

Mountaineering Ireland Club Environmental Officers' Workshop,

Saturday 26th April 2014, Sneem, Co. Kerry

The overall aim of the day is to provide an introduction to the geology of Ireland's mountains and particularly that of south Kerry, and to brief Club Environmental Officers on Mountaineering Ireland's current work on access and conservation matters. The day will be based at the Sneem Hotel (<http://www.sneemhotel.com/kenmare-bay>).

PROGRAMME

Indoor Session (9.30 – 11.00am):

Tea, coffee and scones on arrival

Mountaineering Ireland's current work on access and conservation and discussion about the role of a Club Environmental Officer (Helen Lawless)

Introductory talk on "Why do we have mountains? – The origin of mountains in the Irish Context" and a short review of the local story (Dr. Michael Smith)

Field Trip (11.00am – 4.30pm)

Our field trip will be in the Eagle's Lough and Knocknagantee area. The main rock type is old Red Sandstone and the terrain has been shaped by mountain-building mechanisms, glacial processes and landscape development. Eagle's Lough is one of the finest glacial loughs in Ireland. If weather conditions are favourable we will climb Knocknagantee which will provide us with a panorama of the mountains of south Kerry.

We will return to Sneem for a wind-up discussion at the Sneem Hotel. Accommodation at the Sneem Hotel is €65 per night for a single room B&B, see www.sneemhotel.com. For other accommodation in the area see www.sneem.com.

WORKSHOP LEADER – DR. MICHAEL SMITH

Michael Smith is a retired professional geologist with 49 years post-graduating experience including academia, major resources companies and 35 + years acting as an independent geological consultant worldwide. He has retired to Sneem in Kerry but still maintains an active research interest in his science.

He has maintained a continuous interest in the outdoors and mountains having lived in Scotland for many years and walked extensively, visited the Alps regularly and been in the fortunate position of working in the wilderness and mountains of Alaska, the Western United States and the Andes of South America and Africa. He is currently a member of the Kenmare Walking Club and Mountaineering Ireland.

NOTES FOR PARTICIPANTS

- As we will be outdoors for much of the day, and possibly on some rugged and boggy terrain, participants should bring hillwalking gear, including a packed lunch and something to drink.
- As parking is very limited, we will arrange mini-bus transport from Sneem.
- Participants will be encouraged to contribute to the discussions and share their own, or their clubs' experiences and views on the issues covered during the day.
- To minimise impact and enable all participants to hear what is said while we're outdoors, this workshop is limited to a total of 12 participants, **to book a place email helen@mountaineering.ie or phone 086 8046687.**



Eagle's Lough and Knocknagantee