

The Hillwalker

April 1998



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

The Hillwalker's innards this month include:

Sunday Hikes

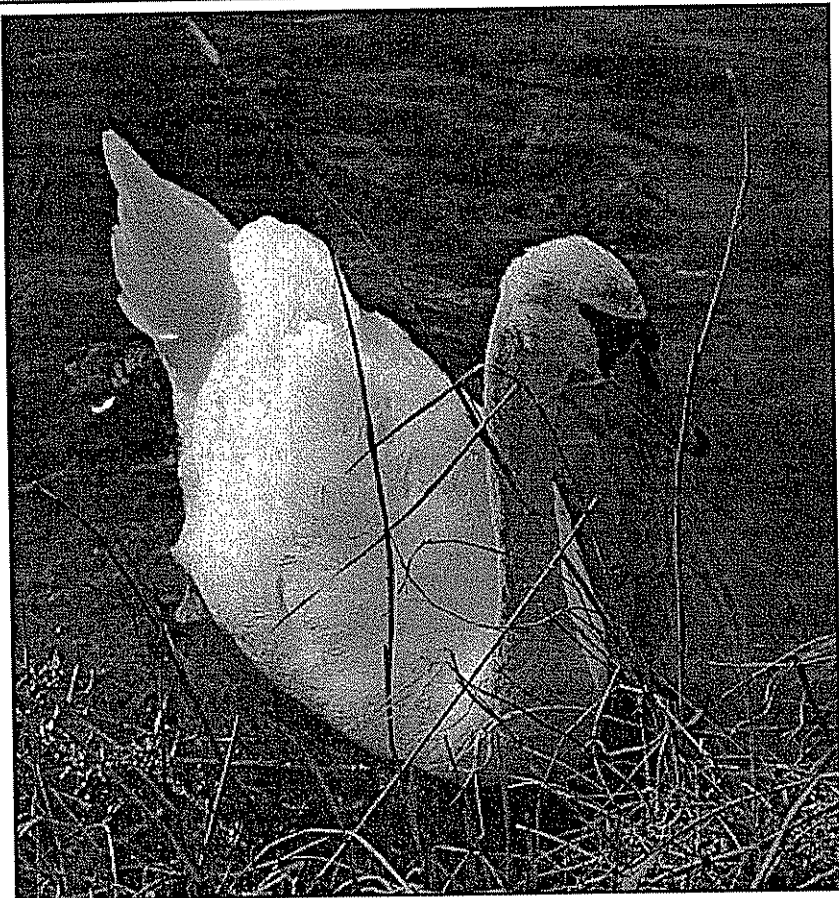
Young Hillwalker's Club

Weekends & Holidays Away

Local History

Monthly Slide Show

Club Travel



Spring Swan

Photo: Maggie Greaney

SUNDAY HIKES



MEET: Outside Irish Press Offices, Burgh Quay

DEPART Sundays 10.00AM. (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.

BRING A TORCH

Date	Route Description	Leader
5th April	Baravore - Fraughan Rock Glen - Lugnaquilla - Kelly's Lough - Carrawaystick Mtn. - Drumgoff	John Guy
12th April	NO SUNDAY HIKE DUE TO CLUB EASTER WEEKEND AWAY TO KILLARNEY Weekend details are in the Weekends Away section. of the March 'Hillwalker'	
19th April	INTRODUCTORY HARD HIKE Ballinboyle - Ballinabarny - Keadeen - Carrig - Honey Bee Farm - Derren River - Lybagh - Slieve Maan - Ballinreddan - Ballinboyle	Donal Finn
26th April	Shay Elliot Memorial - Cullentragh Mtn. - Mullacor - Lugduffs - Conavalla - Three Lakes - Table Track - Baravore Car Park	Ita O'Hanlon
3rd May	Circuit of Glencullen N.B. This hike will be done by local bus.	Leader to be appointed

The hiking programme is subject to alteration during periods of extreme weather conditions.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Your club membership card **MUST** be carried and produced 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 hike.

YOUNG HILLWALKERS CLUB



SATURDAY HIKE

Date: Saturday 11th April 1998.
Route: Little Sugarloaf and Bray Head.
Meet: Irish Press Office, Burgh Quay.
Time: 8.45AM.
Bring: Packed lunch, flask, water, hat, gloves, wet weather gear and torch.
Wear: Boots, tracksuit bottoms (no jeans), warm sweater.

ADVENTURE WEEKEND AWAY

Join the Young Hillwalkers Club for a backpack from Ballinclea to Glenmalure on the 17th and 18th of April. Full details from John Guy or Dave Rooney at the numbers below.

ADVENTURE WALKING HOLIDAY TO NORTH WALES

Date: 2nd - 7th July 1988
Cost: Under 18 £70, over 18 £100. Cost covers travel, accommodation and food (self-catering).
Accommodation: Staying at the high quality Snowdon Ranger YH in the heart of Snowdonia National Park. (Tel. from Ireland 0044-1286-650391)
Arrangements: Leave Dubin on Thursday 2nd July at 9.00AM. and arrive back in Dublin at 7.00PM. Tuesday 7th July.
Booking: An Oige Head Office, 61 Mountjoy St., Dublin 7. Tel. 01-8304555.
Leaders: Dave Rooney, Lorraine Brady and Séan Dunne

For further information about our club phone the An Óige Head Office at 01-8304555 or John Guy at 01-4524627 (h) or Dave Rooney at 01-8344811 (h).

WEEKENDS AWAY



EASTER WEEKEND

♦ Kerry/West Cork. For details see the March magazine. Some places left.

MAY BANK HOLIDAY (Friday 1st May to Monday 4th May 1988)

♦ The Burren, Co. Clare. Organisers: Martin Fagan & Frankie Comerford.

MAY BANK HOLIDAY WICKLOW WAY BACKPACK (Friday 1st May to Monday 4th May)

♦ Wicklow Way backpack organised by Sean Dunne & Dave Rooney

JUNE BANK HOLIDAY (Friday 29th May to Monday 1st June 1988)

♦ The Beara Peninsula, Co. Kerry. Organisers Donal Finn and Joe Kellegher.

WICKLOW WAY BACKPACK

Starts form Marley Park Craft Centre at 6.00PM. on Friday night and staying at Knockree YH (Friday) and Laragh (Saturday & Sunday). Bags will be transported by car from Marley Park - Knockree - Laragh. All you need carry is a small day pack. Arrive back in Dubin by 6.00PM. on Monday 4th. Cost is £45 to include 3 overnights, baggage transfers and return bus to Dublin. Places limited to 15. Leaders are Séan Dunne and Dave Rooney. Booking now open at An Oige Head Office.

DETAILS OF MAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND AWAY TO CLARE

- Date:** Friday 1st May to Monday 4th May 1998
- Booking:** Booking is now open through An Óige Head Office. The cost of the weekend is £45.00. A non-refundable deposit of £20.00 is payable on booking.
- Accommodation:** Dorus Youth Hostel.
- Transport:** The bus departs from the Custom House Quay on Friday 1st May at 6.00PM.
- Routes:**
- Saturday:** Slieve Elva to Lisdoonvarna. There will be only one walk at a pace suitable for everyone.
- Sunday:** The Cliffs of Moher. There will also be a bus trip to the Ailwee Caves for those who are not hiking.
- Monday:** Bus trip to the Burren Display Centre, Kilfenora.
- For further details, contact An Óige Head Office at 01-8304555, or Martin Fagan at 01-8553653.

DETAILS OF JUNE HOLIDAY WEEKEND AWAY TO KERRY

- Date:** Friday 29th May to Monday 1st June 1998
- Booking:** Booking is now open through An Óige Head Office. The cost of the weekend is £60.00 to include train, bus and three overnights but not including meals. Two evening meals £14.00 extra if required. A non-refundable deposit of £30.00 is payable on booking.
- Accommodation:** Glanmore Lake Hostel, Beara Peninsula. Capacity is limited to thirty people.
- Meals:** The services of the bus will NOT be available over the weekend. There are no restaurants/shops/pubs nearby, so people should bring ALL food with them for the entire weekend. The hostel can provide a standard evening meal @ £7.00 per head on the Saturday and Sunday evenings. This facility is strictly limited to twenty people. Please indicate your preference on booking. The hostel has the usual self-catering facilities.
- Transport:** Combination of train and bus. Please note the times given here may be modified when Irish Rail publish their Summer timetable. Participants will be informed of any changes in a later magazine, or by phone. Special train tickets will be pre-purchased by the organisers and distributed to participants in the weeks prior to travelling.
- Outbound:** Departure by train from Heuston Station at 1737 hrs, arrive Killarney 2059 hrs. Private bus from Killarney railway station to Glanmore Lake Hostel. Journey time approximately 1.5 hours. The bus will stop at a convenience store on the way.
NB Please arrive at Heuston Station by 1700 hrs on the Friday as seats cannot be reserved on the train.
- Return:** Bus to Killarney departing Hostel/Lauragh 1530/1600 hrs resp. Depart Killarney 1821 hrs, arrive Dublin 2200 hrs.
- Routes:**
- Saturday:** Two hikes will be organised each day. Easier hikes will be based on shortened versions of the longer hikes below
Eskatariff Horseshoe (Sheet 84)
Hostel - Croanshagh Bridge - Cummeennahillan - Tooth Mtn. - Coomacloghane
Eskatariff - Lackabane - Hostel.
- Sunday:** Hungary Hill (Sheet 84)
Hostel - Glanmore River - Clogher Valley - Knocknagree - Hungary Hill - Derryclancy - Coombane - Healy Pass - Hostel.
- Monday:** (Sheet 84/85) and Caha Circuit
Hostel - Healy Pass - Knockowen - Cusnaticulla - Ramhill - Caha - Droppa - Lauragh.
- For further details, contact An Óige Head Office at 01-8304555, or Donal Finn 01-4530617(h).

LONG WALKS PROGRAMME FOR 1998



Walk	Date	Organising Club	Contact Person
Comeragh Bog Trot	18th April	Peaks CC	Niall Carroll 052- 23085
Maam Turks Walk	25th April	UCG MC	Martin Butler 091-524411 ext. 3271, Coleen Parsons 091-553241 (h)
Barrow Walk		HF Walking Club	No details yet
Blackstairs Walk	16th May	Wayfarers Association	Alice Ring 01-8377344
Mountain Challenge	16th May	Dublin/Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team	Michael Treacy 01-8683476
Galty Walk	13th June	Tyndall MC/ Tullow MC	Ann Taylor, 26 Kells Road, Kilkenny
Bangor Trail	20th June	Nephtin Beg MC	Colm Geraghty 098-41834
Circuit of Imaal	20th June	An Oige	01-8304555
Lug Walk		Irish Ramblers Club	Not this year.
Benbulbin Challenge	18th July	Sligo MC	Michael Mulligan 071-41267
Mourne Seven Sevens	8th August	Spartan Red Sox	Jim Browne 08012332-647854 (h)
Burren Walk	29th August	Thomond Orienteers	Alan Shaw 064-41121
Glover Highlander	12th September	North West MC	Alan Tees 0801504-810834

♦ THE COMERAGH BOG TROT

Date: 18h April
Organising Club: Peaks Mountaineering Club, Clonmel.
Map No: Discovery Sheet No 75
Fee: £5.00 (payable on the day)
Opening checkpoint: The walk starts near Kilrossanty and finishes at Powers the Pot Hostel.
Checkpoint opening time: 7.30AM. approx.
Checkpoint list: Start - Far Breaga - Seefin - Knockaunapeebra - Cairn - The Gap Knockanaffrin North - Finish Powers the Pot.
Distance: 14 miles approx.
Height gain: 5,000ft approx.
Average time: 7 hours *in good weather and without breaks.*
 Participants can park at Powers the Pot Hostel and a bus will take them around to the start of the walk. The first bus will leave the hostel at 7.00AM. or when the bus is full.

PLEASE NOTE These walks are NOT led hikes. Participants need to know how to navigate and have a high level of fitness. You are responsible for yourself during these walks.

LOCAL HISTORY

Glenasmole or the Valley of the Thrushes

Glenasmole or the upper valley of the Dodder is surrounded by the slopes of Mount Pellier on the east, and Seahan, Corrig and Seefingan on the west. Kippure forms the southern boundary of the valley.

Bohernabreena's terrain is mountainous, consisting of both acidic and alkaline soil. A carpet of heather on the higher ground gives way to bracken forest, river valley and finally to the patchwork effect of small fields bordered by stone walls. Because of the diversity of terrain and soil we enjoy a fascinating abundance of flora and fauna.

The valley has long been associated with the legendary Finn MacCool. In one old Irish poem - "The Chase of Glenasmole" it is related how Finn with his famous hounds, Brann and Sgeolan, and a number of hunters and dogs met one misty morning in the glen to hunt deer. They chased a piebald doe, but although they hunted her all day were unable to overtake her, and when darkness set in, they found themselves far away among the wild hills without any of their hounds, which had all become lost in the excitement of the chase. After a time however, Brann returned in a sorry state, Not long after a beautiful woman appeared on the scene and invited the whole party to a feast which they gladly accepted. When they had satisfied themselves at the feast a hideous witch from Greece appeared and asked Finn to be her husband. She was so enraged at his refusal that she threatened to kill them all. She set off with her fleet to Howth, where she landed and fought with Goll MacMorna the Brave for three days, while fifty amazons kept guard over the enchanted Fianna. Just as the witch was about to overcome Goll, the Fianna broke the enchantment, and rushing to battle, Oscar drove his spear through her heart, and the slaughter of her amazon bodyguard followed.

In another poem called "The Finnian Hunt of Sliabh Truim", it is related how Finn, after a victorious campaign through the country, slaying dragons, serpents, and all kinds of monsters, attacks and kills the terrible Arrach or dragon of Glenasmole. These poems probably date from the 12th century.

The dams at the Bohernabreena's waterworks were built around 1882, by a Scottish team of contractors, Messrs Stanford and Faulkner, for the Rathmines Commission. One was intended to supply to the township and the adjacent areas, while the other was for local use, serving the various mills in Tallaght, Firhouse, etc. The dams were constructed from stone obtained from Corrig Mountain. The waterworks were taken over by Dublin Corporation in 1931 and supplies approximately 4,000,000 gallons of water to the city each day.

Maggie Greaney

THE CLUB SLIDES

The Hillwalkers Club continue their very popular series of slide shows on

Tuesday April 21st, at 8.30PM, in The Palace Bar, Fleet Street.

Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands

presented by

Joe Kellegher.

WALKING FESTIVALS

Ballyhoura International Walking Festival, 1st - 4th May 1998. Organised by Ballyhoura Country Holidays. Further info from Mary Hickey-Fitzgerald at 063-91300.

Daniel O'Connell 2 Day Walking Festival, Caherciveen, Co. Kerry, 3rd - 4th October. Further info from Traolach Sweeney 066-72777.

MOUNTAIN RESCUE NEWS

The Dublin/Wicklow Mountain Rescue team is one of the most active in the country. It has dealt with almost 50 call-outs in 1997. The service is an Emergence 999/112 service and is not funded by the Government, save for some grant aid from the Dept. of Environment to help insurance and some training costs.

This spring they are embarking on fund raising drive with a principal focus on replacing one of their ageing mobile operations and equipment emergence vehicles and secondary to that they intend to upgrade their medical equipment set-up.

They are seeking committed people to help raise £20,000. They are looking for people to organise some small fund raising event to raise £250. Every person who raises this minimum will be entitled to take part in their Great Mountain Challenge (see long walks programme on page 5).

Further information is available from

Michael Treacy,
Deputy Team Leader,
Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team,
15 Rathoath Estate,
Cabra West,
Dublin 7.
01-8683476

LEADERS URGENTLY WANTED

Contact Jim Barry at 4556455 (home between 7.00pm. and 10.00pm.)

CLUB T-SHIRTS

Hillwalkers Club T-shirts are now on sale. Sizes medium and large. Send £5 (cheque or postal order only - NO CASH) to cover post and packing to Maggie Greaney, at the address on the back of the "Hillwalker". State the size required along with your name, address and telephone number

AN ÓIGE NEWS



The 67th Annual General Meeting of An Óige
will take place on
Thursday 23rd April 1988 at 8.00p.m.
in Dublin International Youth Hostel, 61 Mountjoy Street, Dublin 7.
Notice of motions to be received by Marie McDonnell (Hon. National Secretary), not later
than
Thursday 2nd April 1988.

THE CLUB COMMITTEE



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/Pauline Morley (01-8225818 h)
Training Officer:	Joe Kellegher (01-8381973 h)
Social Events:	Donal Finn / Martin Fagan
Young Hillwalkers:	John Guy (01-4524627 h) or Dave Rooney (01-8344811)
Other members:	Frankie Comerford
Distribution:	Cyril McFeeney

To facilitate quicker processing of membership, please send application forms and fees directly to membership secretary and not to An Óige Head Office.

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR



Have you travelled anywhere abroad or indeed in Ireland that you think members would like to read about?

Please put pen to paper and send some 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 *one A4 page of text*. A stamped and addressed envelope should accompany any photographs or article to ensure their return.

Also, book reviews on hillwalking and related topics would be very welcome.

Articles for inclusion in the May newsletter should be sent before Friday 10 April 1998 to:
Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
(e-mail: maggieg@tinet.ie)