



Hillwalkers Club

July - October 2018

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

THE HILLWALKER



Baby Ruth Callanan

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Committee 2017/18

Chairman	Simon More
Treasurer	Ita O'Hanlon
Secretary	Frank Carrick
Sunday Hikes Coordinator	Ruaidhrí O' Connor
Environmental Officer	Russell Mills
Membership Secretary	Jim Barry
Club Promoter	James Cooke
Weekend Away Coordinator	Vacant
Club Social Coordinator	Sarah Jackson
Assistant	Gavin Gilvarry
Training Officer	Russell Mills
Newsletter Editor	Mel O'Hara
Webmaster	<i>Special thanks to:</i> Matt Geraghty

HIKE PROGRAMME July 2018 – October 2018

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: €15.00 (*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.

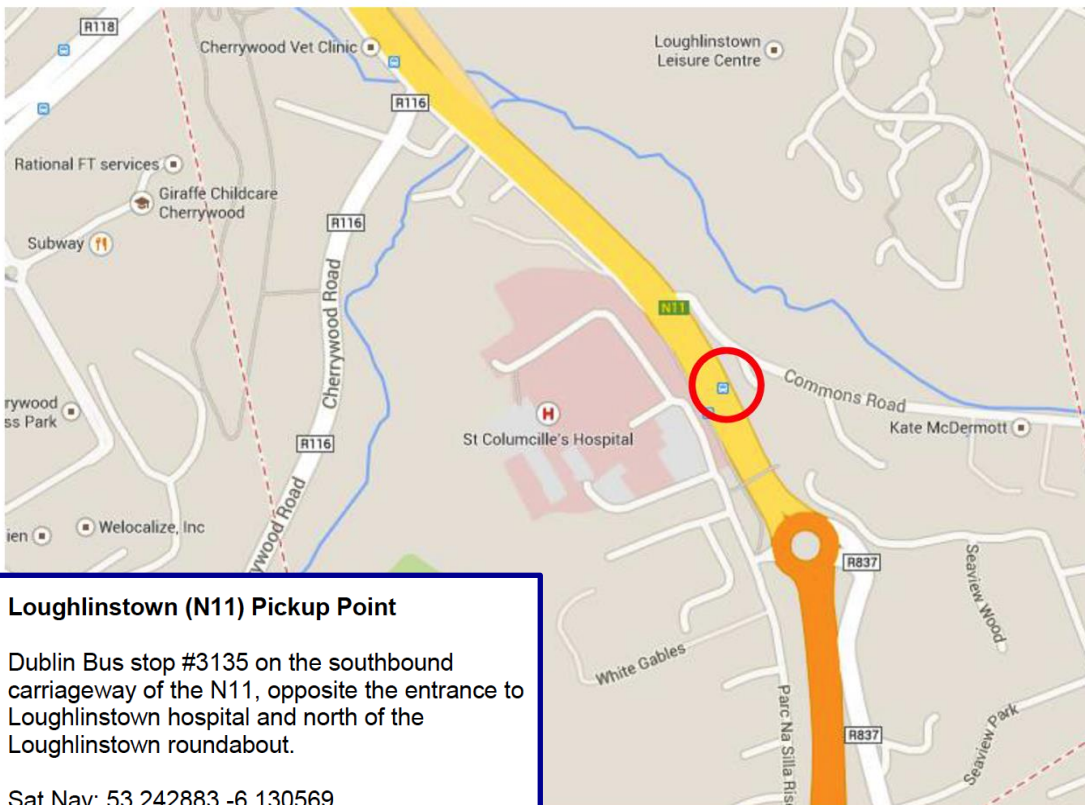
CO-ORDINATION If necessary, tickets are given out on Sundays to ensure that participants reserve a bus place as they arrive.

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

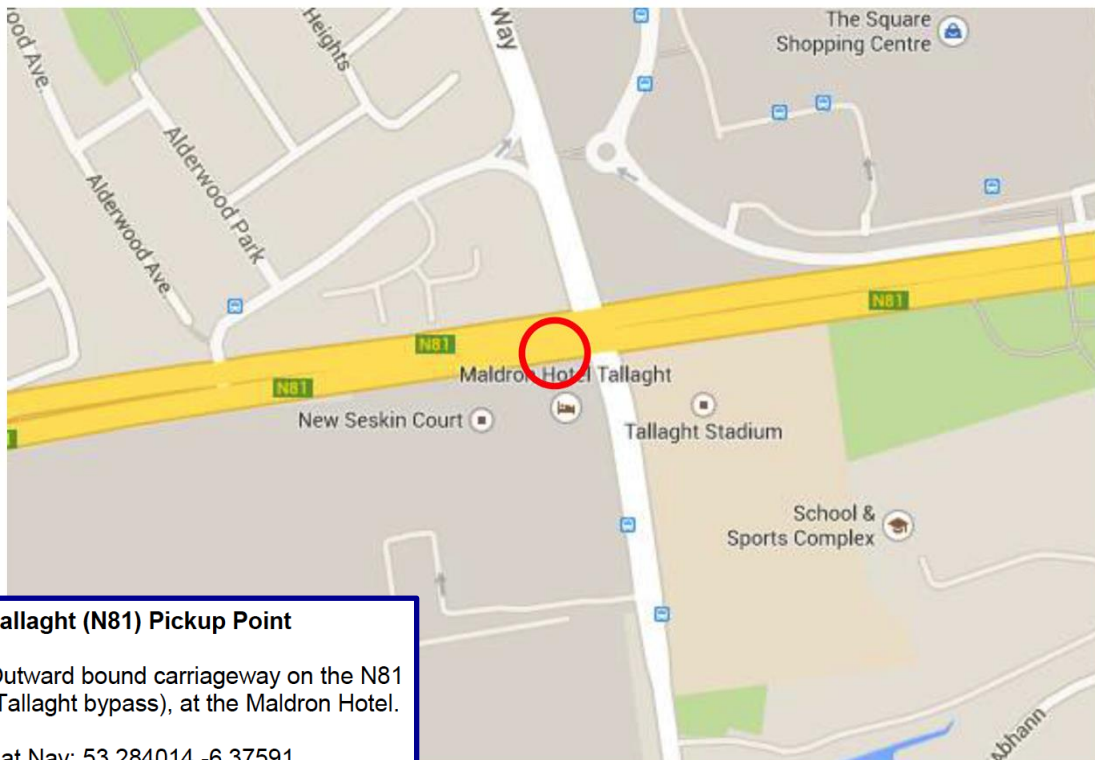
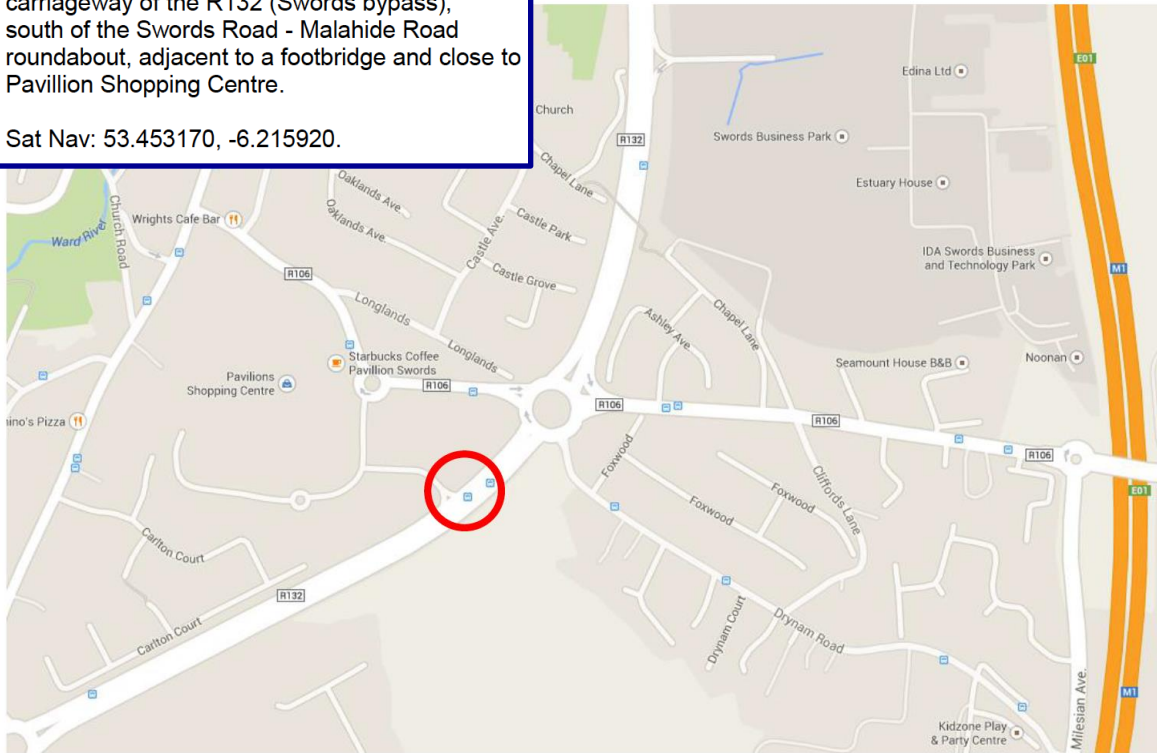
Dublin Bus stop #1304 on the southbound carriageway of the R115, close to Rathfarnham Castle and opposite Butterfield Ave.

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

★★ **Newcomers hard hike** ★★

The Hillwalkers Club offers a Newcomers 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 'Newcomers Hike', participants should not be newcomers to hiking. These hikes are to introduce non-members to the Hillwalkers Club and its hillwalking activities. Therefore, participants need to have a good level of personal fitness and, ideally, have some recent significant 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

Sunday 22nd July

Leader: Neville Ransome

2nd pick-up point: bus stop near Rathfarnham Castle, Rathfarnham Road

****Different return - Loughlinstown****

Route: Glenmacnass carpark * Tonelagee * Wicklow Gap * Turlough hill * Glenealo footbridge* the Spink * Glendalough visitor centre.

Distance: 20 km **Ascent:** 820 m

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

Sunday 29th July

Leader: Michael Quinn

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

Route: Greystones * Cobbler's Bulk * Kilcoole railway station * Webb's Field * The Breaches * Newcastle railway station * a circuit of the BirdWatch Ireland East Coast Nature Reserve, Blackditch Wood * Five Mile Point * Killoughter * Broad Lough * Wicklow Town

Distance: 16 km

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

Sunday 5th August

No Club Hike

Sunday 12th August

No Club Hike

Sunday 19th August
(Brought forward from Sunday 26th)

Leader: Udo Sap

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

Route: Rathnobo, Sorrel hill, Ballynultagh gap, Black hill, Billy Byrne's Gap around Moanbane, over Sileshawn to Lakeview lounge Ballyknockan

Distance: 18 km

Ascent: 820 m

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

Sunday 26th August

No Club Hike
Due to traffic restrictions for
Papal Visit

Sunday 2nd September

****Newcomers Hard Hike****

Leader: Søren Stuhr Mandrup

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

Route: Aghavannagh bridge * Ow valley *
Aghavannagh mountain * Lybagh * Slieve
Maan * Lugnaquilla * Clohernagh * Art's
Lough * Baravore Car Park

Distance 16 km, **Ascent** 750 m

Maps: OSI 56 with 62, East West Mapping
(Lugnaquilla and Glendalough)

Sunday 9th September

Leader : Mel O'Hara

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

Route: Knickeen * Knocknamunnion *
Camenabologue * Canno * Lugnaquilla *
Camara Hill * Fenton's

Distance: 18 kms **Ascent:** 900 m

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

SATURDAY 15th September

****Day trip to Mournes****

*****SATURDAY HIKE*****

Leaving Burgh Quay at 09.00 a.m.
Bus fare €20

**Hike followed by OPTIONAL 4 course
meal in Carrickdale Hotel @ €29pp**

Leader: Chris Byrne

2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:
Pavilions Dublin Bus Stop on the by-pass
(just before the turn for the Pavilions and
footbridge on the city side)

**PICK UP AT SWORDS MUST BE
REQUESTED IN ADVANCE**

PLEASE CONTACT
085 198 1248
TO REQUEST PICK UP AT SWORDS

Route: Attical * Sandy Brae * Red Moss
River * Finlieve * Shanlieve * Eagle Mtn *
Windy Gap * Slievemoughanmore * Pigeon
Mtn * Cock Mtn * Hen Mtn * Rocky River
Car park

Distance: 15 km **Ascent:** 850 m

Map: OS Mournes Activity Map 1: 25,000

Sunday 23rd September

Leader: Kevin McGinley

2nd pick-up point: bus stop near Rathfarnham Castle, Rathfarnham Road

*****Different return - Loughlinstown*****

Route : Sally Gap * Carrigvore * Military Road * Luggala * R. Clohoge * Pier Gates * Wicklow Way * White Hill * Djouce * Wicklow Way * Glasnamullen

Distance: 19 km **Ascent:** 1140 m

Maps: OSI 56, East West Mapping (Wicklow Mountains West with Wicklow East)

Sunday 30th September

Leader : Tom Hennessy

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

Route: . Laragh * Derrybawn * Mullacor * Wicklow Way * Drumgoff.

Distance: 17 kms **Ascent:** 650 m

Map: OSI 56, Harvey
East West Mapping
(Wicklow Mountains West)

Sunday October 7th

Leader : Brian Madden

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

Route: Oldbridge * Inchavore River * Military Road * The Oasis * Kanturk * Scarr * Forest Entrance GR 129 994.

Distance: 17 kms **Ascent:** 560 m

Map: OSI 56; East-West Mapping (Wicklow Mountains West); Harveys

Sunday 14th October

****Newcomers Hard Hike****

Leader: Terry Curran

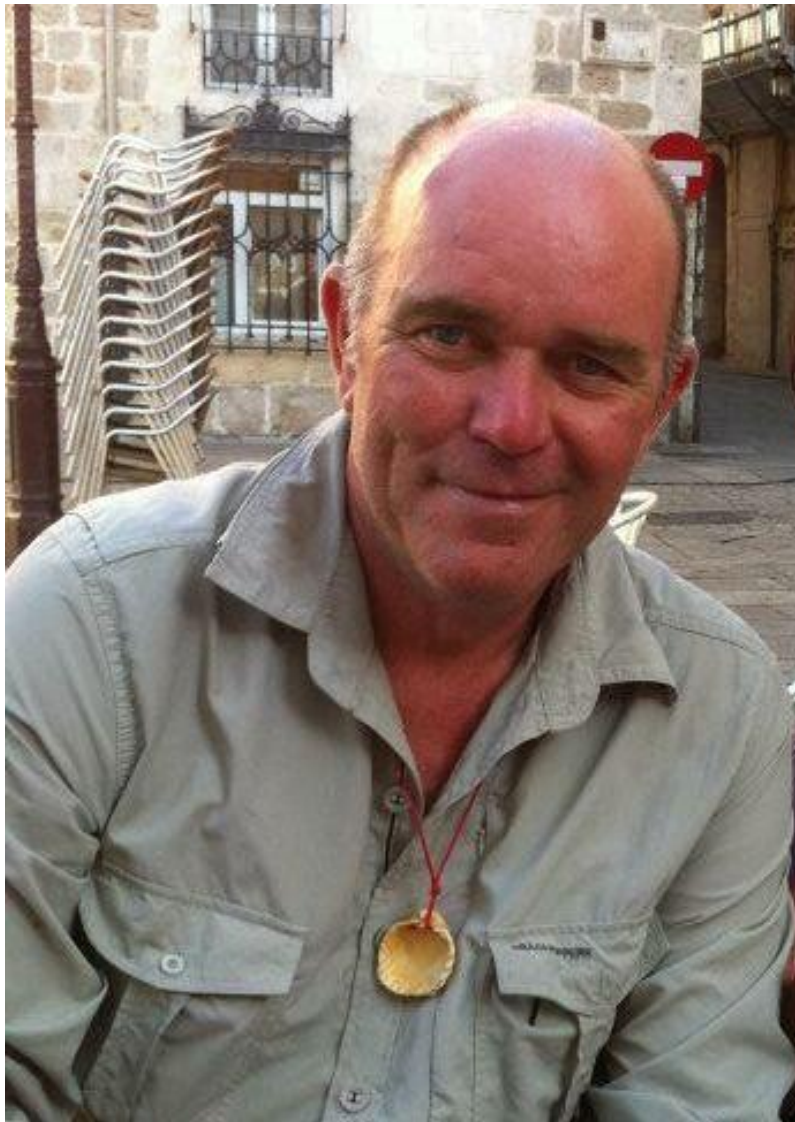
2nd pick-up & return drop-off point:
Bus stop at Loughlinstown roundabout

Route:. Glendalough Visitor's Centre * The Green Road * Derrybawn * Derrybawn Ridge * Mullacor * Top of the Bounds * Van Diemen's Mines * Glenealo Footbridge * Zig Zags * Miners Village * Miners Road * Upper Lake * Glendalough Visitors Centre

Distance: 19 km **Ascent:** 600 m

Maps: OSI Sheet 56, East West Mapping (Lugnaquilla and Glendalough); Harveys
Wicklow Mountains

Paul Smith RIP



The late Paul Smith was a member of the Hillwalkers Club for many years. His quick wit and ready smile enlivened many a hike and trip away.

Paul was a long-serving member of the Defence Forces and served abroad on U.N. peacekeeping duties in the Middle East where his good humour, intelligence and common sense made him ideal for this role.

After Paul retired from the Defence Forces he hiked a lot on the Camino. He posted progress reports of these trips on his Facebook page and these reports were very well written and highly entertaining. A veteran of many challenge walks such as the Glover Highlander, Paul didn't just confine himself to the Camino Frances but also reached Santiago using several of the other Camino routes

An ardent, passionate and loyal supporter of "The Dubs", he was thrilled with their recent success while Liverpool FC held his interest regarding soccer clubs.

Paul will be greatly missed by his relatives, his many friends and his Defence Force comrades but most especially by his heartbroken wife, Deirdre, who has been left bereft at his passing.

Congratulations

It's a girl



***Congratulations to club members
Catherine and Ronan on the safe
arrival of baby Ruth.***



And congratulations to Brendan

Club news and events continued

Combined Hillwalkers Club and An Óige Membership

Committee members Jim Barry and Russell Mills have successfully negotiated an An Óige membership price reduction with An Óige management. Consequently, the Hillwalkers Club committee are now in a position to incorporate both Hillwalkers Club and An Óige memberships for an additional fee reduced from €25 to only €10.00.

Following this discount the new combined Hillwalker and An Óige membership cost will be €45.00, which compares to €60 in previous years.

The cost of club membership to existing An Óige Life Members will remain unchanged at €35.00

This welcome development will be implemented in the new 2019 membership year commencing for new members on 1 September 2018 and for existing members from renewal date on 1 November 2018

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Club Membership

The General Data Protection Regulation came into force on 25th May 2018. The new regulation strengthens the provisions of the current Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003 respectfully. However, GDPR introduces new elements and significant enhancements which will require detailed consideration by all membership based clubs involved in the processing of personal data.

New online Membership Form

The Hillwalkers Club committee is currently preparing a new membership form that will reflect the requirements of the new Regulation in accordance with Mountaineering Ireland Guidance Document : **GDPR for Clubs** to be circulated to all members.

The new membership form will be available soon both on line and by email if requested.



The Hillwalkers Club

Fiche Cúig Bliain ag Fás – Twenty Five Years Growing!

The Hillwalkers Club is 25 years old this year and to celebrate the occasion, a three course meal has been organised by **Garry Byrne**.

Venue: Wuff, 23 Benburb Street, Dublin 7. On the corner of Blackhall Place, the **Luas red line runs directly in front, Smithfield or Museum stops can be used.**



Date and Time: Thursday 6th September, 2018 at 7.30pm.

Pre and After Drinks: The Mission Bar, 30 Ellis Quay, Dublin 7 (suggested venue).



Price: Around €25 for the meal, drinks extra. Wine and bottled beers available.

Booking Deposit and Payment Method: A deposit of **€15** by **Bank Transfer** is required, payable by **Friday 27th July 2018**.

Bookings will open from **Wednesday 11 July**.

Pre-payment is requested to confirm your place and is payable by bank transfer to the Bank of Ireland club account.

Please email **Ita O'Hanlon** at itaohdubs@gmail.com to receive bank account details for bank transfer or, if payment by cheque is preferred, the posting details.

Please be sure to include your name in the bank transfer remittance information.

Club news and events continued

AGM 2018

The 2018 club AGM will be held at The Teacher's Club, Parnell Square on Friday October 12th 2018 at 20.00

October Weekend Away in Mourne

The Club is considering running a weekend trip to the Mourne mountains for the October bank holiday weekend, leaving Dublin by bus at 9am on the Saturday morning with hikes on Saturday, Sunday and Monday under the leadership of Frank Keoghan.

We will be based in the Donard Hotel in Newcastle, staying on both Saturday and Sunday night with all meals included. Returning to Dublin on Monday evening.

Before finalising arrangements we are asking interested members to e-mail Ruaidhri O'Connor at ruaidhri11@gmail.com to indicate your interest in travelling.

The final decision on the weekend will depend on the number of interested members.

Cost will be approximately €190 per person to include transport together with 2 nights dinner and bed and breakfast in hotel.

Final cost will depend on numbers travelling.

Some Map Information

A useful map lamination service is available from
Map Shop Lamination Services,
Unit 12, Canal Walk,
Parkwest Industrial Estate
Dublin 12
(01) 620 4124

East West Mapping now provide encapsulated versions of some of their maps.

East West Mapping have an on-line ordering facility available at <https://www.eastwestmapping.ie/shop/>

June trip to the Peak District – *Text by Elizabeth McWilliam*

On Friday morning, 1st June, fourteen walkers flew to Manchester for a week long, two centre trip organised by Simon More and James Cooke to the Peak District National Park. Located mainly in Derbyshire it was the first national park in England created in 1951.

The Peak District can be divided into two areas, the Dark Peak in the north and the White Peak in the south. The Dark Peak, higher than the White Peak is mainly composed of gritstone ridges and moorland plateaus. Owing to the less porous nature of the rock it has more rivers and bogs on its surface. The White Peak is a limestone plateau of mainly porous, water soluble limestone in an area of green fields, dales and limestone outcrops. The whole area is hilly with some steep ridges but overall no great height.



Helen, Eugene, Frank. Brian, Dot, Matthieu, Liz, Søren, Michelle and Simon

1st JUNE (Heatherdene car park – Win Hill – Wooler Knoll – Heatherdene Car Park) 16 km

After picking up two nine seater vehicles Simon and James drove to our first destination Hathersage, a pretty village in the Dark Peak where we stayed in the small but comfortable and friendly YHA Hostel. From there we immediately set out in beautiful sunshine for a late afternoon hike to stretch our legs and limber up.

From Ladybower Reservoir in the Hope Valley, we made the short steep climb through a forest to the summit of Win Hill which gave amazing views of the surrounding countryside. A gentler descent and pleasant walk to the cars, then to the hostel for a welcome and filling two course meal.

Afterwards a dash to the pub, unfortunately the nearest one was closed for a wedding. We were directed well outside the village to an outlying establishment, which being Friday evening was crowded and lively. Only time for a quick drink at this packed hostelry (two for the faster drinkers!).

2nd JUNE (Castleton car park – Lose Hill – Hollins Cross – Mam Tor – Grindsbrook Booth – Upper Booth – Rushup Edge – Castleton Car Park) 25 km

Replete from a full English breakfast we started from Castleton village (between the Dark and White Peaks). On the first climb up Lose Hill the day became misty so visibility was poor to begin with. As we progressed over what is known as the Great Ridge which separates the vales of Castleton and Edale towards the impressive Mam Tor (or Shivering Mountain) the day improved and we had great views once again. The area is roughly paved to prevent erosion, so progress along the ridge was quick but paths fairly congested, to be expected at the weekend. After lunch Claire introduced a new dimension to the hillwalkers – afternoon tea! There were no objections and we had a stop in Grindsbrook Booth Edale for tea and cakes Refreshed we started from the southern terminus of the Pennine Way to Rushup Edge, a ridge separating the Hope and Edale Valleys, then descended to Castleton.

Before dinner, in the interests of the group James, Eugene and Søren visited the village in search of a pub for thirsty hikers as the George was closed for yet another wedding. The Little John Hotel opposite the George proved satisfactory.



Red bull gives you wings

3rd JUNE (Edale Car Park – The Nab – near Madwoman’s Stones – spot height 590 m – Hartshorne/Upper Tor – Crowden Tower – Jacob’s Ladder- Upper Booth – Grindsbrook Booth – Edale Carpark) 23 km

Starting in Edale we walked towards Kinder Scout, at 636 m the highest area in the Peak District, though it is moorland rather than a defined peak. It was also the location of the mass trespass in 1932 which eventually led to the ‘right to roam’. The area is somewhat reminiscent of Wicklow with heather, rough moorland ground and bog cotton. It was decided not to linger, as progress was slower, instead went to more dramatic and interesting features such as Crowden Tower which looks down on the impressive Clowden Clough gully scramble. We then had a steep descent via the aptly named Jacob’s Ladder on the Pennine Way. Not a tea shop in sight but we came across two enterprising young boys in a village selling delicious blackcurrant and elderflower cordial. Refreshed we reached the tea shop at Grindsbrook Booth before returning to the hostel.

We booked the Little John for a meal. They must have been warned that a mixture of mad Irish, French, Danes, Aussies and Americans were descending as we had a large table in a room to ourselves! A good evening was had by all.



Could do with wings now

4th JUNE (Hartington Hall car park – Wolfscote Dale – Milldale –Alstonefield – Narrowdale Hill –Lower Hurst Farm – Mill Lane- Hartington Hall car park) 22 km

After breakfast we made for our next destination, a short drive to Hartington Hall in the White Peak. Originally a 17th century manor house it retains many of its original features and is now an YHA Hostel in Hartington village near the Staffordshire border. Much larger than Hathersage and less homely it is still an attractive venue with beautiful grounds and great facilities including a bar and games rooms. The ladies bedroom had an unusual hazard in the form of a hefty raised beam running across the floor which made manoeuvring in the dark interesting.

Having dumped our luggage (and not even a tea break!) we set off on foot from the hostel to Wolfscote Dale through a relatively flat river valley characterised by limestone outcrops. The river Dove appeared to be anglers' paradise and they jealously guarded their patch lest we should disturb the fish. A sharp climb to a scenic lunch spot then on through Milldale to the village of Alstonefield in Staffordshire where we were ever hopeful of the now expected tea. Having scouted the village without luck we settled on the George pub for refreshments without the cakes. Moved on through fields and farmland filled with livestock. On reaching a field with cows, calves and a bull, it was thought prudent by our cattle experts Simon, James and Tara to bypass that field for an alternative route which added somewhat to the day.

Dinner in the hostel, then to one of the two pubs in the village. As the hostel is situated halfway up a steep hill evening entertainment came at a price.



Live Streaming

5th JUNE (Ilam carpark – Thorpe Cloud – Dovedale – Hall Dale - Stanshope – Wetton – Beeston Tor Farm – Manifold Trail – Throwley Hall – Rushley – Ilam Hall carpark) 25 km

Starting from Ilam Hall near Ashbourne, a Youth Hostel and National Trust property we climbed Thorpe Cloud (a steep limestone knoll). The latter part of the week involved more walking through fields with sheep and cattle. We soon became accustomed to the bulls as they appeared placid, even friendly and more interested in the bull in the next field than us. Our final stop was at Throwley Hall, a large now ruined medieval manor house overlooking the Manifold Valley, then back to Ilam Hall to collect the cars. There was general consternation at the lack of a village teashop on route, other than by making a considerable detour, so Simon ever thoughtful suggested we stop on route at the Izaak Walton Hotel to compensate the loss and allay withdrawal symptoms.



James, Simon, Liz, Brian and Bill

6th JUNE (Calton Lees carpark – Chatsworth Park - Baslow – Calver – Coombs Dale – Longstone Edge – Great Longstone – Monsal Trail – Bakewell – Haddon Park – Rowsley Moor Wood – Calton Plantations – Calton Houses, Calton Lees carpark) 30 km

Today a choice, a hike (originally 21 kms!) or a visit to Chatsworth House the vast stately home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire (also owners of Lismore Castle in Waterford). Michelle, Dot, Tara, Matthieu, Eugene and Helen opted for culture which included a tour of the house and the magnificent gardens while Simon led James, Søren, Bill, Brian, Liz, Frank and Claire on a hike.

A gentle walk through Chatsworth Park followed by some road walking through picturesque villages to Longstone Edge. We negotiated a prickly descent through overgrown briars and nettles (the only rough patch on the trip) before lunch with a panoramic view overlooking Great Longstone which was to be our tea stop. After a break in a Great Longstone pub we joined the Monsal Trail to Bakewell, home of the famous tarts and largest town in the peaks. A quick visit to a bakery but the day was too hot to linger so resisted temptation and were quickly on our way. A very steep climb through Rowley Forest and back to Chatsworth to collect the rest of the group around 5.30 p.m. In all we had done around 30 kms that day. The Chatsworth group were relaxed and armed with purchases, the walkers hot and dirty.

We were not all accommodated in the same restaurant so split into two groups, some in the Devonshire Arms the rest in the Charles Cotton Hotel. However, everyone managed a drink afterwards in the Devonshire Arms before tackling the hill to the hostel.

7th JUNE (Hartington Hall carpark – Sheen – Pilsbury – Pilsbury Castle Hills – Hartington Hall carpark) 11 km

Last day, last hike. While Frank and Claire elected to have a relaxing morning in the village the rest of us set off from the hostel to the village of Sheen on the Staffordshire side of the river Dove, visiting the old Anglican Church graveyard which has origins in the 14th century. Through more fields with bulls, which we were by now used to. Finally to the Norman remains of Pilsbury Castle, a motte and bailey structure situated on a steep sided natural limestone knoll from where it would have controlled the whole valley.

On the way we noticed a cow with her new-born calf getting to its feet for the first time and taking its first wobbly steps.

Back towards the hostel and one final push up the hill to collect our gear and cars then to Manchester airport where we were met by massive crowds and rigorous security before our delayed flight back to Dublin.

A great week, fantastic weather, not a drop of rain or wind. We all survived with nothing worse than insect bites, nettle stings, a few scratches, a couple of pairs of torn trousers and ever expanding waistlines from the excellent hostel grub. It certainly seemed as if the numerous stiles were getting narrower as the week went on! Great well marked trails everywhere and well-kept villages, some even with fully functioning telephone boxes. The only ugly scar on the landscape was the Hope cement factory in the Dark Peak which was very visible but it provides much needed jobs in an area with little alternative employment.

Thanks to Simon and James for organising the trip, Simon for leading such wonderful walks and James for arranging the accommodation. To both of them for looking after us all so well and shouldering the driving for the week.

Ring of Imaal Walk 2018

Text by Brian Madden

This year, the 'Ring' took place in perfect conditions, with sun in abundance, and sunscreen and liquids being the top priority. There were two walking options. The longer one started at the foot of Keadeen and finished in Donard. This was 29.2km long with 1380m cumulative ascent, and the main group completed it in 8-1/2 hrs. The shorter route started at Ballinfoyle and finished in Donard. This was 22.7km long with 960m ascent, and the group took 7hrs to complete this.

Notwithstanding this, there were traditionalists who insisted on walking the full route from Donard to Donard. Martin K, Neville R and Tess B did this. Martin & Tess started off at about 5:30, and Neville about 6am. Brian Flynn, with Søren S M, John G and Gavin G were in close pursuit. They were on the road out of Donard at about 7:30am. The distance was 37.7km and 1600m ascent. Bravo to all, who share this year's 'Lord of the Ring' award. Jim Barry was the main organiser, and was on the ground early (at about 5:30am). Tom Milligan, and Joe and Conor Gilvarry ably assisted him. Together they set up a water station at the Ballinabarney Gap, which was much appreciated by walkers as they came down from Keadeen.



Joe and Conor at their watering station

The bus left town at 9am. Jim met us at Knockanarrigan Cross, and transported the long-route hikers, less their rucksacks, to the base of Keadeen by car. Tom M guided this group to the top of Keadeen, as there are some tricky bits to negotiate. This group was Ruaidhri, Robert F, Aisling, Laura, Gerry W, Adam N, Aidan C and Aidan L

The rest of us stayed in the bus as far as Ballinfoyle, where Joe and Conor Gilvarry had already set up their watering hole. We left the bags there to be collected by the Keadeen group.



The Moderate Group on Lug

The 'moderate' group comprised Frank R, Maria C, James C, Brian Mu, John B and Brian Ma. As we hiked up Ballineddan and Slievemaan, we kept looking back for matchstick men on the top of Keadeen, but ne'er a sign. I think we were underestimating the toughness of Keadeen. There was a festive atmosphere in the sunshine at Percy's Table at Lug summit, where we stopped for lunch. A local GAA club were also having a day out on the mountain



Aisling, Ruaidhri, Aidan C, Robert F, Adam N, Aidan L and Laura on Lug



Leaving Lug

The rest of the hike was straightforward enough. During the long haul up Lobawn, we came across Tess, who was taking it leisurely, communing with nature but also suffering from burning soles. We offered condolences. I don't think we had anything more useful to offer.

Twomey's pub was a joyous sight after the long road walk from Bolton's Yard. Jim was very welcoming. According as walkers rambled in, he distributed sandwiches, chocolate bars, tea and certificates of completion of the Ring of Imaal. No one was in any hurry. We watched Tipp and Mayo slogging it out at Semple Stadium. The bus took us back to Dublin at about 8:30, after a great day in the hills.

Our particular thanks are due to Jim, to Tom M, and Joe and Conor G for all the organising work they put into to making this a most enjoyable and successful event.



Tess on Lug

Photos from some recent hikes



Terry explains Plan B



Warren adopts a familiar pose



Tommy Lundy shows us the rock carvings on Tonduff



Philip and Conor at Lough Ouler