



Autumn Gathering 2022
Hosted by Wayfarers Hiking
Club



Friday 7th – Sunday 9th October 2022

The Wayfarers Hiking Club 1970-2022

The Wayfarers Hiking Club celebrated 50 years during Covid. Two years on, we are finally getting the opportunity to hold a gathering once again. This will be a weekend of celebrations and we are delighted to have The Wayfarers Hiking Club as our host club for the Mountaineering Ireland's Autumn Gathering 2022.

Founding member Mary Solan led the hike which evolved into the Wayfarers Hiking Club in October 1970, from this small beginning they have become one of the larger hiking clubs in the region with over 240 members. Members come from across Dublin and further afield, four hikes are organised each weekend varying in difficulty and duration to suit all of our member's abilities.

The club members are environmentally aware and follow the leave no trace principles, encourage carpooling and are conscious of their responsibility in the area of conservation.

Club members are encouraged to undertake Mountain Skills training and some of our most experienced club members have developed a two day navigation training programme which they deliver to members.

The club plans regular trips away over the long weekends in Ireland and celebrates Christmas with a whiskey hike and a party. The club barbeque every August in Glenmalur is one of the highlights of the summer.

Many of our members take part in challenge hikes throughout the year and the annual Blackstairs Challenge hike which is organised by the club is held in May each year in Co. Carlow.

The Wayfarers have put together a hiking programme for the Autumn Gathering weekend which includes some of their favourite hikes in the West Wicklow area. As well as these fantastic walks the Mountaineering Ireland team have put together a number of activities and workshops that include climbing, training and an environmental focus.

We look forward to meeting all the participants and to introducing you to routes which may be new to you.



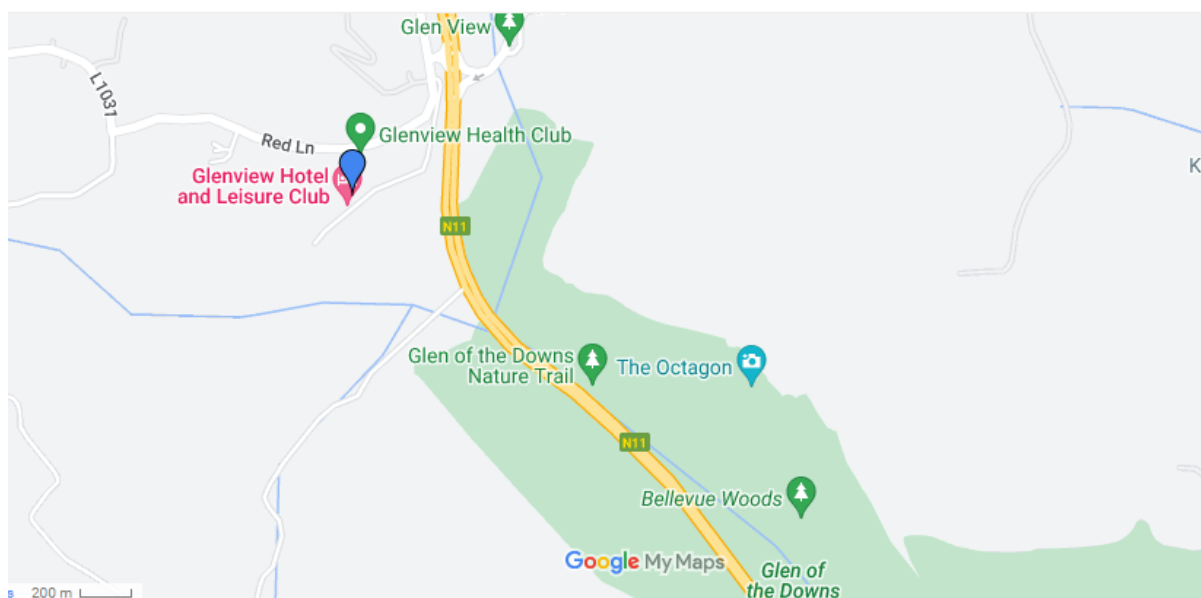
Autumn Gathering 2022

This year's long-awaited gathering will be based out of the beautiful Glenview Hotel which is ideally situated in the Glen of the Downs, Co. Wicklow close to the Wicklow Mountains. This weekend is a celebratory gathering to reconnect and re-engage with members from all over the country. Registration for the weekend is €50 which is subsidised by Mountaineering Ireland and includes, talks, activities, workshops, 3 course dinner on Saturday evening, some gifts and buses where needed. Members of Mountaineering Ireland can avail of the following discounted rate through the hotel if they wish to stay: Friday 7th of October @ €150 and Saturday 8th of October @ €170 **per room** – Double/Twin including breakfast. The Glenview Hotel also provides meeting room space as well as a large dining area for the Saturday night dinner. **Please let the hotel know you are with the Mountaineering Ireland's Autumn Gathering at the time of booking to avail of this special rate. Rooms are booking out fast so be sure to book early.**

The weekend will start with registration from 6.30pm at The Glenview Hotel where you will receive gifts and full details for the weekend ahead. The welcome talk will take place from 8.00pm followed by a talk to celebrate Irish Peaks. Saturday, sees a full programme of activities including hillwalking and climbing in and around the Wicklow Mountains. Sunday morning will have a variety of workshops commencing at 10:00 am. Please book your choice of workshop online as places are limited.

The Glenview Hotel Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs,

Co.Wicklow. Tel: +353 1 274 00 00 Email: sales@glenviewhotel.com



The Wicklow Mountains

The Wicklow Mountains form the largest continuous upland area in the Republic of Ireland. They occupy the whole centre of County Wicklow and stretch outside its borders into the counties of Dublin, Wexford and Carlow providing wide ranging and challenging walking routes to suit all abilities.

Coach transport and car pooling will be available from the Glenview Hotel to the start and finish points of all walks. The walks will be taking place in and around the Wicklow Mountains National Park, <https://www.wicklowmountainsnationalpark.ie> an area of outstanding beauty on the doorstep of our base. There are walks for all abilities and all will be led by members of the Wayfarers Hiking Club who are very familiar with the area and will be ready with local stories and insights! There will also be an environmental walk, climbing and scrambling on offer on the Saturday. Please read through the descriptions of all the activities outlined below before you start the online registration process as you will be asked for your activity selection when registering online.



Programme of Events:

Friday October 7th

18:30 – Registration in the lobby area of the Glenview Suite. There is a bar area in the hotel to grab something to eat when you arrive. If you cannot register on the Friday night, please contact ruth@mountaineering.ie.

20:00 – Welcome from Mountaineering Ireland and The Wayfarer's

Followed by:

Talk: The Wayfarers Hiking Club - 1970 - 2022 - Past and Present: Mary Solan

Mary Solan led the hike which evolved into the Wayfarers Hiking Club on Sunday 18th October, 1970. Mary has been a member of the club since its inception, she has also been an active volunteer with Mountaineering Ireland for many years. She was the chair of the first Hillwalking Committee and in that capacity, represented Mountaineering Ireland at the European Ramblers Association, was the first Access and Conservation Officer of the then FMCI in the early eighties and was one of the early members of Mountain Meitheal. Mary will talk about the origins and future of the Wayfarers Hiking Club and the hiking environment in the 1970s.

Talk on the story so far of “Irish Peaks” we will look at the publications itself and how it evolved, as well as discussing some of the book’s highlights including the beautiful images and detailed route descriptions from mountain areas across the island.

Saturday 8th

A variety of walks and climbs will be departing from the Glenview Hotel. Please note that packed lunches are available from the hotel but must be ordered before 8pm on Friday evening (please book with hotel at the time of check in). Please ensure you have walking gear for all weather with you, including hiking boots with good ankle support and gaiters as the terrain on some of the walks is steep and can be challenging.

Choose from:

Walk 1.

Seven Churches Glendalough – Strenuous

CP Woollen Mills>Derrybawn>Mullacor>Lugduff>Foot Bridge>Camaderry>-Glendalough>WW

Distance: 25km Height Gain 1150m: Duration: 6 +hrs.

Walk 2.

Glendalough Circuit Hike - Difficult

Glendalough Upper Car Park > SH677>Camaderry>Turlough Hill>Glenealo> SH637>Mullacor>Derrybawn>Tracks>Car Park

Distance: 19km Height Gain: 1050m Duration: 5.25 hrs.

Walk 3.

Sugar Loaf to base of Maulin and Djouce Circuit- Moderate

Sugar Loaf Way CP> Sugar Loaf>Long Hill> Base of Djouce>Base of Maulin>Powerscourt Waterfall>Sugar Loaf>CP

Distance: 16km. Height Gain: 800m Duration: 6 hrs.

Walk 4.

Little and Great Sugar Loaf– Moderate

Bray Beach> Bray Head> Belmont Estate> Little Sugar Loaf> Kilmacanogue GAA club> Great Sugar Loaf>Plucks Pub Kilmacanogue

Distance: 16.5km Height Gain: 860m Duration: 6 hrs.

Walk 5.

Annalecka Loop - Easy

Annalecka Bridge > Stoney Top 714m > Tonelagee 817m > Wicklow Gap > St Kevins Way > Annalecka Bridge

Distance: 13 km Height Gain: 600m Duration: 4 hrs.

Walk 6.

Circuit of Glendalough Short Version – Easy

Glendalough Upper Car Park > Camaderry East > Glendasan Valley > St. Kevin’s Way > Glendalough Upper Car Park

Distance: 12km Height Gain: 400m Duration: 4.5 hrs.

Environmental Walk At Luggala Estate

Visit this spectacular landscape at the heart of the Wicklow Mountains, to learn about the work being done to improve the condition of upland peatland, woodland and other habitats on this privately-owned estate. We will be joined by ecologist Alan Lauder, Chair of Mountaineering Ireland's Access & Conservation Committee, who is advising Luggala Estate on environmental management, and by Michael Keegan, the Farm Manager at Luggala, who Mountaineering Ireland has nominated for this year's Farming for Nature Awards. The walk includes an ascent of Fancy (aka Luggala)

To help spread the knowledge shared on this walk, we would like to keep it to one person per club, ideally the Club Environmental Officer, or another member with an interest in the environment.

Distance: 8km, height gain 550m, duration 6.3hrs

Climbing Workshop "Explore the subtleties of bouldering with rock climber and staff member Ricky Bell"

Ratio - 1:6 people

Ability Level - Anyone welcome, ideally with some previous climbing experience.

Location - Meeting at the Upper Lake Car Park Glendalough 10am. Bouldering at The Ruins Area, Glendalough. Finishing around 3pm.

What to bring

Packed lunch, outdoor clothing, waterproofs, suitable footwear for scrambling and rock shoes. Bouldering mats provided but bring your own if you wish.

Training – Scrambling Skills

Our training Officer Jane Carney will be conducting a scrambling skills course which will cover the use of ropes, and climbing equipment to protect on steeper scrambling terrain. Ratio 1 – 4

19:30

Dinner

Sunday October 9th

There will be a variety of workshops available from 10:00 on Sunday morning. Please select when booking online by clicking on '**additional items**'.

1. Emergency and prevention management workshop.

Based from Glen of Imaal Mountain Rescue you will have an opportunity to meet some of the Mountain Rescue team who will go through measures clubs can use to try and prevent call outs/rescues as well as providing information on what to do in the case of an emergency and how to engage with Mountain Rescue. Members will also get a tour of base.

2. Environmental walk

On a small hill farm at Kilmashoge in the Dublin Mountains, close to the M50. See upland heath habitat that is in good condition, learn about the challenges associated with managing upland habitats, and hear about the lessons from the SUAS agri-environment project. This walk and talk event (c2.5 hours) is in conjunction with the SUAS Project, the Wicklow Uplands Council and the Ryan family.

3. Club Training Workshop

This workshop will be a practical outdoor session that will focus on practical tips for teaching navigation, movement and leadership along with how to introduce training into your regular walks.

As always, there is the option to walk or climb independently on Sunday morning.

13.00 Members can disperse once their workshop is over.