



GALWAY WALKERS NEWSLETTER



WINTER 1996

ISSUE 6



Wishing You All A Merry Christmas And A Prosperous New Year



This is the sixth edition of our newsletter and coincides with Christmas and our second anniversary as a club, it is fitting then to look back on the happenings of the last year. Our membership is approximately two hundred and fifty five, a big increase from the previous year. But are they couch potatoes or walkers, or do they feel that the five pound membership is for an excellent newsletter why bother with walks when you can read about them. GET OFF THEM CHAIRS! Meetings throughout the year have been well attended, the meetings appear to have a social side as well as a business one which enables members to meet. Its a pity though that we haven't more of a commitment regarding weekends away and functions organised by the club. Its your club, be part of its activities. Harking back to the newsletter, since its inception the few fledgling would be writers are still carrying the can. I would like to thank all the members of the committee for their help and support throughout the year, to all walk leaders who guided us, to Mel and Steve for what you are reading, and to Mike and P.J. for the use of their premises over the last two years. Again to all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year with a renewed zest for walking in the year of 1997.



Ollie Sammon

Chairman



EDITORIAL REPORT

by Steve Wright

Before proceeding further, I must apologise for not being able to get this newsletter out any sooner as a series of misfortunes plunged my trusty computer into oblivion. It was not until the 28th of December that I was able to activate my DTP software only to discover that all of my artwork had been wiped from the hard disk along with the majority of stories and outlines for this publication. My saving grace was the fact that I had found an old copy of last years Christmas newsletter on floppies which meant that some of the seasonal graphics were still available. Well **HERE IT IS AT LONG LAST** so please accept belated Christmas greetings!

NEWSLETTER

This is the sixth edition of the Galway Walking Club Newsletter which has improved considerably since the first edition as a result of the use of a laser printer to improve the appearance of the text and Mel's Reprographic Camera for the pictures. The literary content requires a number of new contributors as the same four names appear in every issue with the occasional extra who disappear into the void after the submission of their first article for publication. Special thanks to those who have become our regular contributors without whom we would be lost!

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership has increased over the last year with a grand total of 255 members representing 105 more than last year. Our Membership Officer, Tom Huban, performed his task admirably, ensuring that all persons participating in the club walks were actually members. Promotion of the Galway Walking Club by members, Sports Shops, and brochures left in prime locations helped considerably and it is hoped that our numbers will continue to swell over the next year. Every member received a membership card which entitled them to a discount in the local outdoor shops and was also proof they were on our books and about to receive a newsletter on a quarterly basis. One point to note is that if you change your address it is necessary to inform a committee member otherwise your newsletter will continue to be sent to the old address - we are not clairvoyant!

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

We decided not to increase the annual subscription this year and it would not appear to be necessary to do so over the next year as the club has managed to run itself under the watchful eye of the Treasurer.

CHANGES FOLLOWING THE AGM

Following the 1996 AGM, held last January, a comprehensive set of guidelines were established to streamline the efficient running of the Club. The committee has met on a regular basis to keep a check on the pressing issues, organise the walks list and social events. Every member of the committee has put in a good attendance over the last year and contributed ideas to improve the Club.

INSURANCE

Insurance can make or break a club but we have finally come to a good compromise with the MCI insurance. Although it would seem odd that any member would even think of trying to sue another member, the possibility still exists so we have decided to insure all of our walk leaders under the auspices of the MCI. Club members who wish to avail of MCI insurance may approach anyone on the committee for further information. The subscription is very reasonable.

MEETINGS

Meetings have been held on a fortnightly basis over the last year with a reasonable attendance. The meetings are a forum for the exchange of ideas and voicing one's opinion. If you have anything to discuss, please feel free to air your feelings at the meetings where others can reinforce your proposition. Bringing up problems in the Bar after a meeting or carrying them onto walks is not encouraged as it spoils everyone's enjoyment of a pint or good walk or social outing, whichever the case may be.

THE BUS!

The bus has always been a contentious issue but we have managed to suit everybody by ensuring that the bus leaves the finish of the walk at an agreed time. Those who wish to continue socialising may do so when they arrive back to the Omniplex. Whilst the bus is a useful addition to walks that go from point to point, it has been noticed that the attendance at such walks has reduced significantly resulting in many spare seats and additional cost borne by the club. It should be pointed out that if one agrees to go on the bus they will be responsible for the seat that they booked. If you submit your name you must pay your way.

SHORT WALKS, LONG RAMBLES AND HILL CLIMBS

Short walks, of approximately 6 miles in length, were introduced at the end of the summer and have proven to be quite popular. Our long Rambles have suffered reduced numbers as a result but do bear in mind that as you get fitter these Rambles are much more fun. The Hill Walks do not have a huge following but since the group merged with the University College Hospital Hill walkers a larger group has resulted with the facility of a bus.

SOCIAL EVENTS

The Summer Barbecue was held in August with an attendance of 35. Our Christmas Social saw a larger attendance of 79. Two recent weekend trips had to be cancelled due to lack of support and it was decided that the club would not take responsibility for booking reservations in Hotels or Guesthouses as a result of those cancelling at the last minute. Hopefully we will be able to gain a little more commitment from members for our future events.

OUR AGM IS ON THE 23rd OF JANUARY

GALWAY WALKING CLUB

NOTIFICATION OF FORTHCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The Annual General Meeting of The Galway
Walking Club will take place in**

**Jameson's Hotel,
Salthill**

on

Thursday the 23rd of January

at

8:00 pm sharp.

We look forward to seeing a **large attendance** at this meeting as the direction of the club, for the next year, will be dictated by those present.

If you have any strong views, do not hesitate to voice them at this meeting.

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TECHNICAL INFO GUIDE

by Trevor Dubber

THE LAYERING SYSTEM

In order to maximise the comfort and performance of your walking gear, a three layer system is advised.

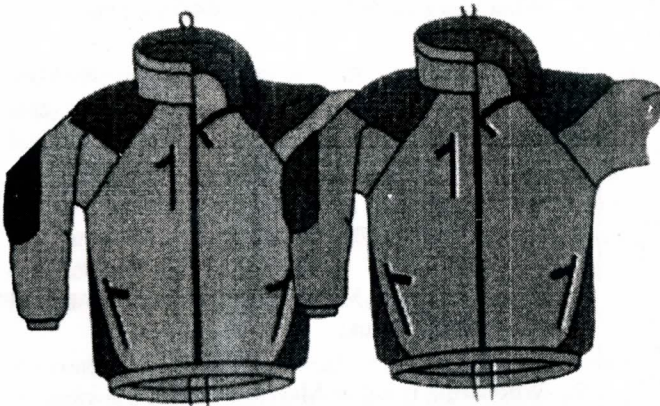
Inner Layer



Thermal Wear

The Inner Layer must be worn next to the body. It conducts moisture away from your skin to the outer surface of the garment where it evaporates easily. This factor combined with the natural breathability makes the garment feel very comfortable in warm as well as cold conditions.

Mid Layer



Fleece

The Mid Layer provides a level of insulation and maintains body temperature during outdoor activities. Fleece absorbs very little water. Even when it is wet, fleece retains its properties thereby keeping you warm. This fabric is highly breathable and enables body moisture to travel from the inner layer to the outer shell.

Outer Layer



Waterproof, Windproof, Breathable, Jacket.

The Outer Layer must have the ability to withstand water entry in "active-use" conditions. It must be breathable thereby allowing body moisture to escape through the Outer Layer. If perspiration vapour becomes trapped inside the clothing, it will condense into liquid which causes dampness and discomfort. Wet heat loss is 23 times faster than dry heat loss.

A LIGHTER SIDE OF WALKING

by Ollie Sammon

Its just nearly two years since the formation of Galway Walking Club, or Galway Walkers as we are now generally known. You can read about actual walks in walk reports, in this article I am going to try and delve into the lighter side of walking.

My first memory has to be the first walk in Barna. Arriving out at the Twelve Pins and seeing around ninety people milling around waiting for somebody to bring them somewhere is daunting to say the least. On that particular day you could say we ad-libbed it with a seven and fourteen mile walk. A lot of people were beginners (but we didn't know) not to be seen again. But the genuine walkers stayed on and thankfully are still with us. After a walk in the Burren later that year a session developed (singing, not drinking) in Hyland's Hotel performers included Tom Huban and family assortment, Enda O'Connor and Ann Melia of sheet music fame, Mike Webb and the diarrhoea quartet and some uninvited guests of no particular fame. Then on one of our Wednesday night walks in Moycullen a glorious evening, sun shining, birds chirping and lunatics walking in a complete circle, over fences, walls, hedges and god knows what else they have in Moycullen. Ellie Keating was our leader that evening and it is very hard to concentrate on where on is putting their feet when all eyes were glued on Ellie's version of the dance of the seven veils.

The Giants Causeway on the October holiday, we began the walk on Sunday at the beach with me leading. As we were heading towards the water I overheard a remark, if Ollie walks into the water I suppose we will follow him. Its nice to see walk leaders appreciated. As I mentioned a beach, I might as well write a few words about sand - you know the stuff you see on a beach. Sand is the stuff that blows in your face, gets in your sandwiches, swallows vital objects like car keys and coins. In hot countries it burns your feet, and when you are wet it sticks to your feet and dogs crap on it. Sand stays longer than some contagious diseases. Of course it has a few good points - sand into cement, cement into houses etc. or else we would be back in the cave.

I haven't really experienced the thrill of hill climbing, bar Tom Rea bringing us on some walks in the Clonbur area. I would love to know his definition of FLAT. Specsavers are always looking for new customers. Maybe hill climbing would be something like the following. We clambered for hours up vast citadels of rock, and emerged at last into a remote nether world that even the sheep were startled to see us and then as I was just about to lie down and call for a stretcher, we crested a rise and found ourselves on top of the world.

When its wet what can one do, you have boots, gortex or Dunnes best, cap and gloves, rucksacks (kitchen sink included). I remember once opening a golf umbrella on top of the Burren, I nearly became part of the NASA space programme. The item of clothing that really infuriates me is the waterproof trousers. Imagine you are somewhere in

Connemara or the Burren and the skies unleash their fury, you start to put on your waterproof trousers. Suddenly you spend twenty minutes crashing into walls and trees, finally on the road, and hopping on one foot for fifteen minutes, nearly falling off a cliff. I would rather get wet.

Finally be very careful walking over the Christmas period, especially if we get some icy weather. No point coming along to a meeting afterwards saying the mileage wasn't right. Just remember at that time of year its one step forward and two steps backward.

OLLIE'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. What is the title of Michelle Smith's book.
2. What do the letters K.I.O mean
3. Frances Black's new song "Stranger on the Shore" was an instrumental by whom.
4. What was Druids first play in the Town Hall.
5. Where was the very first walk of the Galway walkers club.
6. Where was Mary Harney born.
7. What does Rinn na Mara mean in english.
8. What county are Mike and P.J. of the Galway Arms from. (God help us)
9. Who wrote Handels Messiah.
10. The character Scrooge is from what book and who is the author.
11. What is the name of the journalist from Walking World Ireland who was recently in Galway.
12. Who was last years walker of the year.
13. How many winners were there of the 7 million pound lottery.
14. Where did Tom Huban and Mel Faherty go to at the start of November.
15. What play did Punchbag have on for the Summer.

Entries to :- Steve Wright
18, Sylvan Avenue,
Fairlands Park,
Galway.

WALKING THE WICKLOW WAY

by Ann Wilkinson

DAY 1. Armed with the discovery map 56 and Michael Fewer's book, Irish long distance walks, we set out on a wet Thursday morning in early November. The cab dropped us at the gates of Marley Park. We went to the first map board, put on our rain gear and didn't take it off for the rest of the day. We headed south out of the park and up by the forest track through Kilmacshogue wood. We followed the markers as we plodded uphill silently against the relentless rain. As a leader I was feeling for the other three and guilty because I had assured them that the weather was never that bad in Wicklow.

My companions, my sister and her two daughters, come from the eastern side of England, where it never rains! I called a tea stop while we still had the shelter of the trees. This lifted our spirits a little. I had volunteered to carry the one big flask so it lightened my load. We then left the forest track and followed a ride up to the mountain top. From here should have been wonderful views of Dublin and its environs but not this day. We trudged along muddy tracks that took us over the top of Kilmacshogue mountain and down the other side into the valley of Glendoo. Jean fell three times on this stretch reminiscent of the road to Calvary! My boots were so wet inside I felt I was paddling in them.

We came off the mountain onto the Glencullen road and, alas, found no marker to guide us. I took out the map and we huddled around it to keep it dry. But as each big drop of water fell on it, it seemed to dissolve before our eyes. I hastily put it away and taking pot luck turned right. Within a few yards we met a marker which indicated left. We retraced our steps and continued on for a kilometre or so, turned right and down across the Glencurren river.

We continued on, by forest track over Glencurren mountain. A backward glance before we entered the wood showed us Dublin city bathed in sunshine. We were still washed by rain. The weather was improving though, and our spirits rose. From the top of this mountain the track became a path which descended steeply through the forest. We emerged onto a track. There was no marker here so we followed our instincts and continued the steep decent along a vague path through the next section of forest. This was repeated once more until we saw houses and knew we were near the road to Enniskerry. The last forest track took us to the road where we again saw an encouraging marker. Here we left the way and walked into Enniskerry about 3 miles away.

We found a pub with a fire, ordered hot toddies and in spite of the sour looks of the occupants, steamed away in front of the flames while we waited for Paddy O'Brien to pick us up at 6 p.m. We had booked into O'Brien's B & B near Roundwood and Paddy had offered to pick us up that evening.

Nancy, Paddy's wife, welcomed us in with a roaring fire, tea and scones and orders to leave all our sodden clothes in a

pile outside the kitchen. These emerged in the morning miraculously dry. This slice of Heaven was meted out to us every evening on our return.

DAY 2. After our hearty Irish breakfast, Paddy drove us back to the exit of Curtlestown wood where we left the Way the day before. The sun was shining and the air was clean and clear allowing us wonderful views all day. We followed tarred road, forest tracks and paths to arrive out on the road near Knockree Hostel. Here we saw a sign for the Way indicating right but the guide book sent us left to the hostel, the sign was loose on its pole, so we assumed the wind or some human hand had turned it, the wrong way round. We dutifully turned it back and headed to the hostel.

The views from the hostel across the valley were superb and in spite of hearing that conditions in it were primitive I wished that I could have bilocated and got the best of both worlds. We crossed the fields in front of the hostel and walked down to the Knockree river. We sought in vain for a bridge and resorted to taking our boots off and in my case and Moira's our trousers too, to cross the swollen waters of the river. The water was cold! We sat on a log to dry off and indulged in tea, so hot it melted our plastic cups. Soon after we saw a marker which told us that we had lost our way.

On looking at my map later that evening I discovered that we were wrong (the book also), the sign that we fixed was correct in the first place and would have taken us the long way round to cross the river in comfort by bridge. We entered Crone wood and climbed on up around the side of Powerscourt Deer park with continuous and magnificent views of the waterfall. In Crone wood we also passed some mothers and toddlers on an outing. I always think that 'Dubliners are lucky to have Wicklow - the Garden of Ireland - so close to them.

We stopped by a stream to have lunch before heading out across the shoulder of Djouse mountain. The going was not so hard but got tougher as we headed over White Hill towards Lough Tay, as the wind was in our faces. Soon also Lough Dan came into view and we passed the monument to J.B. Malone. Very fittingly, a large rock with a small plaque, overlooking Lough Tay. We headed down through the wood to the tarred road and continued at least two miles along the road towards Roundwood and our B&B. There is a sign at Lough Tay that indicates 1 mile to Roundwood - but don't believe it.

DAY 3. On Saturday morning we were joined by my daughter and her boyfriend Kieran. Jean took the lift offered by Paddy to the end of the previous days stage but the remaining five stalwarts set out from the house, by foot. We retraced the 2 miles on the road and then entered Ballinacorney wood. The day was dry and the walking easy with no real climbs. We passed men drawing timber from the wood using horses - an uncommon sight nowadays.

The regrettable thing about this stage is that one is passing near Lough Dan but not getting any view of it. We left the wood and joined tarred road which crossed the Avonmore river at Oldbridge. We continued along the road admiring the views right out to sea, on the left and watching pheasant walking between the sheep on the right. We then followed the track on the right, which took us over Paddock Hill and descended through pleasant field and forest into Laragh. Laragh was busy with a Saturday crowd and we joined them in the Laragh Inn. We had divine Irish coffees.

We left the Inn still in daylight and walked the road to Laragh. Soon we realised that we were a little lost. After consulting the book we took the road to the woollen mills and craft centre. There wasn't a Way sign at the gate. We had a good look in the craft centre for souvenirs and not finding any bargains, we emerged into the darkness, to make our way along the forest track to the car park on the Upper Lake. Here Paddy met us at 6 p.m.

DAY 4. After some strong coffee in the Glendalough Hotel we set out, retracing the steps we took in darkness the night before, up past Poll an Easa waterfall and wound around forest roads which eventually led us to Mullacor mountain. As it was Sunday there were quite a few people on the hills and as we crossed the flanks of Mullacor many others were heading straight up it. The Way led us into woodland above the valley of Glenmalure. We walked down a steep ride onto forest track, turned left, and shortly afterwards ran out of track.

We knew there was a way out but where was it? We sent Kieran, the only man among us to scout out a route to a lower level. He returned to tell us it was too dangerous to head down through the wood, leaving us with no alternative but to retrace our steps. After about a kilometre on the return journey, we saw the marker, about 2 metres in from the edge of the forest road. I don't know if it was the wonderful views, the scintillating conversations or the deep inner thoughts that prevented us all from seeing the marker! We walked down a rough and partially overgrown path to the next forest road. This led us off the mountain side to the Glenmalure Inn as darkness fell.

We had well earned refreshments in the Inn, as many others have done during the last 200 years. We had four memorable days and we promised to return next year to finish the Wicklow Way.

**Don't
Forget the
AGM on
Thursday
the
23rd of
January**



BACK TO NATURE

by Ollie Sammon

Walking is about freedom: freedom from an ugly artificial discontented world in which man has lost his bearings. A world run by bureaucrats and profit crazed tycoons. A world where waste and greed are accepted as the norm, to be frugal or moderate nowadays is deemed a failure. We at the end of the 20th century and heading into a new age need to escape every now and then, back to nature. Back to the environment that bred us. We need to wade through its rivers and bogs, and sweat under its sun. Not all the time but often enough for us to remember who and what we are.

We have become so estranged from our origins in this technological age that many children believe architects make mountains and scientists make milk. We live in an era of artificial heating and lighting, the world is being poisoned with materialistic logic. We have travelled too far and too fast from our beginnings and along the way we have picked up stress fatigue and heart disease. Imagine then instead of the stresses and strains of modern life one could find oneself magically, abruptly on top of the earth on a platform in the sky, amid an ocean of swelling summits looking around at this vast panorama one realises what freedom is about.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The Christmas Social was held in Jacksons (The Trapper's Inn) on Saturday the 30th of November. Seventy nine members attended the function including our guests of honour - Ernie Sweeney who led many walks for our group in the Castlebar area, Managing Editor of Walking World Ireland: Frank Grealley, and Contributing Editor of Walking World Ireland: Paddy Dillon.

We were treated to an excellent feast with a Starter of Egg Mayonnaise followed by a delicious Vegetable Soup, Main Course of Turkey and Ham with vegetables of the season, Sherry Trifle and a Glass of Wine to go with the meal.

Tom Huban was presented with the Walker of the Year prize for being on almost all of last year's walks. Tom Reddington and Ollie Sammon were presented with first prizes for the Photographic Competition and Tom Rea won Second prizes in both the Human Interest and Landscape Photography Sections. A special presentation was made to Tom Huban for his dedication and efforts as Membership Officer for the last year.

After the meal Tony Coyne played into the wee hours of the morning. A good time was had by all. It should be noted that the tickets for this social function were subsidised and for the princely sum of £10.00 it was superb value.

A few headaches were encountered before this function got off the ground - We did not have a final number until the night before the event and wishful thinking and guess work managed to provide a final figure for the Restaurant, needless to say it was a little too close for comfort.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Off the Beaten Track by Kevin Cronin and Published by Appletree Press, was a recent addition to the bookshelves of Eason's of Galway. The book covers over 40 detailed walks on over 20 different railway routes with brief histories of each line. It would appear that there was a TV series featured on BBC and RTE covering some of the walks listed in this book. Basic maps are given for each route and it is recommended that a discovery series map, if available, should be used for finer detail.

Relevant to our own region, the Oughterard to Clifden section of the Old Galway line is described in great detail along with the West Clare Railway, Ennistymon to Kilrush and the West Mayo line with a stretch from Westport to Achill Sound. Many other railways are also described.

It was disappointing to see that the Galway to Clifden Line was really only described in detail from a starting point just outside of Oughterard and it might be a good idea to research back from Oughterard to Moycullen and then from Moycullen towards Galway.

The Discovery Series sheet 45 shows the railway line in reasonable detail and it would appear that the section from Oughterard to Moycullen is approximately 12 kms in length crossing many roads which could be used as access and exit points for research purposes. There should not be too many problems from Moycullen back in towards Galway apart from barbed wire fencing.

The stretch from Galway to Bushypark is easy enough to follow until the slipway opposite Menlo Castle with evidence of a railway Embankment overlooking the Menlo Straight. From here onwards it is necessary to pass through a gate and then barbed wire fences to get towards the river entrance to Lough Corrib. From this point there would be another 7 kilometres to travel before reaching Moycullen.

All of the Railway line is run over very flat countryside which would make this walk quite attractive to those who shy away from hills or anything that looks like it is going to rise on the horizon.

WOOPS!

On two trips over the year we fell foul of the law. The bus we were on was raided for drugs in Castlebar. I suppose when they saw all the people with rucksacks they thought we were going to open another hippie colony on John Lennon's Island. A pub in the Neale was raided at 3 o'clock on a Sunday, nobody there, but full of cars outside. If they came back later that night it might have been worthwhile.

FOR SALE

Ladies Goretex Boots size 7½. Brand New but unwanted gift. Phone Liz after 6 pm at 091-523631.

HERE AND THERE

Walking World Ireland

The 1997 Annual of Walking World Ireland is currently available from the newsagents. The Club directory has been updated and now includes the Galway Walking Club. Six Short Walks around Galway City are featured in the 1997 Annual along with an article by our own Treasurer/Editor on Communications.

For those who have never purchased or subscribed to this magazine before; Walking World Ireland is a bi-monthly publication covering established and newly opened walks around the thirty two counties of Ireland. Walking Festivals and activities are given up to date and comprehensive coverage along with excellent gear reviews. Outdoor photography and articles about our natural surroundings are regular features and articles covering navigation and safety frequently appear.

This has to be the best magazine for the Walking enthusiast residing in Ireland. Other outdoor magazines tend to be written for the UK market meaning that the chances of seeing an article about Southern Ireland, let alone the west, are few and far between.

The layout of Walking World Ireland has been re-vamped and, if the annual is anything to go by, the magazine will be a great success over the next year.

The subscription to Walking World Ireland is only £12.50 for 6 issues plus a free gift and the annual.

We would like to thank Frank Greally, Managing Director, and Paddy Dillon, Contributing Editor, for taking the time out to attend our Christmas Social and also for the spot prizes of Annual Subscriptions to their Magazine.

THE LAST MEETING OF 1996

The last meeting of 1996 was short and sweet with very few items of business to attend to. Our walks calendar was up to date until the 23rd of January which meant that the one or two hard working Committee Members could put the feet up for the Christmas Holidays without further worry.

The main item on the agenda was the surprise cheese and wine party for members who regularly attend meetings. With an attendance of only 36 on this occasion our stock of red and white wine was adequate for the number present. P.J. and Mike, proprietors of the Galway Arms, provided a feast of sandwiches and cocktail sausages. Two raffles were held during the evening. One raffle was for the Walking World Ireland Subscriptions and the other for A bottle of Whiskey, donated by Murphys Coaches and a box of chocolates.

Special thanks to P.J. and Mike from the Galway Arms for accommodating our meetings for the last two years and we wish you the best of luck with your new venture in 1997.

CLUB NOTICES

**Club Meetings occur on a fortnightly basis
commencing this Thursday
the 9th of January
in the
GALWAY ARMS
Dominick Street,
and
every fortnight thereafter.**

**The Rambles take place on the Sunday following
the Club Meetings.**

**The
GALWAY WALKING CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Takes Place on Thursday the 23rd of January
at 8:00 pm
in Jameson's Hotel
Salthill.**

Items for publication in the Newsletter should be sent to Steve Wright, 18, Sylvan Avenue, Fairlands Park, Galway or E-mail to wrights@iol.ie or if they are lengthy may be submitted on disk in ASCII (TXT) format.

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent those of the Galway Walking Club or those of the Editor

BOOK REVIEWS

by Ollie Sammon

NO HURLING AT THE DAIRY DOOR

By Billy Rackard Published by Blackwater Press

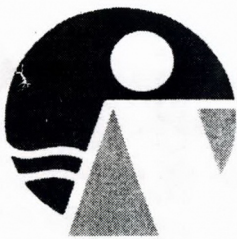
Not just an account of the hurling legends but a story of a family and a village. The author leads us through village life in Ireland in the thirties, forties and fifties, with some very colourful characters which provide us with a rich insight of that period. Billy Rackard was the youngest of nine children, grew up in a pub, grocery store and farm in the village of Killanne, Wexford. The chapters dealing with his parents and of growing up are funny and poignant reminders of a bygone time. Their passion for hurling in spite of their fathers attempt to teach them cricket leaps from the pages. All the boys became champion hurlers, there are great accounts of the matches of the fifties, and as Wexford are All-Ireland champions the book is timely. The books reviewed in this newsletter are available from Eason's, Shop Street.

BEACH MUSIC By Pat Conroy

Look no further if you want a thumb flicking good read over the Christmas period. This is Conroy's first book in five years his other books are the Water is Wide, the Great Santini,

The Lords Of Discipline and the Prince of Tides which was made into a film starring Barbara Streissand and Nick Nolte. He is known for his anguished and painfully honest insights into families and the human heart. Beach Music tells the story of a family haunted by dark memories that reach back into the unutterable terrors of the holocaust. Anyone who begins a book with the following sentence is bound to hold your attention- In 1980, a year after my wife leapt to her death from the Silas Pearlman Bridge in Charleston, South Carolina, I moved to Italy to begin life anew, taking our small daughter with me. After that you can't help but read on. After living for some years in Italy Jack McCalls peace and solitude is disturbed by the appearance of his sister in law who begs him to return home, and of two school friends, who want his help in tracking down another classmate who went underground as a Vietnam protester and never resurfaced. These requests launch Jack on a journey that encompasses the past and the present in both Europe and the American south; a quest that leads him to shocking and ultimately liberating truths.

This book is available in paperback from Eason's or Keohane's bookshop. Finally to all younger readers of this newsletter - fifty years is not a long time.



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Moser

Spray Way

Lowe Alpine



Outdoor Scene

Scanda

Respass

Phoenix

Saltrade

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Wolfskin Adventure Equipment, Kairimor Mountain

& Cycle wear, Perception and Prijon Kayaks

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