Jim's meter was running out, so the stop was short, but it really was a nice ending to a memorable day.

Brian Madden

INSIDE THE COMMITTEE

Chairperson

There have been many fine chairpersons working on behalf of the club over the last fourteen years including Jim Barry, Martin Fagan, and Donal Finn. Last October I took over the chairmanship from Prionnsias MacAnBheatha. At that stage I had served five years as a committee member. I see my chairmanship as continuing with what they and their committees had initiated, with their many activities that they started along with the high standards they maintained.

I organise monthly committee meetings with a set agenda. Issues are discussed and decisions made by the committee. To maintain the well-being of the club, I see healthy finances as one priority. Without this solid foundation many of our activities would at least be curtailed if not ended.

We busily work at keeping our members informed through our monthly newsletter, our Hillwalkers' website, and the new section on the An Óige website dedicated to the Hillwalkers' Club. Added to this, we email and text our members regularly.

Sunday walks are a core activity of the club and forthcoming walks are agreed at these meetings. The weekends away have to be planned long in advance, we need to know who will lead the hike, what area in which to stay, the cost involved and will they attract sufficient numbers for it to be worthwhile to run. The club is active in organising trips abroad; so far this year we have been to Wales. Scotland and the Lake District is organised for later on. Most of our training is focused on the Map and Compass course and our trainers are well qualified and experienced to run this course.

The use of Sunday bus is a loss-making activity. However, its use is central to the weekly activity of the club. It is also environmentally friendly and I would be very reluctant to cease using it.

We are also involved in the larger An Óige association. The club organises the 'JB Malone Memorial Walk' each year. This year, many committee members and members of the club will assist in the organisation of the long distance 'Ring of Imaal Walk' in June. Over the years, we also have contributed financially to the upkeep of a number of hostels.

Recently, the committee has taken a decision to conduct a survey of members based on how they view the club. We hope to have this in the July Newsletter. It is important that members participate in this survey. We are also intending to advertise in Walking World Ireland for new members. Ongoing publicity is critical in order to encourage new people to become members of the club.

Probably the most important contribution is that the club is there for its members. We will continue with social functions like musical evenings, greyhound nights and the Christmas Party. These events create a social outlet so members can socialise with friends and possibly make happy unions for the future!

Frank Rooney

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

68th An Óige Photographic Group's Exhibition of Members' Work

Date: Wednesday 28th June – Sunday 2nd July 2006

Venue: National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9
Opening Hours: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday
10am – 5pm

Admission: Free
Contact: An Óige Head Office
61 Mountjoy St., Dublin 7
Tel: 01-8304555

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

Six-day trip to English Lake District
Limited number of places available
Contact: Frank Rooney
email rooneyf@eircom.ie

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We would like to hear from you!

Whether you ...

- wish to contribute an article ...
- have read an interesting book you'd like to recommend to club members ...
- would like to share your favourite hikes ...
- want to comment on any club matters ...

Why not get in touch? Write or email to:

Barbara Sudrow, 24 Glenmalure Park, S.C.R., Dublin 8

EMAIL ALERT: in cases where the electronic newsletter bounces back, we will send the paper version by post. We would therefore ask any members who currently do not receive this newsletter in ELECTRONIC FORMAT but wish to do so in future, to send a short message to the above email address from a VALID EMAIL ACCOUNT.

SOCIAL CORNER

REPORT: STONEYBATTER PUB-CRAWL

The last social event was a repeat of the first ever event. We reinacted the pub crawl held in Stoneybatter in November 2004.

This one was held on Friday 19 May this year. As with the original, the crowds gathered at Kavanagh's Pub on Manor Street. Unlike the original, the aforementioned crowds never left Kavanagh's Pub.

All in all, there were about 15 attendees, including two women. Continuing with comparisons, this was about half the number of participants of the original PC. A vote was taken at some undetermined time by some of the group, and a preference to stay where we were, was expressed when the suggestion to move on was broached. We had by this time muscled our way into a large area of prime spot chairs and tables, so the idea had a certain appeal.

As far as could be ascertained, everyone enjoyed themselves. This is based largely on the fact that we were still in the place at throwing out time. A rumour has since surfaced, that a radical break away group continued on afterwards at Doyles pub in town, but I wouldn't know anything about that...

Steve Buckney

FILM NIGHT:

No definite date has been set for this yet; further details either in the next newsletter or by email circular.

Suggestions welcome!

Please contact our Social Organiser.

BBQ and Ice Cream Party

In aid of Down Syndrome Ireland

Date: Saturday, 10th June

Venue: Edenderry, Co. Offaly

Informal Party, bring drink, musical instruments and sleeping bags. B&B accommodation also available: Auburn Lodge (046-9731319),

Hogans (046-9732021), Fishermans Rest (046-9731297), (PJ Foys (046-9731027), Bella Vista (046-9731179); bus connection to Edenderry.

Contact: Helen Coyne for address details etc. or Gerry to arrange a lift.

Midsummer Madness Quiz!!!

Mount Kilimanjaro Challenge for Dublin Simon

Terry Cartin and John Sheehy will host a jumbo quiz like no other!

Venue: The Teachers Club, 36 Parnell Square

Date: Friday, 23rd June

Time: 7.30 pm

Cost: €10 per person

Membership 2005-2006

Many thanks to the 120 hikers who have renewed their club membership for the current year (Oct 1st 2005 to Sept 30th 2006).

Remember that ...

- ... you have to be a member of the Hillwalkers' Club to avail of the special bus for Sunday Hikes.
- ... only paid-up members will receive the newsletter by post, email or both.
- ... the renewal form is located at the end of the printed newsletter and on the website.

CLUB NEWS

Get Well Wishes: Two long-standing members of the Hillwalkers Club, Noel Kerley and Jim Glynn, have recently spent time in hospital.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish both the very best for a speedy recovery.

LONG DISTANCE WALKS

A selection of dates for your diary! Further information can be found on Simon Stewart's website:

www.simonstewart.ie

Galtees Walk, Sat, 10th June 2006

A pleasant introductory challenge with 1300m of climbing in the Galtees (Limerick/Tipperary).

Comeragh Crossing, Sat, 1st July 2006

The longer challenge must be rated as medium with 1900m climbing traversing the Comeraghs.

Contact: Mike Power, email: mpower@cablesurf.com

Climb a mountain, Raise a flag

Sat, 15th July 2006

Arthritis Ireland are looking for 50 teams to simultaneously climb 50 peaks to fly the flag in aid of the 5000 children in Ireland affected by juvenile arthritis.

Contact: Arthritis Ireland, 01-6618188

An Óige Ring of Imaal Marathon Walk 2006

This event has been scheduled for **Saturday, 24th June 2006.**

Base Venue: Donard National School

Registration: 07.00hrs to 08.30hrs only
(Pre-Registration details below)

Entry Fee: €12.00

The event, which can take from 8 to 11 hours to complete, is for experienced and fit walkers only.

Route: Donard Village - Davidstown - Brusselstown Ring - Keadeen Mtn - Ballinfoyle - Ballinabarney Gap - Ballineddan Mtn - Slieve Maan - Lugnaquilla Mtn - Camenabologue Mtn - Table Track - Table Mtn - Wexford Gap - Cavanagh's Gap - Lobawn - Track to Bolton's Yard - Road walk back to Donard National School.
Participants will be expected to have reached Table Track by no later than 1700hrs.

Total Distance: 35 km Ascent: 1800 m

Contact: Jim Barry through An Óige Head Office (01-8304555) or at 085-1744186 / 01-4556455 (evenings only).

Pre-Registration Option from 1st May 2006. To request the Registration Form, email marketing@anoige.ie.
Further details available from the An Óige website: www.anoige.ie

The Hart Walk

The year 2006 marks the 120th anniversary of the legendary 111k (70 miles) trek by Henry Chichester Hart from the Terenure tram station on Terenure Rd., East, to Glenmalure Lodge, then up to Lugnaquilla, Conavalla, Tonelegee and Mullaghcleevaun, down to Ballynultagh, over Ballysmuttan bridge and back to Terenure. His goal (the result of a fifty guinea wager) was to complete the trek within 24 hours. He did so in 23 hours 50 minutes.

Since that time only fifteen people have completed the course, among them Tom Milligan (An Óige Hillwalkers / Ramblers) and Sandra Brady (An Óige Hillwalkers).

However, in recent years the walk has been resurrected and each August sees a small band head off on a sunny Friday evening in another attempt to emulate Mr. Hart. This year will be no exception. On the evening of Friday 4th August at 8pm we will be walking by road to Glenmalure then back over the mountains to Terenure. You may walk with us through the night, hurriedly passing by the fairies at Sally Gap around midnight before skirting Carrigshouk where the deer greet us each year, rolling down to Laragh and around to Glenmalure (50k). Alternatively, you may join us at 5.30am at the Glenmalure Lodge for the mountain/road section back to Terenure (65k).

If instead you would be available to drop our bags/boots to Glenmalure at 5am on the Saturday then we would be forever grateful also.

Contact: Phone: 01-2883312 / 086-0826857 or email: tomilligan@eircom.net

Text adapted from an article by Tom Milligan