



NEWSLETTER

NEXT WALK

SATURDAY 11 MAY

Coomloughra HorseShoe

Leaders: Ann Howard , 086 086 0637

Pat O'Shea , 087 677 5485

Meeting: 7:45am, Roslevan

MONTH AHEAD

SUNDAY 26 MAY

Club Walk - East Reeks

31 MAY - 02 JUNE

COC Summer Weekend away in Donegal

CHECK OUT CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS

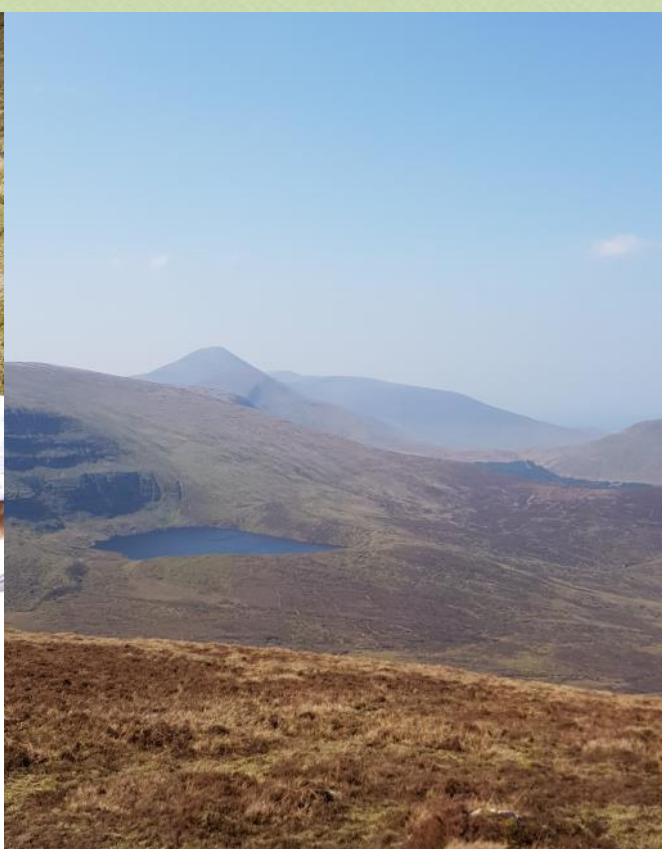
Walk Reports

Lough Muskry

It was a return to the hills for several members and what a welcome return it was. We left Ennis in the sunshine sure that by the time we reached Tipperary the clouds would appear. But they didn't. The previous few days dry weather meant the ground was firm underfoot making the peaty soil easy to walk on. Everywhere we looked the views were fabulous offering welcome distraction and ensuring the ascent felt shorter. We stopped at the restaurant at the top (Loughlins Castle) in the Dermot Bannon inspired dining room (bringing the outside in!!) for lunch. It was windy on top so the shelter was very welcome and insured our lunches would reach our mouths before being airborne or maybe even landing in our fellow diners faces/ hair/ clothes etc. The struggle is real!! Then it was a steep descent in the west side of Lough Muskry into the valley surrounded by future dinners, I mean, cute lambs...

A lovely day in good company and I even managed to get a bit of a suntan. Thank you Sean and Fergus.

Eimear Duggan



Burren Eastern Peaks Sunday 31 March



Gorgeous blues skies. Mothers Day. One fair lady. 10 strong men. And a rare find! It was 9.30am as the 11 members set off from Gortalecka towards Mullagh More at 9.30am. That was to be the first of the 7 peaks. Led by Fergus Mc Carthy and Mike Murphy, they took off like two goats, leaving others to clamber in their wake. The talk of training for Morocco is what set the extreme pace. Even toilet and snack stops were of no duration! From Mullagh More to Slieve Roe and Knockanes and after crossing the main road towards the Turloughmore mountains, we came across the famine road. But still ahead was to be the biggest find of the day, maybe even the year, for COC. A snake! Or so it looked like it. At least a foot long and an inch thick. A rare find in the Burren! Some COC members had to guard it from the fisherman in the group - who was hoping to bring it home for bait. One fine and experienced gentleman in the group said that it as a legless lizard. Who ever heard of such a thing! But he was right! And St Patrick had done his job. Further research carried out by the fair lady snake spotter later that evening confirmed that the legless lizard was first found breeding in the Burren in the 1970s - reportedly brought in



by the New Age Travellers. It is the only known location in Ireland where it is breeding successfully and has "evolved a legless skeleton to suit its burrowing lifestyle". After ascending the Turlough More mountains of Glencolumbkille South and North we headed to Bouleevin and then to the 205m spot high. After a steep descent to the road with a fabulous view of Sliabh Cairn, a good few of the drivers squeezed into one car and were driven to the start point. A great day was had by all, a 3pm finish - 7 peaks, 15km, 626m ascent and 608m descent, and a good few sunburnt heads and faces. Thanks to the leaders...and those that waited for the drivers to return!

Siubhan Greene

Brandon Mountain Sunday 14 April



The weather gods were on our side today. After a wet and windy week with high winds and rain of biblical proportions it looked as if today's walk might have to be transported to a new location.

However there was a glimpse of good weather ahead and our intrepid leaders Jim and David made the decision to go ahead as planned. A group of 12 hardy climbers made the trip down to the Kingdom. It looked bleak as we drove through

County Limerick but once we hit the border of Kerry the weather started to brighten up a little.

As we sat in Blennerville having our morning tea we could get a clear view of the climb ahead of us and we set of in great spirits to rendezvous in Cloghane. We changed in Cloghane and made our way from the village passing the eerie graveyard until we met the drivers at the grotto for our pep talk.

It was off we trekked, we climbed steadily up towards our first summit of Mount Brandon which was covered in clouds. However, just before we reached the cloud line we were treated to the beautiful views of Brandon and the Magharees in the distance.

It would be a while before we would have a clear view again!

We quickly summited Mount Brandon which at 953 Meters was a good climb from almost sea level in Brandon. The conditions were surprisingly good and we stopped for lunch at the summit. As always once you stop it gets cold very quickly and we were quite happy to move on once we had our bite to eat.



The next summit was Brandon peak, to get here we dropped 250meters and had a nice climb through dense cloud cover to Brandon peak. This was made mentally harder by the fact that we couldn't see the summit because of the cloud cover.

Once we got to Brandon Peak we dropped down and then had a 30 meter ascent to our last climb, the rest of the walk was spent merrily dropping down the farmyard where the cars were located.

After a quick change of clothes and a bite to eat in Tralee we were on the road back to Clare very happy that we made the journey down south.

Gary Moloney

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM THE WALKS, CHECK OUT THE WWW.CLAREOUTDOORCLUB.NET WEBSITE GALLERY.