



Hillwalkers Club

January 2016 - March 2016

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

THE HILLWALKER



Eóin - happy days for Liz and Don

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HIKE PROGRAMME

January 2016 – March 2016

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.*

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

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.

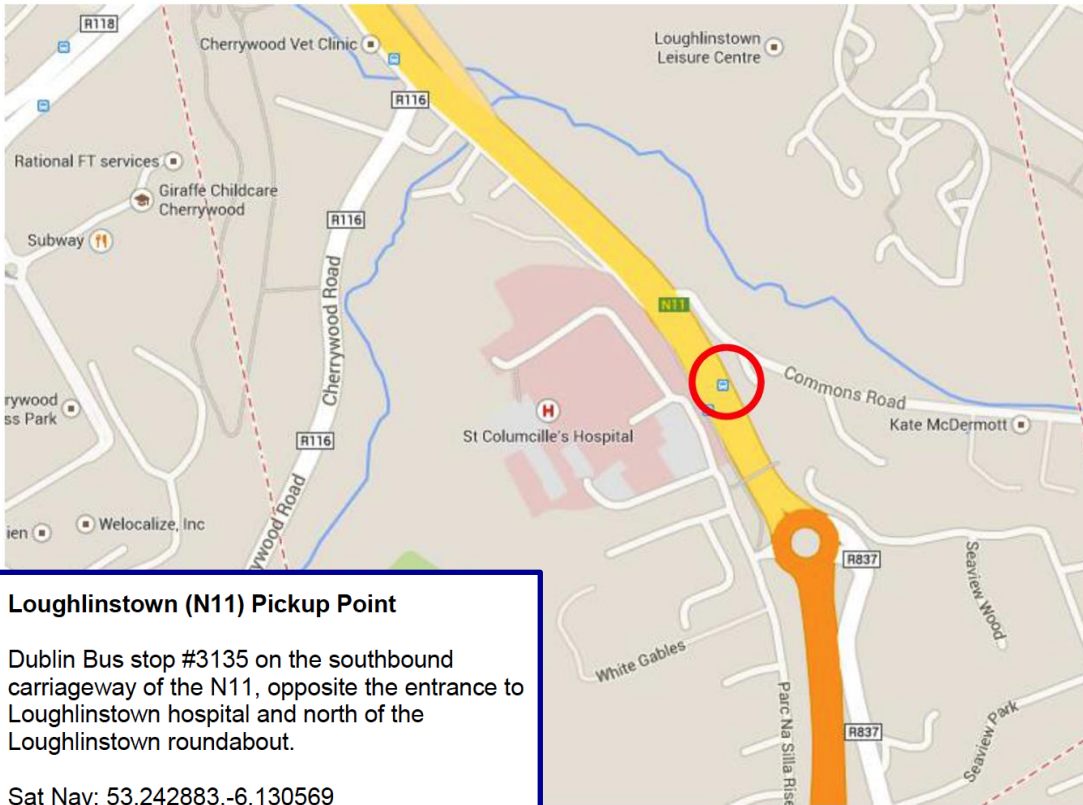
CO-ORDINATION If necessary, tickets are given out on Sundays to ensure that participants reserve a bus place as they arrive.

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.

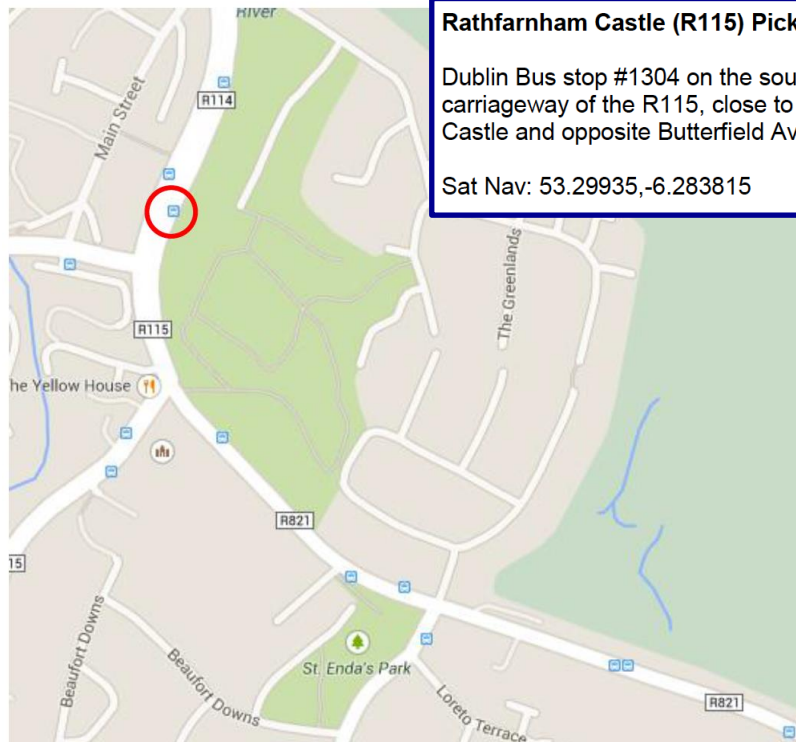
The pick-up points



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

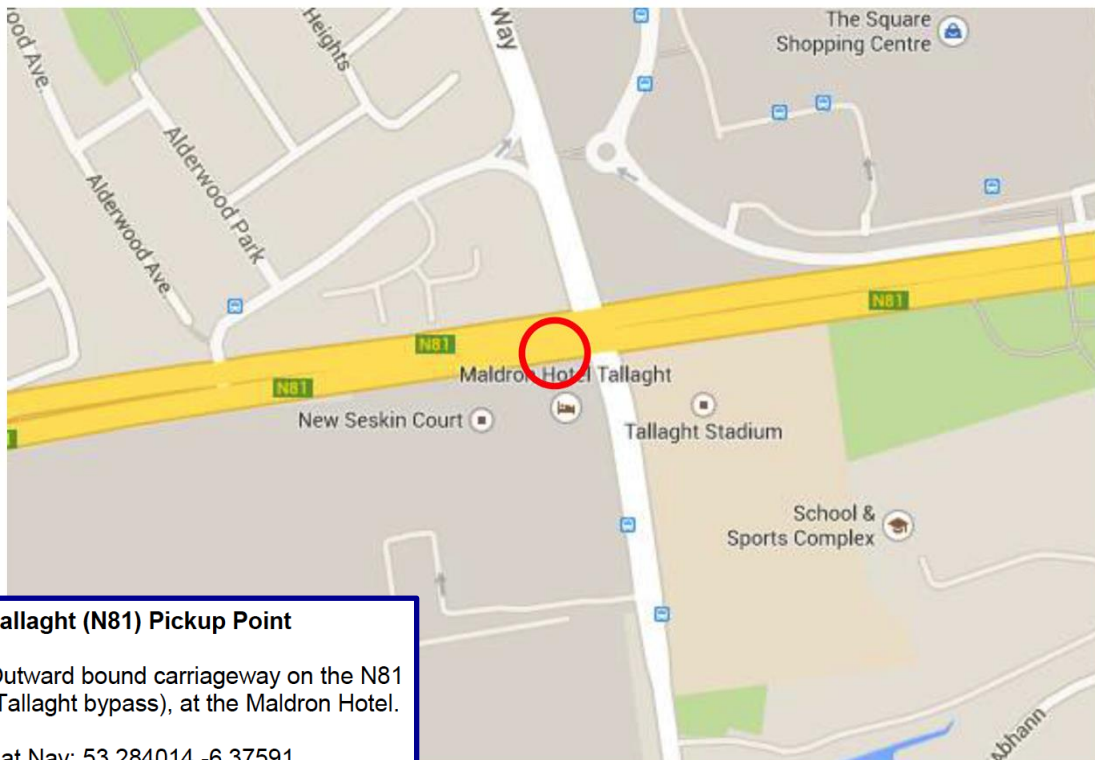
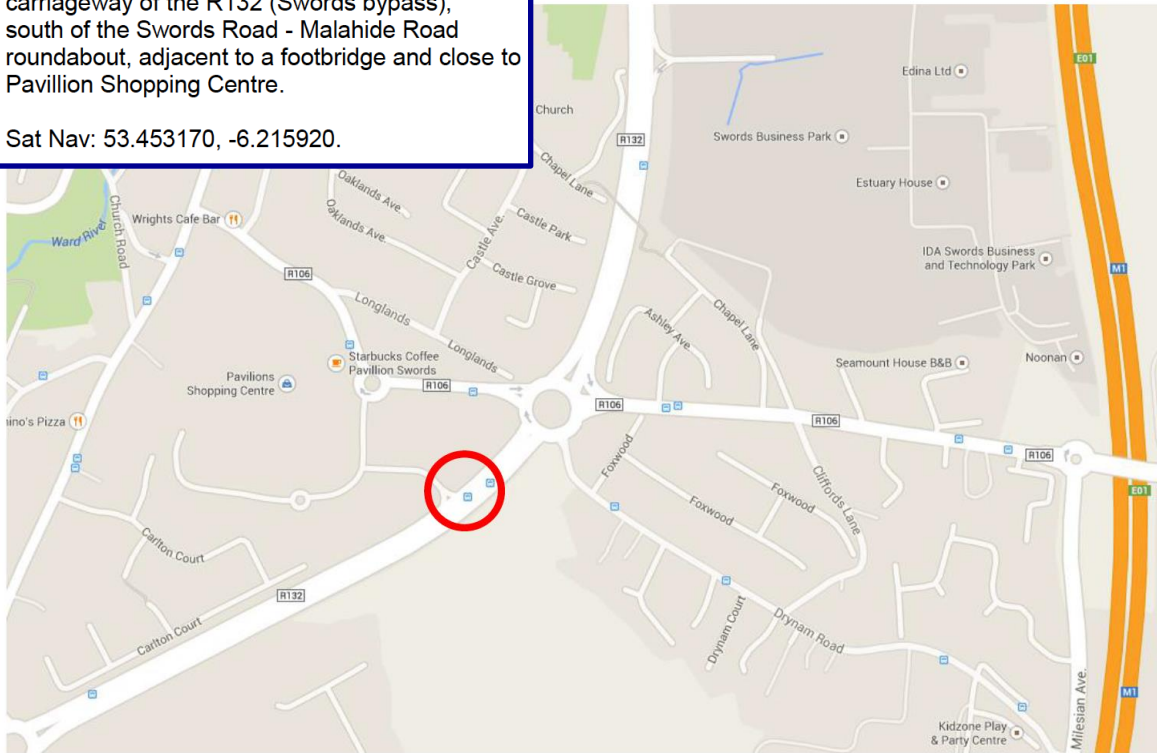
Dublin Bus stop #1304 on the southbound carriageway of the R115, close to Rathfarnham Castle and opposite Butterfield Ave.

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)

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

Hiking on winter evenings

Please ensure you bring a suitable head or hand-held torch on the hikes as, despite the good stretch in the evenings, hikes may finish in darkness

Sunday 24th January 2016

Leader: Russell Mills

2nd pick-up point: Rathfarnham Castle

Return drop-off: opposite the Maldron Hotel on the N81 Tallaght bypass

Route: Bohernabreena car park *
Glenasmole reservoir * Slievenabawnoge *
Seehan * Corrig * Seefingan * Seefin *
Athdown forest * Kippure Bridge

Distance: 18 km **Ascent:** 680 m

Map: OS 50 & 56, East West Mapping
(Dublin & North Wicklow Mountains)

Sunday 31st January 2016

Leader: Gerry Walsh

2nd pick-up point: Rathfarnham Castle
Return via N11

Route: Circuit of Glenree: Forest Entrance
CP (GR 155 175) * Oldboleys * Lough Brays
Lower and Upper * Track (GR 141 139) *
Source of the Liffey * Tonduff North and
South * Maulin * Crone Wood Car Park.

Distance: 19 km **Ascent:** 550 m

Maps: OS 56, Harvey, East West Mapping
(Dublin & North Wicklow Mountains)

Sunday 7th February 2016

**** Introductory Hard Hike ****

** All walkers should carry a torch **

Leader: Simon More

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

Just beyond the Maldron Hotel on the N81 Tallaght bypass

Route: Madman's Road (GR 022032) * Silsean * Moanbane * Billy Byrne's Gap * Mullaghcleevaun * Barnacullian * Stoney Top * Tonelagee * Wicklow Gap

Distance: 16km **Ascent:** 850 m

Maps: OS 56, Harvey, East West Mapping (Wicklow Mountains West)

Sunday 14th February 2016

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

Bus stop before roundabout at Loughlinstown

Leader : Neville Ransome

Route: Wicklow Gap * Tonelagee * Glenmacness CP * Kanturk * Scarr * Paddock Hill * Laragh

Distance: 16 km **Ascent:** 700 m

Map: OS 56, East West Mapping (Wicklow Mountains West or Lugnaquilla & Glendalough)

Sunday 21st February 2016

Leader: Ronan Callinan

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

Bus stop before roundabout at Loughlinstown

Route: Upper Lake Car Park Glendalough * Pollanass * Derrybawn ridge * Mullacor * Lugduff * Glenealo Valley * Visitors Centre at the lower lake

Distance: 19 km **Ascent:** 575 m

Maps: OS 56, East West Mapping (Lugnaquilla and Glendalough)

Sunday 28th February 2016

Leader: Frank Keoghan

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

Bus stop before roundabout at Loughlinstown

Route: Aughavannagh Bridge * forest track * Doyle Street * South Prison * by McAlpine's Back Passage * Lugnaquilla * Camara Hill * Fentons

Distance: 18 km **Ascent:** 750 m

Maps: OS 56 & 62 East West Mapping (Lugnaquilla and Glendalough)

Sunday 6th March 2016

**** Introductory Hard Hike ****

Leader: Eugene Dudley

2nd pick-up point:

Bus stop before roundabout at Loughlinstown

Different Return

Route: Crone Wood * Maulin * Tonduff Sth
* Lffey Head Bridge * Eagle Crag * Glencree

Distance: 16 km **Ascent:** 600 m

Maps: OS 56, East West Mapping
(Wicklow East)

Sunday 13th March 2016

**** Slieve Gullion Mountain ****

(Ir. *Sliabh gCuillinn* 'mountain of the steep slope/holly') and the highest point of
County Armagh

Special bus price of €15

Leader: Michael Quinn

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

****There will be a stop for refreshments on the
way home****

Route: Slieve Gullion Forest Park car park *
Forest Drive* South Cairn on Slieve Gullion
summit (with 3000 year old tombs) * Lake of
Sorrows* North Cairn* Killeavy Old Church*
Clonlum Cairn

Distance: 12 km **Ascent:** 700 m

Map: OS 29

Sunday 20th March

Leader: Tom Milligan

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

Rathfarnham Castle

Route: Merry Ploughboy Pub (Edmondstown
Rd., Rathfarnham) * Pine Forest * Cruagh
Wood * Cruagh Mountain * Killakee
Mountain * Massey Estate * Hellfire Club *
Carty's Castle * Piperstown Glen *
Featherbed Forest * Dublin Mountain Way *
Killakee Car Park

Distance: 18 kms **Ascent:** 940m

Maps: OS 50, Harvey, East West Mapping
(Dublin & North Wicklow Mountains)

Sunday 27th March 2016

**** Weekend away in Kerry ****

No Sunday Hike

Weekend away in Kerry

See page 12 for details

Club news and events



New Arrival – Congratulations to Liz and Don on the safe arrival of baby Eóin at the Rotunda on January 8th. Given his gene pool, it would be a great surprise if he's not introduced to the hills and mountains at an early age. As he grows into manhood however, the new north-sider will be carefully studied by his cousins in Meath lest he display prowess on the GAA pitch. Outstanding hurling ability would be perfectly acceptable but imagine the consternation in Enfield if Eóin scored the winning point against Meath in a Leinster football final? Anyway, he has a lot to look forward to, as indeed do Liz and Don. Best wishes to all, it's great news. Comhghairdeas arís

Club news and events continued

Christmas Party & Holly Hike

The 2015 Christmas Party was held in Glendalough and was very enjoyable. It was quite wet on the Saturday, heavy overnight rain had transformed the Glenealo river into a raging torrent and crossing some of its side-streams was difficult. The rain did not deter our hardy crew though and the difficult conditions added spice to the walks and made the soup provided afterwards in the hostel very welcome indeed. The meal provided later on by the Glendalough Hotel was excellent and the disco music found favour with everyone as the dance floor was occupied all night. The hikes on Sunday were well subscribed also, despite all the dancing the previous night. The hearty breakfast provided by the hostel ensured the hikers were well fuelled for the day. Liz and Eugene did an excellent job organising the event and their industry was much appreciated by those who attended.

The 2015 Holly Hike was ably led by Donal Finn as Don Reilly, the usual leader, was occupied elsewhere with more important responsibilities. It was a mild but dry day and the subsequent festivities in Hollywood were well attended and enjoyed by all.

Trips away 2016

There are several club trips away either already organised or in the planning phase.

Jim Barry has organised and is leading a trip to Kerry over the Easter weekend, details are on page 12.

Mel O'Hara has organised a trip to Scotland early in May, details are on Page 13. Please note that the weekend concerned is NOT the May Bank Holiday weekend.

Inés and José are organising a trip to Picos de Europa, an area in Northern Spain which is world renowned for the quality of its hillwalking, scenery and wildlife. Details are still being finalised but the trip will likely take place during July.

Club news and events continued

Hiking in Winter - While the hike leaders try to ensure that hikes finish in good time, there will be days when unavoidable delays occur. As the days are still quite short it is important that we prepare for evenings when we may finish our hikes in poor light or even darkness. So, along with your normal winter hiking gear, please bring a suitable head or hand held torch with you on the hikes.

Club membership

A current (**GREEN**) Hillwalkers Club membership card is a requirement for participation in the Sunday hikes **NO CARD – NO HIKE**

Membership cards are checked before boarding the bus.

Thank you for your co-operation and support with the membership card checking.

Guests may sample only one hike before taking out membership

Club membership can now be taken out and renewed on the club website

see

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

and membership for 2015 – 2016 has been open from 1st September 2015

If you have any difficulty using this facility please contact

Membership Secretary, Jim Barry, barryja@eircom.net

Sunday Bus Fares

The committee has decided to leave Sunday bus fares unchanged for the present. The bus company raised its charges some time ago and since then the bus fares collected on many Sundays has not covered the full cost of hiring the bus. Given the healthy state of club finances the committee have decided not to raise the Sunday bus fares for now but the situation is being kept under review. It is unlikely that the club will be able to subsidise the bus charges indefinitely.

Environmental news



Hi Hillwalkers,

As some of you might know, I have taken over the role of environmental officer. Thank you Russ for giving me this opportunity. I know his shoes will be hard to fill, especially as my feet are so small!

As you have probably noticed, it has become much wetter and windier over the past couple of months. Rain and wind cause erosion creating gaps in the vegetation that protect the bogs. Wind cause gullies to form in the exposed peat which is gradually washed away and eventually exposing the mineral soil beneath. Natural erosion is accelerated by us hikers as we trample the paths as we walk. Bog degradation is a serious concern, not only for the specialized wildlife and flora that depend on it, but also it contributes to global warming as carbon is released back into the atmosphere after the mineral soil has been exposed. We can however, help reduce the problem of erosion by walking in the middle of the path, wherever there is one. As Russ has mentioned in the past, wearing gaiters and ensuring our boots are waterproof will help us walking in the wettest and boggiest parts of the track.

Back in November, Helen Lawless from Mountaineering Ireland posted a Public Consultation Notice about how we can get involved in the future management proposals for areas of the Coillte Forestry State. The different areas are represented by eight Business Area Units (BAUs). Perhaps of most importance to us in the map is BAU 5, as it covers the South East Leinster area. Coillte's core purpose is to enrich lives locally, nationally and globally through the sustainable management of natural resources. They do this by adopting policies that concentrate in timber production in some areas, habitat restoration in other areas or areas with endangered species.

As a pioneering organization for the recreation sector in Ireland, Coillte operates an open access policy for walkers and pedestrians. However, as the Government considers the sale of Coillte's harvesting rights, there is no certainty of access to this land in the future. Over two years ago, Mountaineering Ireland, along with other organizations, run a successful campaign against the sale of Coillte's harvesting rights. There is another opportunity now, to influence the future management of the Coillte estate. MI has already sent a response to Coillte's draft plan proposals but also, the local knowledge of members around the country could help make submissions even stronger. The response from MI to these plans will be found [here](#).

<http://www.mountaineering.ie/accessandenvironment/Downloads/default.aspx>

Points 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5, could be especially relevant as they all have a direct impact on your walking experience. Your input is still welcome as Mountaineering Ireland have ongoing engagement with Coillte and regular contact with their Recreation Team.



Adriana Alvarez Sanchez
Your new Environmental Officer

BAU Strategic Plans Review 2016-2020.

http://www.coillte.ie/aboutcoillte/about_coillte/coillte_consultation/coillte_current_consultations/

Hillwalkers Club

Easter Weekend 2016

Thursday 24th - Monday 28th March 2016

Hillwalking in the Spectacular & Scenic Killarney National Park, Co Kerry

Staying at An Óige Aghadoe House Youth Hostel, Killarney

Moderate/Hard lead Walks

Leader: Jim Barry

PLEASE NOTE BUS ONLY TRIP

Proposed Weekend Itinerary(Subject to favourable weather conditions)

<u>Caher Mountain:</u>	from Breanlee Car park (G.R.V 772 872) via Caher /Curraghmore Mtn Path returning via Kerry Way (Lack Road) to Lough Acoose (G.R. V 703 860)
<u>Eastern Reeks:</u>	From Kate Kearney's Cottage (G.R.V 881 888) to Strickeen and Drishana Mtn. (G.R. V 867 836) to Gap of Dunloe.
<u>Knocknadobar Mtn.:</u>	From Killurly (G.R. V 481 829) off Cahirsiveen Road Circuit or Linear Walk for all (weather depending)
<u>Kerry Way Walk:</u>	From Lough Acoose (G.R. V 703 860) towards Black Valley (Minibus Pickup) or alternative section
<u>Recommended Map(s):</u>	OSI Discovery Series 78 & 83 (1:50,000), New OSI Macguillycuddy's Reeks Map (1:25,000) or Harvey's (1:30,000)

Cost: €260.00 (INC. ACCOMMODATION, FOOD, TRANSPORT)

Booking & Payment Options

1. On Line Paypal Booking using link <http://www.hillwalkersclub.com/event-listings.php>
2. CHEQUE OR POSTAL ORDER ONLY (NO CASH) made out to the 'Hillwalkers Club' for €260 to: Jim Barry, 156 Comeragh Road, Drimnagh, Dublin 12 (enclose your address and contact details) Please advise Jim Barry when you have made an online or postal payment – Phone or Text. Jim at **0872737338** OR [email: barryja@eircom.net](mailto:barryja@eircom.net)

Intending Participants must be either current members of the Hillwalkers Club and/or possess a valid An Óige membership

Bookings open from Monday 04 January 2016

Meals: 4 Continental Breakfasts, 4 Dinners and 4 Packed Lunches included

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

Be prepared for winter conditions in the mountains and bring a good Hand Torch or Headlamp

Meeting Time & Place – 1200hrs on THURSDAY 2nd 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

Early May 2016 - Trip to Scotland

Thursday May 5th - Monday May 9th

Based in Onich, between Glencoe and Fort William

Leaving Dublin Airport early on Thursday May 5th and returning late on Monday May 9th for 5 days walking

The walks programme will depend on weather conditions but will be suitable for all fit members of the Hillwalkers Club.

Accommodation will be in self-catering chalets at Onich. There is a pub/restaurant on site and supermarkets nearby.

Approximate costs per person for accommodation and transport (by hired car) within Scotland are €240 .

Flights and meals will be extra.

Intending participants will be expected to pay a deposit of €120 to secure their place.

Places are limited and overall numbers will depend on the number of car drivers availing of the trip.

A ratio of one driver for every 4/5 participants will apply

Due to this restriction on numbers please do not book flight or pay the deposit until you have checked with Mel O'Hara that there is a place available for you.

Please contact Mel O'Hara, 085 198 1248 or melohara@eircom.net for flight and other details.

Some photos from recent hikes



Gavin at the Lough Brays



Bray Head and the Sugar Loaves from The Lough Brays



Stone circle on Church Mountain – Photo Russell Mills



Enjoying the snow - Photo - AnneMarie Keoghan



Jim keeps a lookout for Polar Bears - Photo - AnneMarie Keoghan

Always Welcome

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

Please send photos to Eugene

dudley@hotmail.com

or Mel

melohara@eircom.net