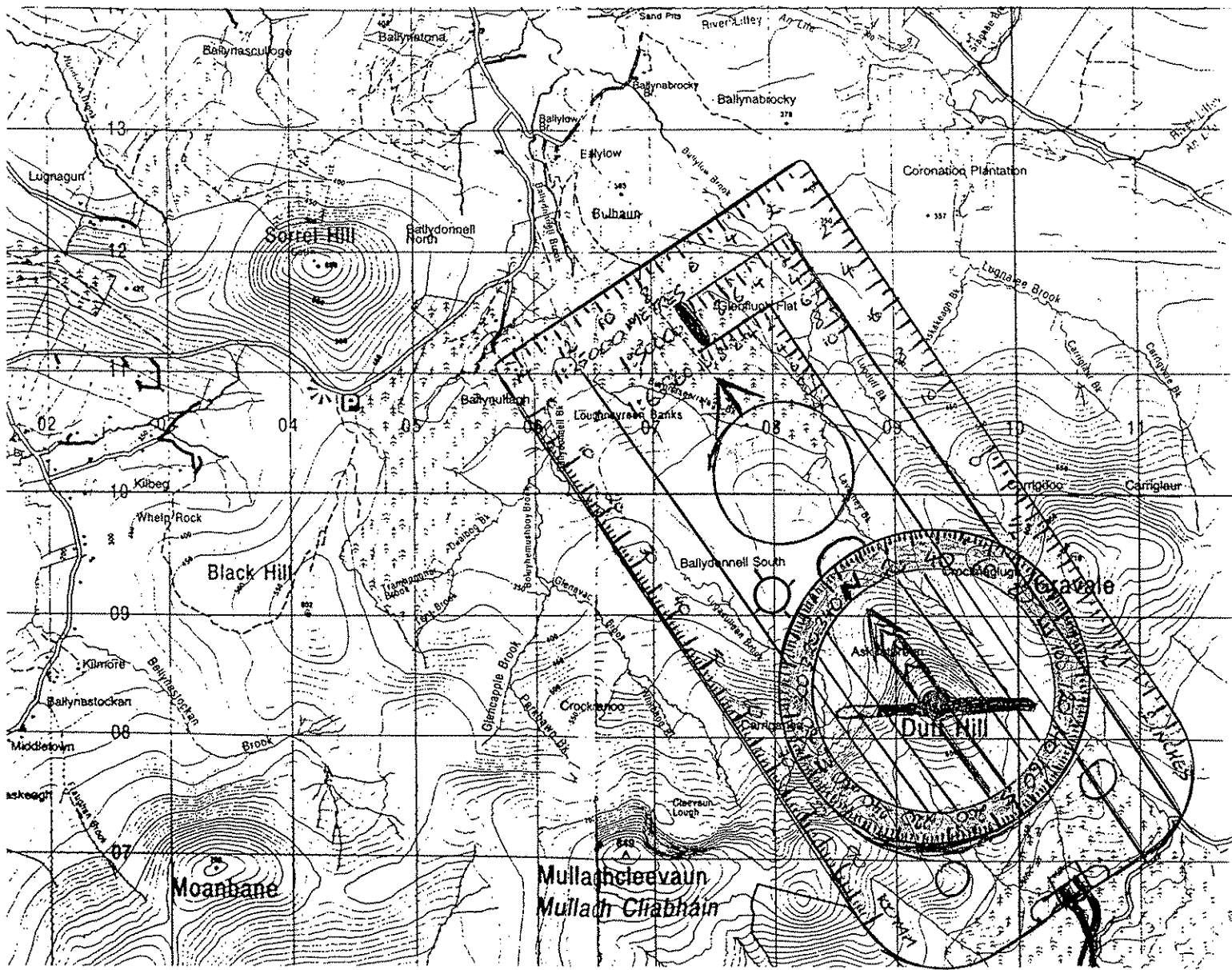




An Oige Hillwalkers Club



PROGRAMME FOR FEBRUARY 1996

SUNDAY HIKES

MEET: Outside the Irish Press Offices, Burgh Quay.
TIME: Sundays 10.00 am.

NOTE: The leader has the right to refuse anyone who is not adequately equipped. On the day of the hike, the leader may extend, curtail or alter the route in any way from that described in the programme.

The leader sets the pace of the hike and walkers are expected to obey his/her instructions at all times.

NOTE TO LEADERS: THERE IS A FIRST AID KIT ON THE BUS.
WALKIE TALKIES MUST BE USED ON ALL HIKES, PLEASE BRING THEM WITH YOU.

SUNDAY 04TH FEBRUARY

Glenmacnass, Tonelagee, Barnacullian, Mullaghcleevaun, Carrigshouk.

Leader: Donal Finn

SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY Donard - Ballinagee Bridge

Sugar Loaf, Table Mtn., Three Lakes, Arts Cross, Ballinagee Bridge

Leader: Joe Gilvarry

SUNDAY 18TH FEBRUARY Local Hike (Due to Ballinclea Weekend)

This hike will use local buses and will be decided on the day.

Leader: Tony Crean

SUNDAY 25TH FEBRUARY Introductory Hard Hike.

Circuit of Glendalough

Leader: Ciaran King

SUNDAY 03RD MARCH

Route to be decided.

Leader: Dave Rooney

AN OIGE YOUNG HILLWALKERS CLUB

SATURDAY CLUB

There is no Saturday hike this month due to the weekend in Glendalough

WEEKEND AWAY

Friday 09th - Sunday 11th February:

Weekend away to Glendalough Youth Hostel

Meet : Custom House on Friday 09th at 6.30 pm

Bring : Food for 2 Breakfasts, 2 Lunches, and 1 evening meal.

Sheet or sleeping bag, torch, hat, gloves, boots, wet gear
spare clothing, matches, flask, shoes for indoor use.

Cost : (includes 2 overnights and bus)

£13 under 18

£20 over 18

Deposit £5 per person, book now in Head Office (ph 830 4555)

We will arrive back in the city before 7 pm on Sunday.

SOCIAL/WHATS HAPPENING

Swimming: Every Tuesday evening in **E.S.B. Sportsco, South Lotts Road Ringsend.** Bus no.3 from city centre to Ringsend Bus Garage
Cost: £2.00 per person. **Time:** 9 pm to 10 pm

Weekend in Ballinlea Youth Hostel

Friday 16th - Sunday 18th February

Meeting on Friday 16th at the Custom House at 7 pm

Night hike to Hostel, possible route - Church Mountain, Corriebracks Lobawn Ridge, Sugar Loaf, Hostel.

Saturday and Sunday will have hikes in the area.

Cost is approx £25 to include 2 overnights, bus and a meal in hostel on Saturday night. There will be slides and we hope to get some musicians coming along on this weekend!!

Leader: Jim Barry Spaces limited to 40, book in head office

Anybody who was on the reunion weekend to Aghavannagh in November will know the craic that was had on that weekend, and we hope to have the same atmosphere for this one.

WEEKEND IN THE MOURNE MOUNTAINS

Staying in Newcastle Youth Hostel, Co. Down

Dates: Friday 15th to Monday 18th March 1996

Leaders: Martin Fagan/Frankie Comerford

Cost: £45 adults, £35 under 18's

This is a self catering weekend

The leaders reserve the right to alter the programme of walks.

SCOTLAND 1996

August 03rd - 11th

Staying in Crianlarich, Glen Nevis and Aviemore Youth Hostels.

Cost £220 + £19 insurance, deposit £60 payable to An Oige Hillwalkers Club and sent to the leader Martin Fagan, 23 Nottingham Street, North Strand, Dublin 3.
Places limited to 20.

CAMPING WEEKEND

(01ST TO 03RD MARCH 1996)

- Area:** Galty Mountains
- Organiser:** Deidre Ni Choileain (Ph.6792777 x4313)
1 Charterschool Hill (Ph.8423656 H.)
Cloghran, Co.Dublin.
- Cost:** £25.00 (£10 deposit to organiser, please.)
- Transport:** By cars
- Equipment:** Sleeping bag, Carry Mat, Torch, etc.
A checklist will be issued on receipt of deposit
Please also state if you have or need any of the
following:- 1)Tent 2)Stove 3)Transport

WEATHER COURSE

- Date:** Commences on Tuesday, 13th February 1996:
- Duration:** 10 Classes (Tuesdays)
- Time:** 8 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.
- Venue:** An Oige Headquarters, Mountjoy Street.
- Cost:** £20.00
- Lecturer:** Gerry McDonald
- Places are limited to 20 people, so book early through Head Office. (Ph.8304555)
This is a very worthwhile course. Knowledge of the weather is a great asset when
Hillwalking.

ART O'NEILL ANNUAL WALK

Congratulations to the following Members, who took part in this years Art O'Neill walk, in very wet and miserable conditions.

*Dave Rooney, Joe Kelleher, Antoin Spain, Stephen Burke
Martina Seifert, Don Reilly.*

MARCH PROGRAMME

Articles or notices for inclusion in the March
Hillwalker, should be sent to:-

*Ger Walsh,
14 Londonbridge Drive,
Sandymount,
Dublin 4.*

on or before the 16th February 1996.

TANZANIAN EXPERIENCE

After nearly eight months of planning and organizing flights, immunisation, visitor pass, dates to coincide with solo travel to Kilimanjaro Airport through Amsterdam to meet my safari Tour Group - Explore - it was August 18th and I was on my way, not without some trepidation may I say. My most harrowing experience was on my exit from Kili Airport building to be besieged by a sea of Tanzanians, all set on securing my custom for the 52 km. taxi journey to Arusha. Eventually two Italians and an English lad joined me and I was happy to get into one of these vehicles.

Our group numbered fifteen, plus a cook, driver and leader. We travelled for fifteen days in a converted Bedford truck which also carried all our luggage and supplies - tents, mattresses, tables, chairs, cooking utensils, crockery, water, food and charcoal for the fire on which all our meals were made for the fifteen days. The sides of the truck were rolled up and viewing was excellent. Our first day and two nights were spent in Arusha National Park on the slopes of Mount Meru, a beautiful sub tropical forest. We encountered our first animals, giraffe, buffalo, baboon, wart hog, colobus monkey and absolutely beautiful birds. We got up at 6 a.m. to see the sunrise over Kilimanjaro. Stunning. These first two days were walking days and we were accompanied by two armed guides, Joseph and Noel. It was on the first day that we had our only loss. Valerie, a lovely woman from Edinburgh, let her new top of the range automatic camera fall down the loo. These loos have to be seen to be believed. Long drops they are called, very deep holes in the ground with a brick of cement on each side. There were no offers to retrieve the camera, needless to say!

Our third day was spent driving to Tarangire National Park but due to a blown cylinder head gasket, it took longer than scheduled as the leader, Bobby, had to hitch a lift back to Arusha to get another truck. But we did not waste the four hours on the side of the road. We befriended a Masai lady who came along and through our driver, Julius, were able to learn something of her lifestyle. Justin, our cook, lit the fire, took down the tables and chairs etc. and cooked our dinner on the side of the highway and in the dark.

From then on it was safari drives, game viewing, a walk to a beautiful waterfall near Lake Natron through a river, and much needed showers under the waterfall. We camped in the Serengetti and seven of us went up in a hot air balloon - as shown on TV - for an hour over the Serengetti plains. Quite an experience. For two nights we camped on the Crater rim at Ngorogoro. We spent nine hours in the Crater itself the day before returning to Arusha- it was quite thrilling. Absolutely beautiful.

The third week was spent on Kilimanjaro. Words cannot explain that experience. The numbers of climbers, porters, cooks, guides all toing and froing had to be seen to be believed. The walking itself was not difficult up to the final ascent. We enjoyed the camaraderie, the stories of how every one was coping and comparing the food each group's cooks provided. I myself made it to Kibo Hut 15,500 feet up but was then very sick from the altitude. I had to descend to Horombo Hut without actually getting to the top. This feat was accomplished with relative ease by my son, Eoin, and son-in-law Nick.

We then drove to Dar es Salaam - seven hours journey in a four wheel drive with a responsible driver. It can be done in five hours in a bus at break neck speed if it does not crash into another vehicle traveling at the same speed, crash into a bridge or end up in the river or have the windscreen of the bus fall in on top of the passengers as happened to a Tanzanian friend of my daughters, not once but twice.

Dar would not figure highly on a list of city breaks. There are no shops as we know them and only one museum, one golf club and a yacht club for members only. There are beautiful beaches on the Indian Ocean to the west of Dar, where there are a few hotels also. On all roads out of the city are continuous stalls - dukas - selling everything available in Tanzania. These stretch for miles.

Our trip to Zanzibar for five days was lovely. We went on a spice tour, where we saw spices and exotic fruits growing in situ. Very interesting indeed.

The beaches in Zanzibar are a dream. We went snorkelling and marvelled at what we saw in the warm waters. Stone Town is a bit of a shambles, but steeped in history with some lovely buildings from the days of the Sultan and the slave trade. We visited the Anglican Cathedral, built on the whipping block for the slaves and some dungeons where they were held before transportation - a most humbling experience. Stone Town also has a museum and several buildings of interest. At sundown food stalls are set up on the waterfront and all sorts of local dishes cooked with great flair, Zanzibari Pizzas, Cassava chips, sugar cane juice (warned not to touch it), chipatas and God knows what else are all for sale for a pittance.

A visit to Bagamoyo, north of Dar, was most enjoyable as we stayed in lovely beach huts made of straw and swam in the sea which was hot.

We spent two nights in Mikumi at the Irish run Training School. This is some of our Third World contribution run under the auspices of FAS. We were made very welcome by Jim and Maura Culligan who have been in charge of the operation since its inception. As I write they will be on their way home, having done a great job for the past seven years.

Our last two days were spent at a glorious place called Ras Kutani. Again a site with thatched bungalows, glorious sand and sea. There I experienced my assault into boogy boarding. Great fun, though I was black and blue after my initial attempts at riding the waves.

We arrived back to Dar on our last day to find our flight would not arrive from Amsterdam for a further 24 hours. I must say after six and a half weeks another 24 hours did not feel out of place at all. Though all I have seen and done was light years removed from anything I had ever done before I had begun to feel quite at home in these surroundings. The way of life for most Tanzanians would seem to us to be extremely difficult, most would have no water or electricity and no money for any consumer goods. Industry is very thin on the ground, unemployment is rife and corruption is the norm. They are a very good humoured, polite and agreeable people, even when trying to get money from you but have no hard feelings when unsuccessful. They are having multi party elections for the first time since Independence in 1964 on October 31st. It will be interesting to know the results and to follow the effects if any. It is a country where Third World Aid is paramount. What they do with it is another matter and how to make it more effective is mind boggling. Not for anything would I have missed the opportunity to experience Tanzania as I did.

M Pearson.