

**MOUNTAIN  
VIEWS**

# THE SUMMIT

IRISH HILLWALKERS' QUARTERLY, AUGUST 2020



**NEWS - INFORMATION - RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS - FEATURES - FORUMS**

## WELCOME TO OUR AUGUST QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Didn't have the heart for the July newsletter. Your editor had a slight chest pain, went to an A&E and emerged a few days later with a coronary stent. It's an astonishing bit of modern medicine done extremely efficiently and I am gradually getting back onto the hills and eating more vegetables.



**Covid** Many of the places visited in this edition are tentative returns to the hills enabled by lessening of rules. For an exuberant example our Track of the Month which has GSheehy turning the Galtys into a 50+k megawalk.

Mountaineering Ireland, MI, are now taking orders for the **"Irish Peaks"** book which is based on the MountainViews Highest Hundred summits. We feel sure that this book will be a huge success and sell far more than the initial print run of 2000. We hope to review it and discuss its significance when we have a copy. See [mountaineering.ie/aboutus/news/2020/?id=293](https://mountaineering.ie/aboutus/news/2020/?id=293)

Coincidentally this quarterly has another story involving MI and MV where we have agreed with MI's Hillwalking Committee to jointly promote the Arderins (500m Irish mountains with a prominence of 30+m) as **".. a premier list .. usually undertaken over a lifetime of walking"**.

While some have had misgivings about MV working with MI, we would point to both of these collaborative initiatives as injecting vigour into **developing hillwalking as a sport on the island of Ireland.**

Read on for our mix of trips, tales from the Highest 100, Sheefry backpacking, Kirks mournful Mourne Memories and an article on mountain passes. MountainViews has received a much above average number of access difficulty comments, so we have included an MI article about not taking access for granted.

Simon

## IN THIS ISSUE...

MVS NEWS	<a href="#">PAGE 3</a>
MOUNTAIN COMMENT OF THE MONTH: CROAGHONAGH	<a href="#">PAGE 5</a>
RECENT MOUNTAIN COMMENTS	<a href="#">PAGE 6</a>
TRACK OF THE MONTH: GALTU MOUNTAIN SKYLINE YOYO	<a href="#">PAGE 9</a>
RECENT MEMBERS TRACKS	<a href="#">PAGE 11</a>
SUMMITTEERING: THE LOCAL 100 BY COLIN MURPHY	<a href="#">PAGE 13</a>
MVS DEVELOPMENTS: VOLUNTEER PROJECTS	<a href="#">PAGE 16</a>
EXPLORE: A NIGHT ON THE SHEEFFRYS - GERRY MCVEIGH	<a href="#">PAGE 19</a>
POETRY: MOURNE MEMORIES BY DAVID KIRK	<a href="#">PAGE 23</a>
GEOHISTORY: PASS NOTES BY PAUL TEMPAN	<a href="#">PAGE 24</a>
ACCESS: LET'S NOT TAKE IT FOR GRANTED	<a href="#">PAGE 30</a>
PHOTOS OF THE MONTH	<a href="#">PAGE 32</a>
EMVEES TUBE: THE BEST VIDEO PICKS FOR AUGUST	<a href="#">PAGE 35</a>



Peakeen Mountain West Top  Simon Stewart



## Arderins: An official list of Irish summits for hillwalkers on the island of Ireland

### Introduction

Mountaineering Ireland and MountainViews have collaborated to develop an all island list of Irish mountains, capable of acquiring the status and recognition of the Scottish Munro list. A working group with members from Mountaineering Ireland's Hillwalking Committee and members of Mountain Views was set up to develop the official list of Irish summits.

Both organisations were concerned to avoid encouraging any

development which could be detrimental to the environment and the unspoilt nature of Irish hills. They were also conscious that the uplands in Ireland are used by hillwalkers in a very patchy way, the Wicklow area, the Mournes and the Reeks are arguably overused, while equally exciting hills in many other areas are virtually unused.

### Vision

*An accepted list of Irish hills, defined according to certain criteria, which encourages hillwalkers to explore upland areas throughout the island, without compromising the wildness, uniqueness and environment which give Ireland its character.*

We are mindful of the success of projects such as the Munros in Scotland and the Highpointers lists in the US. We see the Arderins as a premier list, the extent and nature of which, and the effort it takes to complete it, providing hillwalkers and clubs with a serious challenge usually undertaken over a lifetime of walking. It was, therefore, agreed that the Arderins list is the most appropriate for Ireland's official mountain list.



From Coomcallee to Coomnahorna  
📷 madfrankie

## Arderins

The Arderins is a list of 406 mountains that are +500m in height with a prominence of at least 30m which is objective and capable of being easily expressed and understood. The term 'Arderin' is symbolic, meaning 'Ireland's height' in Irish, as well as being the name of a hill located close to the geographical centre of the island.



Benlengisky, Twelve Bens  
madfrankie

## The Value of the Arderins List

■ **Environment** - Spreads the environmental impact over a greater number of areas. Certain areas bear a disproportionate amount of hillwalking activity in Ireland and are consequently the most environmentally impacted. The list is geographically wide-ranging on the island with twenty six of the thirty two counties represented and includes many challenging peaks.

■ **Hillwalking as a Sport** - Supports, increases awareness of, and promotes the further development of the sport of hillwalking. Encourages young people to see hillwalking as a challenge. Develops skills of fitness, navigation, self-reliance and route finding. A list of mountains provides a framework for discussion of routes, summit advantages and disadvantages, access issues and culture.

■ **Health** - Supports the development of walking as a wellness activity.

■ **Rural Development** - Enhances the viability of more remote communities by bringing visitors. Helps raise interest in the archaeological and cultural heritage of the area and stimulates the development of the very rudimentary support facilities required for this activity.

## Challenge yourself - walk the Arderins

Hillwalkers can log Arderins as they complete them on Mountaineering Ireland or MountainViews websites. There will be recognition of successful completion of the Arderins on an ongoing basis. To date (August 2020) 9 hillwalkers have completed all 406.

Generally, responsible hillwalkers enjoy unhindered access to Ireland's mountains and upland areas, due to the goodwill and tolerance of the landowners. Maintaining access and good relations with landowners and local communities is a shared responsibility among hillwalkers. Even though some routes are well-established, this does not confer a legal right of entry.



Summit Slievelamagan  
madfrankie

For further information please go to:

[mountainviews.ie/lists/arderin/](https://mountainviews.ie/lists/arderin/)  
[mountaineering.ie/hillwalking/Challengeyourself-IrishHillwalkingLists/default.aspx](https://mountaineering.ie/hillwalking/Challengeyourself-IrishHillwalkingLists/default.aspx)

PLACE  
COMMENT  
OF THE  
MONTH

## 'HALT! TURN BACK!!'

**CROAGHONAGH (451M), S DONEGAL/W TYRONE**

It's disconcerting to be stopped in your tracks at the best of times, doubly so when a group of security men stand in your way. Michael G55's short but succinct post of June 21, entitled 'Access Restrictions' shows how he and his companion dealt with this tricky situation on the slopes of Donegal's Croaghonagh (a mountain perhaps better known as the eastern half of the iconic Barnesmore Gap)

Climbed Croaghonagh this evening with my wife and enjoyed superb views from the summit. NB. Be aware that due to new windfarm development that security prevents access to the forestry track. We were turned away at the quarry by security personnel on a Sunday evening! We followed the electric poles from adjacent to the carpark on the N15 to the track near the summit. Tough going through thick heather and long grass, but worth it for the view.

Original comment:

[mountainviews.ie/summit/618/comment/20803/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/618/comment/20803/)



madfrankie

### MIDLANDS

Knockout views



ger\_the\_sea

Fabulous views over Lough Derryvaragh await from the summit of Knockeyon in the North Midlands - and for little effort, reports **ger\_the\_sea**

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/1273/comment/20826/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/1273/comment/20826/)

### MIDLANDS



TommyV

#### Deep in the Cavan countryside

**TommyV** makes his way to the summit of Slieve Glah, aided by a friendly local but has to battle chest high briars near the top.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/932/comment/20191/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/932/comment/20191/)

### MIDLANDS

**Unusually named hills with great views.**

Fergalh ascends The Hill of Mael in the North Midlands and enjoys splendid views from both its summit and the neighbouring Rocky of Curry.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/1226/comment/15855/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/1226/comment/15855/)

## EAST



### Out of the woods

Formerly a densely afforested top, now a blasted landscape of forestry detritus, writes **ewen** on Seskin in Wicklow. The cloud has a silver

lining in that the views are now pretty good.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/908/comment/20823/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/908/comment/20823/)

## EAST



### A pleasant hike on a fine June morning

Although a fairly nondescript summit, **Colin Murphy** took the easy approach from the west and enjoyed a gentle amble to the top mostly on well defined tracks.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/609/comment/20802/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/609/comment/20802/)

## NORTH



### Appealing vista

The impressive Slieve Bearnagh in the Mourne provide a wonderful vista stretching from Slievenaglogh round to Binnian, writes **slievejohnbeg**.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/83/comment/20822/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/83/comment/20822/)

## NORTH

### Walls prove an excellent navigation aid



A new short summary for Slievenaglogh in the Mourne by **Colin Murphy** tells of a steep finale and spectacular views over Silent Valley.

Link:

[mountainviews.ie/summit/635/comment/5394/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/635/comment/5394/)

## NORTH



📷 Colin Murphy

### A wee gem

Wee Binnian in the Mourne is a fine, well-defined summit with a classical conical shape, topped by an area of massive boulders, reports **Colin Murphy**.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/583/comment/20819/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/583/comment/20819/)

## WEST



📷 magnumpig

### First peak in two months!

With lockdown nearing its end, **magnumpig** gets far from the madding Covid on an ascent of Kilkerry in the Ox Mts, which provides beautiful and very welcome views to the horizon.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/960/comment/20790/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/960/comment/20790/)

## WEST

### Walkers not welcome

The beautiful Leenaun Hill in Galway has a new obstacle to contend with - a 'No Hillwalkers Allowed' sign on a popular route up the hill, reports **Rossie73**.

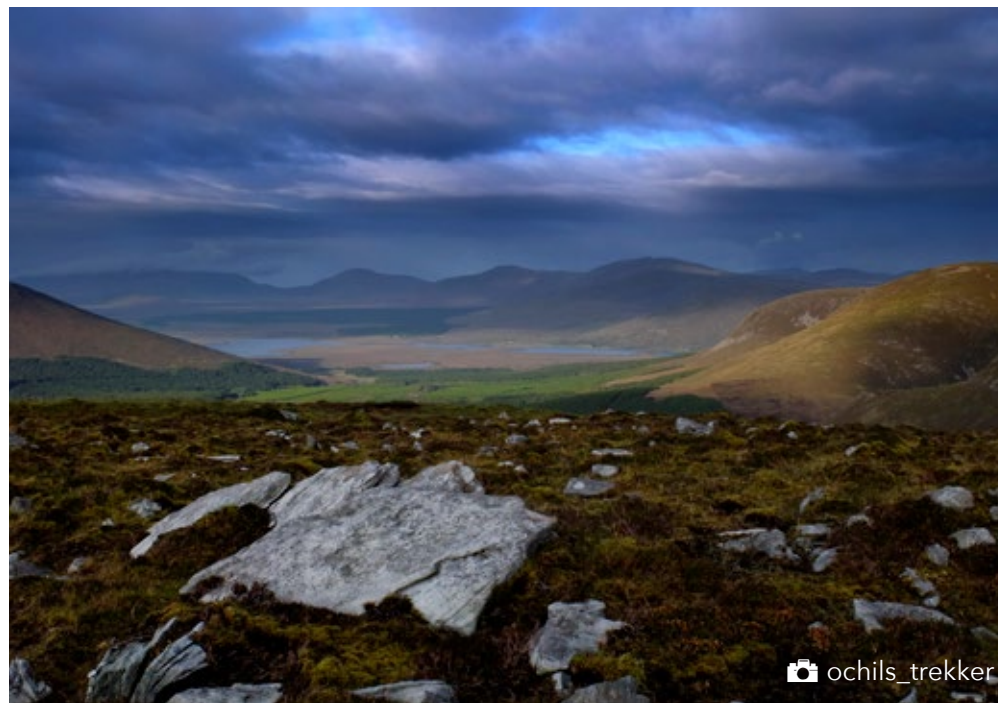
Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/246/comment/20813/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/246/comment/20813/)

## WEST

### One enchanted evening

A late ascent of Corraun on Achill by **ochils\_trekker** proved tough work up through steep, dense heather and rocks, but the evening light made it very worthwhile.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/405/comment/20797/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/405/comment/20797/)



📷 ochils\_trekker

## SOUTH



Simon3

### Bump on ridge with airy views

An updated short summary on Slievecushbinnia in the Galtys by **Simon3**, who warns walkers to be prepared for a fair test of stamina.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/64/comment/4824/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/64/comment/4824/)

## SOUTH

### A masochistic outing!

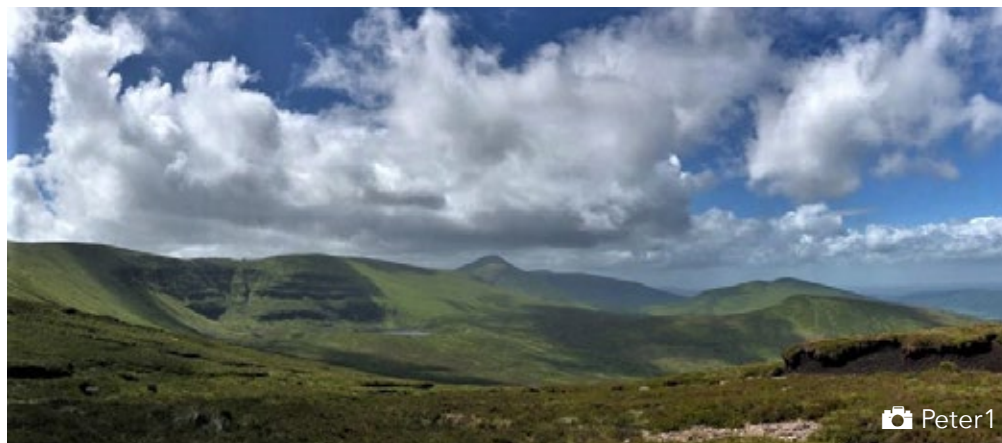


chelman7

Member **chelman7** warns of chest high heather, prickly furze and vanishing dogs on his uncomfortable ascent of Burren in the Boggeragh Mountains.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/867/comment/20821/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/867/comment/20821/)

## SOUTH



Peter1

### A circuit of Lough Muskry

**Peter1** has a really enjoyable high level walk around Lough Muskry in the Galtys on a day of high winds and high ascents.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/summit/307/comment/20805/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/307/comment/20805/)

## SOUTH

### Well worth the diversion



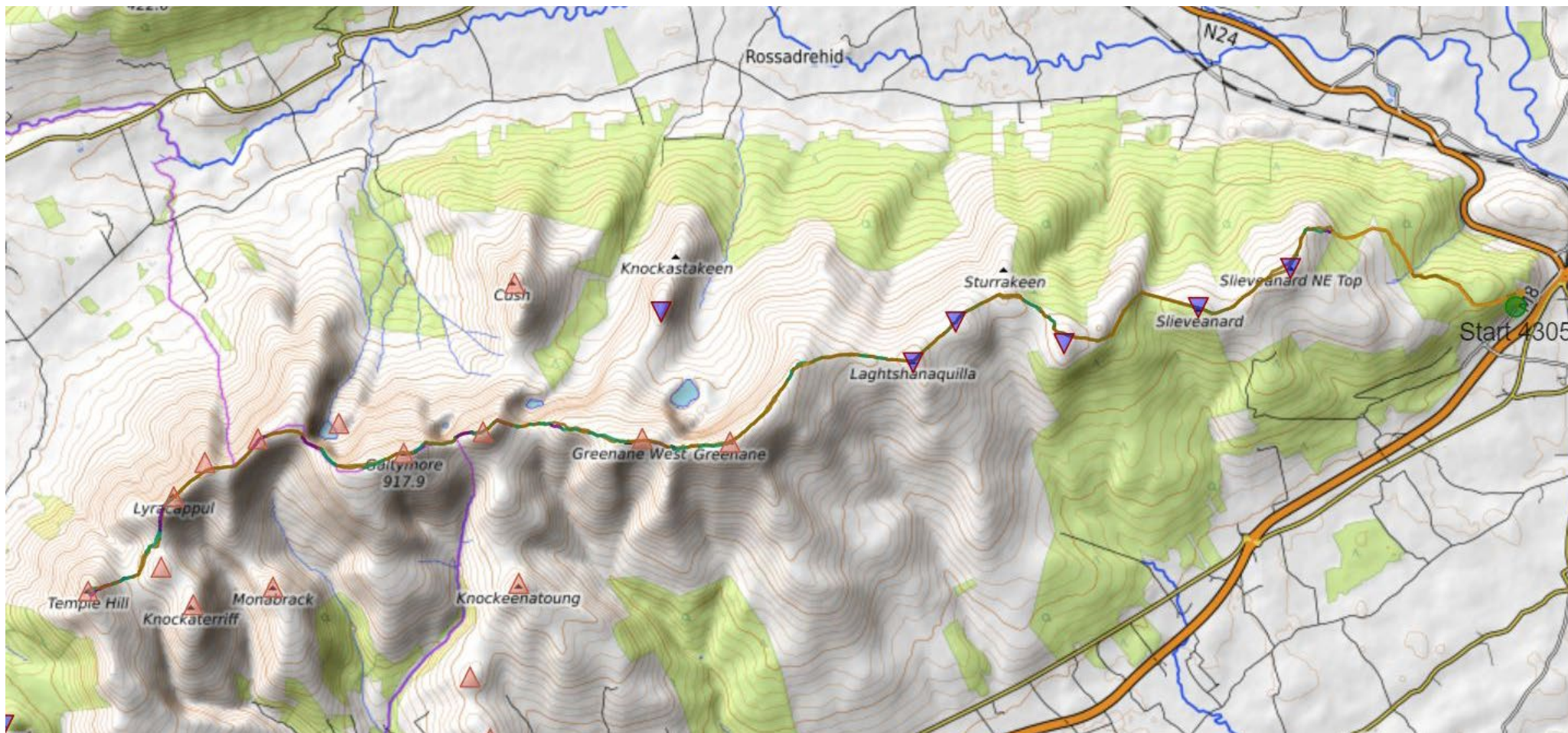
Liz50

**Liz50** advises that you veer slightly off the track on the Brandon Ridge and take in the South Top and Brandon Peak, otherwise you'll miss tremendous views.

Link: [:mountainviews.ie/summit/49/comment/20794/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/49/comment/20794/)



## TRACK OF THE MONTH - GALTY MOUNTAIN SKYLINE YO-YO



### THERE AND BACK AGAIN, AGAIN

This month's selection is from a man not so much emerging from lockdown as springing from it. **GSheehy** is well-known for his challenge walking exploits, and has used his time off wisely to recover from several very physically demanding years; thus refreshed, he's started with a near-double traverse of the Galtees, starting from the east and walking to Temple Hill and back again... all good, solid, fun, inspirational stuff.

**LENGTH:** 51.5km **Time taken:** 10h56m  
**ASCENT:** 2248m **DESCENT:** 2246m **PLACES:** Start at S03721 25857, Slieveanard NE Top, Slieveanard, Laghtshanaquilla, Greenane, Galtymore, Carrignabinnia, Temple Hill, Lyra Cappul, Slievecushnabinnia, Galtymore, Greenane West, Laghtshanaquilla North-East Top, Sturrakeen, end at Start  
 Link: [mountainviews.ie/track/report/4305/](https://mountainviews.ie/track/report/4305/)

## TRACK OF THE MONTH - GALTY MOUNTAIN SKYLINE YO-YO

It's been a while and I hope this upload finds you all well.

The auld challenge walk calendar has been decimated and it's only now that the regular participants are getting going again and working on their fitness levels. No doubt you'll all have found out that having no access to the mountains for 8 weeks is going to lead to some pain on the comeback, as we tend to overdose on those first few walks when we're back on the hills. There's no fitness like hill fitness.

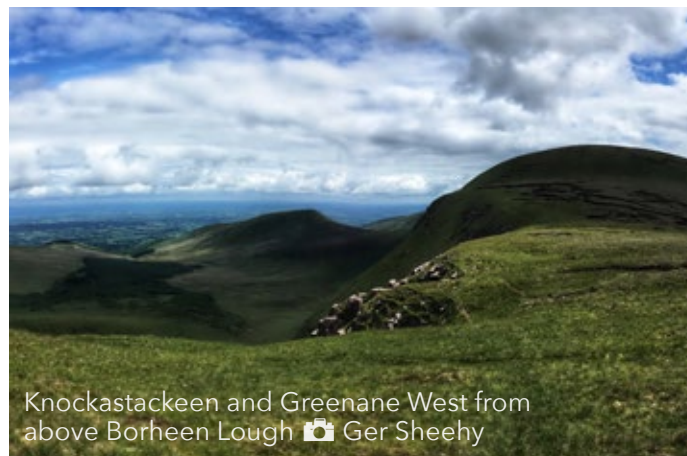


Whilst looking through my history of tracks I discovered that the last time I did a 50+km walk one was in December 2018. To be honest, I wasn't able to contemplate one, as I was pretty wrecked from that cumulative 100,000m height gain target thing for 2017, 2018, 2019. The body just didn't want to know when I tried to push it over the last 5 months and frustration set in with the length of the recovery. However, those first 8 weeks of Covid lockdown might have worked in my favour - forced rest.

I started feeling good towards the end of May so I decided to plan a long one where the height gain wasn't too savage. I came up with this track. I knew that if I wanted to bail out at any stage I could have just made a phone call and be collected with my tail between my legs. It's not just the length that makes this difficult, there are no sources of water along the way (plus it's June) and you're never sure

of how much food you'll need. The challenge is just to finish it, as per every other hillwalking challenge.

The day turned out good. It was nippy enough, with the wind,

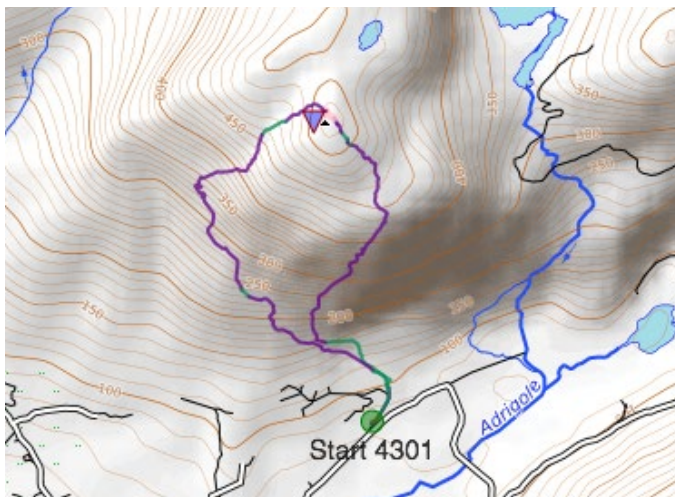


early in the day as I contemplated donning the spare socks on my hands - didn't think I'd need gloves that day. There was a bit of mist down from Farbrega to Lyracappul on the way out but it was clear after that.

It was nice and overcast so the sun didn't appear too often to sap the energy. I met 10 other walkers between the top of the gully above Lough Curran and Galtybeg, on the way back, and that was it for the day.



## TRACKS



### **SOUTH:** **Beara of (not really) Bad News**

The relatively distant (to the extent that it cannot easily be directly linked to any other summits) south top of Knockeirky in the Cahas of Beara has attracted the attention of

**muddyboots**, who discovered a stiff scrambly little climb to a fine summit with excellent views, followed by a more gentle descent. It should only take a couple of hours at most, leaving plenty of time for further exploration of this wild corner of the south-west.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/track/report/4301/](https://mountainviews.ie/track/report/4301/)



### **SOUTH:** **Tour de Limerick**

**peter1** has climbed aboard his trusty two wheels of steel and linked the otherwise short ascents of Fear Bregach, Keale Mountain, Coolfree Mountain and Carrigeenamronety in County Limerick

into a stiff little duathlon with plenty of ascent, returning with ticks of four summits and some hard-earned advice about overtrousers. Those inspired to follow him may note the three summits of Seefin lurking comparatively close by to the west.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/track/report/4303/](https://mountainviews.ie/track/report/4303/)

### **NORTH:** **The Near-Loneliness of the Almost-Long-Distance Runner**

In his compromised determination (see photo in last newsletter) to use lockdown in order to make some fundamental changes to his hillwalking life, **your track reviewer** has started dipping his gnarled toes into the gnarly world of trail running, and to anyone else similarly losing their grip on sanity he can heartily recommend Antrim's Dungonnell Way, a mix of trails and quiet roads where the hills aren't so brutal as to deter the enthusiastic novice (well, I managed to run up them without walking anyway). It's a nice rural stroll for those who prefer their pedestrianism to constantly keep at least one foot on the ground too.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/track/report/4304/](https://mountainviews.ie/track/report/4304/)



## TRACKS

### SCOTLAND:

#### The Alder Statesman

One of the most prized of Scotland's Munros is the gloriously distant massif of Ben Alder, clearly visible down the length of Loch Ericht from the main A9, but actually reserved for backpackers or the very fit and determined. **melohara** has approached it from this direction, using a mountain bike to take advantage of the private estate roads, camping overnight then climbing the mountain via the fun scramble of the Long Leachas. He also took in the neighbouring Munro of



Beinn Bheoil while he was there, as it's rude not to. See also the 'archive footage' in the video section.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/track/report/4315/](https://mountainviews.ie/track/report/4315/)

### WEST:

#### The Goat of island hopping



Many moons ago **simoburn** became the first (and as far as we know still the only) person to climb all the Arderins and VLs in a single year (2014). He's been less overtly ambitious with his walking since (to be fair, he is a rock climber by trade) but he has uploaded a plethora of tracks in the last few weeks. Amongst these is a ramble out to Omey Island in Galway, accessible on foot at low tide and indicative of the sort of diverse challenges available on our Islands list.

Link: [mountainviews.ie/track/report/4336/](https://mountainviews.ie/track/report/4336/)

# THE LOCAL HUNDRED

PANDEMIC OPTIONS: A WALKER'S NEAREST PEAKS LOOM LARGE.

by Colin Murphy

Of all the challenges available on mountainviews.ie, I'd never really considered the Local 100 as something worthy of serious consideration. The Arderins, for example, offered a serious challenge of 406 summits of over 500m spread throughout the entire country, thus holding the prospect of some spectacular walking in remote and varied landscapes. The Highest Hundred similarly called for a high degree of effort in often demanding

terrain. But the Local 100, which included some hills that were barely 200m high, and in my case, largely concentrated in Wicklow, didn't really appeal.

But all of that changed for me in 2019, when though various circumstances, I found that I simply wouldn't have the time to travel on long expeditions all over the land, but would have to content myself with more local hillwalking, so I turned my

# SUMMITEERING



Even with the warnings, places like Glendalough can still offer Covid 19 risks.

📷 Colin Murphy

eye towards the locals, and the hills I usually drove by on my way to somewhere that I considered higher/more challenging/interesting. At the time of writing, Covid 19 is restricting all of our movements and even going for a walk in a spot popular with the general public like Glendalough in Wicklow, Howth Head in Dublin or Connemara National Park can prove somewhat hazardous for your health due to people ignoring 'social distancing'.

The advantages of many of the Local 100 hills and mountains is that they're largely untrodden, close at hand and offer a wide variety of options - enough that you can even take along those not too used to scaling great heights (as long as you all stay two metres apart!) My personal experience doing many of my own 100 was that I'd say that ninety per cent of my walks were completed without encountering another living soul. And isn't keeping apart from everyone else just what's recommended at the moment?

Depending on where you live of course, your L100 might include Carrauntoohil, Mweelrea or Slieve Donard. But if you live

in Tralee, for example, it would also include the likes of Gortnagan Beg, a minor reek just 298m high, but which offers tremendous views in all directions. Simpler still would be Callahaniska in the Glenbeigh Horseshoe. A short walk through the heather to the summit at 219m, but the hill has been described as offering the 'best reward to effort ratio in the Kingdom!'



The views from the top of Callahaniska. The best reward to effort ratio in the Kingdom. 📷 Colin Murphy

Looking north, let's say you're a resident of Newry. In this case you have an equally eclectic mix of the challenging to the 'simplicity itself' category, encompassing the beautiful Mourne, the Cooleys, Belfast Hills and the Sperrins. If you're up for a longer, tougher trek, the conical Slieve Bearnaghs or Slieve Binnian with its spectacular rock formations might be your thing. At the other end of the scale, if you fancy a more brief, gentler

# SUMMITEERING



Land and seascapes await at the summit of Slievenaslat 📷 Colin Murphy  
outing there's fine walk through Castlewellan Forest Park to the summit of Slievenaslat at 272m overlooking Castlewellan Lake. Or there's Slievenaglogh in the Cooleys at 310m, and which presents splendid views of Slieve Foye, the Cooley range and out over Dundalk Bay.

I was sceptical when I first set about climbing the more minor hills of my L100, but I soon discovered that even the most unremarkable hills rewarded me in some fashion. Trooperstown Hill in Wicklow, for example, looked like a dull bump on the map but to my pleasure I discovered that the entire hill blanketed in a colourful mass of heather and furze. The diminutive Bray Head Hill, presents tremendous views along the east coast. Robbers Pass Hill, is probably the easiest top in Ireland to ascend (it took me about five minutes!) but the views over Wicklow with Lough Dan nestling between the slopes in the distance were very fine indeed.

The point is that wherever your location on the island of Ireland, your Local 100 offers a wonderful, eclectic mix of the more challenging to the 'easy as pie' if you just feel the need to get out, get some fresh air and exercise and do some ascending, however major or minor. So don't just shop local, walk local!

*Note: MountainViews has the Hundred Highest at <https://mountainviews.ie/lists/local/>. You need to be logged in and to have told the website where you are based. Some summits are not available to walkers for various reasons such as them being on seastacks or having access difficulties. The website therefore offers 110 summits and the challenge is to visit 100 of those.*



Trooperstown Hill...often blanketed in colour 📷 Colin Murphy

## VOLUNTEER PROJECTS



MVs surveying in Wales

MountainViews and its committee continue to provide the essential services of an organisation from finance to negotiation with MI and rising to the challenges of the current crisis in bringing out appropriately themed newsletters. Additionally, various associated projects have taken spurts forwards. Curiously the current crisis may have actually helped this through people having time on their hands.

### Placenames

Paul Tempan who originally compiled much of the Irish language names and name information for the places MountainViews features has hugely updated his work. This has included:

- A large number of minor revisions to names etc as a result of new research or from the impressively expanding Logainm. ie. Blackstairs Mountain now has Irish form An Charraig Dhubh, for example, from Logainm.ie.
- Names for subsidiary summits. Where we simply can't find local or accepted names for these we have long resorted to names by geographical reference like "Croaghanmoira North Top" as the best remaining naming option. Now we have Irish forms for these such as "Cruachán Mhaigh Rath (mullach thuaidh)". In English it is possible to create abbreviations such as NE for North East since the first letter of the four cardinal points are different. We are mulling over how to present abbreviated Irish directional names.
  - Making the principal name be the Irish form in Gaeltacht areas.
  - Paul with the assistance of native speaker Hannah Ní Shearcaigh from Kerry, has been trialling a spoken form on the website for Kerry placenames. To see or rather hear an example try [mountainviews.ie/summit/148/](http://mountainviews.ie/summit/148/)
  - Paul has updated various previous documents on Irish language placenames of hill interest. This has included an article on Irish Passes included elsewhere in this quarterly, reference material for the passes article and "Irish Landscape Names" which expands and updates earlier work. The last mentioned are available in the "More | Resources" section of the website.

Note: MountainViews continues to support an inclusive approach to placenames, retaining more than one name where appropriate, supporting the work of Fiontair (Logainm.ie) in collaboration with Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. MountainViews continues to offer a choice to users as to whether names presented on the website will be mainly Irish first, English first or website proposed.



## Area and sub-area names

Volunteer Mel O'Hara has started work on improving the area names used to group summits, coastal features and islands. MountainViews has around 60 area names such as the "Galtys". However, this is a fairly coarse division so there is another category, the sub-area. This project is further characterizing summits by sub-area and various areas such as Inishowen and the Galtys have been now been implemented. Inishowen has 5 sub-areas and the Galtys 3. In time we will create Irish language forms for sub-areas also.

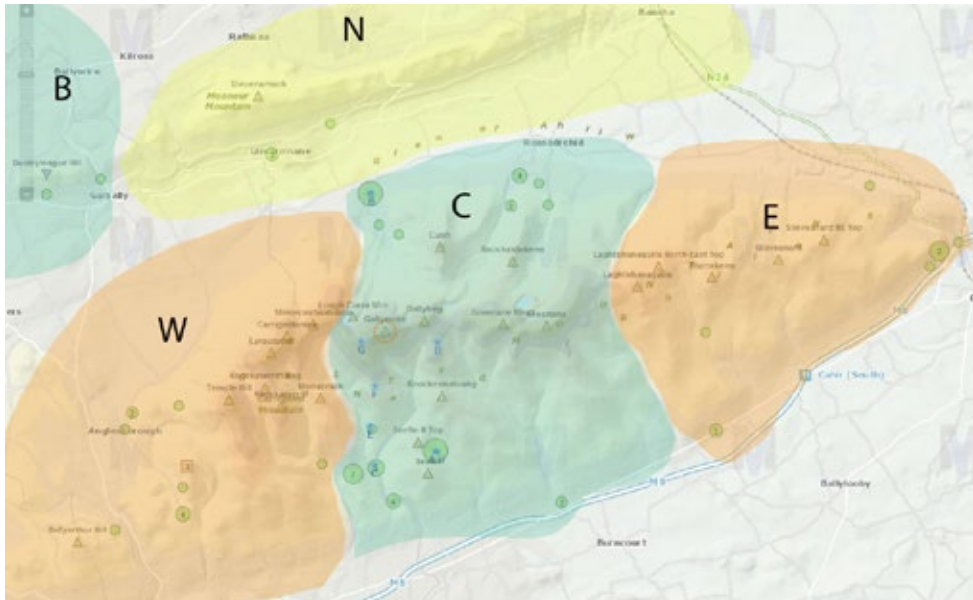


Figure 1, Galtys divided by subarea into West, Central, East and North.

## Article Index

Frank Browning continues to maintain the index of newsletter articles on the website, which now lists 360 items published over more than a decade. ([See mountainviews.ie/newsletters/index/](http://mountainviews.ie/newsletters/index/))

## Software development.

Two extra volunteer streams are progressing here. The recent trial feature for pronunciation files was implemented by Mike Griffin while another project looking at methods and design for the website as a whole is being examined by Ger Somers. However, we really could use further assistance particularly from people with experience with User Interface, Responsive Web Design, Twitter Bootstrap and PWA.

## Interested in any of these projects?

Or another that you would like to propose. Get in touch at [admin@mountainviews.ie](mailto:admin@mountainviews.ie)

■ Editor, MountainViews.

An Irish language version of this document created by Paul Tempan is below.

## TIONSCADAIL OIBRITHE DEONACHA

Leanann MountainViews agus a choiste orthu ag soláthar seirbhísí riachtanacha eagraíochta ó airgeadas go díospóireacht le MI agus ag dul i ngleic le dúshláin na géarchéime atá romhainn faoi láthair trí nuachtlitreacha le téamaí cuí a thabhairt amach. Ina theannta sin, tá tionscadail gaolta éagsúla tar éis dul chun cinn a dhéanamh. An rud is aistí faoi, b'fhéidir gur chabhraigh an ghéarchéim reatha leis seo toisc go raibh go leor ama saor ag daoine áirithe.

Logainmneacha

Rinne Paul Tempan, duine a thiomsaigh go leor de na hainmneacha Gaeilge agus faisnéis faoi ainmneacha na n-áiteanna a chuireann MountainViews i láthair ar dtús, a chuid oibre a nuashonrú go mór. Cuimsíonn an obair na nithe seo a leanas:

- Rinneadh líon mór mionathruithe ar ainmneacha agus a leithéad mar thoradh ar thaighde nua. Mar shampla, tá leagan Gaeilge ar fáil anois ar “Blackstairs Mountain”, is é “An Charraig Dhubh”. Is é foinse an ainm seo an suíomh gréasáin [logainm.ie](http://logainm.ie).
- Athraíodh ainmneacha roinnt fo-sléibhte. Sa chás nach féidir linn ainmneacha áitiúla nó ainmneacha inghlactha a fháil, ní mór dúinn ainmneacha a úsáid le tagairt gheografach mar “Croaghanmoira North Top”. Is é sin an rogha ainmniúcháin is fearr atá ar fáil. Anois tá foirmeacha Gaeilge againn dóibh seo ar nós “Cruachán Mhaigh Rath (mullach thuaidh)”. I mBéarla is féidir giorrúcháin mar “NE” a úsáid do na focail “North-East” (Thoir Thuaidh) toisc go bhfuil an chéad litir de gach ceann de na ceithre hairde uathúil (N/E/S/W), rud nach amhlaidh i nGaeilge. Táimid ag smaoineamh faoin mbealach is fearr chun ainmneacha na n-airde a ghiorrú as Gaeilge.
- Rangaítear an fhoirm Ghaeilge anois go seasta mar príomhainm i gceantair na nGaeltachtaí.
- Tá Paul ag triail foirm labhartha de logainmneacha Chiarraí ar an suíomh gréasáin le cúnamh ó Hannah Ní Shearcaigh, Gaeilgeoir atá ina cónaí i gContae Chiarraí. Chun sampla a chloisteáil, bain triail as [mountainviews.ie/summit/148/](http://mountainviews.ie/summit/148/)
- Rinne Paul nuashonrú ar dhoiciméid éagsúla atá ann cheana maidir le logainmneacha Gaeilge a bhaineann leis na sléibhte. Ina measc seo tá alt ar bhearnaí na hÉireann atá ar fáil in áit eile sa nuachtlitir ráithiúil seo, liosta tagartha d’alt na mbearnaí agus gasaitéar ainmneacha tírdhreacha (“Irish Landscape Names”). Leagan nua agus forleathnaithe é seo de dhoiciméad a foilsíodh roimhe seo. Tá na cinn is déanaí a luaitear le fáil sa chuid den suíomh gréasáin atá marcáilte “More | Resources”.

Nóta. Leanann MountainViews ag tacú le cóireáil chuimsitheach ar logainmneacha, ag coinneáil níos mó ná ainm amháin nuair is cuí, ag tacú le hobair Fhiontair ([logainm.ie](http://logainm.ie)) i bpáirt leis an mBrainse Logainmneacha (An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta).

Leanann MountainViews air ag tairiscint rogha d’úsáideoirí maidir le cé acu ainmneacha a chuirtear i láthair ar an suíomh gréasáin as Gaeilge ar dtús, as Béarla ar dtús nó mar a mholann an suíomh gréasáin féin.

Ainmneacha ceantair agus fo-cheantair

Tá obair dheonach tosaithe ag Mel O’Hara ar fheabhas a chur ar ainmneacha na gceantar a úsáidtear chun sléibhte, gnéithe cósta agus oileáin a ghrúpáil. Úsáidtear timpeall 60 ainm ceantair ar MountainViews, mar shampla “na Gaibhlte”. Níl ach scagadh measartha garbh i gceist, áfach, agus mar sin tá catagóir eile de dhíth orainn, is é sin an fo-limistéar. Tá an tionscadal seo ag dáileadh na sléibhte ar fho-limistéar agus tá ceantair áirithe curtha i bhfeidhm anois, Inis Eoghain agus na Gaibhlte ina measc. Tá cúig fho-limistéar in Inis Eoghain agus trí cheann sna Gaibhlte. Le himeacht aimsire cruthóimid leaganacha Gaeilge d’fho-cheantair freisin.

Innéacs Ailt

Leanann Frank Browning ag coinneáil innéacs na n-alt nuachtlitir ar an suíomh gréasáin, innéacs a liostaíonn anois 360 mír a foilsíodh le linn breis agus deich mbliana.

Forbairt bogearraí.

Tá dhá shruth oibrithe deonacha breise ag dul ar aghaidh sa réimse seo. Chuir Mike Griffin an ghné trialach le déanaí maidir le comhaid fuaimnithe i bhfeidhm agus tá Ger Somers ag déanamh tionscadail eile chun modhanna agus dearadh an tsuímh ghréasáin a scrúdú ina iomláine. Mar sin féin, ba mhaith linn cúnamh breise a fháil, go háirithe ó dhaoine a bhfuil taithí acu ar Chomhéadan Úsáideora, ar Dhearadh Gréasáin Sofhreach, ar Twitter Bootstrap agus ar PWA.

An bhfuil suim agat in aon cheann de na tionscadail seo?

Ar mhaith leat ceann eile a mholadh? Téigh i dteagmháil linn ag [admin@mountainviews.ie](mailto:admin@mountainviews.ie)

# A NIGHT ON THE SHEEFFRY HILLS

Gerry McVeigh

The Sheeffry Hills form an imposingly solid line that seems to stretch an impossibly long distance from east to west. Their western extent plays an important role in creating one of the most beautiful places in Ireland - at Doo Lough, where three stunning mountain areas converge (Sheefrys, Mweelrea and Ben Gorm).

My last visit to the Sheefrys was some 10 years ago - not quite a 7-year itch though not far off! Those memories of airy walking, steep and unrelenting slopes, corrie loughs and amazing views pulled me back in 2019. This time I had different plans that took in an additional 2 hills and included a wild camp - right at the western end of the range and overlooking Doo Lough and the mighty Mweelrea.



Tawnyard Lough backed by Devil's Mother and Maumtrasna 📷 Gerry McVeigh

Starting point for the walk was at Tawnyard Forest (L913679) which has parking for several cars. This is a beautiful area and a walk down to Tawnyard Lough is well worth the effort. A short road walk, accompanied by numerous sheep, allowed access to the hillside and a climb to the ridge on the southern side of the Glenlaur valley. This was a new approach for me and on reaching the ridge the views over Glenlaur were breath-taking. In the valley farmers were shepparding sheep off the hillside and their calls reached my ears in a stiff breeze.

At the head of the valley the Glenlaur River cascaded down over 300m and this sight and sound held my fascination as I moved along the ridge. This approach allowed me to take in the 2 new tops of Tawnyard and Tievabinnia SE Top which was a cool bonus.

On reaching the plateau the gradient eased and it was a gradual walk over easy ground to the summit area of Tievabinnia at 740m. The stunning views south were now

complimented by equally stunning views to the north. Those views stretched to Clare Island, Achill Island, the Nephin Beg Mountains and Croagh Patrick.

The Sheefrys were attacked on all fronts by ice and the huge corries on the northern side are a clear testament to the power of nature. Lough Brawn nestles in one of these spectacular corries and I was able to follow the edge of the plateau as it came ever closer into view far below. I was able to recapture that real sense of airiness walking along at around 700m and feeling on top of the world.



Lough Brawn looking to Tievabinnia 📷 Gerry McVeigh

There are a few small loughs (L872698) in the col between Tievabinnia and the next top, Tievummera. This was useful to fill up with water for cooking that night and making those all-

## EXPLORE

important cups of tea - there were no other readily available water sources along the 5km of high walking. The walking continued to closely follow the steep and dramatic northern slopes as I approached Tievummera and its trig pillar. A stiff wind was blowing from the north, providing clear air, stunning views and a real cooling bite.



Tievummera summit (762m) looking to Croagh Patrick 📷 Gerry McVeigh

The summit of Barrclashcarne (772m) is quite broad and it is an easy walk to the far west with stunning views down over the deep blue waters of Doo Lough, backed by the rugged and imposing slopes of Mweelrea. Sitting here taking it all in with wonder was one of the clearest memories I had from the previous trip. If that wasn't enough there were views across to Ben Gorm and in the distance the impressive tops of the Maamturks and the 12 Bens.

This had to be the spot to camp for the night with those views and the prospect of sunlight bathing it in golden light in the morning. There was gentle breeze and despite the exposed

location it all seemed fine. The stove on, water boiled, tuna and noodles cooked in a couple of minutes and a cup of hot tea - always a great way to end a day.

I then had time to take in the views as the late October sun set on this beautiful part of Ireland. Camping at this time of year means a long night as it is dark around 6pm. Having a good sleeping mat and sleeping bag makes all the difference in terms of comfort and getting a decent sleep. Unfortunately, the wind changed direction and got up during the night which meant my level of comfort was reduced as it battered the side of the tent.

Rising to catch the dawn found frost on the outside of the tent and the strong wind had a penetrating cold. Cloud was being pushed up over Ben Gorm and made for a spectacular sight as it formed and dissipated. I had to go a take in those views over Doo Lough and Mweelrea again and then breakfast, more tea



Doo Lough and Mweelrea 📷 Gerry McVeigh

## EXPLORE

and packing up all the gear.

I now had the pleasure of retracing much of the journey undertaken yesterday with a new perspective travelling west to east - it was just as impressive as I revisited the three mountains a second time. It was dry and clear, and the strong wind was fine with proper layering and gloves. Again, I was able to refill my depleted water supplies at the loughs visited before.

Instead of returning via the ridge from Tawnyard I continued east from the summit of Tievnabinnia. This brought a steep descent from the plateau and a climb to the summit of Tievnabinnia East Top (590m). On the way the waters of Lugaloughaun shone bright blue to the north as winds swept across its surface. The huge waterfall of the Glenlaur River, making a similar descent, was more closely viewed and heard along with the calls of numerous ravens. The East Top was a



Tievummera summit (762m) looking to Croagh Patrick 📷 Gerry McVeigh



good place for lunch with some shelter and fantastic views across to Croagh Patrick.

Another descent brought another corrie lough - Lough Lugacollivee. This was perhaps the most impressive of them all and looked like a fine place to wild camp. The final hill of the trip beckoned as I climbed to the far east of the Sheeffrys to the summit of Tawny Rower (510m). This was the 7th top of the trip and I was glad to start the final descent towards the signposted Western Way trail which would take me to the road.

The Western Way on the lower slopes of Tawny Rower was perhaps the wettest section of the trip. It followed a cool river part of the way that had numerous waterfalls and little gorges. I was soon at the road and crossing the Glenlaur River at Sheeffry Bridge. A steep climb up the Sheeffry Pass, carved out of the hillside, was the final effort of the day.

This was a fantastic trip which reaffirmed the Sheeffrys as one of the best mountain experiences I have encountered in Ireland. Wild camping gave that extra time to gain further appreciation of the beauty of the area. I had the mountains entirely to myself over the 2 days which is perhaps another attraction of these hills. If you haven't been hopefully this gives you a sense of what you might gain by going.

A video of the trip can be found at: <https://youtu.be/88V3dxgOXzM> ■

# Mourne Memories

*New Year dawns from Donard's cairn,  
Bearnagh, full moon midnight, frosted hard,  
Running Bignion's skyline - brushing the layered tors,  
Commedagh's sculpted pillars, ever watching,  
Camp sites lumpy - but so cosy,  
Lulled to sleep by Shannagh's lapping waters.  
Playful little Doan, the little darlin'  
At the heart of its granite family.  
Meelmore, Meelbeg, the misnamed buddies,  
Spellack daring you to challenge it,  
Lamagan's scary slabs, next Cove's tunneled caves,  
Glaciered Kilbroney and Altataggart's timbered slopes.  
Squelching the spade-scarred wild of Peirce's Bog,  
End to end treks, with pints to finish.*

*Images from a past embracing heights  
Out of reach now - the decades' toll,  
Memories sparkling like the rock that gripped my hand  
Brightly remembered - with thanks.*

David Kirk

# PASS NOTES

Paul Tempan

During the month of June, I compiled a list of over eighty Irish passes and cols. The list includes both vehicular passes and pedestrian saddles. There were thousands of features that could have been included, but since I intended this as part of a gazetteer of place-names in the Irish mountain landscape, I had to be selective and decided to focus on those which have names and are of importance to walkers, either as a starting point for a route or as a way of accessing summits. A pass is defined in the *Chambers Dictionary* as 'a narrow passage, especially through or over a range of mountains or other difficult region.' Since mountain ranges often form a barrier between

regions, the passes which traverse them constitute the easiest way of travelling from one region to another and have, therefore, been of great importance for communications since early times. And since a watershed is often adopted as an official boundary, many Irish passes are located on boundaries, such as the Glendine Gap which crosses Slieve Bloom from Co. Laois to Co. Offaly, or the Scullogue Gap in the Blackstairs Mountains between Cos. Carlow and Wexford. Similarly, the Moyry Pass between Cos. Armagh and Louth stands not only on the modern north/south border but also on the ancient boundary between the provinces of Ulster and Leinster.



However, just as a pass affords a route to those travelling with peaceful motives, such as traders and pilgrims, it equally offers an easy entrance to potential marauders and invaders, and it therefore needs to be defended. In the *Táin Bó Cuailnge* it was at the Gap of the North, perhaps identical with the Moyry Pass, that Cú Chulainn was obliged to defend Ulster single-handedly against the army of Connacht led by Queen Maeve, while his fellow Ulstermen lay powerless in a magical slumber. Several passes are first mentioned in Irish annals as the site of a military encounter: one of the best known took place in 1599 at the Pass of Cashel in Co. Laois (Cashel is a townland in the vicinity). English forces led by the Earl of Essex were attacked and routed here by Uaithne Ó Mordha (Owney O'More). Philip O'Sullivan Beare records that 500 of Essex's men were killed in this ambush. The pass was henceforth known as *Bearna na gCleití* or *Pass of the Plumes* after the feathers which fell on the battlefield from the helmets of the English cavaliers.

Mountain passes can also be the ideal place for a highwayman to lie in wait. The Glenshane Pass in Co. Derry (and the townland of Glenshane situated on its western side) is associated with an early-18th century rapparee named Shane Crossagh O'Mullan, a rather Robin Hood-like character who robbed the rich to feed the poor. Perhaps the most famous story about him concerns his humiliation of a certain General Napier and his men, whom he is reputed to have disarmed under cover of darkness. Shane was aided only by his sidekick Parra Fada, but tricked them into believing that he was accompanied by a large band of followers. They then stripped the general of his uniform and forced his men to march to Derry in their underwear. There is no doubt that Shane was a historical figure, as he was declared an outlaw in 1719 and was subsequently captured and hanged in Derry, though some stories about him have, of course, been embellished and embroidered in the tell-

ing over a couple of centuries. Glenshane was not named after him originally, as it was known as *Glensenny* before his time (perhaps from Ir. *Gleann Sionnaigh*, 'glen of the fox'). However, the folk memory of this larger-than-life character is so strong in this locality that it seems the place-name has been modified to honour him. The usual Irish form nowadays is *Gleann Seáin*, 'Shane's glen'.

*It's up the heathery mountains and down the rushy glen  
Squire Staples has gone a-hunting Shane Crossagh and his men*

*And forty mounted yeomen that galloped in a stream  
They swear they'll 'gin the gallows work when they come back again.*



Wicklow Gap from Tonlegee slopes 📷 pampuco

The most common word for a pass in Irish place-names is *bearna*, which simply means 'gap', found in names such as *Bearna Chill Mhantáin*, the Wicklow Gap connecting Glendalough with Hollywood, and *Bearna an Choimín* ('gap of the little

coom'), the Gap of Dunloe in Co. Kerry. *Bearna an Charbaid* ('gap of the boulder') is the Corrabut Gap in the Blackstairs Mountains. For some reason, the colour adjective most often combined with *bearna* is *dearg*, meaning 'bright red' or 'blood red'. One might imagine that names in the landscape referring to a vivid shade of red might be rare, but there are at least ten instances of the name *An Bhearna Dhearg* in Ireland, including Redgap near Rathcoole, Co. Dublin, Redchard on the Cork/Limerick border and Barnaderg in the Sheeffry Hills in Mayo.



Barnes Gap from Glenelly, Co. Tyrone 📷 Paul Tempan

A derivative of *bearna* with the same meaning is *bearnas*, found in *A Bearnas*, Barnes Gap in Co. Tyrone and in *An Bearnas Mór* ('the great gap'), Barnesmore Gap on the route between Donegal Town and Ballybofey/Stranorlar. The latter is something of a geographical oddity as the name *An Bearnas*

*Mór* / Barnesmore Gap applies primarily to the steep-sided gorge between Croaghconnellagh and Croaghonagh. The highest point on the road (185m) is not in this gorge, but about 4km to the north-east beside Lough Mourne. For this reason, it is more accurate to classify it as a gorge than as a pass. Another feature which I have not categorised as a pass is Doo Lough Pass / *Bearna Dhúlocha* in Co. Mayo, for the reason that it does not cross a significant watershed and although the surroundings are spectacular. Both Doo Lough Pass and Barnesmore Gap have, however, been included in the list as important features in the mountain landscape.

Another common term for a pass is *bealach*. In the interior of the Iveragh Peninsula in Co. Kerry are Ballaghisheen (*Bealach Oisín*, 'pass of Oisín') and Ballaghbeama (*Bealach Béime*, 'pass of the notch'). The same word is found in *Bealach an Mhaighre*, the Irish name of the Moyry Pass, which means 'pass of the salmon'. The Ballyhoura Mountains are named after *Bealach Eabhradh*, an old route from Buttevant in Co. Cork to Kilmallock in Co. Limerick which passed over the western shoulder of these hills. It is mentioned in early Irish texts, where it is usually spelt *Belach Febrat*. The name has also survived as a townland near the highest point of this route. The Irish name for the range is *An Sliabh Riabhach*, which is unrelated. Since *bealach* simply means 'way', it can sometimes refer to a way through or around, rather than over a barrier. Ballaghanery in Co. Down (*Bealach an Aoire*, 'way of the shepherd') is an example of a 'pass' which is not a high-level route. It connects Newcastle with Annalong and Kilkeel by skirting the foot of Slieve Donard just above sea-level.

*Mám*, by contrast, usually refers to a high-level pass. Negotiating a pass with *mám* in the name tends to involve a considerable climb from valley level. The term is much more common in the west of Ireland than in the east. *Mám Toirc*, 'pass of the

boar', is 350m high and gives its name to the whole range in which it is situated, the Maumturk Mountains of Co. Galway. Other passes in this range include *Mám Éan*, 'pass of the birds' and *Mám Aodha*, 'Hugh's pass', from which the village of Maum, situated on the north side, apparently gets its name.

*Céim* literally means 'step' and is found in a handful of names, often combined with names of animals: *Céim an Fhia*, the Pass of Keimaneigh in West Cork, means 'step of the deer'. *Céim an Daimh*, which refers to an ox or, more likely, a stag, is the Irish name of Moll's Gap between Killarney and Kenmare in Co. Kerry. The English name recalls Moll Kissane who ran a shebeen at the top of the pass in the 19th century. The Irish name could be considerably older. *Céim* is also in *coiscéim*, which means 'footstep' and is found in *Coiscéim an Mhadra Alla*, the Wolf's Step, a high-level path crossing the Dingle Peninsula.

*Béal*, literally meaning 'mouth', is sometimes found in names of passes or places on one side of them. In place-names the sense of *béal* is often 'approach' or 'place giving access to a route', and this is why it is frequently combined with *áth*, 'ford', or *droichead*, 'bridge' in names of riverside settlements, such as *Béal Atha an Ghaorthaidh* / Ballingearry, Co. Cork and *Béal an Droichid* / Belladrihid, Co. Sligo. *Doire Bhéal an Mháma*, 'oak-grove at the approach to the pass', is the name

of a townland at the foot of *Mám Éan*, mentioned above. *Béal* is combined with *bealach* in *Béal an Bhealaigh*, 'approach of the way', the Bellavally Gap south of Cuilcagh in Co. Cavan. *Mullach Bhéal* (Co. Kerry) is the name of a pass traversing the watershed which continues north to Brandon. *Bearna Bhéal* an Bhealaigh combines three of these key words into a single name, which seems somewhat tautological. This is the Irish name of the pedestrian pass in the Comeragh Mountains. In English it is simply called The Gap. Tautology, saying the same

thing twice in different ways, is a very common feature of names of passes, especially in anglicised names where gap is frequently added to an Irish name which already contains a word denoting a pass. Examples of this include Ballaghbeama Gap (with *bealach*), Barnes Gap (with *bearnas*) and Mamore Gap (with *mám*).

One unexpected discovery resulting from the compilation of this list was a small group of English names for passes which show dialect features of English, often Northern English dialect. They therefore have connections to the

place-names of Cumbria and the Pennines. *Ormond Stile* (Ir. *Céim Urumhan*) in Tipperary includes the word *stile* in the sense of a steep ascent, which is also found in High Stile near Buttermere in the English Lake District. *Featherbed Pass* in the Dublin Mountains, also known as *Barnascallard*, is reminiscent



Road junction at Moll's Gap 📷 Trevor Rickard



Bryantang, Co. Antrim 📷 Paul Tempan

of the name *Featherbed Moss*, given to several areas of moorland in the Dark Peak of Derbyshire and the South Pennines. Bryantang near Carrickfergus appears to contain *brant* meaning 'steep'. If so, it is a double of *Brunt Tongue* in Mosedale in the Lake District. *Black Scar* and *Red Scar*, which both climb out the Glen of Imaal, may have *scar* as a variant of *scarth*, a word used in Cumbria for a mountain pass, from Old Norse

*skarð*, 'a notch'. The equivalent Old English word *sceard*, which gives Modern English *shard* or *sherd* meaning 'broken piece, fragment', is probably found in *Redchard* (sometimes rendered, less accurately, as *Redchair*), a pass at the eastern end of the Ballyhoura Mountains. It is on the road between Kilmallock and Kildorrery and cuts between Coolfree Mountain and Carrigeenamronety. The Irish version of *Redchard* is the ubiquitous *An Bhearna Dhearg*.

This research led on to the realisation that the Irish word *scairt*, which is usually understood and translated as 'thicket', frequently occurs in names of places at or near passes in gorges. This sense of *scairt* seems particularly common in Munster place-names, such as *Scart / An Scairt* (Co. Kerry), a townland on a low pass between Farranfore and Killarney; *Scart / An Scairt*

(Co. Cork), an electoral district south of Bantry in which there is a pass on the road to Ballydehob; and Ballinascarty (sometimes Ballinascarthy) / *Béal na Scairte* (Co. Cork), a village near a small gorge on the road from Bandon to Clonakilty. It therefore seems likely that *Bealach Scairt*, the Irish name of the Healy



Healy Pass, Beara, Co. Cork 📷 Giuseppe Milo

Pass (and a name which has bothered me for a long time), also contains *scairt* in this sense and is to be understood as 'way of the notch', possibly referring to a narrow defile called Eskavoher (from Ir. *Eisc an Bhóthair*, 'ravine of the road'), just on the Cork side of the summit. Funerals used to pass this way from Lauragh in Co. Kerry to Kilcaskan on the Cork side, as this was the principal church and burial ground in the parish. The coffin would be rested on a flat rock in this ravine and a team of coffin-bearers from the Cork side would take over the onerous task.

Mountain passes tend to funnel and strengthen the wind, a fact frequently alluded to in their names, *Bearna na Gaoithe* ('windy gap') being the most common name amongst Irish passes. There are no less than thirteen instances listed at [logainm.ie](http://logainm.ie), not to mention *Mám na Gaoithe* between *Baile an Fheirtéaraigh* / Ballyferrierty and *Ceann Trá* / Ventry in Co. Kerry and *Bealach Gaoithe* (Ballaghgeeha Gap) between *An Dúchoraidh* / Doochary and *Gleann Domhain* / Glendowan in Co. Donegal.

But keen walkers won't mind putting up with the wind and the effort of the climb for the reward of a fine view. Few passes can have a finer view than *Mám Clasach* ('pass with trenches'), traversed by the direct road from *Ceann Trá* / Ventry to *Dún Chaoin* / Dunquin on the Dingle Peninsula. To the east lie Mount Brandon and the rest of the peninsula. To the west lie the Blasket Islands and the Atlantic Ocean. In *Fiche Bliain ag Fás* (*Twenty Years A-Growing*) Muiris Ó Súilleabháin tells how he climbed this pass with a friend, a young Blasket islander who had never seen the mainland beyond *Dún Chaoin*. On reaching the summit, the friend exclaimed "Isn't Ireland wide and spacious?", thinking that he was looking at the rest of the country. Muiris had to explain to him that, magnificent as the view was, there was rather more to Ireland than that. In another more mischievous version of the story, a naïve woman who climbed *Mám Clasach* made a similar remark about the vastness of Ireland, but she had her back to mainland and all she could actually see was the parish of *Dún Chaoin* and the islands.

*This is an extended and adapted version of an article published in Walking World Ireland no. 106, March/April 2012.*



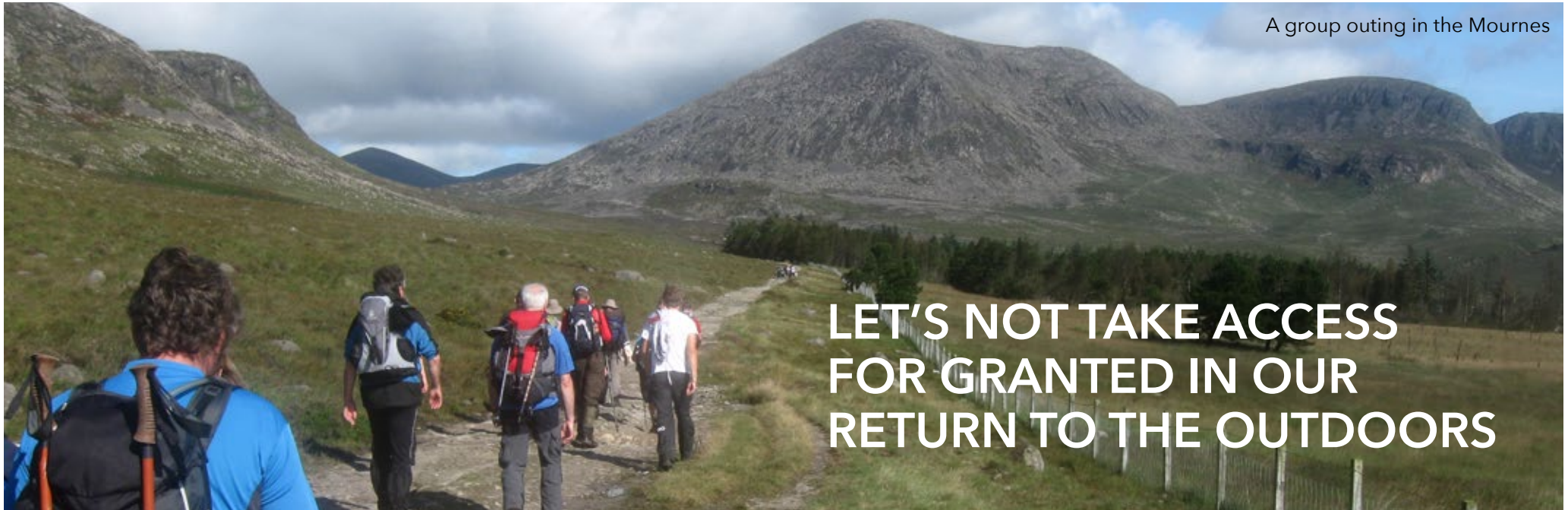
Vintage photo of the Ballaghbeama Pass, Co. Kerry 📷 Snapshots Of The Past

## The List of Passes

The list is extremely interesting to look at for hillwalkers, however is a tad long for the Quarterly. Do take a look at it.

The list is in tabular form and can be viewed by clicking here: [MountainViews Irish Passes \[mountainviews.ie/resourceitem/names/Passes/IrishPasses2020.pdf\]\(http://mountainviews.ie/resourceitem/names/Passes/IrishPasses2020.pdf\)](http://MountainViews Irish Passes)

You can help. Should you spot errors or wish to make suggestions feel free to contact us at: [admin@mountainviews.ie](mailto:admin@mountainviews.ie)



A group outing in the Mourne

## LET'S NOT TAKE ACCESS FOR GRANTED IN OUR RETURN TO THE OUTDOORS

Despite mixed weather of late, Mountaineering Ireland members are clearly delighted to get back on the mountains and crags following the easing of Covid-19 travel restrictions. Many clubs have resumed activity, with measures in place to ensure a safe and responsible return to the outdoors.

Sadly, the behaviour of other groups can impact on access for responsible hillwalkers and climbers. Abandoned campsites and significant littering have resulted from irresponsible behaviour in certain upland locations and by the coast. Feedback from walkers in different parts of the island has included some reports of access difficulty and new signage.

### Group size

These experiences remind us of the need to be considerate towards people living in rural and upland areas. Many rural areas have remained Covid-free and there is nervousness amongst

some residents about seeing people coming back into the area. One developing access issue in the vicinity of Mullaghanish, west Cork came to a head recently after a group of 20+ hillwalkers passed through a farmyard.

The sight of large groups of people near homes can be disconcerting and overwhelming for people right now. Mountaineering Ireland is advising that group size should ideally be less than 10 people, and not more than 15. This will also make it easier to maintain social distancing within your group and to find suitable parking.

### Parking

With many more people heading outdoors for recreation, and car-pooling still ruled out due to its incompatibility with social distancing, pressure for parking space is greater than ever. It's

# ACCESS

best to go out with a Plan B in mind in case your first-choice location is busy. When parking, take care not to obstruct access to fields, houses or forest roads. Remember that farm machinery and the emergency services need more space to pass and turn than the average car. If you have the option to do your activity off-peak (mid-week or early morning) that will help too. Local authorities in Wicklow and the Mournes (and perhaps other areas also) are looking at options to provide temporary parking in conjunction with local landowners.

## Help protect access

Feedback from some landowners in upland areas is that they feel they are being ignored by walkers and they would prefer if people engaged with them. If you see local people when you're out walking or climbing, please give them a wave and if you're close enough, pause for a chat. That should help to ease any concerns.

Access for hillwalking and climbing in Ireland is very largely dependent on the goodwill and tolerance of private landowners. Access is a shared responsibility - our enjoyment of the outdoors comes with a responsibility to help maintain that goodwill.

If you have queries in relation to access, or any information that could be helpful to other hillwalkers and climbers please email [helen@mountaineering.ie](mailto:helen@mountaineering.ie)

## Note, Luggala

Luggala Estate in Wicklow is one of the locations affected by irresponsible camping and unhealthy practices (tree damage, waste, etc), which is disappointing, and the estate is currently closed. Mountaineering Ireland will be meeting with estate management in the next two weeks to discuss access for hillwalkers and climbers.

Approaching the 189m summit on Inishturk



## JUNE PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Dunmore Head, looking out to the Blasket Islands 📷 TommyV

Original comment: [mountainviews.ie/summit/5117/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/5117/)



## JULY PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Wee Binnian summit area 📷 *Colin Murphy*

Original comment: [mountainviews.ie/summit/583/comment/20819/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/583/comment/20819/)

## JUNE INTERNATIONAL PHOTO OF THE MONTH

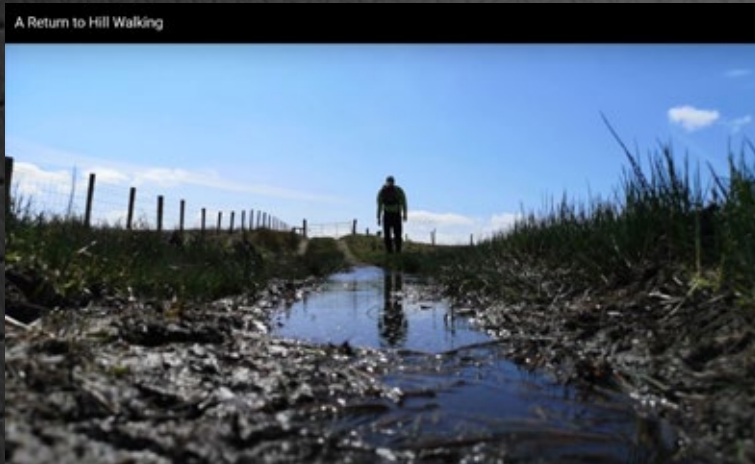


Derry Cairngorm seen through the pines in Glen Derry 📷 Peter Walker

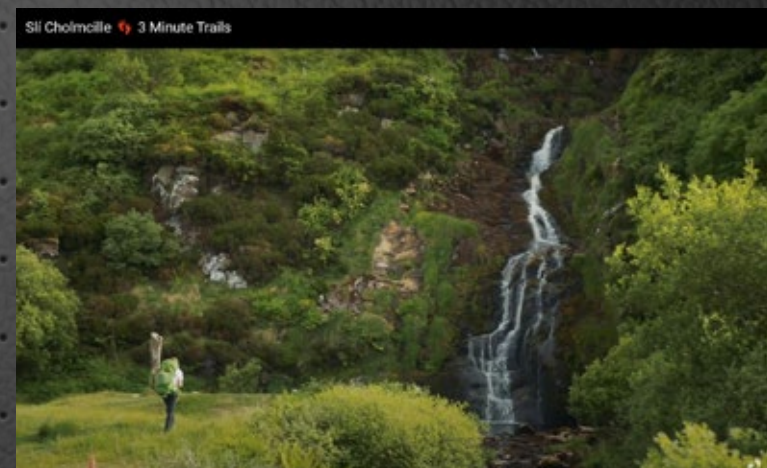
Original comment: [mountainviews.ie/summit/B539/comment/20781/](https://mountainviews.ie/summit/B539/comment/20781/)

# EMVEE-TUBE

## THE BEST VIDEO PICKS FOR AUGUST



MV user gerrym opens his post-lockdown account on a Sperrins outlier  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kY8WT3HwbH0>



To mark their completion of all of Ireland's waymarked trails, here are Carl and Ellie of Tough Soles on the Burren Way.  
[youtube.com/watch?v=qPzI5XlffQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPzI5XlffQ)



How hillwalking was presented in 4:3 in the old days: Muriel Gray climbs Ben Alder on 'The Munro Show'  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aePvkd\\_48PQ&list=PLSPOq0H8YuOUUnLvLhJ2-te1zbiTdWwKkM&index=5&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aePvkd_48PQ&list=PLSPOq0H8YuOUUnLvLhJ2-te1zbiTdWwKkM&index=5&t=0s)

# EMVEE-TUBE



## TREK IRELAND

In a time where the ability to create and distribute digital media has never been greater (and, unsurprisingly, the amount of dross in the field is similarly augmented), here's an interesting idea. A videographer named Jake MacManus is creating a series of 'virtual tours' of areas of Ireland under the banner of 'Trek Ireland' ( <https://trekireland.com/> ). It is to be acknowledged that this is a commercial venture, but a fair amount of content is available for free.

The videos are solidly shot and nicely edited, but their Unique Selling Point is the presence of folk with local knowledge acting as 'guides' for the duration of some of the videos, highlighting what makes these

places special or significant. There is a trailer for a tour of Glendalough on the website, and it has to be said that the atmosphere of the place is very well captured (although lord knows how they found it so quiet on such a glorious day!).

Whether one of the stated aims of the venture (to render adventure travel more sustainable by allowing places to be experienced without leaving home) gains any traction with folk who believe that the being there is a critical part of the experience (or are obsessed with their Insta likes) seems debatable, but in this commentator's eyes it'll be interesting to see where the enterprise goes.

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## HELP WANTED

**Men & Women** urgently required for thankless job with zero pay and zero fringe benefits. On the plus side you will be helping to secure the future of the MountainViews website! Without your support, this unique, incredible hillwalking resource may cease to exist. We require techies skilled in **Linux, Mysql, PHP and javascript** to volunteer their assistance for at least 1 - 2 hours a week. Please help keep **MountainViews.ie** alive!

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# NOTICES

- If you are contributing, please be careful to respect the interests of landowners. Suggest access routes well away from houses, gardens or that could conceivably impact farming activities. When walking, keep away from gardens or farm buildings. Use stiles or gates wherever possible. Never do anything that could allow animals to roam where the farmer did not intend. Ask permission where appropriate.
- Report suspicious activity to the police forces, as below.
- If your car is broken into in an upland area report it to the PSNI or Gardai as this will help them be aware of the issue and tackle it in future. Store the numbers. In Northern Ireland use the PSNI non-emergency number 0845 600 8000. In the Republic you can find the local Garda District HQs phone numbers at [www.garda.ie/Stations/Default.aspx](http://www.garda.ie/Stations/Default.aspx). Specifically for the hotspot of Wicklow: the Garda Divisional Headquarters in Bray is 01 6665300.
- If you hear of a problem area or route, write it up in MountainViews which does everyone a service. Report rubbish tipping in the Republic - ring EPA hotline 1850 365 121
- Report quads in national park area (in which they are banned). For Wicklow please phone the Duty Ranger: 087-9803899 or the office during office hours Telephone: +353-404-45800. Put these numbers in your phone, take regs etc. Let MV know of contact numbers for other areas.
- If you see a fire or someone doing something that could start a fire, report it. In NI phone 999, in the Republic 112 or Coillte: 1890 800 455.
- If you have climbed some of the less well known places, we would appreciate a summit rating and also GPS readings for summits.
- If we can, let's make MV have more than one route up a summit so as to reduce the tendency for paths to appear. Your grid refs in place comments for different starting points show up on MountainViews maps.



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