

MOURNE RAMBLERS NEWSLETTER

July 2017

A message from the Editor

Welcome to the latest edition of the Mourne Rambling Group newsletter. In this issue I hope you will find articles and items of interest to you including:

- NEW MEMBER UPDATE
- THANK YOU
- D GROUP WALKS
- THE MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP IS ALMOST FIFTY YEARS OLD
- UPCOMING DONEGAL TRIP
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Vincent Trainor, Editor

New members since the last newsletter (February 2017)
(up-to-date as at 27 July 2017)

Neill Matson, Gerard Connolly, Gerry McKenna,
Claire Franklin Hughes, Kevin Murray, Bernie Corcoran

We are delighted to welcome these 6 new members since February 2017. This makes a total of 22 new members this year.

THANK YOU

Since the last newsletter, there have been quite a few events organised by members for the group. We would like to offer our thanks on behalf of everyone for the following:

- **Slide Show (19 February).** Thank you to Harry Goodman for once again organising this event so well and to all the members who showed pictures or attended
- **Navigation Training (01 April).** Joe McKnight made all the arrangements for a very successful Navigation Training session on 01 April (see report below). Many thanks to Joe for his efforts. From all accounts all those who participated found it a very valuable experience
- **Dingle Peninsula (26 – 30 May).** This trip to the Dingle Peninsula was organised by Andrew McKibbin for an A/B group. Ray Gray organised the same trip for the C group. A special thanks to Andrew and Ray for doing the organising and leading. Thanks also to Ray Gray for the report on the trip (article below)
- **Annual Picnic (11 June).** Meelmore Lodge was again the venue for the annual picnic and there was a good turnout of ramblers present. We extend our sincere thanks to Carmel Quinn and Toni & Jan Taylor for their efforts in planning and providing the party. Thanks to Maggie Pridgen for organising the welcome walk for potential members and to George Acheson for leading it. Thank you to everyone who came along and thanks to Meelmore Lodge for the use of their premises.

D Group Walks

D group walks have come a long way since they started in 2015 and are now a well established feature of our walk programme.

In the 2017 programme, there were fifteen D group walks and we would like to offer more in 2018, perhaps two (or more) D group walks each month.

However, we are currently limited by the number of members who are willing or able to lead a D group walk.

The basic task of a leader is to plan a suitable walk, and lead the group of walkers around the route ensuring as far as possible that they are safe and are enjoying themselves. Many of our walkers have a vast amount of experience of hill walking, and some may even have led walks in the past. The role of leader need not be an onerous one, and it is certainly not an isolated one – earlier this year we instigated a new role of Walk Leader Co-ordinator, whereby certain members agreed to co-ordinate support for new or prospective leaders.

So, if you would be willing to consider leading one or more D group walks in 2018, I would ask you to contact the D group walk leader co-ordinator, Trevor Russell.

Many thanks

Peter McGowan

THE MOURNE RAMBLING GROUP IS ALMOST FIFTY YEARS OLD

In 2019 the Mourne Rambling Group will celebrate 50 years of walking mountains in the Mournes and many other areas in Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales and occasionally further afield. Had it not been for the foresight of Clarence Cheney and his fellow founder members in 1969 we would not be approaching this landmark anniversary.

It would be remiss of us not to make an effort to mark the 50th anniversary. The current committee is involved in preparation for the big event which will probably be properly celebrated in the second half of 2019.

Some members have been in the group long enough to recall the celebrations of the 25th and the 40th anniversary. The aim of this article is to encourage members to get involved in the celebrations this time around. One way to ensure lasting memories is to produce a publication as was done for the 40th back in 2009. The questions about what to include may be answered by asking members what they would like to see. Could I make a few suggestions which might get you thinking of putting pen to paper:

- When and why you joined the Mourne Rambling Group
- Your first walk with the Mourne Rambling Group
- Gear changes over the years
- Anecdotes and favourite memories
- Your favourite walk

I am sure there are other topics which members could write about.

There are members in the Mourne Rambling Group who have been with the group from almost the very start. I wonder how many would be prepared to write an article giving a flavour of

how it was in the early days. I am sure it would be good to get several different points of view.

I hope this short article has got you thinking about being involved in our 50th anniversary celebrations. You will be hearing more as the months go past.

If you wish to let me know about something you would be able to provide, feel free to let me know and I will make a note for future reference.

Vincent Trainor
Mobile 07835128564
Home 02841763101
Email trainorvj@yahoo.co.uk

UPCOMING DONEGAL TRIP

(Saturday 26th August to Tuesday 29th August)

The dates of the Donegal walking weekend are fast approaching. As previously advised, I have provisionally booked rooms in the Teac Campbell guesthouse, and I would now like to firm up on numbers for the trip.

I currently have a note of ten walkers planning to come on the weekend. If anyone else would like to go, please let me know by Wednesday 2nd August.

Many thanks

Peter McGowan

Tel: 07771641961 or email: ptmcgowan@btinternet.com

TRAINING UPDATE

The Navigation Training Day took place on Saturday 1st April 2017 at Meelmore Lodge. There was a good turn out with 14 club members participating in the training. There were some 'returners' from last year and it was good to see a number of new members taking advantage of the opportunity. As with last year we split into 4 groups, each with an experienced leader, depending on knowledge and experience. There was an initial 'desk' session in the Meelmore Conference Room for about 90 minutes and then it was off to the hills to put the theory into practice. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind to us this year but it was not enough to dampen the enjoyment and enthusiasm of the participants. The groups and leaders met up for a short debrief before dispersing and the feedback was very positive. Everyone agreed they had found the Training Day worthwhile and it had definitely added to their knowledge and confidence. It was suggested that a day of practical exercises would be beneficial, of which more later in this update.

As usual the training day would not have been possible without the invaluable contributions from our group leaders Jonathan Shields, Ray Gray, George Acheson and Joe McKnight and our thanks goes also to the management and staff at Meelmore Lodge for looking after us.

Dates for you Diary

First Aid Training - Maggie Pridgen will be running a First Aid course at Meelmore Lodge on Saturday 7th October 2017. First Aid is a valuable skill for anyone whether at home or venturing out into the mountains and Maggie is a very experienced First Aid trainer. Further details regarding registration for the course will be circulated at the beginning of September.

Practical Navigation Day - It was suggested during the feedback session at the Navigation Day that it would be useful to have a day during which members could apply their navigation skills under controlled conditions. I am not going to give too much away at this time but we intend to organise an event in the Mourne on the 21st October during which small groups will, independently, carry out practical navigation tasks which will test their skills and ability. If I can squeeze the Treasurer I may be able to persuade him to pay for some prizes! So, remember to put 21st October in your diaries.

Joe McKnight

Dingle Trip

C Group
26-30 May 2017

Ten of us at varying times made up the number on this trip - Alice McParland, Hilja McMahon, Toni Taylor, Mary O'Dea, Noel Rice, Gabriel McAuley, Kingsley Thompson, Norman Patton, Dermot MacDermott and Ray Gray. The aim of the C Group was to cover the same walks as the B Group, but at a much easier pace. None of us are getting any younger, particularly yours truly!

Day 1. Stradbally and Beenoskee

This was our opening bid. The weather forecast, although for dry weather, predicted mist on the tops. As these hills are local to Annascaul where we were based we did not wish to venture very far until we had the "feel of the mountains" This proved to be a great day and an excellent opener. We covered 16km with over 1000m of ascent. This was accomplished in seven and a half hours which gives a clue as to our steady pace! The only down side was that we did not enjoy much in the way of views above 600m due to the mist.

Day 2. Carrauntoohil

This was the big day! The weather forecast was much improved and for once became reality. Our route was through the Hag's Glen and up the Devil's Ladder. Our return was via the Zig Zags. This added a couple of kilometres onto the journey but was much preferred to descending via the Beenkeragh Ridge. We left that to the B

Group! The walk was 13.5km with well over 1000m of ascent. We were on the hill for just short of 8 hours. Quite a day!

Day 3. Slieve Mish Mountains

This was another day with a poor weather forecast. Although it remained dry, again the mist was a problem the higher we climbed. There were one or two clear spells where spectacular views were to be seen, albeit briefly. This walk started and finished at sea level and included the summits of Bautregaum, Caherconree and Gearhane. We covered over 14km and ascent was a little short of 1100m. We were on the hill for 7 hours and it was another enjoyable day.

To conclude, I would like to express my thanks to Andrew McKibbin for organising the trip and also to personally thank Norman for assisting me in leading the C Group. I look forward to next year!

Ray Gray

NOTICEBOARD

- Our Annual Bring-a-Bag day will take place on the walk from Meelmore Lodge on Sunday 24 September. On that day members are encouraged to help clean up an area of the Mourne by taking off the mountain some of the litter they encounter. Bags will be provided for the purpose.
- **The Annual General Meeting of the Mourne Rambling Group will be held on Sunday 01 October at 4.30pm in the Tollymore National Outdoor Centre. Formal notification and an agenda will be forwarded to all members nearer the time. Members who wish to bring forward motions to be considered at the AGM are advised of the procedure to be followed. Ideally, proposals should be passed in writing to the Secretary, George Acheson, 26 Ballymena Road, Doagh, Ballyclare, BT39 0QR, by 31 August, in order that that they may be included in the agenda circulated to the membership. However, the Constitution allows motions to be added to the agenda at the start of the meeting, provided a majority of members agree. All motions must have a Proposer and Secunder, at least one of whom must be present at the meeting**
- The Christmas Dinner will take place on Sunday 03 December. Details will be forwarded nearer to the time. Please make a note of this date in your diary. A big turnout of Ramblers for this festive occasion would be very welcome
- I have had a message from a group of the Irish Ramblers (Dublin) who are coming to the Mourne at the end of October. They may wish to join us on the walk on Sunday 29 October from Yellow Water Picnic Site. I think it would be good for us to meet with them and hopefully have a very enjoyable walk together. I will keep you informed by email of developments as we get nearer the time
- The next issue of the club Newsletter will be in November 2017.

MEMBERS 2017

The list below contains the names of all members who have paid for 2017 (up to and including 27 July 2017). Please check to see that your name is on the list. If your name ought to be on the list and has been omitted, please accept our apologies. Please contact the Treasurer on 078 3512 8564 for clarification.

(125)

Acheson, George	Hulme, Joan	Newell, Sarah
Beck, Patricia	Hussain, Rafia	O'Connor, Damian
Browne, Gary	Kane, Fiona	O'Connor, Nuala
Browne, Geraldine	Keenan, Eileen	O'Connor, Roisin
Cahill, Philip	Kelly, Aine	O'Dea, Mary
Calvert, Joan	Keown, Ann	O'Donnell, Noleen
Carragher, Anna	Knox, Victor	O'Hagan, Joan
Carragher, Fionnuala	Loughran, Margaret	Oldfield, David
Cauley, Irene	MacDermott, Dermot	Osborne, Robert
Connolly, Patricia	Mackey, Francis	Overend, Martin
Connolly, Gerard	Magowan, Reg	Papafio, Nancy
Connolly, Raymond	Magowan, Rodney	Parkinson, Alan
Corcoran, Bernie	Magowan, Terry	Patterson, Wendy
Coyle, Loretto	Marshall, Robert	Patton, Norman
Cummings, Thomas	Martin, Laura	Pridgen, Maggie
Curlett, Thomas	Matson, Neill	Proctor, Ian
Dean, Liam	Matthews, Jim	Quiery, Pamela
Doran, Marie	Matthews, Lynn	Quinn, Carmel
Drinkell, Denis	McAllister, Catherine	Reid, Ken
Farrington, Gerry	McCauley, Gabriel	Rice, Noel
Fawcett, Laura	McCavera, Dora	Rima, Bert
Forsythe, Anthony	McClay, Monica	Roulston, Robert
Franklin, Roisin	McComish, Domnall	Russell, Trevor
Franklin Hughes, Claire	McCreery, Gordon	Sands, Dympna
Gilmore, Seamus	McGinley, Mark	Scott, Barry
Goodman, Harry	McGivern, John	Shields, Jonathan
Gray, Raymond	McGowan, Peter	Sloan, Elizabeth
Greaney, Ellen	McKenna, Gerry	Smyth, C. J.
Green, Doreen	McKenna, Vincent	Smyth, Hazel
Green, Wilfred	McKibbin, Andrew	Smyth, Raymond
Gribbin, Reynold	McKnight, Joseph	Sochor, Cecilia
Gunn, Philip	McLean, Bernard	Stewart, Derek
Hamilton, David	McMahon, Hilja	Stuart, Ian
Hamilton, Joan	McManus, Owen	Taylor, John
Hanna, Maire	McMillan, Marlene	Taylor, Toni
Hanratty, Patrick	McParland, Alice	Templeton, Helen
Henderson, Helen	Moore, Anne	Thompson, Kingsley
Henderson, Julie	Moore, Bernie	Trainor, Vincent
Hoeritzauer, Marie	Morris, Louise	Tumilty, Pat
Hughes, Seamus	Muller, Janet	Tweed, John
Hughes, Teresa	Murphy, Shelagh	Wales, Jackie
Hughes, Thomas	Murray, Kevin	

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS 2017

Ciaran Hanna, Joseph Job, David Reid, Anne Trainor

HONORARY MEMBER

Christina Mackle, President