



Hillwalkers Club

**May - June 2015**

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

# THE HILLWALKER



*Loch Voil, Balquhidder, Scotland. Photo – José Luis Calle Miquel*

## **In this edition**

Hike programme: May - June 2015	2
<i>The pick-up points</i>	3
Club news and events	7
<i>Environmental news</i>	9
Trip report - Wales St Patrick's Weekend	12
<i>Trip report - Kerry Easter</i>	16
Trip report - Scotland Easter	20
<i>2014/15 membership application form</i>	29

## HIKE PROGRAMME

### May 2015 – June 2015

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**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*)

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**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.*

*If you wish to avail of the 2<sup>nd</sup> pick-up point, it advisable to contact the hike leader or someone else who will definitely be on the hike, to let them know.*

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## 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.

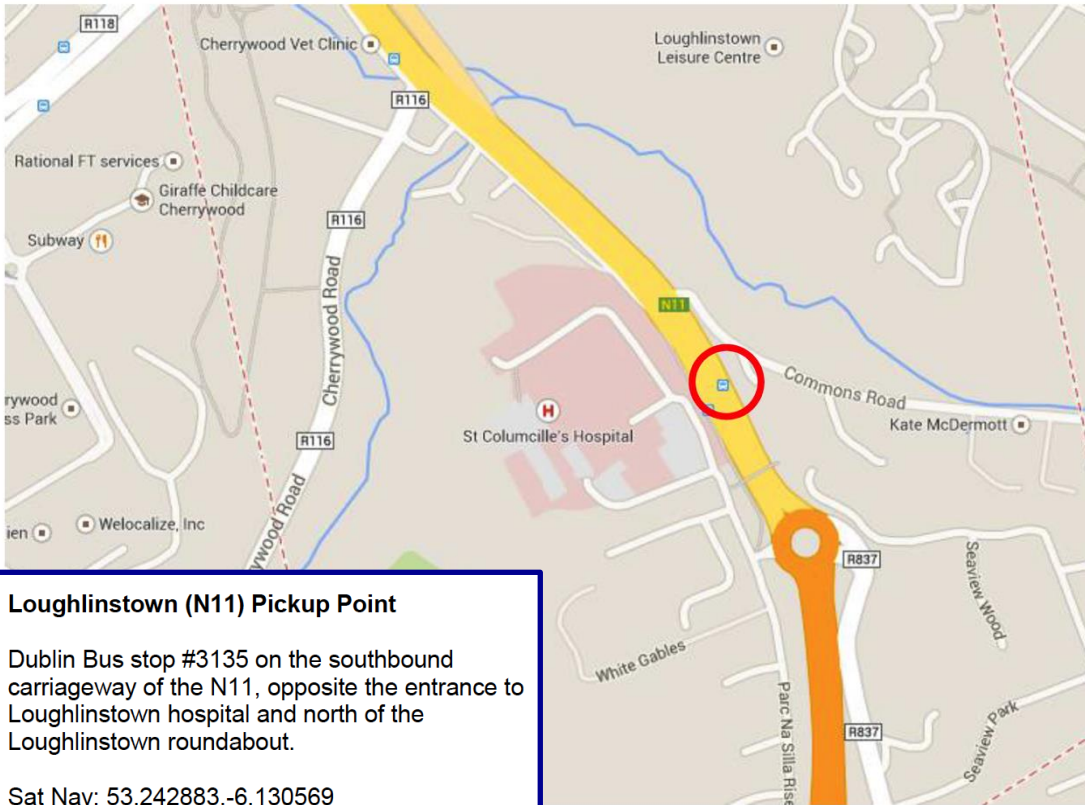
**CO-ORDINATION** If necessary, tickets are given out on Sundays to ensure that participants reserve a bus place as they arrive.

**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.

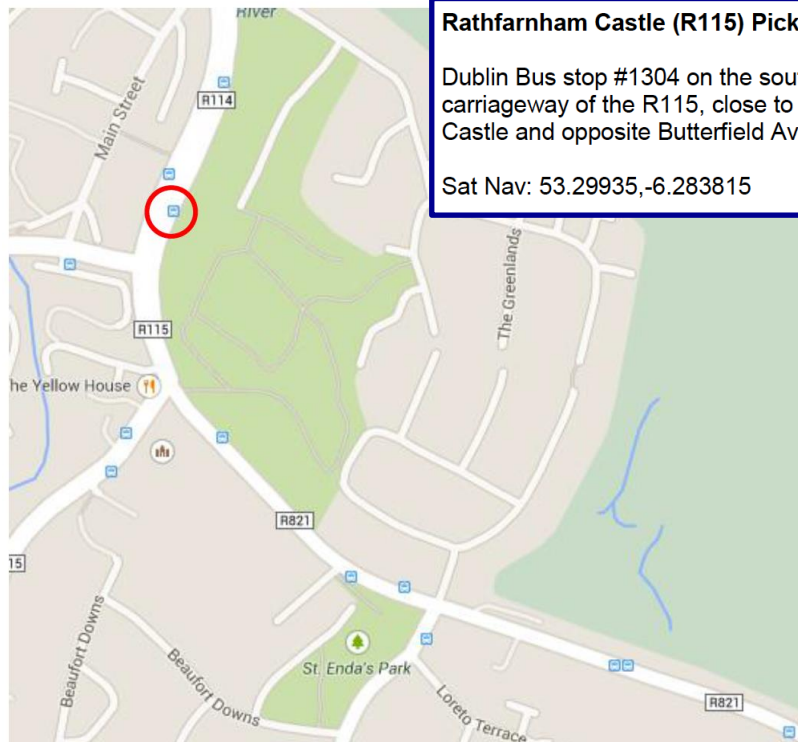
# The pick-up points



## Loughlinstown (N11) Pickup Point

Dublin Bus stop #3135 on the southbound carriageway of the N11, opposite the entrance to Loughlinstown hospital and north of the Loughlinstown roundabout.

Sat Nav: 53.242883,-6.130569



## Rathfarnham Castle (R115) Pickup Point

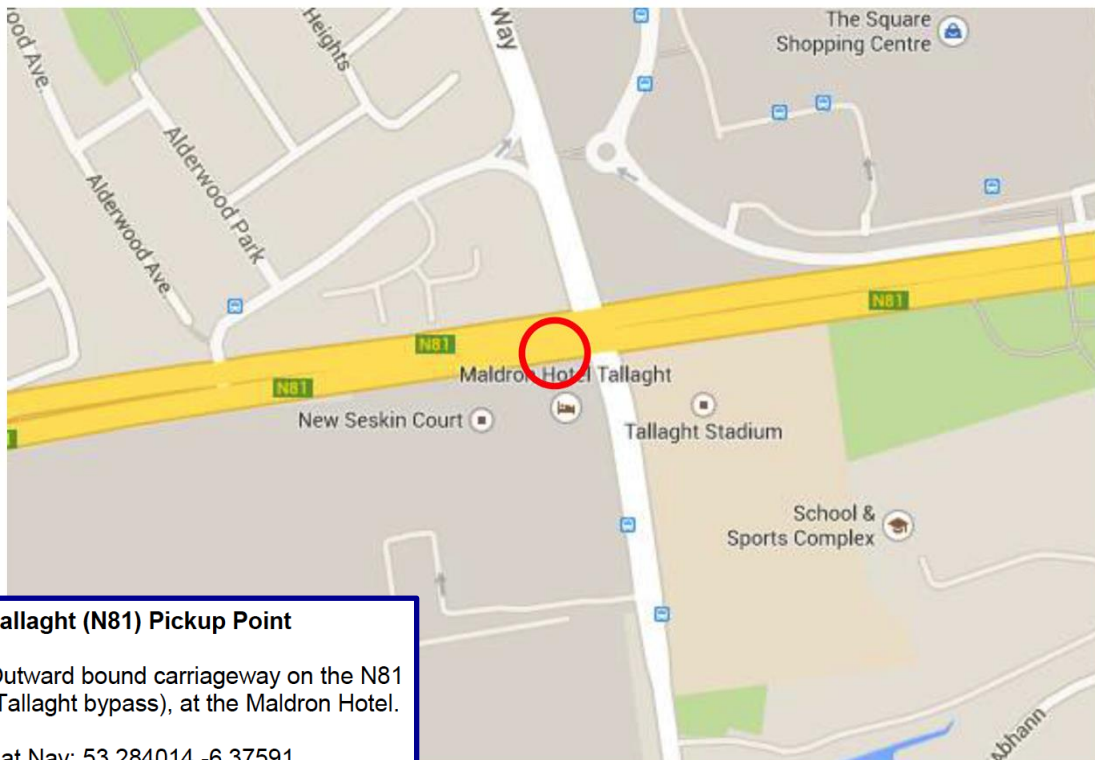
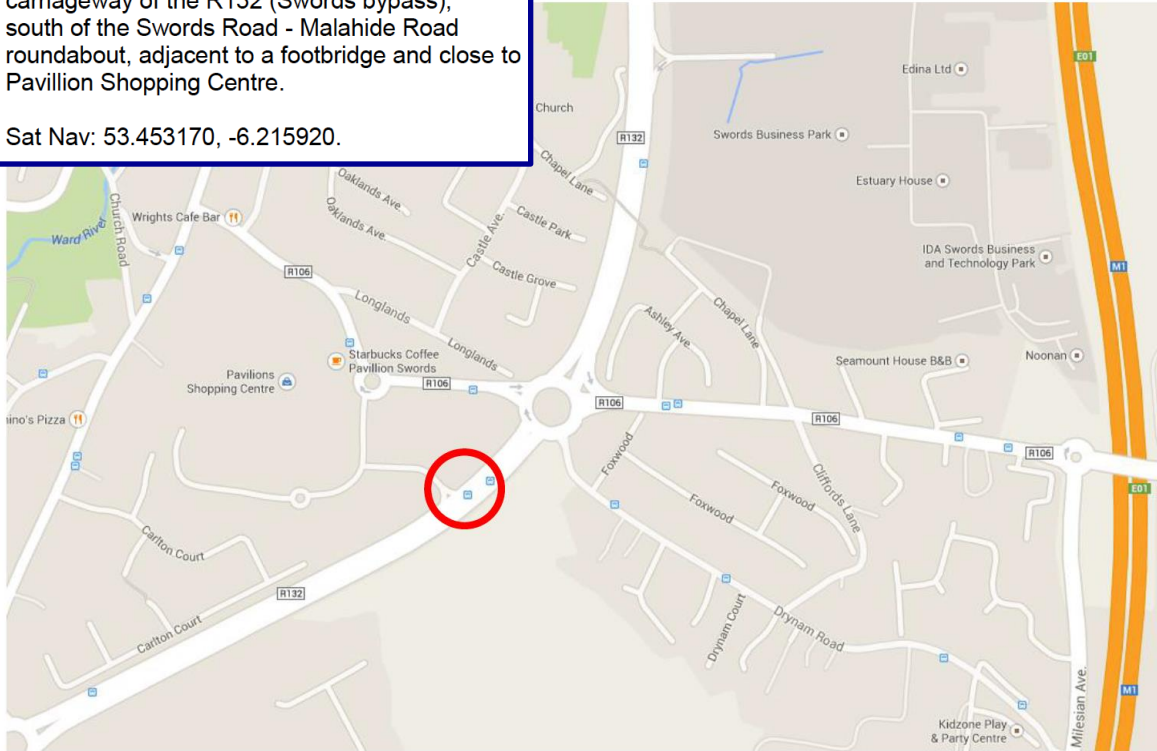
Dublin Bus stop #1304 on the southbound carriageway of the R115, close to Rathfarnham Castle and opposite Butterfield Ave.

Sat Nav: 53.29935,-6.28315

**Swords (R132) Pickup Point**

Dublin Bus stop #5074 on the northbound carriageway of the R132 (Swords bypass), south of the Swords Road - Malahide Road roundabout, adjacent to a footbridge and close to Pavillion Shopping Centre.

Sat Nav: 53.453170, -6.215920.



**Tallaght (N81) Pickup Point**

Outward bound carriageway on the N81 (Tallaght bypass), at the Maldron Hotel.

Sat Nav: 53.284014, -6.37591

## ★★ Introductory hard hike ★★

The Hillwalkers Club offers an Introductory Hike, usually on one Sunday per month. Guests are welcome to join us on this hike, as long as they provide their name, address and contact details for our records, which will be taken on the day of the hike. Unless guests have their own personal hiking insurance, they are not insured. There is no need to book a place in advance, just turn up on the relevant Sunday morning. Guests can come on one hike without becoming a member of the club, but after that they must join the club.

Even though the name of these hikes is 'Introductory Hike', they should not be considered to be an introduction to hiking, but rather as an introduction to the Hillwalkers Club and its hillwalking activities. Therefore, participants need to have a good level of personal fitness and, ideally, have some prior experience of hillwalking.

All intending participants should be aware that hillwalking and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or even death. By walking with the club, they are aware of and shall accept these risks. Moreover, they acknowledge that they wish to participate in club activities in a voluntary capacity and that they shall be responsible for their own actions and involvement. Please note that as guests of the club, they do not enjoy personal accident insurance, which is otherwise offered to club members through Mountaineering Ireland. Further details are available from Mountaineering Ireland ([www.mountaineering.ie/membersandclubs/Insurance/default.aspx](http://www.mountaineering.ie/membersandclubs/Insurance/default.aspx))

*For further enquiries contact 086 356 3843*

For Sunday hike leaders, the contact people for Mullally's Coaches are:

- Austin O'Hagan, 086 466 4680
- James Mullally, 086 383 7495
- Micheál Martin, 085 102 2204

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**Leader:** Rúaidhrí O'Connor

**2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:** Maldron Hotel, Tallaght

**Route:** Snugborough Bridge \* Sugar Loaf-Lobawn\* Corriebracks \* Church Mountain - Drumreagh \* St Kevin's Way \* Hollywood Village (Hollywood Inn)

**Distance:** 18 km **Ascent:** 700 m

**Map:** OS 56, East West Mapping

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**Leader:** José Luis Calle Miguel,  
087 640 4861

**2nd pick-up point:** Bus stop before the roundabout at Loughlinstown

**Different return**

**Route:** Glenmalure Lodge Car Park \* Forest track to Kelly's Lough \* Carrawaystick Mountain \* Corrigasleggaun \* Lugnaquilla \* Camarahill \* Fenton's Pub

**Distance:** 17 km **Ascent:** 900 m

**Maps:** OS 56, East West Mapping

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**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2015 JB Malone walk**

**Leader:** Tom Kenny

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

**Route:** Pier Gates \* Djouce \* Maulin \* Crone Wood \* Knockree Youth Hostel

**Distance:** 15 km **Ascent:** 540 m

**Maps:** OS 56, Harvey, East West Mapping

**For Birdwatching option see page 10**

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**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2015**

No Sunday Hike  
Weekend away in Donegal

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**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Leader:** Eugene Dudley

**2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:**  
Rathfarnham Castle (R115)

**Route:** Cruagh \* Glendoo \* Knocknagun \* Prince Williams Seat \* Boranaraltry Bridge \* Two Rock/Fairy Castle \* Three Rock \* Ticknock

**Distance:** 18 km **Ascent:** 720 m

**Maps:** OS 50 & 56, East West Mapping

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**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

**Leader:** Rosaleen Clarke

**2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:**

Swords (R132) Pickup Point  
Dublin Bus Stop #5074 on the northbound carriageway of the R132 (Swords Bypass), south of the Swords Road – Malahide Road roundabout, adjacent to a footbridge close to the Pavilion Shopping Centre.

Drop off point is bus stop opposite on southbound carriageway

**Route:** Carlingford Village \* The Eagles Rock \* The Split Rock \* The Foxes Rock \* The Windy Gap \* The Castle \* The Round Mountain \* Lumpers Pub

**Distance:** 18 km **Ascent:** 600 m

**Maps:** OS 36

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## Club news and events

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### Birdwatching Event and June Bank Holiday trip to Donegal

Environmental Officer Russell Mills and Michael Quinn have organised a field day in conjunction with Birdwatch Ireland on May 24th see page 10

Frank Rooney and Jim Barry have organised a trip away to Donegal over the June Bank Holiday weekend. For trip details see Page 11

### ONLINE MEMBERSHIP FACILITY

Membership can now be taken out and renewed on the club website see

<http://www.hillwalkersclub.com/membership-application-form.php>

### Payments by members into Club Accounts

The club has introduced a method for booking and making payments for events and trips directly into club accounts via the club website see

<http://www.hillwalkersclub.com/event-listings.php>

Payments may also be made directly into club accounts either over the internet or at bank counters as before.

**It is extremely important that members use their names as the reference when making internet payments into club accounts.**

It is **very** difficult to identify and credit your payments otherwise.

**If paying at bank counter, please note number of lodgement docket and text or e-mail this number to Lourdes or the event organiser to ensure your transfer is correctly identified**

## Club news and events continued

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### Club membership

A current Hillwalkers Club membership card is a requirement for participation in the Sunday hikes.

### *NO CARD – NO HIKE*

Membership cards will be checked before boarding the bus

*Guests may sample only one hike before taking out membership*

*Membership forms will be available for lapsed members as they cannot hike with the club without renewing their membership*

Members authorised to check membership cards include Garry Byrne, Bill Fine, Tom Hennessy, AnneMarie Keoghan, Søren Mandrup, Don Reilly and all members of the current committee

Club membership for 2014/15 has been open since October 2014.  
*A membership form is included on final page of this Newsletter.*

Membership can now also be taken out and renewed on the club website see

<http://www.hillwalkersclub.com/membership-application-form.php>

## WANTED

Good photos for inclusion on Hillwalkers Club Facebook Page  
and / or in Newsletter

Please send photos to Eugene  
[dudleye@hotmail.com](mailto:dudleye@hotmail.com)

or Mel  
[melohara@eircom.net](mailto:melohara@eircom.net)



## Environmental notes

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Hello Hillwalkers,

On Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup> we have organised a bird watching workshop with Niall Keogh of Birdwatch Ireland. Niall is an extremely knowledgeable and approachable guy, with a good deal of handy tips on watching the bird life of the Irish uplands. Full details of this unique day can be found on the following page. This is a first for the Hillwalkers, so please support it if you can. Special thanks are due to Michael Quinn for setting this in motion.

April was a surprisingly dry month, and many of you would have seen at first hand the damage done to the upland environment by the recent burning. Large fires have been raging over the Wicklow Mountains, with severe damage to Paddock Hill and adjacent to the Coronation Plantation just two of the badly affected areas. Hopefully the recent rain will have put paid to this for another year, and with the ground nesting birds about to start laying eggs, it is not a moment too soon.



This Great Spotted Woodpecker was photographed by P. Kavanagh in Kilkenny

I recently attended a Wicklow Uplands Wildlife Day, hosted by Birdwatch Ireland and including speakers from the Wicklow Uplands Council, the National Parks & Wildlife Service and Mountaineering Ireland. There was lots of information on the day and I have some leaflets on the biodiversity of Wicklow, and on the mountains and woodlands of the area too. If you would like a copy of any of these, please let me know.

As the weather improves and we take to the hills in larger numbers it is plain to see the damage done by many trampling feet to the upland trails over the winter season. Despite the recent dry spell many paths are badly eroded with the vegetation gone and with large areas of black trampled mud remaining. To avoid the erosion spreading, and the paths widening, it's important that we try to avoid further damage by walking in the middle of the existing paths, (yes, you will need gaiters); or by placing our feet on the more durable rocks where possible. This will help the surrounding vegetation to recover, though it will probably also increase your laundry bill.

We all love hiking in the hills, and just by being there, particularly in large groups, we are going to have an impact on the mountain environment. It is possible to reduce this impact by, for example, trying to keep to the paths during the nesting season, ensuring our dogs are on leads at all times, and by picking up litter dropped by others as we go.

Later this year we hope to organise a club day with Mountain Meitheal, who do a great job repairing paths in the hills. In this way we can give a little back to the mountains that give us so much pleasure.

See you out on the hills.

*Russ Mills, Club environmental officer*

# Hillwalkers Birdwatch Ireland Field Trip – with Niall Keogh

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

- Bus pick up Burgh Quay at 10.00am with normal Sunday hikers.
- Please note that an additional advance booking fee of €5.00 applies to members wishing to participate in the Field Trip( **total cost €17.00**)
- A one hour introduction to the bird life of the Wicklow hills and what we might see on the day, including slide show, at the Glenview Hotel - with Niall Keogh of Birdwatch Ireland.
- Transfer by bus to Crone Wood where Niall will take us through the deciduous and coniferous woodlands and on to Maulin, observing and learning about the different birds as we go.
- Hike down to Knockree Hostel for light refreshments and return bus to Dublin.
- What to bring:  
Normal kit for a day's hiking including lunch and drink.  
Binoculars if you have them, though there will be a few spares on the day.

## Only €5

To book your place you must register and pay online by following the link below:

<http://www.hillwalkersclub.com/event-listings.php>

For more information contact Russ Mills on 086 4466997 or email: russ.mills@hotmail.co.uk

# Hillwalkers Club

June Weekend 2015

Friday 29th May - Monday 1st June 2015

## Hillwalking in the Spectacular & Scenic South West Donegal

**Staying at the Central Hotel Donegal Town**

### Moderate/Hard lead Walks

**Leader: Frank Rooney**

**PLEASE NOTE BUS ONLY TRIP**

#### Proposed Weekend Itinerary Locations

<b><u>Bluestacks Mountains:</u></b>	Croaghgorm (G.R. G 948 895) Lavagh More (G.R. G 935 910)
<b><u>Slieve Toohey:</u></b>	(G.R. G 628 899)
<b><u>Port Hill:</u></b>	(G.R. G 561 897) Coastal Walk to Glencolumbkille (G.R. G 530 847)
<b><u>Truskmore Mountain:</u></b>	(G.R. G 759 472) Co. Sligo
<b><u>Tievebaun Mountain:</u></b>	(G.R. G 768 499) Co. Leitrim From Glencar Lake (G.R. G 756 436) Co. Sligo
<b>Recommended Map(s):</b>	OS Discovery Series Nos 10,11,16, (1:50,000) (optional)

**Cost: €265.00 (Includes Bednights, Meals, and Bus Transport) (Packed Lunch not included)**

**Booking & Payment:** Please select from 1 of the following 3 options:

- CHEQUE OR POSTAL ORDER ONLY (NO CASH)** made out to the 'Hillwalkers Club' for €265.00 to Mr Jim Barry, 156 Comeragh Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12. Please include name, postal address, phone no. and email address.
- By internet or bank transfer into club account after contacting Jim Barry, [barryja@eircom.net](mailto:barryja@eircom.net) or Ph. 0872737338 for Hillwalkers Club Bank Account details.

Please ensure you use your name as the reference if making an internet payment. If paying at bank counter, please **note number of lodgement docket** and **text or e-mail this number to Jim** to ensure your transfer is correctly identified. Please advise **Jim Barry** when you have made the payment. **Participants must be members of the Hillwalkers Club or An Óige**

- New Hillwalkers Club PayPal on line booking by means of the following Link:  
<http://www.hillwalkersclub.com/event-listings.php> Please advise Jim Barry on completion of transaction.

**Bookings open from Monday 20 April 2015**

**Meals: Breakfast, Dinner (Packed lunch not included)**

**Bring: Suitable Walking Boots, Rain Wear/Change of Warm Clothing/Towels/Toilet Gear/ Flask/Torch/ First Aid Kit/Camera/, Mobile Phone etc.**

**Be prepared for adverse weather conditions in the mountains**

**Meeting Time & Place – 1600hrs on Friday 5 June at Luke Street (Side street off Georges Quay between Ulster Bank Bus Stops and Tara St. Dart Station)**

**Return: Monday evening to arrive back in Dublin at 2000hrs.**

**Welcome Aboard**

## Trip to Wales over St Patrick's Weekend

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*Wales trip participants – Søren, Shauna, Mel, Murielle, Russell, Frank and Simon*

As in 2014, Russell Mills brought a small group of club members to Wales over the St Patrick's weekend for a few days very enjoyable hillwalking. Six of us travelled on the 15.10 ferry from Dublin to Hollyhead on the afternoon of Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, and we met up with Simon later that night after Russell had collected him from Bangor Train Station.

We stayed in a self-catering guesthouse called Dol Peris, located in the centre of Llanberis. The guesthouse website describes it as having "a mountain view from every window" - but that's not all it has. It has a spacious & well equipped kitchen, a comfortable lounge / dining area warmed by a wood burning stove, an excellent drying room, comfortable, spacious bedrooms and last but by no means least, it has hospitable and welcoming proprietors. Lisa and Phill, who own and run the guesthouse, know exactly what's important to hillwalkers as they have run an outdoor activities company for several years. They have created the perfect home away from home for anyone looking for accommodation in Snowdonia.

The following day, Saturday, the Irish rugby team were due play Wales in Cardiff. We were heading for Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) though and Russell led us on a very enjoyable hike from Rhyd Ddu to the summit at 1085m via Bwch Cwm Llan, SH 931 and Bwch Main. After having lunch at the summit the group split with Murielle, Frank and Simon, anxious to see the rugby match, hiking directly back to Llanberis while the others returned to Rhyd Ddu, keeping their feet dry, via the Rhyd Ddu path. The Irish rugby team, meanwhile, had generously gifted their hosts a 12 point start within the first 12 minutes of the game and despite improving in the second half, a combination of Irish errors and inspired Welsh defence saw Wales emerge as deserving winners. So no Grand Slam for the Irish rugby team for 2015 but that didn't dent our enjoyment of our day on the hills.

On Sunday, it was back to Rhyd Ddu but this time we hiked to the south west and west of Rhyd Ddu. Russell led us across a path beside a small lake, Llyn y Gader, then up onto Y Garn, 633m, where we met a large group of hikers from Bray, Co Wicklow. We then had a nice scramble up Mynydd Drws-y-coed, 693m, followed by Trum y Ddysgl, 703m, and Mynydd Tal-y-mignedd before heading down and across to Craig Cwm Silyn, 734m. We made our way back to the cars then passing abandoned, overgrown mine workings which had a strange, desolate beauty of their own. Forest tracks brought us back to Llyn Gader where we had excellent views of the route we had walked the previous day up and down Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon)



*Mynydd Tal-y-mignedd - an interesting scramble !*

The following day, Monday, Russell led us on another lovely hike over one of his favourite mountains, Moel Siabod, 872m. Russell drove us up through Capel Curig and parked at Pont Cyfyng. We crossed the road and walked beside the Afon Llugwy river where there are spectacular rapids and falls before heading up on tracks through farmland and abandoned slate mines. We had walked this route on St Patrick's Day 2014 but the weather was a little kinder this year. There was a lot of low cloud so we did not have the marvellous views that can be enjoyed from this mountain on a clear day but that did not detract from the pleasure we got from our day. The scramble up the south east Deiar Ddu ridge to the summit is sheer delight. It's not a difficult scramble but we had to be careful as the rocks were a little icy in places. We had lunch in the little stone shelter near the summit. Then there was some more scrambling to descend to grassy fields where we could saunter down to tracks that brought us close to our starting point. The hike finished with a soothing ramble along the banks of Afon Llugwy back to the car park.



*Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) and Lynn y Gader*



*On the Carneddau*



*Simon having lunch near Moel Siobad summit*

On Tuesday, St Patrick's Day, we headed for the Carneddau, with the (outnumbered) Irish contingent, as last year, proudly wearing home-grown shamrock. Russell parked on the A5, a little east of Llyn Ogwen, and he then led us up Pen yr Ole Wen, 978m. This involved a nice scramble which has been described as a "Granny Blocker". I think that there are plenty of grannys who would be well able to manage it because two grandfathers and an expectant grandfather got up it with little difficulty. The cloud was a little higher today and we got tantalising glimpses of wonderful views that became more visible as the day progressed. There was a nice coating of snow on the ridge too as we walked across to Carnedd Fach and Carnedd Dafydd, 1044m. We considered visiting Carnedd Llywelyn, 1084m, but, as it was shrouded in cloud at that stage, we descended instead into the beautiful valley that holds Flynnon Llugwy, the spring lake which is the source of Afon Llugwy - the lovely river we had walked beside the previous day. We then followed a good track out to the A5 and walked contentedly back to the car while enjoying good views of Tryfan. Back then to Llanberis and Dol Peris, where we had been allowed leave our luggage, to have a cuppa and prepare for the trip home. We had another pleasant and uneventful voyage home across the Irish sea. It had been a real treat to be led on these lovely walks by Russell as he knows Snowdonia so well. He's been hiking there since he was a teenager. Thanks Russell for organising this trip which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

{Some of you may be interested in pronunciation of Welsh place-names and the link below may be of interest. Also, in Welsh u is pronounced as i so Carneddau is pronounced Carneddai <http://www.jlb2011.co.uk/wales/sounds/> }

*Photos and text by the Editor*



*The magnificent, majestic Macgillycuddy Reeks – Photo Fergal Griffin*

**Thursday April 2<sup>nd</sup>** : All 45 aboard for the forthcoming and much looked forward to weekend, It was a fairly miserable day but we were bolstered by the promise of very good weather. We had a brief pleasant stop at the Obama Centre in Moneygall, Co Offaly. It appears to be a huge commercial success and is ideally situated on the motorway about halfway to all points in Kerry.

John Laffey awaited us at the hostel at Aghadoe, just 4kms beyond Killarney, and everyone was quickly installed in their various rooms, about half in the main building and half in the lodge at the back.

**Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Serious business commenced today as we set out for Mangerton Mountain. No threat of rain but a strong cold wind prevailed. Dropped around Gortagullane, a 25 minute road walk led us on to a rough trail, heading due south. It was decided to keep the entire group together for the day. After 1.5 hours or so, we swung left off the track, working our way cross country up to Lough Erough. A 90° wheel to the right brought us steeply up to the summit of Mangerton North, and from there an easy descent to the Devil's Punch Bowl for lunch. Thereafter, a steep ascent on a water laden track, continuing south, up to the plateau, where the cairned summit of Mangerton Mountain, 839m, lies somewhat inconspicuously on pretty flat terrain. Descending, we navigated around the western end of the Punch Bowl, finding our original track soon after crossing the stream that drains the lake. A long, stony but uneventful descent down to the road and soon into the woods. Here we picked up a wide, comfortable track and an easy stroll brought us to the Old Kenmare Road and the junction at Dromyrouk where the bus picked us up. It had been a good work out, lasting just over seven hours.



*At the start for Carrauntoohill from Breanlee – Photo Ruth Murphy*

**Saturday April 4<sup>th</sup>.** The big one – Carrauntoohill – today. The party divided into two groups, the harder hike starting at Breanlee and taking the Hydro Road, which leads up to Caher mountain and eventually to the main summit at 1039m. The second group (there is no easy or moderate hike in this area) started at Cronin's yard, up the Hag's Glen and then the formidable Devil's Ladder, and then the final push to the summit. It was a remarkable day there, with no wind and almost perfect conditions for sunbathing, and a memorable experience for the summiteers. All came down together, bypassing the Devil's Ladder and, instead, tackling the Zig Zags. It was daunting looking down the almost vertical start here, but nerves were quickly overcome and all got safely down. It was a great achievement, particularly for the many for whom it was a first, and it was one they will always cherish and remember. The Macgillycuddy Reeks are a huge challenge compared to our own Wicklow Hills.

**Sunday April 5<sup>th</sup>.** Two separate walks again today. The harder hike entailed hiking up the length of the Gap of Dungloe, some 5kms. Turning off at the head of the gap they had a tough climb up to Purple Mountain, 783m, and then over to Tomies Mountain, a little lower at 735m. The cold and very strong wind had picked up again, much as it was on Friday, which made walking a little difficult. They descended north over Tomies Rock and eventually back to Kate Kearney's Cottage. The relatively easier hike went in the opposite direction, starting near the cottage and up to Tomies Rock and the col at the foot of Tomies Mountain. A hardy dozen or so successfully took on the steep climb to the summit, whilst the remainder had a pleasant lunch in the shelter of the saddle and admiringly watched the braver members of the party.



*The Hags Glen and the track back to Cronin's Yard – Photo Fergal Griffin*

Then it was back down again to the Cottage restaurants, where all had a good time, recounting their adventures and enjoying the welcome food and drink.

A great evening's entertainment was had in the local pub after dinner. Our singers and musicians contributed handsomely, with distinguished performances from Peter, John, Ed, Christina and Paul. The raffle (for the local GAA club - Fossa) was well supported but none of the visitors won a prize! There was much Dublin v Kerry banter but we had made our mark on the musical side.

**Monday April 6<sup>th</sup>** An easier half day's walk on a relatively flat stretch from Derrycunihy Church at Galway's Bridge to Torc Waterfall. Just the one group today. The route headed south towards Kenmare, but quickly turned north eastwards along the Kerry Way on a nice track through lovely unspoiled and varied scenery. About three-quarters of the way there was an option involving a climb up to Torc Mountain, 535m, mainly on a boardwalk, and down again. The view from the top was spectacular, taking in all of the local beauty spots, including Lough Leane, Ross Castle, Muckross and Killarney. The route was choc-a-block with tourists of all ages, young and old. Then down to the waterfall (in great flow) and back to the bus just below the road.

Another call to Moneygall on the way home for a more substantial meal and safely back in Dublin at around 08.30.p.m.

It was a hugely successful weekend on all counts. Jim Barry's contribution was immense as always, both in organising the whole event as well as leading hikes every day. Grateful thanks to others who also lead and helped out on the hikes including Brian Flynn, Gary Sinnott, Paul Farrell, John Gordon and Tom Hennessy. The hostel stay went off without a hitch, and the meals and the day lunches went down well, both literally and metaphorically. Also thanks to our driver, Liam, who was cheerful and co-operative, whilst suffering the whole weekend from a painful sinus condition.

So again, congrats to everyone on their co-operation and achievements.

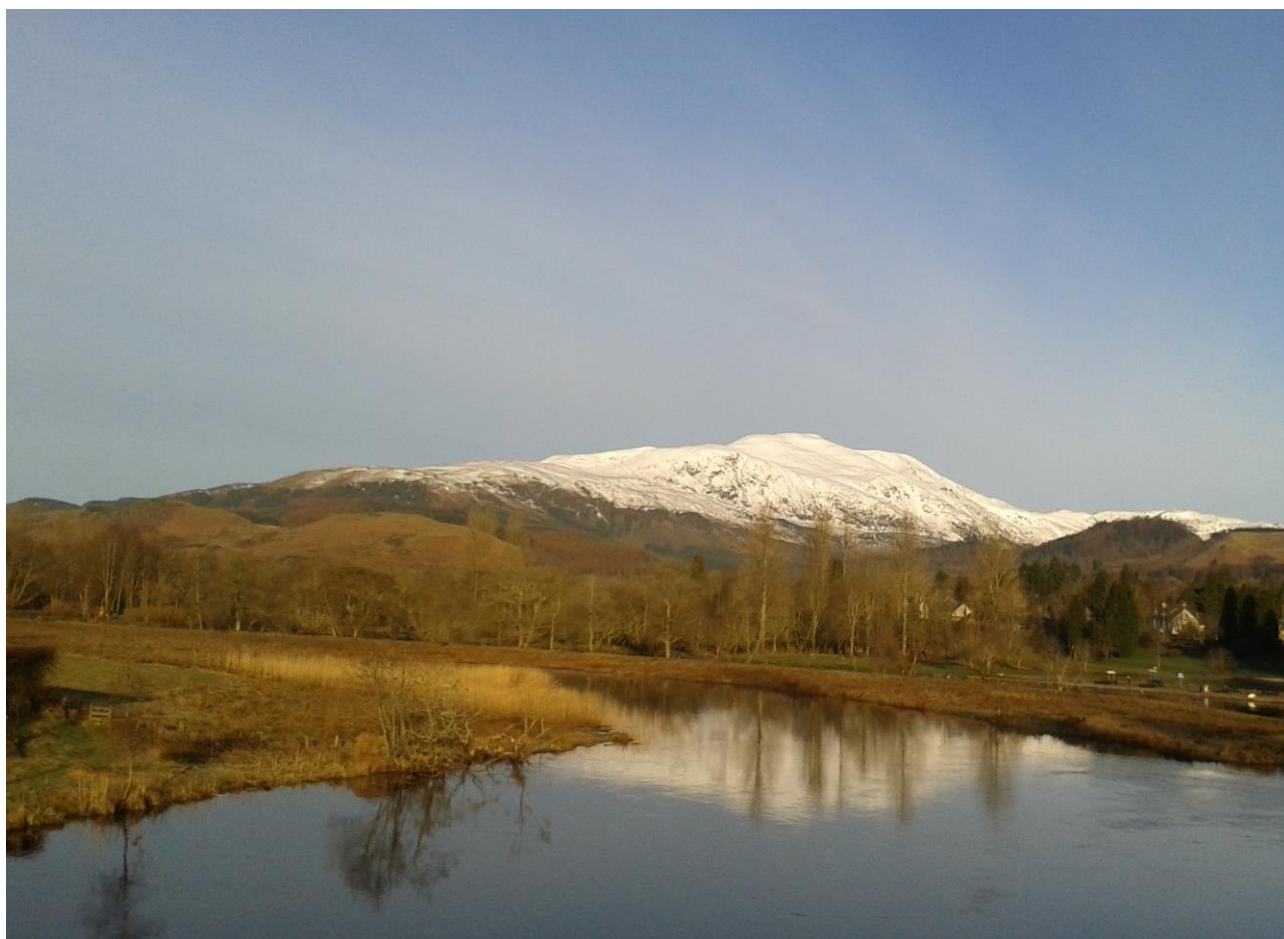
*Text : Pearse Foley*



*Carrauntoohill Summit – Photo Ruth Murphy*



*Brian studies the ridge between Caher and Carrauntoohill - Photo Garry Sinnott*



*Ben Ledi from Callander Bridge – Photo – Catherine Curtin*

### Part 1 : Diurnal wanderings

#### Day 1 Callander and Ben Ledi

After a slow start waiting to be Hertzified in Edinburgh Airport our convoy of 6 cars eventually headed for Callander, making very good time. After a brief bite to eat, a raffle and a few minor sartorial adjustments we drove a mile or two down the road for an assault on Ben Ledi. Shauna attempted to drive her motor to the summit but after some considered advice from her fellow passengers she demurred and joined the rest of the proletariat back in the car park. Ben Ledi proved to be a grand leg stretcher for the days ahead.

After an initial forest track we headed steeply uphill, everybody keen to show off all their winter training, except Carina, of course, who plodded on at her own pace – wise enough to spare her body for the tougher days ahead. The upper section of the mountain was largely snow-covered and due to its location away from the bigger hills afforded widespread and remarkable views of all the mountains including Ben Lomond in the south, Ben Lui in the west, Ben Lawers in the north and Ben Chonzie in the east. It was wonderful to walk on snow again and even better to get into 'bold child' mode and start whacking random people with snowballs. This was an activity that some of the usually more stolid members [namely Simon and Ronan] kept at right up until the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> day. In fact, I hear Ronan still looks left and right when he leaves the house in case Simon is looming large with a scoop of ice cream or a cue ball!

Much fun was had heading downhill by a few of the usual nutters including Marie Catherine ["I don't understand how people keep falling"...seconds later...splat!], Shauna and the aforementioned Simon who has a curious resemblance to a gazelle while running through the snow, that is a gazelle shaped like a rhinoceros with 3 legs, gout, arthritis and no sense of balance or fear!



*On summit of Ben Ledi – Catherine Don and Marie Catherine – Photo Don Reilly*

More fun was had by those young lads whose bodies were capable of ignoring the sleep deprivation from the previous night as they settled into a local pub called the Lade Inn for an hour of boozing and harassing fellow tourists and bar staff. They came back abuzz; Warren in particular being very vocal in his praise of these premises so, in our ignorance, not knowing what an aficionado he is, we made a note to avoid the place like the plague for the rest of the trip.

**Day 2..."Unclench your buttocks!" \*** The weather forecast was for it to be bad up to lunch and they weren't wrong, that's for sure. Much to the delight of (almost) everybody we decided not to walk in the rain and headed instead to a local inn [The Kenmore Hotel, at the head or tail of Lough Tay depending on your inclination, state of sobriety and/or general wellbeing] where the most of us put in two very enjoyable hours slagging, messing and generally talking gazelle manure. Initially, the bar was short-staffed so there was a big queue, not unlike at the Hilary Step, to ascend Ben Latte via the scone-jam-and-cream arête.

A softly spoken Kerryman was caught out by a rare lull in the conversation from Peter's table when he was heard quipping "Not everyone from Kerry speaks as lyrically as myself". Of course, as the comment was directed at a Corkwoman it was far too esoteric for the rest of the buffoons to truly understand its subtle tone and nature so they took to laughing hysterically. Bless them!

Anyway, the rain finally abated and we heaved our coffee-stained carcasses from off the 'stay!' seats and headed for a pleasant afternoon stroll on some tracks that trailed around the nearby lower hills taking in a troublesome-for-some river crossing as well as the Falls of Acharn which were impressive especially in such relatively nondescript countryside. Everyone adjourned to the Lade Inn on the strength of Warren's 'measured' praise from the previous evening. Most of us failed to see the charm and only stayed for 4 pints, 2 cocktails, high tea and more bags of assorted crisps than even Hunky Don could shake a stick at!

\* Carina informed me that this comment was overheard as part of a bit of Kerry-Cork banter but for the life of me (and I mean that quite literally!) I can't remember the context.

### **Day 3... The day when the bog tried to reclaim its prodigal children.**

At this stage we were all chomping at the bit for some high altitude hiking and it was hoped that, after some low cloud in the morning, the skies would clear and our appetite for Munro bagging would be sated once again. Well it took a long time for the sky to draw back its veil but in the meantime we got on with things. Our first target was Beinn nan Imirean at 849m.

The damp and peaty moorland beneath this is where the Battle of the Boggers took place. Three otherwise sane people decided to have an impromptu competition to see who could finish the hike looking more like a wet lump of turf than a homo sapiens. Simon took the honours both in terms of depth-of-submersion as well as difficulty-of-extraction. Luckily, Catherine had been advised by Brian to bring a complete change of clothing [although I suspect he meant some summer dress to slip into after the hike!] and so was able to nip behind a rock and come out freshly clad in yet another flawless matching rig-out! José won the prize for looking most miserable and cold post-immersion but he soldiered on and regained his usual good humour when he thawed out.



*Simon and Ronan snowballing – Beinn nan Imirean*

Anyway, we all reached the summit of Beinn nan Imirean and promptly descended to escape the cool wind. Shortly after that, Mel headed back towards the cars with those who were happy to quit while they were ahead. The others, myself included, went off to have a lash at the adjacent Munro, a jewel that went by the name of Meall Glas (959m). We managed to heave our way to the summit in a whiteout, congratulated Eddie on breaking his Munro virginity and hastily sped down the hill, having great fun in the process, kicking snow left, right and upwards on our rapid descent. We briefly toyed with the idea of splitting the group further to tackle a second Munro but common sense and the lure of a pint prevailed!



*Eddie & group descending Meall Glas, Munro #1 – Photo Don Reilly*

#### **Day 4 Two more Munros – Beinn Tulaichean and Cruach Ardrain**

Good weather was predicted and we weren't disappointed. There was an inauspicious start to the day when it was discovered that José had let his car window down low enough overnight for a bird to plant a fine gut-full of the white stuff on the inside of the car door. During the clean-up it was suggested by some ne'er-do-well wag to check the inside of the car in case the bird was inside as 'tis very hard to get rid of birds the morning after' – a sentiment that I would certainly not condone!

After a sublimely wonderful spin through Balquhiddar Glen we took a very direct route up Beinn Tulaichean at 946m. The going underfoot was firm so it was a tough but pleasant mission with a blazing sun to keep our motors running. Beinn Tulaichean soon yielded to our onslaught revealing widespread views of the 2<sup>nd</sup> summit on our agenda as well as a magical 360 degree panorama of virtually every mountain in the South-central highlands.

From here we ventured over to Cruach Ardrain exactly 100 metres higher than Tulaichean, the second Munro of the day and far less taxing than the first. The less said about José's descent of Tulaichean the better...Mel has enough grey hair as it is! Even better views from the top of the second Munro of the day revealing, as it did, the fine buttresses and corries on the north-east side of Tulaichean. Cruach Ardrain had a lot of character, by which I mean it had a lot of snow on his extensive flanks which meant for a fun descent for those of us who are foolish enough to think we are immortal! I am having a hard time getting the image out of my head of Simon careering down the slope with all the style of a one-legged kangaroo giving a piggy-back to a pregnant cow. Yours truly was a little over-exuberant in pursuit of a certain French lady (couldn't let Piaf Pete have the run of things!...see part 2) and ended up in a heap, subsequently limping down the hill. What made things worse was that I had to listen to Frank's waffle for about 2 hours on the way back to the car as my leg was too sore to escape his clutches! I feel your pain AnnMarie



*Frank on Cruach Ardrain ascent – Photo – Mark Campion*



*All 25 trip participants on Cruach Ardrain Munro #3 Photo – Don Reilly*

## Day 5 Ben Vorlich & Ben Or



*Ben Vorlich Summit – Munro #4 – Photo José Luis Calle Miquel*

As usual on the last morning of a trip, most folk wearily went through their eating and packing with a heavy heart as another great holiday was coming to an imminent close. But all despondency was soon put aside as the sun shone with abandon on the land of endless ridges. Ben Vorlich (985m) was the destination, starting on the southern shores of Lough Earn. The walk up was a doddle, especially as we were all primed for action...for the first time in living memory no-one on the trip took a day off...probably more testament to Mel's drafting skills than to the quality of the group ;-)

Having summited Ben Vorlich in no time (and a fine, airy summit it is too), Warren suggested a quick retreat back down the same route as he was getting tired but Mel told him to man-up as he intended extending the route by returning via a nearby ridge. Now, I was tired at the time so I may have got that little anecdote the wrong way round but, as certain ex-editors well know, such memory lapses are at the discretion of the author!

All-in-all we were all very happy with our 5-day, 5-star hiking trip and everyone agreed upon what a splendid job Mel did in providing such a wide variety of hikes as well as in managing such an unwieldy, motley crew. The hostel was very comfortable and the staff friendly when they deigned to appear! Contingency plans were up to standard as was the non-despotic regime. Thanks a lot Melboy!



*Snow running – photo Rosaleen Clarke*



*Ben Or descent with Ben Vorlich and Stuc a' Chroin in background – Photo Don Reilly*



*Sun, snow and shorts – Photo – Mark Campion*

## Part 2 : Nocturnal wanderlust

I've finally discovered Party Pete's secret...conserve energy by walking steadily during the day and listen to music while hiking so as to keep the voice-box from wearing out. And, above all, sleep like a log, albeit one full of enthusiastic, beginner oboe players!

Callander, like a lot of places in Scotland, is not blessed with watering holes that would best please a lad brought up on the delights of The Palace or Mulligans (or indeed the Fáihte in Killarney). It is imperative that one makes one's own bit of craic. To this end we are indebted to the undoubted talents of Peter, Marie Catherine, Christy, Carina, Warren, Mel and A.N. Other.

Peter's annexation of the microphone didn't go down well with the band on every occasion but he marched on undeterred. On one particular night he seemed to be thwarted at every turn as the band precipitated his upcoming request by playing their own version of the song in question. Divine intervention is my guess.

Himself and A. N. Other got up to sing The Auld Triangle on the Friday night. A. N. Other buoyed up by a few sneaky rums back at the hostel, launched enthusiastically into the song and was going well until Pete left him to sing the third verse on his own. A. N. Other went paler by the second as he was being accompanied by a Scot on guitar who was relying on him as much as vice-versa. A. N. Other was very relieved when Piaf Pete re-joined for the last verse.

'Piaf Pete?' I hear you ask. Well, let's just say that Pete decided that singing in French alongside Marie Catherine might liven things up for him especially after such a poor show from the local Callander girls. So he spent a long time rehearsing with her on the hills, in bars and back at the hostel. Wherever one looked, one saw 'le deux' in close proximity singing and muttering like a continental Jedward.

But all was not in vain as, later that night in the Riverside Inn, they produced a scintillating version of the ironically titled 'Je ne regrette rien' with PP miming the lyrics in deference to the fact that he hadn't managed to remember a single word of the song!

Having run for the horizon the previous evening at the mere suggestion that he might sing us a song, our esteemed leader, bolstered by a pair of Arran blondes and a few drams of Lagavulin's finest, also took a turn at the mic alongside Precocious Pete for a bawdy attempt at Murder in Monto. This went down well but so also did Christy's acoustic version when Monto was revisited on Sunday night.

After that, Carina told her ma when she got home that que sera sera and then Christy, [a.k.a. 'one man by day, another by night'] rendered another auld Dublin rag followed by a 'no-ads-5-in-a-row' from MC...all French and, no doubt, all bawdy! leaving Warren to go Poncha Training with his eyes closed. The evening was dragged out of the gutter by Simon's excellent rendition of an old Banjo Paterson poem from down under. The poem was called Clancy of the Overflow and it's worth reading again if you have a couple of hours ;-)

[https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/p/paterson/ab/man\\_from\\_snowy\\_river/chapter4.html](https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/p/paterson/ab/man_from_snowy_river/chapter4.html)

Good craic all in all but I'll not be happy until John Butler gets his nerd hat on and remembers the gag about the buffalo!



*River crossing Friday – Photo Don Reilly*

**.Overheard in conversation at the bar in Callander.**

HW 1 : Blimey! I didn't get a wink of sleep last night.

HW 2 : Why not? Thinking of those Callander girls again?

HW 1 : If only. No, some upstart snoring his head off in the dormitory.

HW 2 : What? On a hillwalkers trip? Doesn't happen!

HW 1 : Not a word of a lie. I'm penning an epistle to the committee when I get back. Reckon they should hang anyone making that kind of noise.

HW 2 : Harsh old bean. Didn't have you down as a proponent of capital punishment.

HW 1 : Oh dash it! Perhaps we'll spare the rotter his life then. Let's just get him barred from the club instead.

HW 2 : Still o.t.t. my man. Should he not be allowed even on Sunday hikes?

HW 1 : Probably not. I suspect the cove snores all the way home on the bus.

HW 2 : Even so, I still feel you're being a trifle harsh.

HW 1 : Okay, let's just bar him from weekend trips.

HW 2 : Still not feasible in my opinion. Chap has a dashed big fan club and they could all stay at home in protest.

HW 1 : Protest? What, are they ALL bally French?

HW 2 : Poor joke old bean. Not all French are communist truck drivers!

HW 1 : Okay, here's my final offer. Let's get the chap to pay extra and stay in a single room somewhere (not too close mind you). This would have the added advantage of giving him a better potential end result in his dealings with the fairer sex!

HW 2 : Now you're talking!

*Text by Mark Campion*



*Options to get Lade – photo Don Reilly*



*Robbie Burns was here and so were we*



*No regrets - Photos Don Reilly*



*Don on his ownsome – Photo Rosaleen Clarke*



# Membership Application Form

The Hillwalkers Club 2014-2015

The 2014-2015 membership year runs from 01 October 2014 to 30 September 2015.

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](http://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](http://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 2014/15 Membership Fee is €35.00

Please use **ordinary post** to send completed form to **Jim Barry, 156 Comeragh Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12**. **Cheques** or **postal orders**, payable to the *Hillwalkers Club*, but **NO CASH**, can be included with the application form. Please allow 2 weeks for your application to be processed.

Please contact Lourdes or Jim ( [lourdeshezmartin@hotmail.com](mailto:lourdeshezmartin@hotmail.com) or [barryja@eircom.net](mailto:barryja@eircom.net) ) for details of the bank account to be used when making membership payments directly into the club account either over the internet or at bank counter.