

NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ML training	2
MS courses	2
Slideshow	2
New Committee	3
AGM	3
Upcoming events	3
Binn Bhraon	4

Our New Communications Channel!

Welcome to the first Issue of our Newsletter! We hope to use this new channel as our primary means of communication in the future.

Club members are becoming active in an increasing variety of outdoor pursuits, both inside and outside the Club, and social events organised by members have expanded well beyond the traditional Christmas and Summer Parties. Its sometimes hard to keep track of

everything that's going on!

We've been using e-mail to try to keep everybody up-to-date, but with the volume and variety of activity that we now need to communicate about, there's a danger that the stream of e-mails will become annoying, or that important details will get lost in the deluge.

We hope that the Newsletter will address these potential problems. We also hope that it will give members an

opportunity to make the Club more relevant and interesting for everybody by providing an opportunity to contribute informative articles, background information, trip reports and anything else that other members might be interested in.

Like all Newsletters, its success depends on members' involvement.

We hope you enjoy it!

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Christmas Party date and venue changed: K2 Adventure Centre, 12th Dec.
- MS1 – places available for 14th/15th Nov. See page 2.
- Membership fees now overdue!
- Slideshow rescheduled to 19th Nov. See page 2.

COC Forum Relaunch

The COC Forum has been updated and relaunched! Many thanks to Radu Toma who put a lot of time into redesign and implementation.

We've tried to make the Forum as user-friendly as possible, so that club members will use it to keep in touch about outdoor activities and news inside and outside the club.

It can be used to post

information about events, walking festivals, environmental and access issues, outdoor resources, equipment, trip reports, buddy requests, car-pooling, etc. etc. etc. In fact, any information you have or come across that might be of use to other club members.

There are also specialist Sections for Rockclimbing, Mountain biking and Cycling.

There's a post in the **Clare Outdoor Club** section about how to register. Once you've registered, check the FAQ (top of each page) to submit your own posts.

All existing user accounts are still active.

You can access the forum through the website, or go there directly by using the link on the back page of the Newsletter – no excuses!

Mountain Leader (ML) Training



Having completed ML 1 earlier this year, 7 club members will do ML 2 in Connemara on **28th – 30th Nov.** Best of luck to Jim McHale, Rory Murphy, Elaine Keegan, Mary Conway, Dave Lyons, Emma Glanville and Shane O'Grady.

Anybody who has done Mountain Skills (MS) 1 and 2 and who has successfully completed the Mountain Skills Assessment (MSA) is

eligible for ML training.

The ML scheme is intended for those who wish to lead others across the mountains of Ireland and Britain. Even for those without leadership ambitions, it is a useful way of learning more about topics such as navigating in difficult conditions or coping with steep ground.

The Club benefits from having qualified Mountain

Leaders among the membership as it spreads the burden on the panel of leaders and provides for a greater depth of experience.

We would encourage all Club members who have successfully completed MSA to consider progressing to ML.

For more information, check the Mountaineering Ireland website.

Upcoming Mountain Skills Courses (MS1 & 2)

Burren Outdoor Education Centre (www.burrenoec.com) have scheduled two Mountain Skills course over the next few months. The first consists of MS1 on **14th/15th Nov** and MS2 on **5th/6th Dec**. The second course will be in Feb/Mar next year (dates to be confirmed).

Irish Adventures

(www.irishadventures.net) are planning Mountain Skills Assessments (MSA) in late Nov. and in March next year.

Mountain Skills is the entry-level qualification for hillwalkers in Ireland and is designed to provide all the basic skills required to walk safely and competently. Topics covered include route

planning, equipment, map-reading, navigation techniques, movement on steep ground and coping with emergencies.

If anybody is interested in doing MS 1 or 2 or MSA, please contact Hugh Carthy for further details

Check out the relaunched Clare Outdoor Club Forum.

See Page 1.

Slideshow

The Slideshow has been rescheduled to **19th Nov** and will take place in the Temple Gate Hotel.

It will feature photographs of club members' trips during 2009 to:

Everest Base Camp

Island Peak

Mont Blanc Haute Route

Yosemite National Park

Matterhorn

Dolomites

Start time is 8.00 p.m. sharp, and the show will be finished by about 10.00 p.m.

Stunning photographs from around the world!

New Committee

A new Committee was elected at the AGM, and the following appointments were announced after the first Committee meeting:

Chair	Mary Conway
Vice-Chair/Development	Eoin Cleary
Secretary	Colette Quinlivan
Treasurer	Rory Murphy
PRO	Christine Fazentieux
Training	Hugh Carthy
Access and Conservation	Dave Lyons
Asst. Secretary	John McDonnell



Annual General Meeting

The Club AGM was held in The Old Ground Hotel on 8th Sept. A good attendance heard a summary of the past season's activities and early plans for the season ahead.

A new Committee was also elected (see above), and we'd like to take this opportunity to thank Pat Kenneally, Colm

O'Caoileáin, Jim McHale and Emma Hogan for their work on the Committee over the past season.

A number of new members joined us on the night and we welcome them to the club.

The minutes of the meeting have been issued separately; if you haven't received your copy,

please let Christine know

Check the website for the latest photographs.

www.clareoutdoorclub.net

Upcoming Events

Upperchurch Rural Association's annual **Hillwalking Weekend** takes place on 6th / 8th Nov. More information from www.upperchurch.ie.

The current series of talks organised by **BurrenLIFE**

continues **every Wednesday until 25th Nov** at 8.00 p.m. in the Temple Gate Hotel. More information from www.burrenlife.com.

A new **hillwalking website** has been

launched. It aims to be a general resource on hill walking and hiking in Ireland and will contain routes, news, kit reviews etc. Visit www.walkingandhikingireland.com.

Next Issue

The next issue of the Newsletter will be published on 30th Nov. If you have any news or information that you think might be of interest to members, please let us know before 25th Nov. (max. 400 words)

clareoutdoorclub@gmail.com

We cannot accept advertisements. Nor can we publicise private or public commercial ventures.

In general, articles for publication must be Club related, or of interest to Club members.

The Committee reserves right of approval for publication.

CLARE OUTDOOR CLUB

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Forum:

<http://www.clareoutdoorclub.net/phbb2/index.php>

“Binn Bhraon” explained – by John O’Callaghan

Following extensive research on Cliff’s behalf and your behalf (and because I really wanted to know too!!) I think I can safely say that Binn Bhraoin is *not* the Hill of the "Drops" (as in a drop of water, milk or whiskey, **braon** is singular for drop and **braoin** plural so this is the closest Irish word in spelling) but the Hill of the **Ravens. Bran** (plural: **brain**) is a raven, and it’s a very old word that the oracle, P.W. Joyce, in his *Irish Names of Places*, Vols. 1-3, quotes someone called Zeuss (hardly the Dr!) and "his masterly work, *Grammatica Celtica*, in which the author (Zeuss) quotes in every case from manuscripts of the 8th or beginning of the 9th century".... so that’s going back a while!! He goes on to state the exact page (46) in Gram Celt where Bran is defined as another word for raven and the equivalent of *corvus* and it is explained fiach in Cormac’s Glossary (that was translated by John

O’Donovan, no date given).

In Vol. 2 Joyce goes on to say that Bran "was formerly a favourite name for men. Few personal names can show a longer history than this. It was common in Ireland from the earliest times; and it was also used amongst the Gauls, for I look upon it as quite certain that it was identical with Brennus, the name of the great Celtic leader who sacked Rome in the 4th century B.C." He goes on to cite a famous king, Brandubh (black raven) who defeated and slew Hugh Ainmiré, king of Ireland, at the battle of Dunbolg, in the year A.D. 598. He lived at Rathbran, Bran’s Fort, near Baltinglass in Wicklow.

Curiously, in *The Mountains of Connemara* by Joss Lynam, this is the only Ben that Joss does not define!! In Tim Robinson’s *Connemara Part 1: Introduction and Gazetteer*, Tim does not

define it either but offers "the droplets (streamlets?)" for *Na Braonáin* in the Parish of Leenane which he more strongly suggests may be derived from a family name. In Paddy Dillon’s Collins’ Ramblers Guide to Connemara, he states: "*Binn Bhraoin, anglicised as Benbreen, appears to be named after someone called Braoin, but folklore records nothing about who he might have been*" and as this is pure speculation then I rest my case and am inclined to go with the ravens hypothesis instead!!!

New Club logo on the way. Watch this space!!