



# NEWSLETTER

## NEXT WALK

**Saturday 15 December**

**Lough Avalla/Cathair Chemain Fort**

(MODERATE WALK)

Leaders: **Fergus McCarthy, 086 303 1802**

**Mike Murphy, 086 803 4062**

Meeting: **9:30am, Roslevan**

## MONTH AHEAD

**SATURDAY 15 DECEMBER**

Christmas Party & Moderate Walk

**SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER**

Moderate Club Walk - Loop Head

CHECK OUT CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

## Walk Reports

### Caherconree, Kerry Sunday 04 November



On a mild November morning twenty three Souls assembled at Derrymore Strand to take on Caherconree & Baurtregaum. The group included no less than six new joiners, five of whom had survived 'Try a Hike'! Starting at sea level, the group progressed merrily up on to the main road. We continued north east along the road for about 500m before crossing over and accessing a farm track which eventually led us through a stile and onto the walk proper.

We began the steep and heathery ascent of Gearhane. Conditions were close to perfect with good visibility in the sunshine and for the first time in my memory of this mountain, practically no wind! We stopped at the teapot (a rock in the shape of a teapot which was apparently empty!) and later on just past Gearhane, had lunch on some outcrops with a beautiful western vista. A whispered rumor of a trip down to Caherconree Fort was swept away on the cooling breeze before we reached the summit of Caherconree.

Next we went up Baurtregaum, at 851m the highest peak of the Slieve Mish Mountains that rewarded the group with magnificent views out over Tralee Bay and south over Castlemaine Harbour. After plenty of photos and more munchies, we leisurely descended north west on the spur and into the beautiful Derrymore River Valley. Eventually crossing the Derrymore River with no casualties, we handrailed the river back to the track and returned to the strand in 6 hours.



Thanks to our leaders Jim and Helen for a nice leisurely pace making it a perfect first official walk for our new members - Welcome all!

Fergus McCarthy

### Galtee Circuit Sunday 02 December



On a cool and breezy morning a group of 14 climbers set out from Ennis to undertake the Galtee Circuit. The circuit started in the same location as the Try a Hike from October. Whilst having a cup of tea in Tipperary town there was no confidence of a clear day in the Galtees as 'As usual', Galtee Mor was shrouded in a blanket of cloud.

Whilst getting changed in the car park we had an unfortunate wardrobe malfunction which meant that only 13 climbers were able to start the climb. We had a quick talk from our leaders Andrew and Noel and set forth to our climb.

We had a different approach to Galtee Mor this time around that took in a beautiful lake ( Lough Curra I think) followed by a sharp climb with plenty of switchbacks which brought us to the wall that separates Limerick & Tipperary. We followed the wall up and eventually reached the peak of Galtee Mor. The weather was very misty and incredibly windy but quite dry thankfully. We stopped for lunch and started off to conquer Galtee Beag.

We traversed another beautiful lake that was below us and quickly peaked Galtee Beag. At this stage the thinking was the climbing was finished for the day, as we merrily dropped down from Galtee Beag we were informed that as a treat we would have the pleasure of climbing Cush, a trifle under 650 meters, no problems, that is until the wind decided to pick up to epic proportions that would almost sweep you of your feet. However, once we reached the top of the peak the views were so worth the effort. As with every mountain range when you have a clear view it is like being in God's country, it made all the misty and windy weather during the day worth the effort.

The group reformed, had a quick rest and headed down to the car park. As luck would have it just as we got changed a nasty shower of rain came as we exited the car park to go for a meal at the Aherlow House Hotel. Well-fed and warmed up we took to the road back to Clare with a feeling of satisfaction and some great memories as usual.

Kudos must go to Andrew, Noel & Fergus the leaders for the day for all the help and shouldering the responsibilities of herding the group around the mountain.

Gary Moloney

### Ben Gorm and Ben Creggan, Sunday 18 November



TO SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM THE WALKS, CHECK OUT THE [WWW.CLAREOUTDOORCLUB.NET](http://WWW.CLAREOUTDOORCLUB.NET) WEBSITE GALLERY.

### SPECIES LOST TO IRELAND:

### The Grey Wolf

The Grey Wolf (*Canis lupus*) arrived in Ireland at the end of the last Ice Age. It was common in our landscape through the Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age and Norman periods and at one time the population may have reached 1,000 animals. During Cromwell's rule bounties for wolves were initiated and so began the final path to extinction. The last wolves disappeared from Ireland in the late 18th Century, probably sometime between 1770 and 1786. Wolves continue to exist in most European countries



Photo: Gunner Ries