

Trekker



Trekkers Mountaineering Club Glenageary Co Dublin www.trekkers.ie

Issue 67
May 2020

Your votes are counted and the winners are !



People

Group at Jacksons Falls on the Avonmore taken by Paul O’Kane

Places

The Bluebells in full bloom taken by Ciaran Mahon



Chairpersons Notes

Hello Everyone,

As we can't get out on the hills I hope you enjoy this edition of the Trekker, there's lots of reading and wonderful photos. I am so grateful to Joe Devine for sharing his extraordinary experience of attempting the summit of Mount Vinson in Antarctica .

I am delighted to welcome all our new members who you will meet in the Newsletter. Myles has very kindly agreed to be our official member's photographer and he will get to take all your photographs over the next few months when its safe and within the guidelines.

It seems so long ago but we had a great turn out for our Christmas party, for many of us it was bitter sweet as we remembered our wonderful friends Brendan and Michael. They were among the most legendary dancers in the Club.

Happily our navigation course took place with Charles in Glenmalure in February. Six members did the two day course and can report since the course they have become quite expert in route cards under the tutelage of Mark Tylor and Alan Kane. We are committed to confirming the new dates for the planned courses in Leadership, Navigation and First Aid as soon as its feasible.

Up until the close down in March we had fantastic turn out on all walks .The committee are continually monitoring the situation and working on feasible opportunities to get the club back up and running . It will be our greatest pleasure to contact you as soon as the hills are open to us all .

Keep well and enjoy the read.

Fiona

Editors Notes

Although Trekkers have been confined to barracks these last few months you still have travel stories to share. In this issue we are taken from Spain to the Antarctic, not to mention trapeise around the wicklow with Map and compass. The Trekkers who we have lost are fondly remembered by their friends.

A big thank you to everyone who submitted Photos for the competition, they were all fantastic and the committee had very hard job making a shortlist. You enthusiastically took to the voting and Paul's snap of the group by Jacksons Falls romped home in the People category, the Places one was a very close run thing but Ciaran's Bluebells took the prize. As Noreen commented "if times were normal we would be going down to Pat Chapman country for our bluebell walk"

With a shortage of photos of recent walks I though you might like a trip down memory lane. The photos date back to 2009 when digital files started being kept. They are in no particular order and indeed were not always captioned so apologies to those of you who will know every last Trekker in them. I hope you enjoy them.

Mary

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Welcome our newest members



Aine Allen



Kay Moir

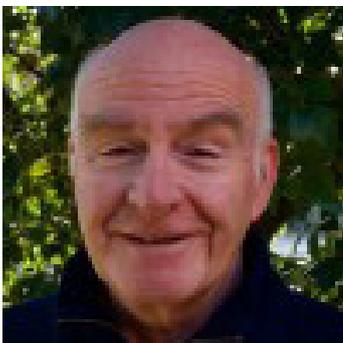


Paula Clancy



Michelle Thunder

Trekkers we hadn't caught on camera last time round



Frazer Meredith



Brendan Hannon



Tina McGlynn



Granne Carthy



Corinne Giacometti



Carmel Gillen

Dympna on the Camino

For over 20 years, myself and fellow Trekker Roisin Fitzgerald have been going on walking holidays

We have walked in Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales, Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Slovenia and Poland. However, we have returned most often to Spain, where we have done different sections of the famous Camino do Santiago. Walking the Camino is a bit like walking in Ireland but with more sunshine and lots of little bars and coffee shops. It's very friendly and you meet people from all over the world.

The section I enjoyed the most was the Northern Camino. It starts outside Santander at a little village called Requejada. For a lot of the way we were walking beside the sea. I think that is why I liked it so much. Owen McKeon recommended this trip and gave me a spreadsheet with the villages, the distance between each one and the hotels. Thanks again to Owen.

In June 2017 six of us flew to Santander. We stayed overnight in The Piccos Hotel in Santander and next morning we took a local train to Requejada where we started walking. Did I say sunshine?? After about 3km the rain came in buckets. By the time we got to our hotel in the medieval village of Santilliana we were like drowned rats. I am glad to say that was the last of the rain. This is a beautiful and interesting place to stay, so much so that we spent the next morning there and got a bus for about 5 km to pick up the trail again to the seaside village of Comillas.

In Comillas we stayed in a hotel on the beach had a swim. Next day we continued



on to Colombres, a seaside town. From there we made our way to Penduleles and on to Llanes, which is a very trendy seaside town between the Picos de Europa and the coast. We would have liked to stay there longer but Nueva was 17km away so off we went. After Nueva we headed to our final destination, Ribadesella – another beautiful seaside town where we stayed for two days, visiting great fish restaurants and sampling the Rioja and the local cider, poured from about three feet.

All along the way we met people from all over the world. For instance, we met an 80 old woman from Germany who was on her own. She hadn't a word of English and we hadn't a word of German. But we walked along with her and had lunch together.

In total, we walked a distance of approximately 110km at a very leisurely pace. We were on a walking holiday not a pilgrimage. We did stop at many churches but mostly they were closed. We'd say a prayer anyway. We really enjoyed all the cafes and little bars.

Not quite a caption competition

A hidden gem “snapped” by Paul O’Kane

“ Any thoughts to where it is ?

A prize for first person who can identify the correct location

Entries please to marylavellemurphy@gmail.com



We have had a holiday fund we set up years ago, so we appoint a ‘treasurer’ each year who pays for everything on the holiday. This works really well. We’d arrive at our hotels tired and have some rest. Then every evening, Roisin would make her famous ‘cosmo’ cocktails, complaining in some little villages when we couldn’t find some ingredient like limes or cranberry juice. We managed somehow.



I would recommend this section of the Camino to anybody who is thinking of going to Spain to walk in the future.

Dympna Thunder

Brendan Backen



Introduced to the Trekkers by Dick Ryan whom he had met when he had been working in the IDA, Brendan joined the Trekkers in 1998.

Most of Brendan's involvement in the club was done not as a committee member but very much as a supportive 'behind the scenes' person. He did serve as Public Relations Officer (2002–2005). At that time membership was low but Brendan very successfully helped to reverse this trend. He was very inclusive getting to know all members, both experienced and less experienced hill-walkers. Being also interested in passing on and training members in mountain skills as well as the need for safety on the hills, Brendan took on the post of Training Officer and with gusto went about developing this role.

Brendan always had a love of the mountains and the outdoor life. Many times he regaled us with stories about walking the Dublin and Wicklow mountains with friends as a young man. One can only imagine the adventures and fun he had. He loved searching for and discovering new routes and paths. He had maps for every inch of the Dublin and Wicklow mountains and beyond. On occasion when he needed to cross private property, Brendan visited the landowners, and I can only say charmed them into allowing the Trekkers access. However, it didn't stop there. He also contacted the landowner following the hike thanking them for their welcome of the Trekkers onto their land ensuring a welcome next time. It was not an uncommon occurrence to hear new members asking his advice. Brendan always found time to share his knowledge. I remember one occasion when

a new member asked me what I did the first time I was listed to lead a walk. I answered, "I phoned Brendan Bracken"!

Many of Brendan's walks ended in remote areas where there was always an interesting old pub. One of his favourites was The Dying Cow in Co. Wicklow, whose proprietor loved to chat with visitors. In another pub one waited until the kettle was boiled to get coffee and then you got 'just coffee'. No Lattes, Calpucinnos, Flat Whites etc. The more rural and remote the pub the more Brendan loved it.

I accompanied Brendan on many Recces, but with Brendan no matter how lost we were he always found a way out. On one such walk, we took a wrong turn and ended up lost in a very remote area. Brendan stopped and looking around said "you see those Pylons in the distance, there has to be a road there". So we made our way through bracken and undergrowth and eventually we reached the road and made our way back to the car. Brendan always found a way through!

He was a great walking company with such a sense of fun. On one occasion when he had a minor fall on the hills hurting his finger, I suggested that he apply ice to it when he returned home. Later that evening I received a text from Brendan saying "I only had enough ice for my Gin & Tonic". He loved meeting people and discussing current and historical affairs. He was an avid reader and loved sharing books he had really enjoyed. He also loved the theatre and cinema and as a group, we discussed many plays and movies.

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Kevin Moore



Kevin joined the Trekkers in 1997 and was very active in it for the next twelve years or so. In 2002 Kevin succeeded Eugene Logan as Walks Co-ordinator for three years. At that time the annual walking trip to different parts of Ireland was always arranged by the Walks Co-ordinator. Kevin led us to Clonmel and Killarney from which we climbed Slievenamon and Mangerton as well as trekking through the Blue Stack Mountains in Donegal. These outings were always well organised and enjoyable particularly with Kevin's rendition of 'the old hippopotamus'. The entire club was very fortunate that Kevin had an in-house Secretary as his wife Dympna often came on these trips and knew the names of all the members. We all benefitted from such a personal service.

After he dropped from A and B walks Kevin carried on with C walks for a number of years. He was instrumental in establishing the Wednesday walks which initially had a somewhat loose relationship with the official club walks. Mary Murray has memories of these as glorious walk where initially there were only four or so participants. At that time the Wednesday walk was just a short ramble for C walkers but over time many of these 'rambles' became B walk standard because those who attended could not slow their pace! A fact that upset Kevin as his own strength weakened. He would have appreciated the social walks which have been introduced recently.

Kevin was always an unfailing source of support for other walkers as those who shared his former days have often said. As

Ita says, we frequently associate places with particular people. Only recently when she walked near Ballinacor, she thought of Kevin and a time many years ago, when she had newly joined and was quite unaccustomed to the wretched weather we often face. In his normal quiet way he was patient, kind and knowledgeable in helping her through the wind, mist and rain on the day. Since then she always associated Ballinacor with Kevin.

Michael Lane remembers when, as a fairly new member sometime in the late 1990s, he first met Kevin and his brother Jim on a Trekker walk in Glenmacnass. He was then and always a smiling, cheerful and gentle presence that always made the going easy. His most recent meeting with Kevin, perhaps three years ago, was an unexpected inspiring triple delight. His many years with the Trekkers were standing him in good stead despite deteriorating health. Slowly, slowly, slowly but purposefully together with Bill Hannon and Derry O'Hegarty (who sadly has also died recently) he was making his regular Tuesday assault on the formidable heights of Dalkey hill to the daunting summit of the Druid's Chair.

Eudie first met Kevin when she joined Trekkers and they would chat and solve the world's problems in the wild Wicklow hills. She felt she got to know him in a special way and enjoyed his gentle soul. How proud he was of his boys and of course Dympna he loved so much.

He will always be missed.

Monty Tinsley, Niall Humphreys

Brendan not only loved leading Saturday walks, he also loved organising weekend trips in Ireland and longer trips away. He led groups on new tracks and trails throughout Ireland, for example the Coley, Slieve Blooms, Galtees, Nire Valley, Black Stairs. The last Irish trip that Brendan led was to Co. Sligo in 2017. It was a most enjoyable weekend and a special memory for all who travelled. The first 'away' trip he organised was to the Yorkshire Dales in Wales in 2005. Staying in Sedberg, we visited the school that Brendan's famous granduncle, another Brendan Bracken, had attended. Here we took several photos in front of the statue of him that is situated in the grounds of the school.

Up to 2015 when he led his final trip away to the Pyrenees, Brendan organised several overseas trips. The Pyrenees was special not

least because for many of us it was our first time staying in Refuges. An experience! In 2012, Brendan decided to be a little more adventurous and led a group to the Appalachian Mountain Club at Crawford Notch, New Hampshire, US. The highlight here was to climb Mount Washington and spend a night in the famous Lake of the Clouds Hut. A truly 'never to be forgotten' holiday.

Sadly, for Brendan's wife Bernadine and his family and all his wonderful Trekker friends, Brendan is no longer with us. I like to think of Brendan out there somewhere with his great Trekker friends, Pearse Connolly, Paddy O'Duffy and Tom Murray still finding new routes through the mountains in the sky.

Ar dheis De go raibh a anam

Ita Lawton



Derry O'Hegarty

Derry was a very special person whom I knew well as a neighbour and friend from 1979.

He was so proud of the trekkers and loved his Saturday walks. When he retired he was there on Wednesdays too. My first walk was on a Wednesday with Derry who checked my gear and told me to go to Great Outdoors and he explained the different brands and cost.

Derry enjoyed male company and in his days men were the majority. For his eightieth birthday all he wanted was to climb 'lug' which he did with great joy.

Eudie Power

Navigation Course

Trekkers Fiona O'Sullivan – Carmel Gillen – Louise Martin Frazer Meridith – Ita Lawton – Mary Murphy took to the hills in February with map and compass!!!



Six very enthusiastic trekkers assembled in Charles Byrnes classroom at 8.55 on Thursday 20 February complete with OSI map sheet 56 and compass, as well as walking gear in the boots of the cars. It was clear immediately that Charles presumed we knew nothing, which was a personal relief as I felt I was the complete novice amongst a group of very experienced trekkers!

Charles's delivery tone, use of white board and handout aids made the two hours in the classroom most informative and enjoyable. We all knew where the summit of a mountain is

We were all on for 'a hike' but soon realised that a lot of tasks were to be completed, now that we were navigators!!!

and had heard of spurs and saddles. Now 're-entrants' and 'changes of slope' were added to the list. Counting contours and identifying the various types of slopes and terrain features enthralled us for the first hour. The compass was introduced and the basics like holding properly were learned. Charles checked each of our compass, he recommended the Silva Type 4 and pointed out the parts of the compass to us. The compass was placed on the map and grid north and magnetic north was introduced, and

later we all got lost somewhere in the Wicklow mountains following various bearings! Coming to grips with adjusting for magnetic variation was to blame!

At coffee time Charles produced the most delicious scones baked by his wife, then we geared up to put the theory into practice. Little tips like keeping your compass tied and not hanging in front of you as it could be blown into your eye, how to hold a map properly were passed on by Charles. It was windy and cold but dry. We were all on for 'a hike' but soon realised that a lot of tasks were to be completed, now that we were navigators!!! We headed in the direction of Fananerrin Hill and learned to identify and compare various features on the map and the ground. We learned to handrail, tick list and do a back bearing. We were sent off on various compass bearings and were to back bear to get

back to two walking poles placed on the ground. None of the class was successful on the first go! How disappointing for mature students! We

learnt pacing based on individual equivalences for 100 metres.

With Day 1 completed, we headed for the Glenmalure Lodge thrilled with the ourselves and looking forward to Day 2.

Delighted to have dry clothes, a hot shower and a little refreshment sitting at the log fire we were all very content. In anticipation and

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Christmas Party 2019



The Christmas party was tinged with great sadness. It coincided with the evening Trekkers flocked to pay their respects to Brendan Bracken who had died a few days previously.

Brendan absolutely loved a party so it was a night of reminiscing and enjoying life as he would have done. Killiney Golf Club again proved the ideal venue and we danced the night away to Carmel Dickinson's "Golden Oldies"

Navigation course continued

eagerness for Day 2 and at Charles suggestion we retired early. We wouldn't have stopped after one nightcap if we knew then what we know now. Did we ever think the mountains would be closed within a few weeks?

Two hours in the classroom on Day 2 confirmed and built on what we covered on Day 1. We were introduced to the 5Ds - Destination, Direction, Distance, Description and Deadline. We worked on route cards



and poured over maps picking out various features. The compass had firmly replaced the mobile phone in our hands by Day 2! Rain was promised and since Charles had rebuked anyone who mentioned the word 'Path', we knew it was going to be cross country following compass bearings. Cullentragh to Braigue Mountain in the hailstones on a compass bearing was no fun - we were grateful for the 'path'. We learned the importance of pacing and box pacing and using the compass to locate our position on the ground. We completed day 2 wet and cold but so happy to have acquired new skills and knowledge. All in all, we had a great experience, well done to

Charles for making our two days so enjoyable.

Charles confirmed that what we covered in 2 days is really a 4 days course, so we were left in no illusion we needed to put our new skills and knowledge into practice very quickly. Such was the appreciation and enthusiasm that two participants bumped into each other the very next day at the map section in the Great Outdoors! Fiona organised a practice hike the Sunday morning before the lockdown this left us in no doubt that there was room for improvement.

A disadvantage can be an advantage. Mark and Alan had suggested we put our new skills into practice by doing practical recces. As one would expect, the Covid 19 lockdown hasn't stopped them finding a way of honing these skills. Every week we have been given a navigation map exercise to complete and we meet on Webex for an hour to share our results. We have learned so much. Hopefully they have noticed an improvement in the homework submitted!! It has been most beneficial to us all. On behalf of Fiona, Mary, Ita, Frazier and myself, a big thank you to Alan and Mark for their work and enthusiasm, and for bringing us virtually out on the Wicklow mountains every week, even if we are still within 2 kms from our own homes! We look forward to doing a proper recce, route card in hand.

Carmel Gillen



“ADVENTURE OF A LIFETIME”

Well what can I say – it was amazing, tough, exciting, frustrating and enjoyable in equal proportions.



As you can imagine the logistics of getting to Antarctica were NOT straightforward but just 3 days after leaving Dublin I was settling down on the great “Ice Desert” after going via Heathrow, Santiago, Puente Arenas (“PA”) and Union Glacier (“UG”) which is the main

settlement on the continent. In PA the banks and businesses were going about their business behind shuttered doors and windows as a result of the civil protests against the system of injustice and inequality that had flared up in August 2019. A big change since my last visit in 2017.

A Russian owned and crewed Ilyushin airlifted 50–60 fellow expeditioners from all over the globe together with their gear and supplies and kit for research centres, camps etc on “The Ice”. Fuel



costs alone for the plane are approximately USD250,000 per trip. I was in the presence of “royalty” with Jimmy Chin, the camera guy on Free Solo (if you haven’t seen this film, watch it!) as well as other adrenalin junkies like Jim Morrison and Hillarie Nelson who were going out to meet Conrad Anker. Their trip can be viewed on this link and the photos are amazing:

<https://adventureblog.net/2020/04/north-face-athletes-share-details-of-2020-antartica-expedition.html>

Mark Hamill of Climbing the 7 Summits club was onboard with a group, as was Mike Roberts of Adventure Consultants.

I was one of a 5-person group assembled for the challenge. A German couple who were completing their 7 Summits, a French guy who had been twice up Everest and a British woman who had already skied across Greenland and was starting on her own 7 Summit journey, so I was slightly in awe of their achievements even though Vinson was summit No. 5 for me.

We had to have our signature photos taken in our gear when we landed on the ice in front of the Ilyushin. The runway is made of ice and is kept smooth by the Katabatic winds – they rush down elevated slopes at hurricane speeds. The ground crews only have to do some minor scrapings when plane land as mother nature does the rest.

We arrived at 8pm but since there is no night-time there the continuous daylight is a hindrance when trying to sleep, and a help in

that you have lots of time to do stuff. However, it’s not a consistent period of light because the sun moves about and can go behind mountains. In the shade the temperature differential can be up to MINUS 15. Later on Vinson, we only left our tents when the sun came into the valleys.

UG camp is run by ALE and is open for 4 or so months of the year when the place is habitable. The Camp has been packed since the previous February. UG is used for trips to see Emperor Penguins in November/ December, South Pole Trips, Vinson and Sidley, one of the “7 Volcanoes” – the latest marketing ploy to get people doing extreme things. ALE already had 4 groups on Vinson, and all had summited so we were taking comfort from this. ALE knew the challenges, risks and more importantly where the crevasses were!!! They run the logistics for companies like Adventure Consultants and Climbing the 7 Summits Club and because we were being guided by ALE, we got priority on planes which was handy when the weather turned – more anon.

UG was our home for the next 3 days as we waited for the weather at Vinson Base Camp to clear so that our Twin Otter could land there. Our bags were loaded and unloaded for two of the days as we waited. The planes need clear visibility to land at BC because there is no infrastructure there to assist landing. We ate like kings for the 3 days, used the library and watched movies and got talks on the history of Antarctic expeditions as well as climbing movies. Weather wise it was MINUS



5 with another MINUS 6 for wind chill but it was fine once you had the gear. It's a dry cold, nothing like a miserable wind chill day on Lug. Sleep is a challenge because of the light and the sleeping bag (for minus 40) was too warm!

On January 12th we boarded the Twin Otters for our short 40 minute flight to Vinson BC. We were so excited to get going and the views on the way were stunning with lots of mountain ranges, glaciers, crevasses and white for as far as you can see. We landed at 9.30am and had to separate our gear into two lots – one to pull on the Pulk or sledge (60% of the 20+kgs of kit) and the rest for your backpack. On day 1 and 5 on Vinson, your sledge becomes your VBF as it obviously needs some effort going uphill. But coming down, it is literally sliding along beside you and overall splits the 20+kg load. Great fun all round and makes life easier on the ice.

The whole trip is 12 days but only 5 of these including one rest day are on Vinson. **Day 1** goes from Vinson BC (2100m) to Vinson Low Camp (2,780m) by pulling the sledge up 700 vertical metres. This was after a 5-star quality lunch and it took about 5 hours and it was a good “warmer upper”. We stopped at designated “pee holes “along the way. Human water waste can go down these holes but solids go into “Wag Bags “ which are carried out on day 5 – similar to Aconcagua – I kid you not! It wasn't very cold so getting the layers right was challenging – a bigger risk of sunburn rather than frostbite! We settled into tented accommodation and had our dinner in a mess tent with our two guides Lakba and Eli. Eli had responsibility for Michel, Arabella and I and Lakba had responsibility for Tomas and Claudia.

I'm never likely to forget **Day 2** as it was the toughest/second toughest challenge of my hiking/climbing life. High camp was at 3,780m but involved hauling gear and body up a 700 vertical metre fixed rope with an average slope of 40%. I used an ascender to help me, but it took us nearly 8 hours to do this stage, and another 3 hours from the top of the fixed ropes.

While on the move we were always roped together in case anyone slipped or went through a crevasse. The fixed ropes were



horrendous, and I thought we would never finish them. I had about 18kgs in the bag as well, so fun was had by all!!!

Day 3 was a rest day at High Camp (3780M). We were starting to feel the impact of altitude particularly on appetite. I slept late after the horrific previous day and focused on getting

I'm never likely to forget Day 2 as it was the toughest/second toughest challenge of my hiking/climbing life.

the bag for Summit Day as light as possible. I packed and repacked until I was satisfied it was good to go. Every item was scrutinised. Feeding us was a challenge as the crew had to melt snow/ice for water for drinking and cooking. The food is freeze dried and then transported to the various camps for the season. I had a few blisters which I can only put down to the fact that I had lost weight since May 2018, when I last wore the boots, because of all the training through 2019.

Day 4 SUMMIT DAY- the weather was perfect, and we got moving around 10am stopping at pee holes and for general rest and food. We snacked on chocolate, snacks, dried fruit every 60-90 minutes to replace the 4000+ calories being burned. At 3.15pm we got to the upper mountain cache at 4650-4700m and I could see the Summit (4892m) albeit a further 2/3

hours even though vertically c.200m. We had taken 5 hours to ascend 900+m metres. I thought I was slowing along with the others but put it down

to the increased altitude but generally thought we were going well. Little did I know the next 30 minutes would be pivotal moments on the trip for myself and my French tent buddy.

Eli decided that we were not going quickly enough and indicated that we would prejudice everyone's opportunity to summit. This was a highly subjective and judgemental call as he hadn't asked how we were feeling or whether we were under pressure. I was surprised and

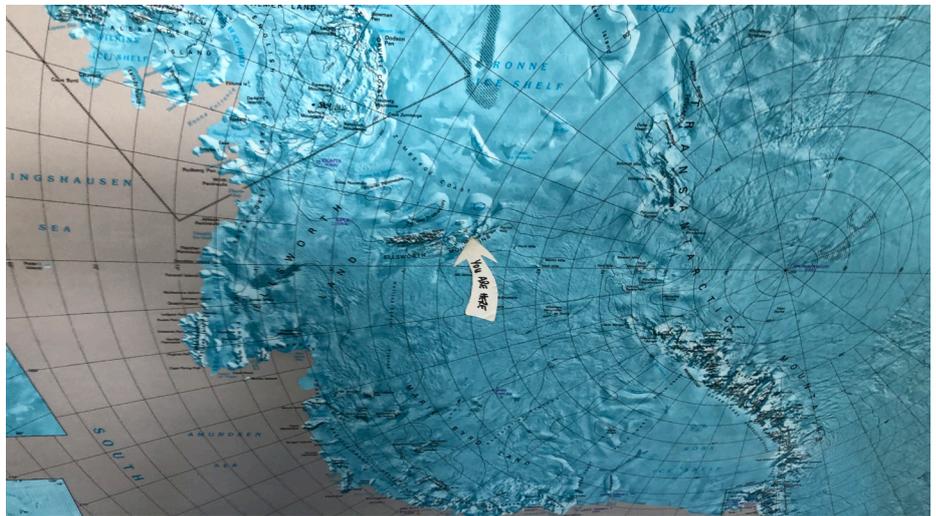
disappointed as the enormity of his words began to sink in. I could see the Summit and it might still take 2-3 hours to get there but knew we had a long day ahead, which I was prepared for, and no issues with loss of light. However since there was just one guide for three climbers, we would all have to turn around if anyone of the three were unable to progress. Scenarios like this pose big questions around one's ability, confidence and desire to achieve but also brings into question one's responsibility for team success.

I guess this is where you find out about yourself – being genuinely torn between wanting to summit and not jeopardising another people's attempt. I decided to accept his guidance, did not challenge his decision-making and turned back to High Camp.

I was extremely disappointed after the high investment in time etc over the preceding 9 months but hey, nobody died! Within 30 minutes, my French tent buddy Michel had joined me – the pace had increased considerably since I had turned back and he was wiped.

With two rangers we raced down to High Camp, meeting a group that had taken 10 hours to get to that point, and I felt physically fine, but the philosophical phase quickly was overtaken by the disappointment phase! Questions like – why did we not have another guide on Summit Day, why was there such time pressure on the last 200m and why was the communication so poor? We were however delighted for the third member of our group, who ascended successfully.

On **Day 5**, once the sun was in the valley, we started down and retraced the day 1 and 2 stages in 7 hours. The journey down on the fixed ropes was interesting as I literally had the brakes on all the way down (i.e. gripping the ropes). We got down to Lower Camp, loaded the sledges and took off as the weather appeared to be closing in – we wanted to catch the flight back to UG. We arrived down to Base Camp to champagne, got back on the Twin Otter and returned to UG. The plane only takes 11 people and the 4/5 guys that had to wait for the next plane were still there 3 days later.



Once down at UG you really want to be going home, particularly after the Summit experience or non-experience.

We had to wait for 3 days for the weather to break for the Ilyushin to land and turnaround and take us back to PA. We filled the time with more talks and trips to find fossils on Elephant Mountain.

In summary, Antarctica is an amazing place with amazing history of expeditions. There is a significant Irish influence there (no surprise) with Shackleton, Crean, McCarthy and Bransfield. It is expensive but more accessible and customer friendly than you think. The scenery, mountains, volcanos, dinosaur fossils, the light, the meteor showers all add up to one of the last GREAT FRONTIER ADVENTURES. If you want to go but don't get to land on Antarctica, then cruise the Drake passage, South Georgia sea etc. It's a thrill that you should all consider.

Thank you, Trekkers, for all the support, incredulity, questions and training you have given me directly on the hills and in emails and best wishes. I sit here waiting for the Ilyushin wishing the trip had had a different outcome but realise how lucky I am to have had such an adventure. The next generation of Trekker will have to get up VINSON.

Thank you Pat Falvey for all the climbing advice and encouragement and Paul Mc Keown for all the fitness, strength and conditioning advice through 2019"

PS. In Santiago on the way home I got teargassed and mugged but that's another story...../

Joe Devine

Walks before the19



WW 22 January



WW 22 January



WW 5 February



Down Memory Lane



2007 Lough Dan



2007 Pollanass

08-1



2007 Switzerland



2007 Fraughan Rock glen



2008



2008 Ballinastoe Woods



2009 Fananierin



2009 Now where ????

28.11.20

WW 16 May



2009 WW

01.04



2009 You know where



2010



2010 Glendalough



2011 The Brockagh's



2012



2011 The Devils Glen



2012 Memorial Day