

May 2012 - Issue 47

# IRISH Trekker

What we do for pleasure.



**The Trekkers Mountaineering Club**  
**Glenageary, Co. Dublin**  
**[www.trekkers.ie](http://www.trekkers.ie)**

# Contents

	Page
Social and Personal	3
Trekker Notes	4
Organisation of Club Trips, “Non Members” and Expenses	5
Hillwalking Website Puts Irish Hiking Trails On The Map	6-7
Walking Holiday in Torrox, Andalucia, Spain	8-11
Michael Dwyer	12-13
Photo Gallery	14-15
Killarney Trip Photos	16-19
Walks Schedule May to August 2012	20-21



Produced By  
The Trekkers Mountaineering Club  
Glenageary, Co. Dublin  
[www.trekkers.ie](http://www.trekkers.ie)

# Social and Personal

---

## Acknowledgements

I should like to thank those who have contributed to this latest edition of the Trekker, those who wrote articles, those who provided photographs, which are included or not, my fellow committee members, Cliona, Karl, Noreen and Owen; and to Joe Murray for his continuing work on the Website, and to Gwen Taylour for her work on the layout of this issue.

M. Cotter

## Welcome New Members

Trekkers welcome Patrick Beakey, Joe Devine and Mary Foley and Kathleen Murphy.

## Notice to Members

As you're all proably aware, the cost of the bus has been reduced from €20 to €17. Members, please bring the exact amount.

## Sympathies

Members extend their sincere sympathies to Brian Brennan on the death of his sister Enda Krill.

## Warm congratulations are extended to:

Noreen and Terry O'Brien on the birth of Martha O'Brien, born 29th March.

Myles and Patricia Duffy on the birth of Charlie.

Gilbert and Anne Little and to Tom and Aidene Duff on the birth of Finn Duff.

And to Gilbert and Anne on the birth of Nance.

Kevin Moore on the birth of Cara.

# Trekker Notes

---

## Dates for your diary

### Away Trips 2012

Dates		Trip/Organiser	Walks
5-12 May		Pyrennes (Dick Needham)	C
15-30 June		White Mountains - New Hampshire (USA) (Brendan Bracken)	A/B
28 July		Graiguenamanagh (Owen McKeown)	A/B/C
24-26 August		The Beara Peninsula (Brendan Bracken)	A/B+
16-21 September		The Galtees, Tipperary (Monty Tilsley)	B/C

### Memorial Day 2012

Memorial Day this year is booked for 14th July.

## What's coming up!

A group of 19 Trekkers are due to travel to France for their week-long trip to the Pyrenees, which has been organised by Richard Needham. We wish them the very best for this trip and perfect weather. We look forward to several good photographs for the next edition.

*There has been discussion in the Club over the years on the subject of “Non Members” travelling on away trips. The attached represents Club policy on the subject and will hopefully clarify issue.”*

## **Organisation of Club Trips - “Non Members” and Expenses**

---

These issues have arisen in the past and have led to misunderstandings. To clarify the situation, the following is a summary of the Club Policy on both issues.

As a general principal, Club Trips are restricted to full Club members only. “Non-members” may however join club trips subject to the agreement of the trip leader. In such a case, the leader is best positioned to make a judgment call depending on the venue and the accommodation that is available. It is important to note that full members will always get priority.

Due to insurance constraints, only full club members may participate in any walks. Guides and current members of other Mountaineering Ireland affiliated clubs are an exception, since both carry their own insurance.

An additional point that must be made particularly to organisers of trips is that the charge to the participants must be inclusive of all costs, i.e. guide fees where applicable, all transport meals and accommodation. The club is not in a position to entertain any subsequent claims for any additional expenses.

# HILLWALKING WEBSITE PUTS IRISH HIKING TRAILS ON THE MAP

By Conor Stephens

---

WalkingRoutes.ie is a new website that's aiming to tap into local hillwalking knowledge so people can create and share information about walking trails from all around Ireland.

It was while he was out hillwalking one day in Co Cork that computer programmer Aaron Kenny came up with the idea to create the site, which he said is not intended to be a commercial venture, just an information portal.

Kenny, himself an avid hillwalker, set up WalkingRoutes.ie about six months ago and already the site has 600 members and information on 200 Irish walking trails.

He said he was disappointed by the lack of information about Ireland's hillwalking trails available on the web, so he set out to create a platform for smartphone users so they could access trail information while out and about.

"It means that iPhone or Android phone users can search WalkingRoutes.ie for trails by county or based upon their current position, where trails within a 10km radius are listed," explained Kenny.

Users can also record their walks using their smartphone's GPS as they progress through a trail.

Create and share trails

Then, when they return home from a hike, people have the facility to create trails by plotting their own trail on a map or by uploading files to WalkingRoutes.ie from a GPS device via their PC.

"The great thing about trails created using a phone or handheld GPS is that they are very accurate and allow the public to view them on Google Maps or download them onto their own handheld GPS, which hopefully gives them confidence to go on a trail," said Kenny.

He said that he designed the site with the casual walker in mind. “That’s not to say there is anything stopping the more serious hikers using the website. I’ve put a lot of effort into making the website as easy to use as possible and I’m very open to suggestions from members.”

As for future plans for the website, Kenny said that he is keen to get in contact with hillwalking clubs. He has also been in contact with Coillte, which owns about 90pc of the public land in Ireland.

“At this phase the focus is very much on building up the database of trails on offer. I’ve gotten great feedback from members who have been very active in submitting their own trails. However I’m keen to try promote great initiatives such as the National Looped Walks and Coillte Outdoors,” said Kenny.

**Walking Routes.ie**

Sign in or register for extra features.

FONT - FONT +

SEARCH

Home My Trails View Trails About Contact

**Welcome to WalkingRoutes.ie**  
Hello and welcome to WalkingRoutes.ie the website that allows you to find walking trails near you.

**Create your own Trails!**

Sign up to create and share your own trails for FREE using your iPhone, Android, PC or Garmin.

**SIGN UP NOW**

**Create a Trail**

**Upload a GPX file.**  
Upload a GPX file from your device such as a Garmin GPS.

**UPLOAD GPX FILE -**

**Draw on our map.**  
Use WalkingRoutes.ie custom tool and easily draw your dot-to-dot trail on a map.

**DRAW TRAIL -**

**Walking Trails by County**

Carlow Walking Trails	Kerry Walking Trails	Louth Walking Trails	Tipperary Walking Trails
Cavan Walking Trails	Kildare Walking Trails	Mayo Walking Trails	Waterford Walking Trails
Clare Walking Trails	Kilkenny Walking Trails	Meath Walking Trails	Westmeath Walking Trails
Cork Walking Trails	Laois Walking Trails	Monaghan Walking Trails	Wexford Walking Trails
Donegal Walking Trails	Leitrim Walking Trails	Offaly Walking Trails	Wicklow Walking Trails
Dublin Walking Trails	Limerick Walking Trails	Roscommon Walking Trails	<a href="#">View all Walking Trails</a>
Galway Walking Trails	Longford Walking Trails	Sligo Walking Trails	

**New Trails**

Date	Trail
11-03-2012 11:46 AM	Meenlurra Ridge Walk
11-03-2012 11:41 AM	Inchmore Tour
11-03-2012 11:39 AM	Splodot
11-03-2012 11:37 AM	Cills Of Aher

# Walking Holiday in Torrox, Andalucia, Spain - 20th to 27th February 2012

Shay Murrán and Tom Duff.



I have been a member of the Trekkers Mountaineering Club for a number of years and having participated in many trips at home and overseas it occurred to me that it may be of interest to members to undertake a walking holiday to southern Spain during our winter. I bounced this idea off a number of members who were very encouraging and receptive of the concept. The Committee approved the idea and I began the enquiry and planning process. One of the main priorities of this project was to escape the winter weather at home for warm sunny days and to enjoy walking. The actual holiday period was somewhat problematic as it is difficult to guarantee good weather in southern Spain during their winter. However after numerous inquiries the end of February was chosen. In addition I chose a company called “Walk Andalucía” who had an excellent track record in walking holidays.

The Torrox area, which is about 45Km from Malaga is like many of the Andalusian villages in the region, has Arabic origins with a labyrinth of narrow streets of white houses and steep steps. It was a challenge for some of us to find our way home each night after dinner! The area has an average temperature of 18C and lays claim to having the best climate in Europe, it is sheltered by both the Sierra Tejeda and Sierra Almijara mountains.



Torrox Pueblo with its 16th century churches-Iglesia de la Encarnacion and Iglesia de San Roque-has a calm and peaceful charm and is separated from Torrox Costa by about 4km of farmland.

## Introduction

### ***Day 1 - Monday 20th***

The holiday group consisted of 12 members who would travel to Spain by a number of routes and assemble either at Malaga Airport to be transported to Torrox or in the village where we were staying. We met with the tour organisers in the Torrox village square for lunch and introductions were made. The group was divided up into 3 smaller sub groups and allocated to 3 houses in the village. One of the sub groups was allocated to a house which the President of Ireland had stayed with her family a year earlier. That evening we had an enjoyable meal in Café Bar Paco one of the many restaurants in the village –a great start to our adventure.

It had been agreed that we would assemble in the village car park at 10.00am each morning and from there we would be transported by mini-bus to the start point for the days walk. The village car park was also the point where the lunch and drinks were allocated to each walker after deciding on their choice from a pre distributed menu. Most of the walking over the next 5 days was carried out in very rural locations with little or no villages nearby. In addition we found that the local maps were of poor quality and of limited information. Our Guides for the 5 days walking were Chris Sherwood Chief guide, Mike Tweed and Ros Harrison were the Assistance Guides and all were from England and Spanish speaking.

### ***Day 2 - Tuesday 21st***

We met for the first time in the car park and drove in the mini bus to the starting point which was a mountain trading post/bar called Acebuchal. We then walked up a dry river gully to the top of the mountain at 857m called Carro Verde and back to the bar by a circular route. This walk was on an old mule train route from the coast to Granada and there were old trading posts along of the trail. The surrounding country was very rural with wonderful views of the mountains with the snow covered Sierra Nevada in the background. Distance 15km, height gained 200m, walking time 6hrs approx. The valleys in general were covered in Corsican Pines with a multitude of herbs and shrubs growing wild. Dinner at 8.00pm in

Torrox in restaurant El Pedros

***Day 3 - Wednesday 22nd***

Assembled in the car park and walked out to the back of the village and out into the country in a circular route. This gave us an opportunity to view the terrain between the village and the mountains and to see many of the well appointed villas and houses

built out in the hills. This area has a mixed population of Scandinavians, British and Germans. Again excellent countryside, great weather and good walking.

Distance 12km, height gained 240m, walking time 6hrs.

Dinner in El Rosso in Torrox.



***Day 4 - Thursday 23rd***

Assembled at the car park and drove to a second car park near the Caves of Nerja. We walked a circular route through a combination of valleys and mountain terrain. We skirted Cartilo Aledching Tajo and Fuento Parro and stopped at a small bar on the way back and had drinks and pancakes before returning to the buses and returning home. Distance 12km, height gained 450m, walking time 6hrs. Dinner at El Disvan Tapas Bar in Torrox.

***Day 5 - Friday 24th***

This was a rest day (from walking) and we had pre arranged to go to Granada and visit the Alhambra Palace and Gardens. We were dropped off and collected by our mini bus and spent a full day visiting the many exciting exhibitions in the Palace and Gardens. A wonderful and exciting day well worth the visit.

***Day 6 - Saturday 25th***

Back to the real world. Mini bus to Pueto Calodo and we commenced walk passing through a dry river valley, past an old trading post and up to Auberge Casa Le Mina. On to an old farm house at Monta Pradilos at 1020m for lunch. On stopping for lunch we noted the presence of a small snake that soon lost interest in us. We came back by a circular route to Pueto Calodo. Wonderful walk, great scenery and sun.

Distance 12km, height gained 400m, walking time 6hrs. Dinner in El Disvan Tapas Bar in Torrox.

### ***Day 7 - Sunday 27th***

Last day and possibly the toughest walk. Assembled in car park and drove to a very pretty village called Frigiana and on to the water reservoir above the village. We commenced walking at the reservoir and climbed continuously over a very mixed trail of concrete, shale and loose boulders. The temperature started at 15C but increased to 27/ 30 degrees while on the mountain. Finished at the top at the ruins of an old Moorish Fort called El Fuerte. We returned to the reservoir and on to Frigiana for refreshments. This was a demanding walk but a good one to finish on.

Distance 10km, Height gained 580m, walking time 6hrs.

As an alternative to the mountain walk, two of our group undertook a coastal walk which they found most invigorating and enjoyable.

On Sunday night the entire group including the guides and company officials assembled for dinner in a restaurant in the square and we had an excellent dinner with wine and champagne followed by a singsong. We thanked our guides and officials for a well organised holiday.

### ***Day 7 - Monday 28th***

Back to the airport in Malaga and home after an enjoyable and very successful walking week in an exciting location in good weather.

Walk Andalucía Officials in Torrox were Dave and Gill Armstead and in England Elaine Smith



*Mary, Pearse, Tom D and Tom M*

# Michael Dwyer

By Michael Cotter

---

Michael Dwyer was born about 1772 in Camara, Co. Wicklow, the eldest of seven children of John Dwyer, a mountain farmer, and his wife, Mary (nee Byrne). Early in his life, his family moved to the Glen of Imaal. Michael was related to Anne Devlin, who is noted as the girlfriend of Robert Emmett.

Michael became a member of the United Irishmen and, following the massacre in Dunlavin on 24th May 1798, in which about 50 men were killed, as they were suspected of being United Irishmen. Dwyer joined the Rebellion in Wexford, seeing action at Arklow, Vinegar Hill, Ballyellis and Hacketstown. After defeats at these battles, Dwyer and a small group took refuge in the Wicklow Mountains, and in July 1798 he reached Glenmalure, and a while later he moved to the Glen of Imaal, his home range. Despite great efforts to capture him, Dwyer and his men remained free for five years, during which he engaged in guerrilla warfare. An incident occurred in Derrynamuck (off the Donard to Rathdangan road) in February 1799, which added greatly to his fame/notoriety. He and some of his supporters were sheltering from snow in some cottages, but their presence was betrayed to the Authorities, who rushed to the area and lay siege to the cottage where Dwyer was hiding. The thatched roof of the cottage was set ablaze and Dwyer and his men could not use their muskets as the sparks would set off their gunpowder. One of Dwyer's men, Sam McAllister, who was already wounded in the arm, urged the men to make a run for it and he opened the door, taking the fire from the yeomen. He was killed instantly, but while the yeomen were re-loading, the men made their bid to escape but only Dwyer evaded capture. The others were all executed.

A reward of £1,000 for his capture and his suspected involvement in the organizing of Robert Emmet's rebellion, increased efforts to bring him in, and members of Dwyer's family were arrested and a captured comrade, Martin Burke, was threatened with execution.

In 1803 he co-operated with Robert Emmett in the planned uprising in Dublin and was reported to have led 500 men to Rathmines, but did not take any part in the aborted Rising. However, by now the noose was tightening on Dwyer, and the British went so far as to build the Military Road through the area and place barracks all along the way.

Through a local landlord Member of Parliament named William Hume,

Dwyer negotiated with the British, and he and four remaining followers surrendered. In December 1803 Dwyer finally capitulated on terms that would allow him safe passage to America but the government reneged on the agreement, holding him in Kilmainham Jail until August 1805. The men were given the choice of being tried for treason or be transported to New South Wales as exiles. In October 1798 he had married Mary Doyle. Dwyer and his wife chose the latter. Although Dwyer had understood that his wife, children and companions would be given free passage to the United States, this did not come about.

Dwyer arrived in Sydney on 14 February 1806 in the *Tellicherry*, as an un-sentenced exile and was given free settler status. He arrived with his wife and two eldest children, a decision had been made that the journey would be too dangerous for their younger children. He was given a grant of 100 acres of land on Cabramatta Creek in Sydney.

On 11 May 1807 Dwyer was charged with conspiring to mount an Irish insurrection against British rule. On 18 May Dwyer was found not guilty of the charges of organising an Irish insurrection in Sydney. Governor William Bligh, (of the *Bounty* fame) disregarded the first trial acquittal and organised another trial in which Dwyer was stripped of his free settler status and transported to Tasmania and Norfolk Island. After Governor Bligh was overthrown in the Rum Rebellion in 1808, the new Governor of New South Wales ordered that Michael Dwyer's freedom be reinstated.

In 1813 Michael Dwyer became Chief of Police at Liverpool, New South Wales but was dismissed in October 1820 for drunken conduct and mislaying important documents. In December 1822 he was sued for aggrandizing his farm – he tilled land belonging to somebody else. Bankrupted, he was forced to sell off most of his assets, although this did not save him from several weeks incarceration in the Sydney debtors' prison in May 1825. Here he evidently contracted dysentery, to which he succumbed in August 1825.

Not until 20 years after the older members of the family had emigrated did the younger Dwyer children arrive in Australia and were united with a brother and two sisters whom they had never seen. Although their mother was still alive, their father had been dead for three years, having died on 23rd August 1825. All seven children married and had children and over the ensuing years successive generations scattered throughout Australia and lost touch with one another.

# PHOTO GALLERY

---



*Dick, Joe, Brian, Karl, Tom G, Roger and Joan*



*Gerry and Breda in Spain*



*More of the group in Spain*



*Joe and Maura in Spain*



*Karl, Angelique, Geraldine,  
Brian at Glendalough*



*Mary, Karl, Eamonn and Phil on the Spinc*



*Karl shows us how to cross  
the Avonmore River*

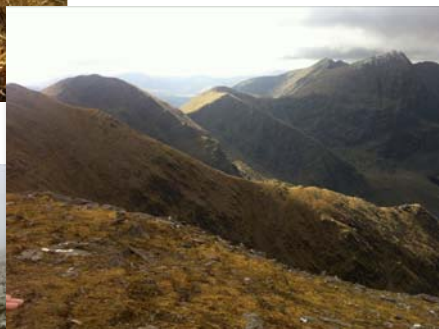


*Zig-zag access to Lugnaquilla*

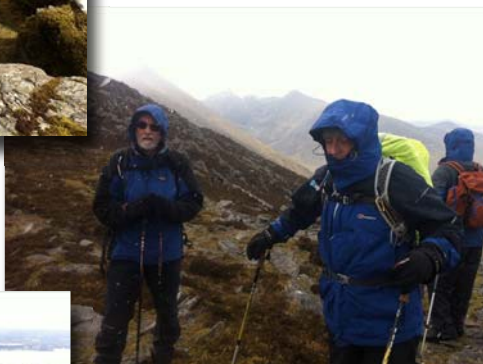
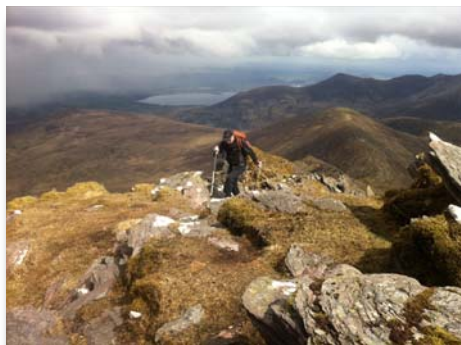


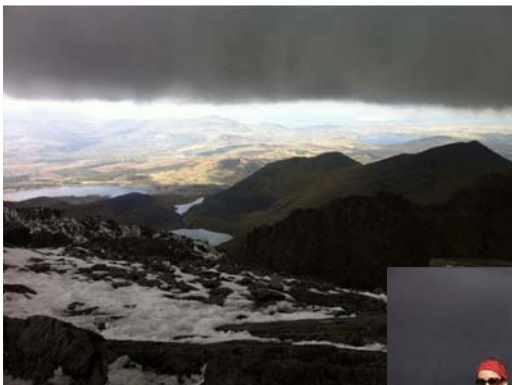
*Monty and Dympna*

# KILLARNEY TRIP PHOTOS











# Walks Schedule May to August 2012

Date	Grade	Start	1st Leader	2nd Leader	3rd Leader
MAY 5			May Weekend----- No Walks		
MAY 12	A	0900	Mike Sims	Brendan Bracken	J Poynton
	C	1100	Fred English	Hilary Fitzpatrick	Ann Little
MAY 19	B	0900	Mary Dillon	Brendan Bracken	Tom Murray
	C	1100	Roger Kirker	Theresa Murphy	Hilary Fitzpatrick
MAY 26	B	0900	C McCarthy	Barbara Lane	K Foley
	C	1100	Eugene Logan	Catherine Walsh	Bob Curran
JUNE 2			June Weekend -----No Walks		
JUNE 9	B	0900	Josephine Cotter	Monty Tinsley	Maura Colleary
	C	1100	Bernadette Coggins	Dick Needham	Maura Byrne
	A	0900	O McKeown	Gaye Maguire	Barry Walsh
JUNE 16	B	1100	Paddy O'Duffy	Joe Murray	Tom Gillen
	C	1100	Fergal Molloy	Teresa Casey	Dick Ryan
JUNE 23	B	0900	G Fogarty	John Murphy	Derek O'Neill
	C	1100	Kevin Beegan	Noreen O'Brien	Sheila Cantwell
JUNE 30	C	1100	Eugene Logan	Colette Dorgan	C. Minogue
JULY 7	B	0900	Shea Murrn	Dympna Thunder	Maeliosa Ryan
	C	1100	Myles Duffy	Patricia Duffy	Evelyn Tinsley
MEMORIAL DAY					
JULY 14	A	0900	M Dillon	Michael Lane	Ita Lawton
	B	1100	Terry O'Brien	Paddy O'Duffy	Tom Duff
	C	1100	Dick Ryan	Myles Duffy	Ann Little
JULY 21	B	0900	Brian Brennan	Tom Duff	Conor Stephens
	C	1100	Noreen O'Brien	Colette Dorgan	Marelene Travers
JULY 28	B	0900	Philip O'Neill	Terry O'Brien	Richelle Crowley
	C	1100	Eugene Logan	Fred English	Kevin Moore

AUG 4			August Weekend-----No Walks		
AUG 11	A	0900	Niall Humphreys	Gaye Maguire	T Murray
	C	1100	Myles Duffy	Noel O'Reilly	Marion Goff
AUG 18	B	0900	Michael Cotter	Mary Murray	Pearse Connolly
	C	1100	Eileen Gallagher	Marie Comiskey	Teresa Casey
AUG 25	C	1100	Eugene Logan	Noreen O'Brien	Marie McKeown

### **Note re New Walks Schedule**

The new Walks schedule incorporates an extra B Walk on 16 June and 14 July. This extra "B" is in conjunction with an A and a C walk, the B will start at 1100. We have not done this for May as the "A" clashes with Richard Needham's Pyrenees trip. Equally we have only put in the extra "B"s in June and July to see how these go.

### **Walk Leaders.**

Walk Leaders should email members at least 10 days in advance of their scheduled walk to advise of the planned route details, including the distance to be travelled and height to be climbed. Where a named leader is unable to lead a walk, he/she should arrange for and agree a replacement. Any such changes should be notified to the Walks Co-Ordinator Owen McKeown.

**Please note Bus Driver details: Tony Graham, Tel: 086 262 8857.**