



Hillwalkers Club

September-October 2013

<http://www.hillwalkersclub.com/>

HILLWALKER



Paradise of alpine flowers.

Photo: Mel O'Hara

****AGM****

Date change
Will now be held on
Friday 18 October

In this edition

Hike programme: September – October 2013	2
Important dates for your diary, Committee 2012/13	4
Snakes and Ladders (Stubai Alps, Austria)	6
Lambay Island	21
October Bank Holiday weekend away	23
Membership application form	24

HIKE PROGRAMME

September – October 2013

MEET: Corner of Burgh Quay and Hawkins St

DEPART: Sundays at 10.00 am (*unless stated otherwise*), or earlier if it is full.

TRANSPORT: Private bus (*unless stated otherwise*)

COST: €12.00 (*unless stated otherwise*)

2nd pick-up point: *On the outward journey, the bus will stop briefly to collect walkers at the pick-up point. Should the bus be full on departure from Burgh Quay, this facility cannot be offered.*

Return drop-off point: *On the return journey, where indicated, the bus will stop near the outward pick-up point to drop off any hikers. We regret this is not possible on all hikes.*

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.

CO-ORDINATION If necessary, 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.

EQUIPMENT It is essential to bring good rain gear (both jacket and over-trousers) and to leave cotton t-shirts and jeans at home! Boots must be sturdy with proper ankle support and a rigid non-slip sole such as Vibram.

WALKING STICKS AND RUCKSACKS Remember that walking sticks and rucksacks cannot be brought onto the bus and must be stowed away in the boot during the journey.

★★ Introductory hard hike ★★

This hike is tailored for non-members who are considering joining the *Hillwalkers Club*. It offers the opportunity to sample a typical club hike, as well as meeting club members.

Interested individuals should equip themselves appropriately for a day in the hills: adequate hiking boots, waterproof coat and leggings, hat, gloves, lunch and hot / cold drinks. *In order to enjoy the hike, you need a good level of fitness.*

Membership forms will be available, should you wish to join the club on completion of the introductory hike.
Enquiries: 086 356 3843

Please be advised that you should not undertake any club hiking activities: (i) if you have any known medical ailment which may impair your ability to participate in club activities, or (ii) if you are taking any form of medication that will put your health or safety of others at risk. Should you be in any doubt on these matters, a doctor should be consulted prior to undertaking any club hiking activity

Sunday 15 September 2013

Leader: Neville Ransome

2nd pick-up point & return drop-off point:
Bus stop before the roundabout at Loughlinstown

Route: Baravore car park * Lugduff * Glenealo
River FB * Camaderry * R756 * Brockaghs SP542
*Tonelagee * Wicklow Gap car park

Distance: 14km **Ascent:** 1,350m

Maps: OS 56, Harvey, East and West Mapping

Sunday 22 September 2013

****Introductory Hard Hike****
****Special cost of €15****
****A 50 seater bus has been booked****

Leader: Chris Byrne

2nd pick-up point & return drop-off point:
Bus Éireann stop before roundabout for Pavilions
Shopping Centre, Swords

Route: Carrick Little car park * Mourne Wall *
Slieve Binnian * Slieve Lamagan * Cove Mtn *
Lower Cove * Blue Lough * Annalong Valley *
Carrick Little car park

Distance: 15 km **Ascent:** 1,050m

Map: Mournes Activity Maps 1:25000

Sunday 29 September 2013

Leader: John Gordon

2nd pick-up point & return drop-off point:
Bus stop before the roundabout at Loughlinstown

Route: Laragh * Derrybawn* Mullacor * Lugduff *
Glenealo * Miners Track * Hotel car park
Glendalough

Distance: 17 km **Ascent:** 750m

Maps: OS 56, Harvey, East and West Mapping

Sunday 06 October 2013

Leader: Søren Stühr Mandrup

2nd pick-up point:
Just beyond the Maldron Hotel on the N81 Tallaght
Bypass

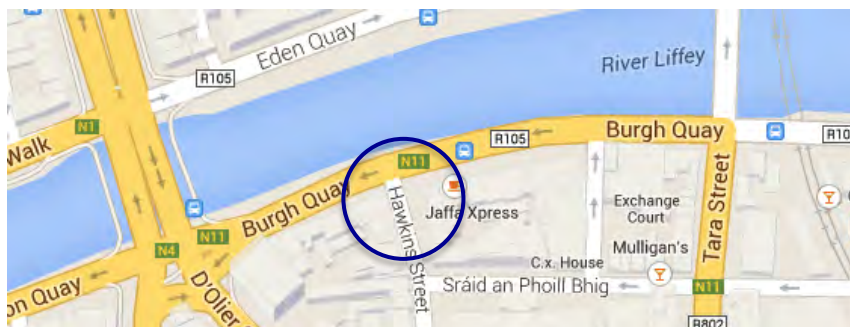
****Different drop-off point on return****

Route: Ballynultagh Gap * Black Hill *
Mullaghcleevaun * Barnacullian * Stoney Top *
Tonelagee * Wicklow Gap * St. Kevin's Way *
Glendalough

Distance: 19 km **Ascent:** 690m

Maps: OS 56, Harvey, East and West Mapping

During the construction of the Luas Cross City (www.luascrosscity.ie), the Hillwalkers are meeting the Sunday bus at the corner of Burgh Quay and Hawkins St.



Important dates for your diary

Pearse's 80th birthday

Pearse Foley will be celebrating his 80th Birthday this September (17th). Pearse wishes to extend an invitation to all the Hillwalkers to a Party in the Teachers' Club on Parnell Square on **Saturday 21 September, 2013**. Kick off is at 7.30pm.

Ceol agus Craic guaranteed.



Annual General Meeting

*****Change of date*****

The next Annual General Meeting of The Hillwalker Club will now be held in the Teachers' Club (*Club na Múinteoirí*) on **Friday 18 October 2013**, starting at 8pm.

Further details are available on p5.

October long weekend

The club will be heading to Tralee for the long weekend in October (**Friday 25 to Monday 28 October 2013**). *Further details are available on p23.*

Bookings are now open for existing Hillwalker members, and will open for other An Óige members on 19 September 2013.

Annual Christmas festive gala dinner, party and weekend

The annual festive gala dinner, party and weekend will be held in the Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny on **Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 December 2013**. We'll be walking in the Slieve Blooms and Blackstairs Mountains.

Further details in the next edition of the Hillwalker.

Annual Holly Hike

The annual Holly Hike will be held on **Sunday 22 December 2013**.

Committee 2012/13	<i>Chairman</i>	Dónal Finn
	<i>Secretary</i>	Mel O'Hara
	<i>Treasurer</i>	Jim Barry
	<i>Sunday Hikes Coordinator</i>	Frank Rooney
	<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	Simon More
	<i>Membership Secretary</i>	Don Reilly
	<i>Club Promoter</i>	Liz Carey
	<i>Training Officer</i>	Dónal Finn
	<i>Club Social Coordinator</i>	Liz Carey
Special thanks to:	<i>Webmaster</i>	Matt Geraghty

Hillwalkers Club 2013 AGM

8.00 pm, Friday Oct 18th, 2013
The Teachers Club,
36 Parnell Square West, Dublin 1

The 2013 AGM of the Hillwalkers Club will be held at the Teachers Club, Parnell Square. The following agenda is proposed:

1. Welcome
2. **Secretary's Report**
3. **Treasurer's Report**
4. Sunday Hike Co-ordinator's Report
5. Club Promotion Co-ordinator's Report
6. **Membership Secretary's Report**
7. **Editor's Report**
8. **Training Officer's Report**
9. Gerry Donnelly Bequest
10. Motions / Any other business
11. 2014 Committee - nominations and approval
12. Meeting Close

Committee 2014

Nominations are invited from members to serve on the Hillwalkers Committee for 2014. Anyone interested in helping is invited to contact Donal Finn (mobile: 087 205 1255 email: finndonal@eircom.net) or any other committee member to discuss what is involved in being a committee member. Interested persons should complete the NOMINATION FORM below and return it to the club secretary by 04 October.

Nomination Form 2014 Committee

I nominate
to be a member of the committee of the Hillwalkers Club for 2014.

Signed Proposer

Signed Secunder

I accept the nomination (*nominee to sign*)

Please return the nomination form to the club secretary, Mel O'Hara, Ardmore Road, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

Snakes and ladders

Stubai Alps, Austria
19-28 July 2013

I approached the check-in desk at Dublin Airport feeling slightly nervous. I was checking in a communal bag that had 6 people's sticks, and a change of clothes etc. One mysterious package from Don Reilly was very heavy and tightly sealed! I lied through my teeth when asked "Did you pack this bag yourself?" but the bag sailed through just under the 15kg allowed.

mental and retail preparation. After a pleasant flight to *Memmingen* (Germany) we were greeted by warm sunny weather(despite Frank's gloomy forecast) and 2 mini-buses which ferried us to the Innsbruck Hostel our home for the first and last night of the trip. One of the gang set the pace by having a beer at 11.30am when we had a stop en route, that German beer is excellent!



We checked into our twin rooms at the hostel and had a pleasant afternoon wandering around lovely *Innsbruck*, the capital city of the state of Tyrol in western Austria, who hosted the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics. We sampled the fantastic beer, were entertained by a band and after a meal some also took in a concert.

Mark shows us the route for the week.

Photo: Dónal Finn (with Carina's camera) (above). Trek up through the Pinnestal valley to Pinnisjoch Col.

Photo: Mel O'Hara (right).

When I met the others soon after, in duty free they were so happy to see me, kisses and hugs all round. I was so chuffed with the big welcome – I realised later they were just glad I'd arrived as I had their sticks etc and I've been known to miss a flight or 2! This was my start to the Stubai Alps trip organised by Mark Campion for 16 club members. It had finally arrived after months of physical,



Day 1 (Saturday 20 July)

Next morning like the others we had an early start with breakfast at 7am. We were getting ready to leave when we realised our leader Mark was still in bed – his roommate did not seem to

Mark's blisters! We had nice stops for coffee and for lunch in the sun at *Kar Alm*, where Adam sampled an Adambrau beer, Liz complained that a half litre coke at €4.20 was dearer than the Adambrau (and it wasn't even real coke) and the Appelstrudel was so good

Don behaved like a pussy and licked his plate! We had a nice walk up through the Pinnestal valley and after a final pull up over the *Pinnisjoch Col* (2370m) came the welcome sight of the *Innsbrucker Hutte* and it was only 2.30pm – plenty of time for a few beers in the sun. The hut was a very pleasant surprise! For the girls, 4 bunks to a room with matching duvets, all very twee. The lads were in the



Lunch on Day 1 at Kar Alm. Photo Don Reilly (above). The lovely sight of Innsbrucker Hutte. Photo Adam Narbudowicz (right).

think it was necessary to wake him! Despite not having a breakfast (or just a small one) Mark rallied us on to the bus. However, the Spanish senioritas started off in true Scottish style and missed it. The gallant Warren spotted they were behind and jumped off to their aid. We regrouped at the main bus station and got another bus to the village of *Neder* where we started our 8 day trek. On the bus, Rosaleen Clark - a Cavan woman – shared her tip of drying herself with her sheet after her morning shower so her towel remained dry, much better than Lourdes idea of using toilet paper. Shortly after we started, Donal Finn zoomed ahead with a breakaway group – Donal had done part of this route 3 years previously and knew the territory well. Nurse Rosaleen treated my blisters at an early stage to Mark's horror that I was wearing new boots! It would only be a day or two before she was also treating



outhouse sharing a communal bunk, 5 up 5 down and that included 2 unfortunate others! Some climbed 30 mins to a lake for an icy swim. It was so cold that when Frank threw snowballs at the swimmers they didn't even melt - the snowballs that is! The rest of us paid €1 for a half a minute in the shower – at €4 for 2 minutes it was still worth it. At 6pm we had an excellent 4 course meal - soup, salad, main course and desert along with plenty of beer and wine - a similar standard of food throughout. We rounded off the evening with games of Ludo and Switch – which became the trademark card game of the holiday.



*Our chairman enjoys a beer (above).
Photo: Mel O'Hara. The Tribulaun
mountains from the Innsbrucker Hute.
Photo: AnneMarie Keoghan (below).*



Day 2 (Sunday 21 July)

The little group of Frank, AnneMarie, Donal and Rosaleen was formed as they left early each day. After yesterday's easy start, we had a long 8 hour walk today to *Bremner Hutte* with chains, scrambling and airy bits but amazing views and picnic spots. Anna and Eithne established themselves as the fasties and kept the title for the week. At one stage, Brian was heard boasting to Don that his was longer – poor Don – but I think Brian was referring to his poles (strange though as Brian's poles are often quite short?) Later there was a choice of route, we elected to take one which skirted a lake where again some brave souls had a dip. Don said it was his second coldest swim – the coldest being the previous evening. All brave souls then climbed a ladder – not a ladder as you know it but a series of steel footholds over huge high rocks – a bit more hairy than Wicklow and Nephin for sure! This saved us a long walk around the mountain and we arrived at *Bremer Hutte* (2413m) about 4.30 - earlier than Donal's group who had not taken the ladder! On arrival, most of us had the usual welcoming cold beer, Warren was so hungry he had an Appelstrudel and a chocolate nutty cake and Eithne led a group of girls in a yoga



The ladder. Photo: Don Reilly (above). Group at Bremer Hutte. Photo: Mel O'Hara (below).

workout, while being ogled by an audience of males at risk of neck injuries who were drinking on the balcony. Again the hut was gorgeous and this time, the lads got rooms inside also. The huts really were grade A standard with not a triple decker bunk in sight and rarely a communal bed.



Day 3 (Monday 22 July)

Today's hike was the best so far. It started with a climb of about 1-1.5 hours to *Simmingjoch*

(Col) 2764 m with great panoramic views and from where we could see our next destination -

Nurnberger Hutte. As it was only 2 hours away, most of us, apart from Frank, AnneMarie and Donal (sick stomach aka hangover?), diverted and conquered a nearby peak – *Aperer Feurstein* (Firestone) 2968m, which for most of us would be the highest peak of the trip.

Unfortunately shortly after we set off Brian lost his “soul” and didn't make it either. It was a great scramble to the top and a tricky route down over boulders and snowfields, sans backpack which most of us left at the col.

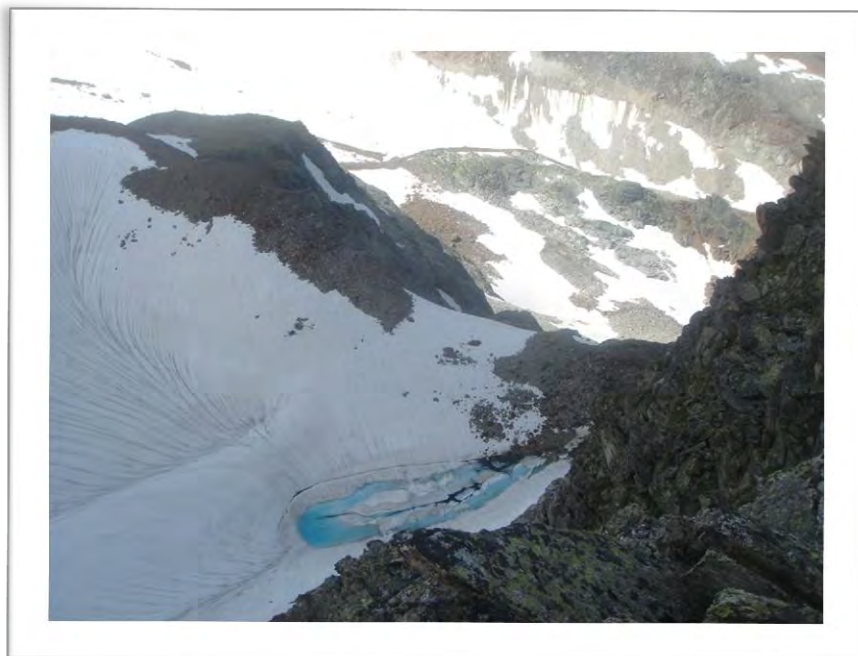


Starting out from Bremner Hutte to Simmingjoch (Col) Photo: Don Reilly (above). Glacial lakes and Aperer Feurstein (which we climbed). Photo: Warren Lawless (below).



The views of the glacial lakes were spectacular, the best views of the trip I think and it was nice to be slightly off the beaten track and have the peak to ourselves. We came down to a late lunch at 1.30 - 6 hours since breakfast! I had been humming “whe-e-re...oh whe-e-e is lunch?” We were also reunited with Brian, and Mark did reparation on Brian’s “soul”, which would deliver him safely to the heavenly *Nuremberger Hutte*. I chatted with Liz over lunch, asking how she now felt about the ladders/chains etc as I knew she had reservations

beforehand, and she replied that the scariest part of the holiday so far was seeing my used compeede on her bed that morning! *Nurnberger Hutte* was wonderful, cold beers on arrival , free showers (usually there was a charge) and one of the best meals of the holiday - dumpling soup, salad, beef stew, dumplings, potato gratin and a very “posh” chocolate mousse desert decorated with mint leaves etc. However for some reason the An Óige “committee table” were served much later than us and they didn’t get the scrumptious potato gratin – just the common or garden spud! The warden did a great line in repairing “souls” – so good Brian has been wearing the same boots back in Wicklow!



On top of Aperer Feurstein (2968m). Photo: Mel O'Hara (top). View from Aperer Feurstein. Photo: Carina Fitzgerald (bottom).

Day 4 (Tuesday 23 July)

Another gorgeous day which again started with a climb to *Nieder Col* which has a cross on top. After that there was a tricky exposed bit with chains etc. but we survived and it was then an easy descent to some spectacular lakes including *Grunau See*, an amazing turquoise lake, where most of us we rested awhile and took in the views. Acti-Mel however used the time to do an exercise routine which Don has recorded – rumour has it he will become the Jane Fonda of this era! We had an excellent lunch at *Sulzenau Hutte* (2196m) and relaxed for so long that someone decided to dry his cacks by the table! We had a few laughs when Mark explained what a John Thomas was to Lourdes who had not come across one despite celebrating 20 years living in Ireland. After lunch, there were a few splits in the camp. The well 'ards (aka suckers for punishment) - Mel, Warren, Adam, Eithne and Anna opted for a 4 hour hike via *Kliene Troegler* (2885m) and *Grosse Troegler* (2901m) to the next hut. I started off earlier than Mark's group and took a route up by the side of the waterfall near *Sulzenau Ferner* (glacier) while Mark's group went a slightly different route though both routes joined again at the rather eerie *Beljoch* (2676m). Our next hutte *Dresdner* (2308m) aka the Stubai Hilton – was enormous, with long queues for the salad bar and breakfast buffet. Tap water



Group at Neider Col. Photo: Adam Narbudowicz (above). Descending from Neider Col.. Photo: Don Reilly (below).



cost €1 per litre at dinner but they provided the best packed lunch with an apple juice drink and chocolate bar as well as the ubiquitous ham and cheese sandwich.



Grünau See turquoise lake. Photo: Liz Carey (above). Energetic leadership. Photo: Warren Lamless (right). Dresdner Hutte (aka Stubaier Hilton). Photo: Adam Narbudonicz (below).



Day 5 (Wednesday 24 July)

Today was going to be a long day – 8 hours at least to *Regensburger Hutte*. It started with a quick steep ascent, then across a snow field and on to an unpaved road which had a few trucks going up and down. I was at the back of the group. As the group left the unpaved road, Warren suggested I could stay on the road if I wanted as the group would rejoin the road further down after they climbed up to a lake. He showed me the meeting point on the map. Definitely not the sucker for punishment type, I thought why not and watched the others climb up as I ambled down to the meeting point. I got slightly worried when I could not see them descend and even more worried that I got the meeting point wrong. I walked further down only to see a huge rather ugly cable car

way to find me and we could take a bus to a village and do a 3 hours climb to the hut as it would be impossible to catch the others now.

The main group had a long day, they went through *Gravagrubennieder* (2888m) - the route's highest pass, had a long tricky crossing of a snowfield, Adam saw a snake and in the thunderstorm they used their raingear for the only time on the holiday. Meanwhile Warren and I had a lovely climb up through an alpine forest, had apple juice and chocolate cake at the cute alm – *Ochsenalpe* (1830m) and got lovely views of a nearby waterfall as we approached *Regensburger Hutte* (2300m). We got in just before the group and better still just before the thunderstorm. Apparently someone speculated that I was holding Warren's hand in the storm and Adam quipped – “with or without Warren!”



Warren consults his map ... what could possibly go wrong? Photo: Brian Murphy

station and then I really panicked. I knew this wasn't on the agenda as Mark always gave us a heads up if there was a place for coffee/lunch/drinks en route. I pulled out my phone to find 4 missed calls and a text from Warren saying “Urgent Please ring – I've sent you the wrong way!” I rang Mark and heard the nicest words ever “*Carina you are entirely blameless in all this....*”. He told me Warren was on his

the day – I think Warren still believes they were winding him up! WE don't have proof but they definitely met a real snake as Adam has photographic evidence. Later after a good meal and a round of Schnapps, Warren produced the lyrics of the Sound of Music for everyone and himself and Mark quickly got the singing going with “How do you solve a problem like Carina?” I assure you Mark it's way more difficult than honours maths - I'm still working

Later, all reunited having a few pre-dinner beers; there was a lot of slagging of Warren and his map-reading skills. Donal Finn was accepting no responsibility, claiming he was in America the year Warren did the Map & Compass course and poor Jimmy McCullagh, not there to defend himself was blamed. Mel and others talked about the Golden Eagle they spotted during

on it! A French group who had been shadowing us since Day 1 joined the sing song. We had a 1 for 1 sing off with them, and we won hands down mainly for our staying power. After they went to bed, Mel belted out yet more, Adam gave us a Polish folk song and Warrina belted out a few also. We were looked

after by a lovely girl who had studied at DCU, and she gave us a round of Schnapps on the house before curfew at 10 pm. I think it was the best night – maybe the best nights happen after a crisis – a good laugh, a great meal (Lourdes enquired if the chef was married), more alcohol than usual, and a great sing-song.



*All the girls at Regensburger Huette.
Photo: Liz Carey*

Day 6 (Thursday 25 July)

Mel was up at 6am as usual and out for his morning walk, the schnapps didn't stop him. Nor did it stop us - we had a steep climb of 400m to *Schrimmenneider Pass* (2,706m) where we relaxed for a while in the snow- it took some of the French a long time to reach this point! Don was suffering with some chaffing/nappy rash and one lady treated it with snow to cool it down - as 10CC would sing - "*the things we do for love*". Today was a shorter day, the signpost to *Franz Senn Hutte* said 2 hours from the col, however, it should have said 3 as it was a long tough descent over huge boulders which were hard on the feet. I read later the huge boulders were caused by an avalanche a few years previously. We reached *Franz Senn Hutte* (2145m) hut early and Warren quickly left to conquer nearby *Rinnenspitze* (3003m) - we only have his word that he did this but if so it was

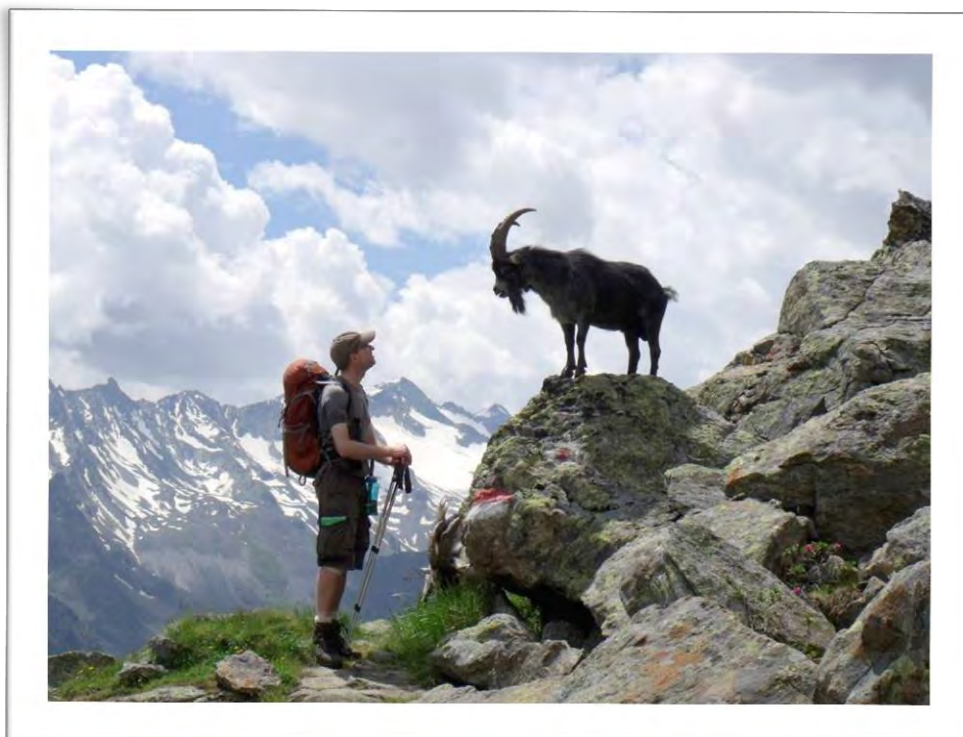
Leaving Regensburger Hutte heading for Franz Senn Hutte. Photo: Mel O'Hara

the only time that anyone in the group surpassed 3000m on this trip. A few others hiked up to the nearby *Rinnen See* (2646m) lake while most of us had a late lunch and a siesta. Later after dinner we played a few games of cards while the French group entertained us. They had sourced a guitar and were in singing mode again as it was their last night. We learned they had been in the Stubai 10 years previously and were on a reunion trip. We decided we would also revisit in 2023, at that stage Donal's group christened - *the 55s plus or minus 7.5* will then be *the 65s plus or minus 7.5*!

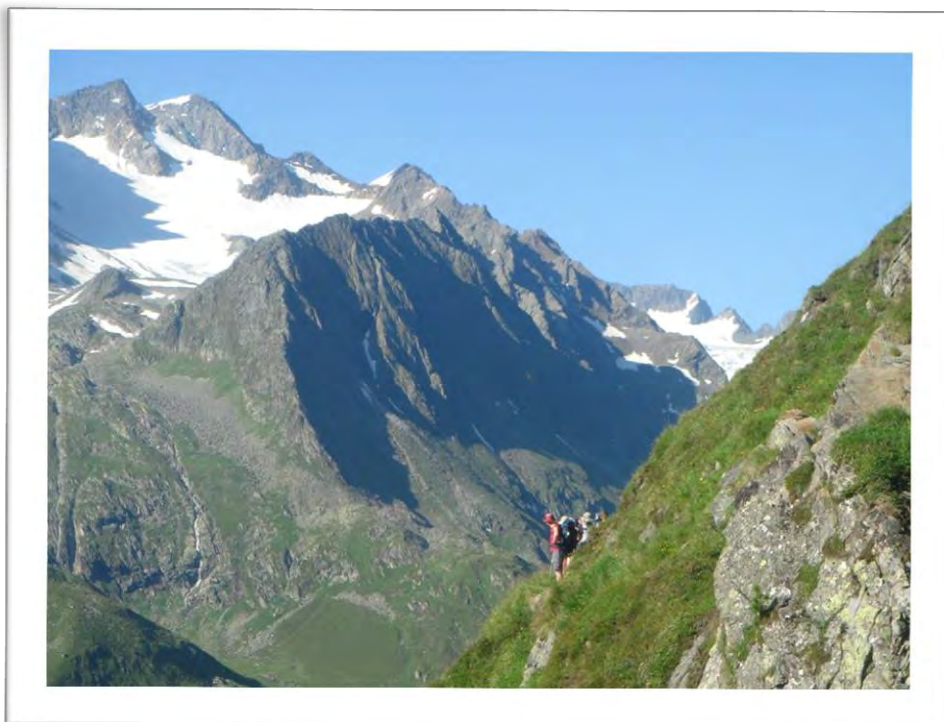


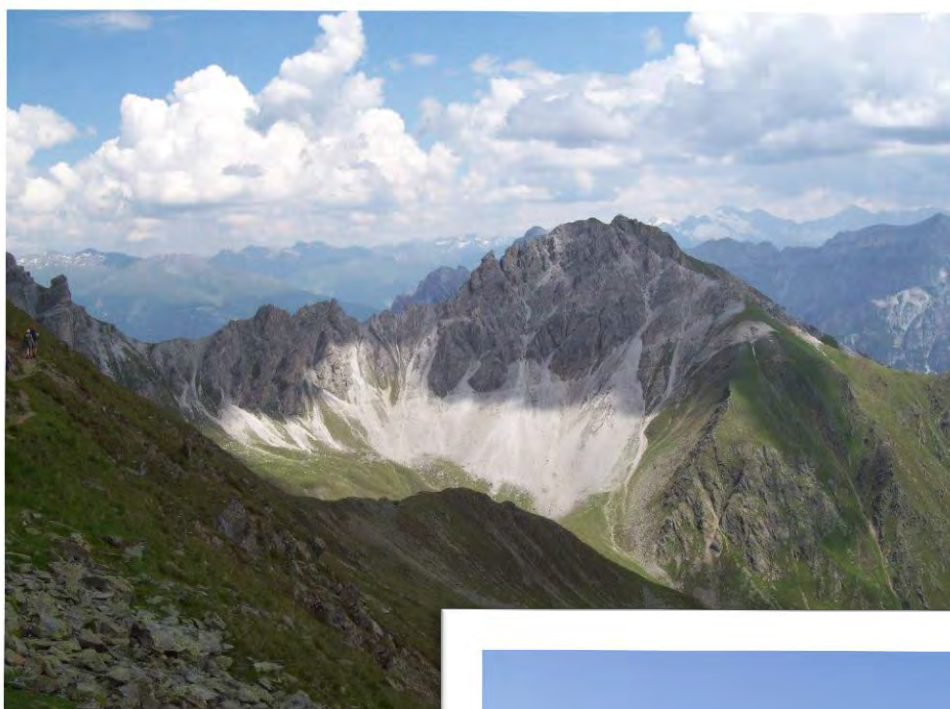
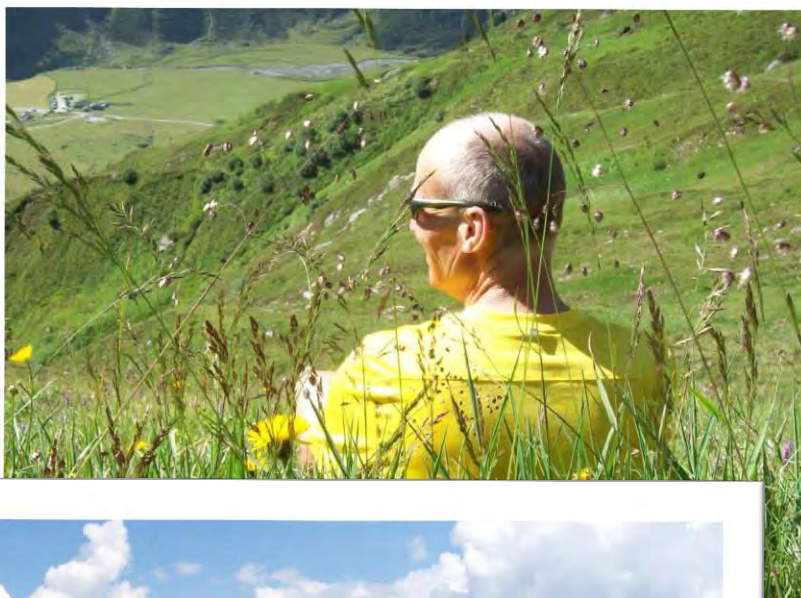
Day 7 (Friday 26 July)

Today was the most spectacular and the longest walk of our 8 days. It started with an easy climb to *Seduck Alm* (2249m), a basic little alm, run by 2 old guys one of whom was already stuck into the beer at 10.30am! Many of our group soon joined him or at least had a Radler – an Austrian shandy. Today was a paradise according to AnneMarie as the meadows of alpine flowers were even better. We didn't have any major ascents or descents but had a long walk with fantastic and different scenery from previous days with the Dolomite-like Kalkogel mountains coming into view. From our stop at 10.30, we could see our destination in the distance yet it took 4/5 spectacular hours to reach it. We were joined en route by 2 goats – christened Smelly and Stinky and though most of us managed to shake them off, Warren and Inez adopted them and they arrived at *Starkenburger Hutte* (2250m) for an overnight. This hut surprisingly didn't have showers but a wash in the long sinks for washing clothes sufficed. Afterwards we had an excellent meal and were all presented with a little glass boot with some pear schnapps inside. They give one to everyone who completes the Stubai circuit.



Warren and Smelly/ Stinky, companions for a day ... Photo: Mel O'Hara (top). View of our route ahead and the Kalkogel mountains. Photo: Carina Fitzgerald (bottom).

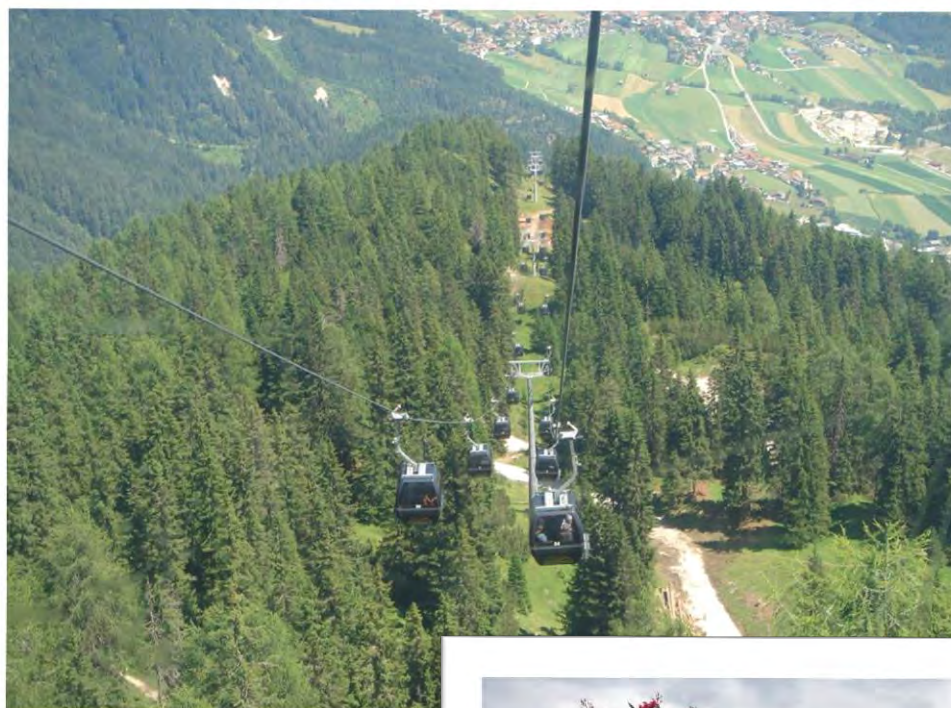




*Mello-Yello. Photo:
Adam Narbudowicz (top).
O'Hara (top). The
mountains. Photo:
Adam Narbudowicz
(centre). Group photo at
Starkenburger Hutte Photo:
Mel O'Hara (bottom).*

Day 8 (Saturday 27 July)

Our final day in the mountains – after a wonderful breakfast we emerged to see Smelly and Stinky still hanging around. Mel, Warren, Eithne, Anna, Adam, Lourdes and Mark in various small groups climbed some nearby peaks including *Hoher Burgstall* (2611m) before descending to the valley and a bus to *Innsbruck*. The rest of us did a lovely 2/3 hour walk to a cable car. Some descended on foot from there while others - myself, Don, Liz, Inez and Brian took the cable car to the village of



lovely Italian meal outdoors in the old town, while we viewed the many stag and hen parties that passed by, though it was nothing like Temple Bar I assure you. Afterwards we had a few

Don demonstrates his animal attraction. Photo: Carina Fitzgerald (top). Easy way down! Photo Carina Fitzgerald (centre). Downtown Innsbruck. Photo Don Reilly (bottom).

Fulpmes and found a tram there which took us all the way back to *Innsbruck*. It was nice to return to the same hostel, because clean clothes awaited us, so we put on our glad rags and hit the town. We had a



drinks in an outdoor bar and I sang “She’ll be coming round the Mountain” with a verse I’d composed for everyone in the group. After that we fancied some music and someone suggested an Irish bar. We rejected Limerick Bills and instead spent a few hours in the Galway Bay served by a young galwegian. The music and beers were mighty fine and before we left Mark lay on the counter and was photographed surrounded by his posse of drunken hikers! Overall it was a truly fantastic trip, tough and challenging at times but with spectacular

scenery, easy to navigate, well maintained paths, excellent accommodation, food, wine and beer. What made the trip was the wonderful group of people who are great fun, very helpful and easy to get along with. Huge thanks to Mark (with some assistance from Mel) who organised it all and led us all with patience and good humour throughout.

Text: Carina Fitzgerald

*Mark surrounded by his adoring fans.
Photo: Carina Fitzgerald*



Lambay Island

10 August 2013

I was delighted to discover that a new business "Skerries Sea Tours" have just recently started trips to Lambay. This is the largest island off Ireland's east coast - over 11k north of Howth and nearly 5k south-east of Rush and has long been on my "wish list".

So it was in early August, that 14 of us landed on Lambay on a beautiful summer's day. Reachrainn or Rechru was the original Irish name for the island which was changed to Lamb - ey (Lamb's Island) by Viking invaders. Indeed this 2.5 sq kilometres of rock, heather, grass and turf has had a chequered career with Neolithic Man, Roman visitors, Columban Monks, pirates and the afore-mentioned Danish visitors gracing its shores over the years!

As a designated nature conservation area it's also one of the most important colonies in Europe for nesting seabirds and, believe it or not, home to 30 wallabies - a gift from Dublin Zoo in the 1980's. Unfortunately, they must

have been on a siesta during our visit!

After arriving in two groups of 7, and seeing the Whitehouse residence built in 1933, we set off for a ramble up Cnoc Bán (126m) and beyond to the far west point of the island. There we had wonderful views of Rockabill, the Mournes and Cooleys to the north and Howth, Wicklow Mountains and beyond to the south.

We stopped for a break above Tayleur Bay, where in 1854 the emigrant ship "Tayleur" bound for Melbourne from Liverpool struck rock and almost 400 lives were lost.

Soon it was time to retrace our steps back towards the harbour to have a closer look at the 16th century castle, restored in 1910 by Sir Cecil Baring (later Lord Revelstoke) and his family. We also had the chance to see the wonderful walled garden - home to fruit trees, chickens and herbaceous plants.

Before departure, we visited the small family chapel and graveyard nearby and had a closer look at the imposing high walls that surround Lambay Castle.

*View from far east end of Lambay (top).
View from Cnoc Bán (bottom)*



Thanks are due to our guides Eóin and his father Gerry who provided us with a memorable and very informative day, not forgetting our Club Social Organiser Liz who co-ordinated arrangements and liaised with Skerries Sea Tours.

I highly recommend a visit if you get a chance, and if you do, maybe *you'll* get to see the shy wallabies!

Text and photos: Don Reilly



*The (other) Whitehouse, designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens (above).
Leaving Lambay (below).*





October Bank Holiday weekend away **Tralee and the Dingle Peninsula** **Friday 25 October - Monday 28 October 2013**

Leaders: Frank Rooney and Brian Flynn

There will be two organised walks each day, *aimed to suit members of the Hillwalkers and fit hard-moderate walkers.*

A range of walks are planned on the Dingle peninsula
The relevant maps are OSI Discovery series 70 and 71.

Hotel accommodation:

Tralee Central Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Cost: €225, payable in full at the time of booking, which includes twin-share hotel accommodation, meals and bus transport

Bookings are now open for existing Hillwalker members
Bookings will open for other An Óige members on 19 September

Two payment methods are available:

- Cheque payable to 'Hillwalkers Club', posted to Mel O'Hara, Ardmore Rd, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
- Electronic transfer to Hillwalker account at Bank of Ireland
 - *If paying in person at bank counter, please take note of the number of the lodgement docket and forward this number to Mel in a confirmatory email.*
 - *If paying electronically, you **must** include your full name and 'October' at the time of electronic transfer. Please send a confirmatory email to Mel O'Hara (melohara@eircom.net).*

Bookings are not secure until payment in full has been made.
Payment queries to Mel O'Hara (melohara@eircom.net)

Meals: Breakfasts (Saturday, Sunday, Monday), lunches (Saturday, Sunday and Monday) and dinners (Saturday and Sunday) are included in the price

Bring: Suitable walking boots, rain gear, walking gear, warm clothing, towels, toilet gear, flask, torch, first aid kit, camera, binoculars etc

Meeting place/time: Luke St (off George's Quay) at 1545h on Friday 25 October
Return: Arriving back into Dublin at approximately 2000h on Monday 28 October



The Hillwalkers Club
2013-2014

Membership Application Form

Name (*Applicants must be over 18*)

Address

Were you a member before? ☐ Yes, last year ☐ Yes, some time ago ☐ No

New members: How did you hear about the club?

An Óige Membership Number (*Applicants must be a member of An Óige*)

[Further information at <http://www.anoige.ie/membership>]

Contact Telephone Numbers

(If possible, please give a mobile number, which may be used for notification of programme changes)

Mobile Evening Daytime

Email Address (*required*)

The club issues a regular newsletter by email. The newsletter is also available through the Club webpage [www.hillwalkersclub.com].

Please read and sign the following PERSONAL DECLARATION

PERSONAL DECLARATION

I am over 18 years of age and wish to apply for membership of the Hillwalkers Club. (*)

(*) Please note that personal accident insurance is only available to members between 18 and 75 years of age.

I accept that mountaineering is an activity with a danger of personal injury or even 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 accept that the Hillwalkers Club establishes the bounds on its activities through the constitution and rules of the club [available at www.hillwalkersclub.com/constitution.htm] and I agree to abide by these.

Members should not undertake any club hiking activities if:

- (i) they have any known medical ailment which may impair their ability to participate in club activities, or,
- (ii) they are taking any form of medication that will put their health or safety of others at risk.

If a member is in any doubt on these matters, a doctor should be consulted prior to undertaking any club hiking activity.

If you agree and accept the terms of the PERSONAL DECLARATION, please sign and date here.

Signature Date

The 2013-2014 membership year runs from 01 October 2013 to 30 September 2014.

2012/2013 Membership Fee €35.00

Please send this form with the membership application fee (cheque or postal order only, payable to the Hillwalkers Club) to **Don Reilly, Dunany, Santry, Dublin 9**. Please allow two weeks for processing of the membership application.

NB: PLEASE DO NOT SEND YOUR APPLICATION BY REGISTERED POST!