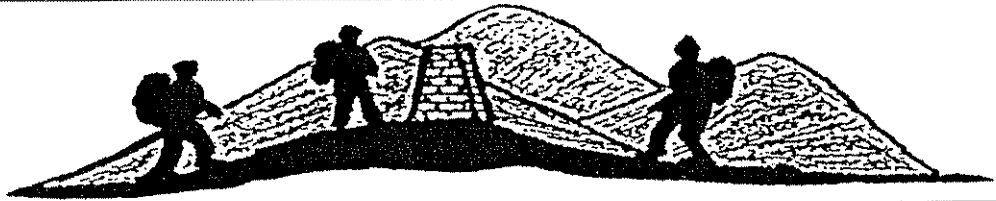


THE HILLWALKER
March 2001



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

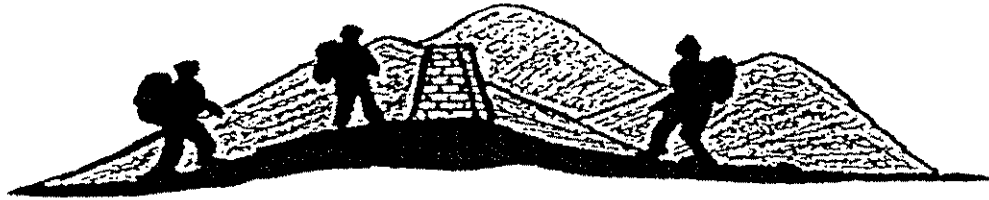
The Hillwalker



Gaborovo, Carpathian Mountains, Poland

Inside this issue:

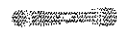
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Sunday Hikes February

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.



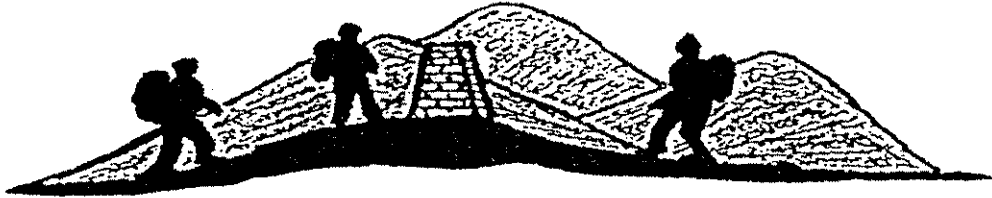
During winter months it is essential to bring a (head) torch on all Sunday hikes and weekends away. Don't forget to check your batteries and bulb.

Date	Route-Description	Leader
4 th March	Route: Forest Entrance(G.R.055862) – Forest Route – South Prison – Lugnaquilla – Clohernagh – Arts Lough – Bendoo – Forest Track - Footbridge - Road. [725m over15km]	Jim Barry
11 th March	Introductory Hard Route: Sally Gap Road – Knocknacloghoge – Cloghoge Brook – Luggala – Cloghoge River – Sally Gap Road – Coffin Stone – Djouce – Wicklow Way Track – Paddock Carpark (G.R.210106). [700m over 16km]	Matt Geraghty
18 th March	St Patrick's Weekend Trips to Co Mayo/Wales No Home Sunday Hike	
25 th March	Route: Wicklow Gap – Lough Nahanagan – Camaderry – Glenealo River – Lugduff – Mullacor – Derrybawn–Laragh. [700m over 16km]	Pat Drew
1 st April	Route: Glenbride Rifle Range – Seahan – Corrig – Seefingan – Kippure – Sally Gap Road – Coronation Plantation – Kippure Bridge. [650m over 15km]	John Barry Lowe

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

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. Try to reduce the erosion and widening of trails, e.g. do not walk on the edge of tracks.

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

Dublin Hills Saturday 10th March

Map & Compass Weekend Glendalough 31st March - 1st April

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

For further details contact An Óige Head Office at 01-8304555

Club Weekends Away

If it is rest, luxury and relaxation you want, look elsewhere. But if it's wilderness and good company you seek then sign up for a club weekend away! Here is a brief summary of trips planned for the year so far, to help you plan your involvement:

March	<i>Traenlaur, Co. Mayo</i>	Jim Barry	A few places left
March	<i>Wales</i>	Donal Finn	Booked out!
Easter	<i>Errigal, Co. Donegal</i>	Ita O'Hanlon	Booking now open
May 11 th -13 th	An Óige 70th Anniversary		Booking opens March 12th
June	<i>Ball Hill, Co. Donegal</i>	Tony Crean	
June	<i>Wales</i>	Sean Dunne	
August	<i>Ben Lettery, Co. Sligo</i>	Proinsias MacAnBheatha	

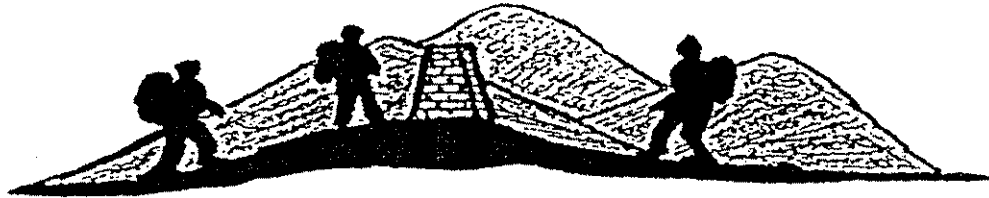
Dolomites Expedition

For those of you interested in (or already signed up for) Martin Fagan's trip to Italy, there will be a meeting held in An Óige head office at 8 pm on Friday, 2nd March. This trip to the Dolomite mountains in Italy will take place 1st-15th September 2001 and is priced at £1200, with a deposit of £200 required.

Nephins, Co. Mayo, St Patrick's Weekend

Places on this trip are being touted for £300, as befits a trip to a lovely but less well known range of hills:

Location: Nephin Mountains, Co Mayo
 Routes to include: Nephin Bogs: Glendahurk Circuit
 Hostel accommodation: Traenlaur Lodge YH, 8km from Newport. Accommodation limited to 32 persons so please book early



Leader: Jim Barry
Booking : An Óige Head Office from 1 January 2001.
Cost: £70. (meals extra).
Hikes levels: Moderate and harder

Errigal, Co. Donegal, Easter

Booking has opened on this Easter trip to the wilds of Donegal:

Leader: Ita O'Hanlon
Itinerary: Errigal Mountain/ Joey Glover Walk,
Slieve Snacht and the Poisoned Glen
Horn Head Peninsula sea cliff Circuit
Walking in Glenveagh National Park
Hikes levels: Moderate and hard
Dates: Holy Thursday 12th April – Easter Monday 16th April
Hostel accommodation: Errigal Youth Hostel, Dunlewy
Hostel accommodation limited to 45 persons
Booking : An Óige Head Office from 1 January 2001.
Cost: £80.

Club Travel

The Tyra Trip, Poland 2000

Martin Fagan's major venture last year was a trip to Eastern Europe on a walking holiday in Poland, plus a few days in Prague en route.

A party of 20 set out, some for the walking and some for the touring, and most for a bit of both.

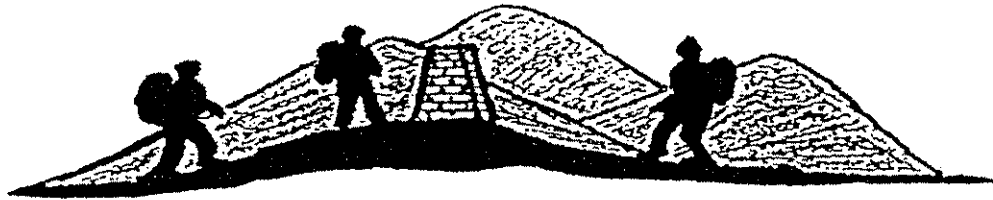
Prague is one of the "In" cities of Europe, but is still relatively unexplored (and inexpensive), although Krakovv and Zakopane (our main center) are extremely popular tourist destinations.

There was a long train journey via Krakow to Zakopane, where we stayed in a superb hotel, with stunning views off the Tayra Mountains lying at the western edge of the Carpathians. There is a huge variety of walks here. The most popular one involves a cable-car ride from nearby Kuznice (at 3000 ft.) to a ridge which leads to Giewont (6000 ft.) and in another direction to a higher ridge, straddling the border between Poland and Slovakia.

The lower levels of the mountains are covered in pine forests, so the real reward entails getting over 4000 ft. where the views are sensational. The paths are stony and dry, but well defined and the individual peaks steep and dramatic for some (that means me!). Svinicka (7600 ft.) was their Everest! This was serious scrambling using chains and ladders, up and down, to negotiate stretches of bar rock.

The ultimate challenge was Mount Rysy (8250 ft.), which Martin, Bridget, Jennifer, Garry, Brian, Tony, Paul and Deirdre conquered (I must give them every credit!). Apparently, it put Svinicka in the shade! The rest of settled for the breathtaking lakes at its foot, viz Morskie Oko and Czarny Staw Pod Rysami.

A rafting trip on the River Dunajec was an experience. Tame compared to white-water rafting, a gentle Summer's day outing was transformed in mid-stream by a thunderstorm of Biblical proportions. We were sitting ducks on the rafts and disembarked absolutely drenched from head to toe. The town at the journey's end was awash with flash floods and our bus was fortunate to get out safely.



We spent 3 days in Krakow, about 65 miles from Zakopane. It is a city of great charm, and our visit was timely, as it was one of the nine European Cities of Culture in 2000. Its main square is magnificent, the biggest in Europe. Wawel Castle dominated, much like Hradcany Castle in Prague. The Gothic Church in Wawel Castle, where the coronation of the kings took place, was really worth seeing. Another city highlight was the historic Jewish Quarter, Kasimierz.

We had two half-day trips outside of Krakow – one to the salt-mines at Wieliczka, celebrating its 700th anniversary. Salt in its heyday was almost as valuable as gold. The mine is huge – it covers 40 sq. km on the surface and is 1000 ft. deep. It is a labyrinth of corridors, but the *piece de resistance* is a huge chapel in the heart of the mine.

The other trip was to the infamous concentration camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau. Not everyone could face visiting them, understandably. Even 50 years later, it is still difficult to comprehend how state cruelty on such an organised scale could have been contemplated and then so single-mindedly executed. It is a somber and salutary experience to stand in their shadow.

We celebrated our final night in Krakow with a party in a cellar restaurant. A very talented group of musicians entertained us with a spirited and infectious performance of Eastern European music. An evening to remember, and with a 5 course meal for only £14, all great value.

A return journey via Warsaw and Heathrow completed an extraordinarily varied and exciting holiday.

By Pearse Foley

[Eds. Note: remember, *Fagan Tours* are organising another great expedition, this time to the Dolomites in Italy. See notice elsewhere in this issue.]

The Club Slides

Walking in Scotland: Glencoe to Skye

Presented by

Donal Finn & Joe Kellegher, February 27th

Walking in the Thin Country: Northern Chile

Presented by

Barbara Sudrow, March 27th

Regular venue: 8.30pm

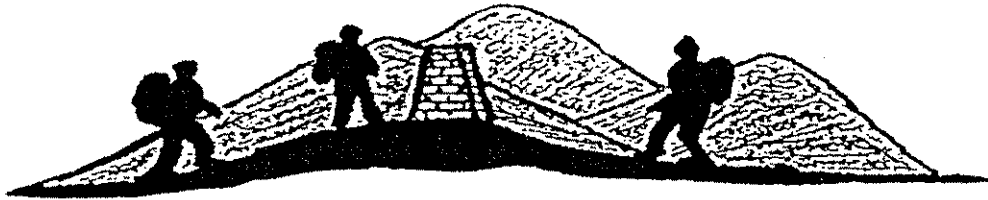
Palace Bar, Upstairs Lounge, Fleet Street

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

2001 Membership Fees

The Hillwalkers Club annual membership fee is £15.

Membership for the new year is due for all of us. 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. **To receive the newsletter from April onwards, you must have renewed your membership**



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 2001 Committee

Our club's AGM was held last month in the Palace Bar. The venue helped grease the wheels of democracy, as prospective committee candidates showered attendees with free drink. The AGM resulted in the following changes in the committee: *Frank Rooney* has joined as Secretary, replacing *Donal Finn*. Donal is now Chairperson, replacing *Martin Fagan*, who continues his responsibilities for Weekends/Holidays. *Warren Lawless* is the new editor, replacing *Maggie Greaney*. The committee and all members present extended their thanks to Maggie for her many years of dedication as our editor.

Chairperson:	Donal Finn (01-4530617 h)
Secretary:	Frank Rooney
Treasurer:	Prionsias MacAnBheatha (01-8379897 h)
Editor:	Warren Lawless (01-8786901 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

Travel Notes

Due to the outbreak of Foot & Mouth disease on farms in Britain, there is a need to reduce contamination: Walkers returning from Donal's trip to Wales in March can expect to be greeted by the water hoses of Dublin Fire Brigade when they step off the ferry...

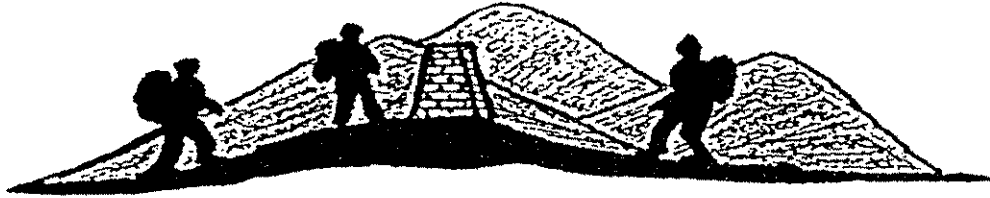
Errata & Corrections

After representations from Don's lawyers, the editor is glad to issue an apology for misspelling his surname in last month's newsletter. It is Reilly, with two 'll's, not one. Call off the legal hounds Reilly...

Wicklow Litter Hotline

Philip Hayden has learnt from the An Óige Environmental section of an anti-litter hotline run by Wicklow County Council. To quote "Freephone from mobile, landline or payphone – 24 hours a day. You can also email litter@wicklowcoco.ie When you get through to the Wicklow LitterLine, leave details of the litter incident, your name and contact details." Members are encouraged to do their bit to keep the hills clean.

Also from the Environmental section, a talk is been on Woodland Fauna by a member of the Irish Wildlife Trust at An Óige head office 27th February at 8pm. Admission £3.00.



Hillwalker Art Reception

It will be recollected that *Matt Geraghty* won a lovely picture at our club's Christmas Party, painted by our own club artist *Prionsias MacAnBheatha*. The painting depicts two walkers in the snow. In an attempt to raise the tone of the club, the residents of No. 19 Jervis Place decided to host an art reception where the painting was to receive its official unveiling. A small group of art-lovers from the club were thus gathered together in their tuxedos & gowns one evening in February. An admiring crowd gathered around a piece of modern art on display in Warren's bedroom, which he calls 'My Pile of Odd Socks'. Other culture vultures were spotted analyzing one of Matt's creation in the kitchen, named 'A Pile of Dirty Dishes'. But the central attraction was of course Prionsias's painting. The artist himself was in attendance but was aghast to find that the lads were using his picture to hang their washing from and to cover a big curry stain on the wall. He was last seen storming out the door, muttering something along the lines of "... casting pearls before swine...".

Map & Compass Comeragh Weekend

The 2000-01 School of Navigation drew to a close with a trip to the Comeragh Mountains on the 2nd-4th February. The current course had begun in October and was well-attended. It consisted of three evenings of indoor instruction and several outdoor exercises, including two weekends in Glendalough and the ever-challenging night hike on a wet 10th December.

The course instructs in the fundamentals of navigation using map reading and compass work, as well as other essential knowledge for the hills. It adds to the enjoyment of our hobby, by enabling participants to, variously, be aware of their location, explore the hills themselves and even lead hikes.

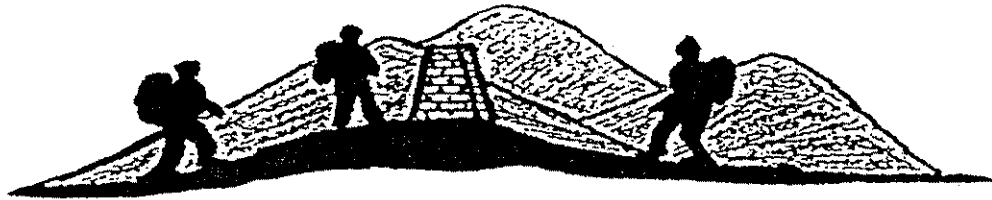
Joe Kellegher, the club's training officer, led a group of over twenty people to Waterford, staying in the Viking Hostel in the city centre. *Donal Finn*, *Martina Seifert*, and *Gerry Cooke* assisted over the course of the weekend, passing on their skills and knowledge to their eager acolytes.

As was normal the group split up into smaller parties and individuals took it in turn to lead their group. Conditions on Saturday were dry and clear (probably too clear, but we were not complaining). It was the authors first time to walk the Comeraghs and he was very impressed with the terrain. A boggy plateau, with streams, a lovely waterfall and numerous enchanting lakes nestled along its base. The boggy parts on the eastern side were to be treated with caution though.

Gerry Cooke has been known to go to extraordinary length to get a good nights sleep and this weekend was no different, when he opted to join Donal Finn for a night on the hills, where Donal was camping as part his Mountain Leadership (M.L) qualification. So whilst we were enjoying the norms of civilization on Friday night, they faced the Winter elements in a tent. Thankfully they fared well and were alive to meet us in the morning.

Later on Saturday, most of us convened in the China City restaurant for a large meal. *Fiona Shaugnessy* caused raised eyebrows when she asked aloud "Is anyone interested in a four person thing?". Luckily for our good reputations, this comment only alluded to a menu option.

Sunday was very wet but did not persuade our hardy walkers from their mission...all that is except our leader Joe, who conveniently 'forgot' his boots and journeyed back for them to Waterford (and a pub no doubt).



Our various groups practiced in and around *Cnocan an Phiopaire* and other sections of the mountains: Martina's group ranged over *Moin an Mhulaigh*; Donal took in *Cnoc an Aifrin*, whilst more than one party did the rugged and inspiring ascent of the crags overlooking *Loch Chom Seahgan*. A smaller group went in search of a ringfort at the base of the plateau. It may well have been a spell-protected fairy-fort for the time it took to locate, but we stumbled into it in the end.

After our Sunday exercises, we all regrouped in the village of Rathgormuck in a charming pub where we enjoyed a good fire and lovely pints.

Already some of the graduates of this years course have been plucked from the ranks to lead in the coming months. There is even talk of a reunion walk been organised by the participants ...maybe some of the school of 1999 & 2000 might like to dust off their maps and join them. We'll keep you posted.

A Note from the Editor

During 2001 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 2001 Christmas Party so please put fingers to keyboard and send your articles to the address below for inclusion in the newsletter. 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.

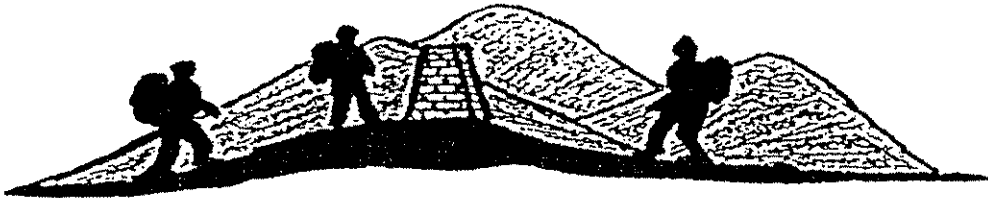
Articles for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to **Warren Lawless**
Email: warrenl@gofree.indigo.ie
(Post: 19 Jervis Place, Upper Abbey Street, Dublin 1)

P.S The editor was surprized to find that advertising his postal address in the newsletter did not lead to a deluge of Valentine's cards last month. He can only conclude that his flat mate got to the post before he did, or, worse still, that in a moment of confusion people wrote 'Matt' on their cards instead of 'Warren'...

Mountaineering Council of Ireland Information Bulletin - 07/02/01

1. Glen of Imaal Bomb Alert
2. Access in the Glen of Imaal
3. Route Setters Wanted
4. Waymarked Ways
5. Lowe Alpine Systems
6. Bosnia Huts Request For Help
7. Volunteer Mountain Leaders Abroad
8. Winter Climbing Performance Seminar
9. Autumn Council Meet 2001

Glen of Imaal Bomb Alert



It seems that some live unexploded bombs dating back to British Army times have been found in the Glen Of Imaal. The area concerned is close to Table Track at grid reference T 009 971 (sheet 56). The signs warning of the range are on the left while descending the track but the recent finds have been in the valley to the right - walkers should stick to the track and be particularly vigilant in this area.

Access in the Glen of Imaal

Marie McDonnell of An Óige has been in contact with us regarding an access issue that has arisen in the Glen of Imaal. Pascal Rodgers, who farms at the foot of the North Western slope of Ballineddan Mountain is appealing to walkers who access and exit the mountain via his land to use the stile and gate provided to get through the fence at the bottom of the slope. Alternatively, walkers can continue along the fence northwards and cross the Little Slaney River. Walkers climbing over the fence have damaged it and Mr Rodgers has said that if walkers climb over the fence again, he will withdraw access.

If walkers come off Ballineddan via a north west direction, they come down to Mr Rodgers' fence. If they continue down towards a forestry plantation with the fence on their right hand side they will come across a stile (GR 994 910). If they decide to go towards the Little Slaney River keeping the fence on their left they will come to the wooden gate. (GR 997 914). The gate is located just north of the spur ridge in a little hollow.

It is vitally important that walkers retain the goodwill of landowners by respecting their property at all times. Please refrain from climbing over the fence and use either the stile or the gate provided.

Route Setters Wanted

A new climbing wall is due to open in Dublin at the end of February. West Wall will be located in the Westwood Club in Clontarf. The wall will have approximately 144m² of climbing surface with lead walls of 11m high. The main wall comprises a large slab section and an overhanging section to provide climbing with as much variety as possible. The wall will include several self-belay units to provide improved training purposes. Andrew Hughes at Westwood is currently looking for route setters.

For further information telephone 01-8530353 or email: andrew.hughes@westwood.ie

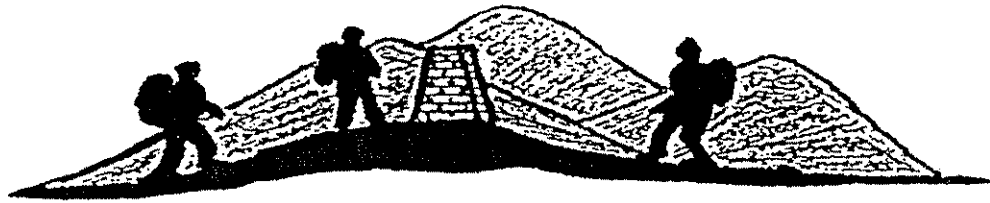
Waymarked Ways

Walking Ireland - The Waymarked Ways 2001, which contains basic information on all 32 National Network Waymarked Ways (including those in Donegal) can be obtained free of charge from the Secretary, National Waymarked Ways Advisory Committee, Irish Sports Council, 21 Fitzwilliam, Square, Dublin 2.
e-mail: kmcgeeney@irishsportsCouncil.ie.

It is also available on the website <http://www.irishwaymarkedways.ie>

Lowe Alpine Systems

Low Alpine System will close its manufacturing operation in Tullamore, Co Offaly by the end of March or early summer 2001, with the loss of 220 jobs. The outdoor



equipment manufacturer, which now has its headquarters in England, cited competitive pressures in Europe as the reason for the closure.

Lowe Alpine Systems will continue to have its European Pack Design department (with manager Jim Leonard and his Design team) based in Ireland together with an Irish sales office, factory shop and showroom whose location has yet to be decided. Meanwhile Tanaiste Mary Harney said that the IDA is involved in discussions with a number of potential investors and will continue to use all its resources to try to secure a new project for the town in the coming months.

Bosnia Huts Request For Help

The casualties of the war in Bosnia included 84 mountain huts that were either damaged or destroyed. The Mountaineering Union of Bosnia-Herzegovina are inviting anyone with an interest in helping them to repair or rebuilt their huts to get in contact. Ekrem Gacic who is responsible for international relations personally approached the BMC at the recent UIAA General Assembly in France. Help with designs, materials, and funds is very welcome; as is willing pairs of hands to help with the work. So, if you or your club is interested in helping MUBH to restore their mountain huts and possibly combine this with a visit to explore the excellent rock climbing and mountains of Bosnia please contact the News Editor who will point you in the right direction.

Volunteer Mountain Leaders Abroad

Raleigh International Trust is a registered UK youth development charity, which takes young people on challenging environmental and community projects around the world. They are looking for Volunteer Mountain Leaders and Outdoor Instructors for their three-month expeditions in Chile, Namibia, Belize, Ghana, Mongolia, Costa Rica, and Brunei.

If this sounds like you contact:

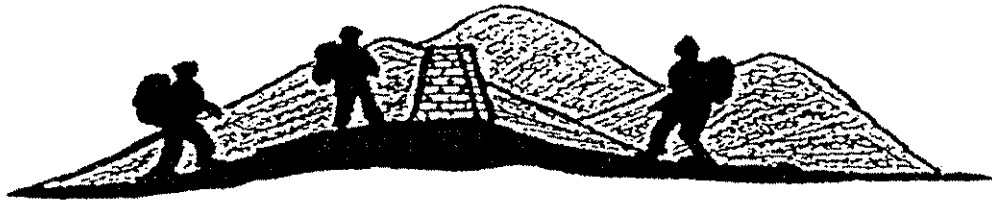
Carrie Blake
Raleigh International
Raleigh House
27 Parson's Green Lane
London SW6 4HZ

Marketing Co-ordinator
Tel: 020 7371 8585 ext. 142
Fax: + 44 (0)20 7371 5116
Email: carrie@raleigh.org.uk
www.raleighinternational.org

Winter Climbing Performance Seminar

Plans for the UK's first ever Winter Climbing Performance Seminar are now well underway. As well as a variety of different practical and technical workshops a series of free lectures and talks (you don't need to book, just turn up) will be run throughout the weekend at Glenmore Lodge, Scotland's National Outdoor Training Centre, hosts and organisers of the event.

The technical workshops will cover a variety of ground to give climbers greater insight into the subtle pleasures of winter climbing. These will mainly focus on improving personal performance on technical mixed climbs. Other sessions will cover



specialist aspects of the winter climbing game from winter belays through to glacier travel and rescue techniques.

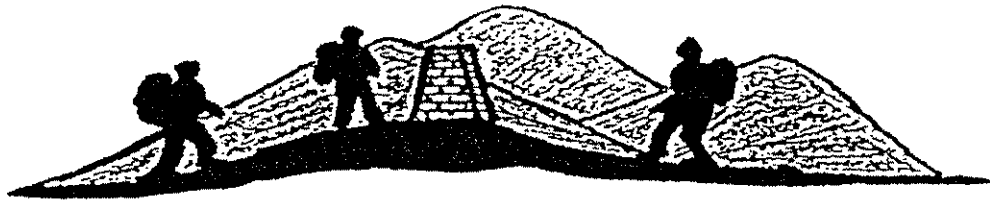
There will also be specific sessions for Instructors and Guides wanting to teach and instruct aspects of winter climbing. From those starting out to professional climbers, Guides and Instructors, both UK based and from abroad, participants will have the chance to share ideas, develop technical and psychological skills and expand their knowledge of the unique experience that is Scottish winter climbing. Leading the sessions will be some of the most eminent and experienced mountaineers on the Scottish scene, including such names as Andy Cunningham, Graeme Ertle, Allen Fyffe, John Lyle, Andy Nisbet and Scot Muir.

For more information see www.glenmorelodge.org.uk/winterseminar or telephone 01479 861256.

Autumn Council Meet 2001

This year's October Meet will take place in the Mourne Mountains at Newcastle, Co. Down on the weekend of the 19th-21st October 2001. The theme will be 'Mountaineering For All Ages' and as the title suggests all will be made welcome - young and old. The weekend will follow the usual format including MCI business as well as a meal, talk and 'boogie' on the Saturday night. There will be a varied package of activities, seminars and workshops throughout the weekend based on the weekend theme. Watch the next Mountain Log for more information. If you have any questions or suggestions please contact either Nigel Hart [nigelhart@bigfoot.com] or Ian Luney [ian.luney@bigfoot.com].

Declan O'Keeffe
Public Relations Officer
Mountaineering Council of Ireland



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