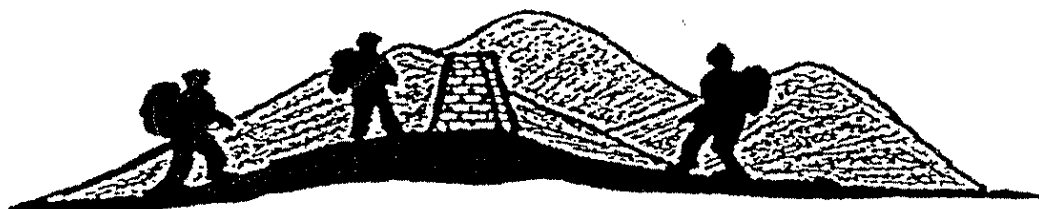


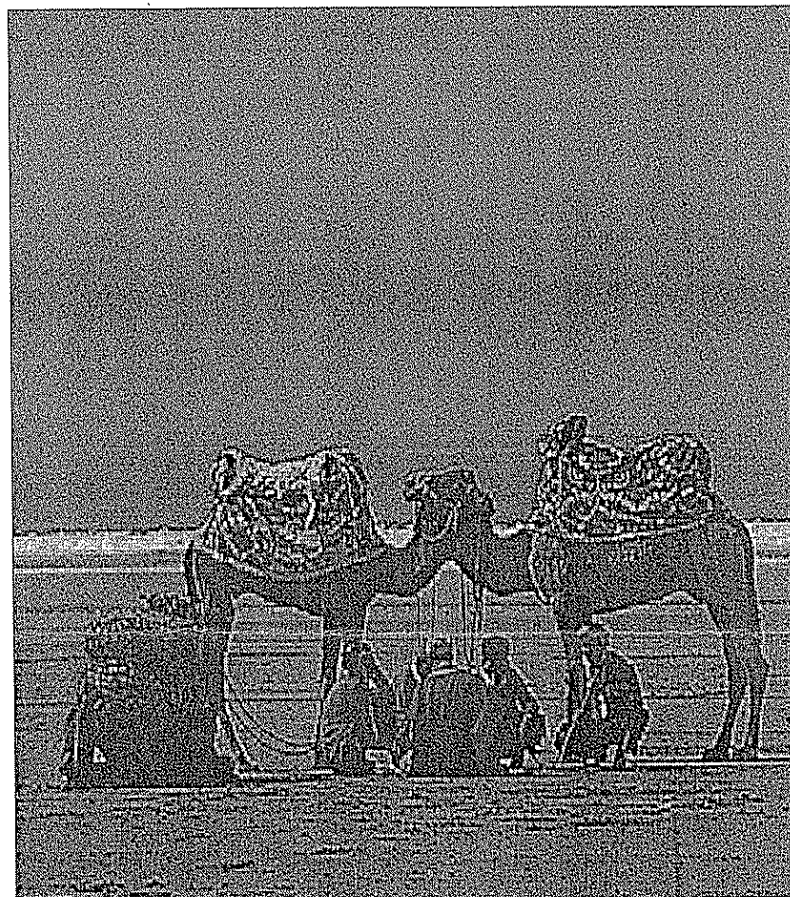
Hillwalker

November 1999



The magazine of the An Óige Hillwalkers Club

# The Hillwalker



*Agadir Beach, Morocco*

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# Sunday Hikes November

**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.



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
November 7	Camaderry – Turlough Hill – Lough Firrib – Lugduffs – The Spink – Upper Car park.	Philip Hayden
November 14	Laragh – Paddock Hill – Scarr – Kanturk – Inchavore River – Knocknacloghoge – Luggala – Cloghoge River – Pier Gates.	Joe Gilvarry
November 21	Sally Gap – Carrigvore – Gravale – Duff Hill – Mullagh-cleevaun – Barnacullian – Tonelagee – Lough Ouler – Glenmacnass.	Deirdre Corrigan
November 26-28	Annual Christmas Party Weekend to Glendalough Y.H.	
December 5	Glenasmole Reservoir – Castlekelly – Kippure – Seefingan – Corrig – Seahan – Ballymorefinn – Slievenabawnoge – Stone Cross.	Proinsias Mac An Bheatha

## 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 start of the hike.

### 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.

# The Young Hillwalkers Club

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## SATURDAY HIKE FOR NOVEMBER

Date: Saturday 13 November 1999.  
Route: Circuit of Howth.

For further information contact Dave Rooney at 01-8344811 (evenings).

For further information about our monthly hike, weekends away or about the club in general, contact  
An Óige Head Office at 01-8304555.

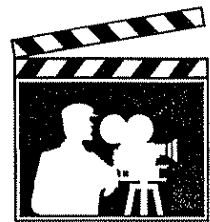


## The Club Slides

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Slide Show: The Beauty of Morocco.  
Presented by: Prionnsias Mac An Bheatha.  
Date: 16 November, 1999.  
Venue: The Palace Bar, Fleet Street.  
Time: 8.30PM.

Admission is free. Parking in Fleet St. Car Park.



## The Hillwalkers Christmas Party Weekend Away

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Date: 27 - 29 November 1998, staying in Glendalough YH.  
Cost: £50.00. This covers transport, two overnights, a cheese and wine reception on Friday evening, and dinner on Saturday evening.  
Bring: Two breakfasts and two lunches, hiking gear for both days, change of clothes, invitation card and An Óige Card, and musical instruments.

The winner of the best travel article and best cover photo will be announced on Saturday evening.

There will be a harder and easier hike on Saturday and one hike on Sunday, in the area. On Saturday evening after dinner there will be a sing-song so we ask you to bring along your musical instruments and singing voices. There will also be a slide show and ceilí.

Payment is non-refundable and to be paid in full by Wednesday 17 November. Cheques and postal orders only and made payable to *The Hillwalkers Club* and sent to Maggie Greaney at the address on the back of the magazine. Money will not be collected by any other club member or collected on hikes. Cash payments will not be accepted. Your invitation card will be sent by return and admittance will be by this card only. The card will be collected on the bus by a committee member.

Volunteers are needed for washing-up, setting tables etc. Please contact either Martin Fagan or Maggie Greaney with your name and telephone number.

## An Óige Christmas Party

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Hollybrook Hotel, Clontarf on Saturday 4 December 1999, between 8.00PM and 1.00PM.  
Tickets £18.00 – now available from the An Óige Head Office. Tel. 01-8304555 or the following sellers:  
Martin Fagan – tel. 01-8553653, Deirdre Wilson – tel. 01-8328485, Marie McDonnell – tel. 01-8377411.

## *A trek in the Atlas Mountains.*

Morocco has lost some of its exotic allure since the package holidays have started going there. But a cheap package flight (£220) helped us get there. We flew to Agadir with the sun seekers and on arrival we were the only three of the group looking for a taxi (200 dirhams)\*. The other people on the flight were brought by coach to their hotels. We had phoned the hotel Sindabad to expect us at around 2am, and after a nights sleep we caught the bus (80 dirhams) to Marrakech. After a 5 hour journey through desert, we arrived at Marrakech, caught a local taxi (20 dirhams) to the regional taxi rank, where a taxi would bring us to Imlil (150 dirhams) and the starting point of our walk.

We intended to walk for four days and to climb Toubkal (4167m), the highest mountain in the Atlas range. We had our own food supplies with us and intended doing the trip as cheaply as possible, by only hiring a guide and two porters. But that was before we met Lahsan, a local guide who convinced us that we should hire him along with his mules, and that he would organise all the cooking and accommodation for us for 350 dirhams per person per day. As he included meals and overnights in his own house for us before and after the trek, we accepted his services.

The Atlas mountains are very similar to certain areas in Nepal. The villages cling to steep slopes, and the mountains rise dramatically into the sky. The women are very colourfully dressed .

So, two days after leaving Ireland we were setting off through terraced fields heading towards our first pass. The shade from the walnut trees was welcome, but soon we were walking through low juniper trees. The landscape is being continuously eroded by the herds of goats that are brought up from the villages every day to forage for food. In 1995 many people were drowned and buildings washed away when a torrential flood swept through the village of Imlil. We camped beside a stream on our first night. Our original plan would have entailed descending to the village of Oussem for the night and climbing all the way back up the next day.

On day two of our trek we climbed for 5 hours to Lepiney/Tazegart refuge (3050m). On the way we passed a massive waterfall, and then had to climb through a narrow gorge. From Lepiney refuge that night we could see the lights of Marrakech nearly 70 km away.

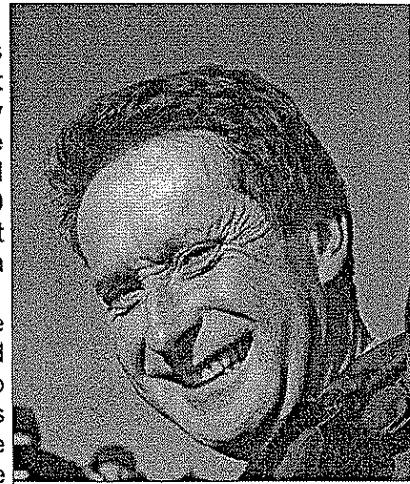
Day three took us over Tisi Tadat pass (3700m) and down to Toubkal refuge. It took six hours and the descent was very steep, and involved sliding through very loose scree. Toubkal refuge was very crowded and everyone slept in the one room, on large communal cots on either side of the room.

We arose at 5.30am, and after breakfast we set off to climb Toubkal. The altitude now became a problem as we gasped for oxygen in the thin air. The evening before we had met a Dutch guy with a bad headache after having climbed Toubkal that day. We walked through some snow and lots of rock to reach the top, and then returned through a long valley to the village of Imlil. We had been climbing and walking for 11 hours and we were exhausted. Our guide served us with cous-cous and lots of mint tea, and we slept soundly that night.

Next day it was back to Marrakech, through the gorge that we had driven through on our inward journey. This time we were on the outer side of the road, and our taxi driver was drinking water and smoking and not paying the slightest heed to the road. Near Imlil we had seen the remains of cars and trucks that had tumbled over the edge, and we were afraid we were going to be the next statistics.

In Marrakech we did some shopping in the Souks. You have to offer them a very low price for an item and only pay them 50% or 60% of there asking price. Most of the goods are useless rubbish, but I bought some tee-shirts and leather belts. In the main square at night there was a fantastic atmosphere, with food stalls, musicians, and snake charmers. But because we were obviously tourists they immediately came looking for money from us.

We returned to Agadir and had a swim in the sea before returning home. I was able to get by on \$40 a day as well as flights and insurance. The whole week cost me around £500.



*Proinsias Mac and Bheatha*

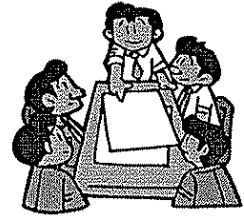
*Proinsias Mac an Bheatha.*

\*10 dirhams = \$1

# The Committee

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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)
Distribution:	Cyril McFeeney & Pearse Foley



## Membership

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Annual membership fee of £15 includes the monthly club programme, insurance and a copy of the Irish Mountain Log which is published four times a year. Fees should be sent to the membership secretary at the following address:  
Mr. Ger Walsh, 15 Summerfield Avenue, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

## New Year on Lug

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The Hillwalkers Club plan to ring in the Millennium with style. They will be doing so on the summit of Lugnaquilla. Transport is by bus from Custom House Quay on New Year's Eve at 4.00pm. People will have an opportunity to rest for a few hours before hiking up Lug for midnight. Afterwards there will be a buffet and sing-song in Ballinclea YH.

Cost: £20. This will cover transport, buffet (food only – beverages not included) and a light breakfast/lunch on New Years Day.  
Organiser: Martin Fagan.

## A Note from the Editor

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During 1999 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 1999 Christmas Party so please put pen to paper and send your 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 500 words. A stamped and addressed envelope should accompany any photographs or articles to ensure their return.



**Articles for inclusion in the December newsletter should be sent before Friday 12 November to:  
Maggie Greaney, 68 Newtownpark Avenue, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.**

*The Hillwalker is for circulation to club members only.*