

Knocknagussy summit cairn,
looking SW to the Maamturks

**MOUNTAIN
VIEWS**

THE SUMMIT

IRISH HILLWALKERS' QUARTERLY, NOVEMBER 2024

NEWS - INFORMATION - RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS - FEATURES - FORUMS

MOUNTAINVIEWS NEWS

WELCOME TO OUR NOVEMBER QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

We continue to celebrate the adventures of ordinary hillwalkers as they explore the vast and largely untapped recreational potential of Ireland's wilder landscapes. As an example, *"Possibly, Maybe"* –our **Place Comment of the Month**, is an insightful look at the journey of starting with lists that new MountainViews subscribers might empathise with!



Our members' survey brought a wealth of varied and thoughtful comments, which we highlight in this report. We sincerely thank everyone who provided feedback and have responded to many of the points raised. Notably, it appears that some members are yet to try the new interface, which now makes adding place comments even easier. To help, we've included a tutorial in this Quarterly—give it a go!

Following the call for support in our last Quarterly, we're pleased to announce that three new volunteers have joined the committee. This added strength will help ensure MountainViews can continue to grow and thrive. Your participation is vital to keeping MV running smoothly.

This issue also takes you beyond Ireland, with articles on trekking in the stunning Pamirs of Kyrgyzstan and superb walking on Mount Washington in New Hampshire, USA, both complemented by uplifting photographs.

Closer to home, Árainn (Inishmore) is a perennial favourite among wild walkers. We present an in-depth account of the island's rich archaeology, including Dún Aonghasa, written by a professional archaeologist involved in excavations there. The accompanying visualizations and photographs are particularly striking.

Looking ahead, our awards compiler predicts a strong turnout of awardees for next year's Awards Ceremony, part of **the Gathering at the Talbot Hotel Stillorgan on Friday, February 28th, 2025.**

Finally, we're seeking contributions for our **2025 Annual**. Whether you have a simple account of an outing or an epic adventure to share, we'd love to hear from you. Brevity is key, and early submissions (by December) are especially appreciated to aid our voluntary team. The final deadline is mid-January.



Simon

IN THIS ISSUE...

MOUNTAIN COMMENT OF THE MONTH: LAGHTNAFRANKEE	PAGE 3
RECENT MOUNTAIN COMMENTS	PAGE 4
TRACK OF THE MONTH: SOUTH WEST - KEEPER OF THE FLAME	PAGE 7
RECENT MEMBERS TRACKS	PAGE 8
NAVIGATING THE NEW MOUNTAINVIEWS.IE INTERFACE	PAGE 10
CHALLENGE WALK NOTES	PAGE 13
THE MOUNTAINVIEWS SURVEY - THE RESULTS	PAGE 14
PAMIR MOUNTAINS TREK	PAGE 17
VISTING ÁRAINN, COUNTY GALWAY	PAGE 22
MOUNT WASHINGTON AND THE WHITE MOUNTAINS	PAGE 27
AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER PHOTOS OF THE MONTH	PAGE 31
NOVEMBER VIDEOS OF THE MONTH	PAGE 40

The track towards Slievenaglogh, Mourne





A NEW MEMBER SAYS: POSSIBLY, MAYBE.

LAGHTNAFRANKEE (520m)

MartMc includes this frank start to visiting the Arderins.

There are many who want to do things quickly, but we at MountainViews also relish the prospect of visiting summits taking as long as possible over a lifetime. Some have taken over 50 years to visit them and **MartMc** is setting out in that vein.

Viva Slow Visiting.

First actively gained summit since considering possibly, maybe actively working through the Arderins six months ago. So progress has been slow!

Parked at S25411 18871 (<https://mountainviews.ie/location/S2541118871/>). Met a local who had parked further east at a large hard stand at the T-junction, so I would infer that is the locally recommended location for parking for trails in the area, at the weekend at least. 40 minutes up and down, impressive views with



View across to Knockanaffrin Ridge 📷 MartMc

considerable sense of remoteness even though it is just 10 minutes from Clonmel. Unique nav point: rusty boiler.

Linkback:

mountainviews.ie/summit/411/comment/24307/

The leaning trig 📷 Colin Murphy



SOUTH

BEWARE OF LOCKED GATE – 700M REVERSE

Anyone driving up Knockoura in Cork will now encounter a locked gate not present on Google Streetview, and might end up

having to reverse 700m, writes **Colin Murphy**.

Link: mountainviews.ie/summit/485/comment/5244/

The track towards Foilastookeen 📷 madfrankie



SOUTH

ON THE FAST TRACK

A fine track leads you ninety per cent of the way up Foilastookeen in the West Cork Mts, writes **Pepe**, and wonderful views all round. Pepe couldn't find anything to be cynical about.

Link: mountainviews.ie/summit/1448/comment/24268/

Crossderry highpoint 📷 Colin Murphy



SOUTH

CROSS PATHS

A new short summary by **Colin Murphy** of an approach to Crossderry in the Dunkerrons from the south, avoiding the access issues from the Black Valley.

Link: mountainviews.ie/summit/488/comment/5247/

WEST

Lough Annafrin from Annafrin East Top, and remote Sliabh Carr 📷 ochils_trekker



A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Claggan Mountain in the Wild Nephin area is a lengthy up & down hike in a remote area, but a highly rewarding and beautiful trek nonetheless, writes **ochils_trekker**.

Link: mountainviews.ie/summit/452/comment/24247/

The summit at Knocknanangel 📷 garrettd



WEST

A GRAND TOUR

Scattery Island (Clare Islands) may be visited as part of a tour to see the monastic ruins when the hen harrier chicks have departed, writes **garrettd**.

Link: mountainviews.ie/island/2359/

Kilcooney Mountain (Fauscoum) summit 📷 thomas_g



EAST

DOUBLING UP

A double-visit of Kilclooney and Knockaunapeebra via Mahon Falls in the Comeraghs for **MichaelG55**. Stunning views and a good track most of the way.

Link: mountainviews.ie/summit/48/comment/24265/

A guide to the view 📷 michaelseaver



EAST

FOLLOWING THE MASS PATH

A path originally created to allow people to attend mass in Lacken, it has been adapted for walking use, and provides an excellent route up Sorrel Hill in Wicklow and beyond, writes **michaelseaver**. Link: mountainviews.ie/summit/280/comment/24263/

Slievecorragh summit and cairn 📷 hibby



EAST

DROP IN ONE'S TRACKS

The views from Wicklow's westernmost hills are particularly striking, as the mountains drop so suddenly into the plains

stretching across Kildare, writes **hibby**.

Link: mountainviews.ie/summit/747/comment/24299/

Some remnants of the RAF Sunderland aircraft below Croaghgorm. Ardnageer in the background. 📷 ochils_trekker



NORTH

FOUR TOPS AND A WW2 WRECK

A seven-hour hike in the Bluestacks by **ochils_trekker** took in four fine tops and the wreck of an RAF Sunderland aircraft which

tragically crashed on Croaghgorm in WW2.

Link: mountainviews.ie/summit/150/comment/24040/



Hen Mountain taken from Butter Mountain 📷 Simon3

MIDLANDS

MUD, MIST, MIDGES AND FLYING ANTS!

Despite the muddy track, the haze shrouding the hill and massing ants and midges, **Leatra** found Arderin Hill in the Slieve Blooms to be a rather charming experience.

Link: mountainviews.ie/summit/399/comment/24277/



Shades of Deep Purple 📷 Leatra

NORTH

BIRD'S EYE VIEW

The impressive tors and contrasting shapes and background colours of Hen Mountain in the Mourne more than make up for its lack of scale, writes **Simon3**.

Link: mountainviews.ie/summit/1388/comment/24303/

TRACK OF THE MONTH: SOUTH WEST - KEEPER OF THE FLAME



Less an uploaded track, more a thinly veiled plea for help, in this month's selection **peter1** has taken it upon himself to explore the rarely-touched

north-west side of Keeper Hill, linking some old abandoned farm buildings with the crowning crag of the Eagle's Nest via some rather unfriendly and steep terrain, and with even more off-roading on the way down. How to make good use of a familiar resource.

Experimental Approach from from the NW.

I've climbed Keeper Hill in all four seasons; on my own, with family and friends, with the dog, with a Scout group, in rain, hail and sun. I've cycled up and down it twice and I've climbed the steep NE 'face' in waist deep snow and heather and I promised myself some years ago that I would never climb it again. And here we are... well I've never been up close to Eagle's Nest, that small piece of crag NW of the summit.

I parked in a farmyard at the end of the minor road running East from Killoscully and left the car as unobtrusively as possible and headed along a track in an Easterly direction. I soon came across an abandoned house and outbuildings and crossed out of the woods into open country. Only afterwards did I find out that there were Gold Mines in this area, marked on the 19th C, six Inch map (from 1830s?).



Eagle's Nest



Souterrain, NW from the summit of Keeper Hill, just above Eagle's Nest

After some very tough walking/climbing through very deep heather and long grass up a very steep slope, I arrived at Eagle's Nest which is certainly impressive up close. I continued to the summit, passing a Souterrain (my brain wants me to type 'soup tureen') and after lunch, I dropped down to the forest road. Leaving the road, I made my way back into the forest following an old wall/embankment through very tight forest and open country, back to the start, stopping at the farmyard to chat with the very friendly farmer.

Would I recommend this route? Absolutely not.

You could get the same

experience by sitting in your garden hedge and plucking out your leg hairs one by one while wearing a bin bag.

LENGTH: 10.9km
TIME TAKEN: 5h 25m
ASCENT: 557m
DESCENT: 559m

PLACES: Start at R7953667797, Keeper Hill, end at Start
 Link: mountainviews.ie/track/report/5153/

TRACKS

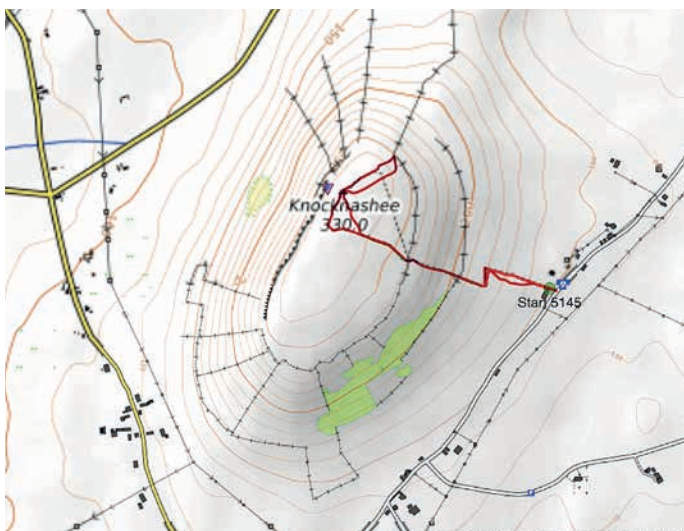


SOUTH-WEST: **SOMEONE LEFT A CAKE OUT IN THE RAIN...**

A coastal walk in Clare courtesy of **Colin Murphy**, who raves about the quality of the trail running along the cliffs west of Kilkee out past Knockroe Point. It's an easy passage (with due care) past stunning

rock formations, coves and cliffs, and a sculpture of the late hell-raiser Richard Harris. Bonus café at the start too.

Link: mountainviews.ie/track/report/5139/

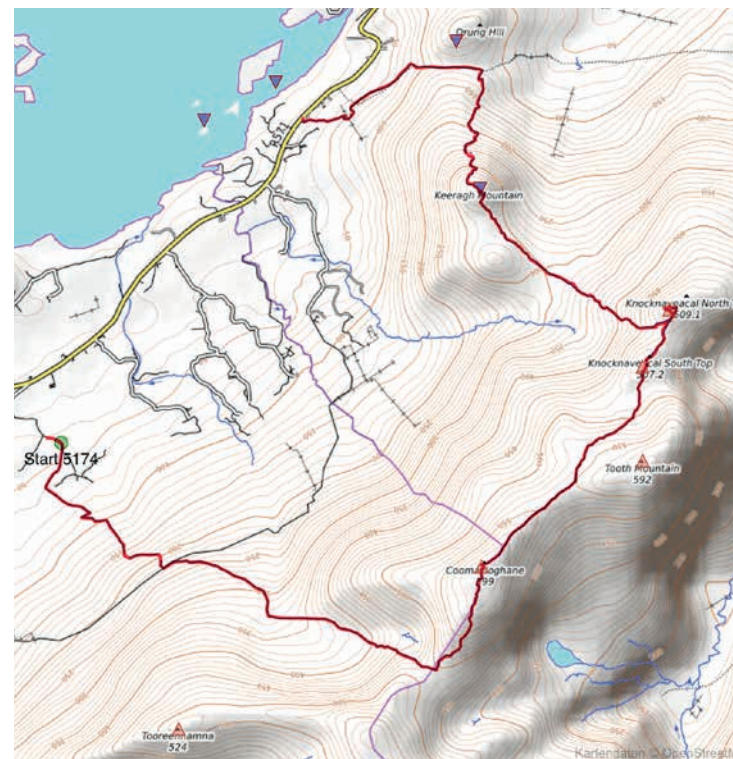


WEST: **OX OF DELIGHTS**

Markwallace has paid a visit to Mayo's extensive and unfashionable Ox Mountains to climb the outlying Knocknashee. He found a signposted trail with a short steep climb to a grassy summit with

very extensive views. It's not at all time-consuming so allows room for further exploration on the same day.

Link: mountainviews.ie/track/report/5145/



SOUTH-WEST: **AN INCONVENIENT TOOTH**

Fun and games (ok then, surveying) down in the Bena peninsula with **simon3** and companions, giving the western arm of the esteemed Cummeengeara Horseshoe a pretty comprehensive Trimbling. Pulling up from the

Ardgroom Stone Circle to the ridge, then following the declining tops back down to the road, it has plenty of rough ground plus a weird observatory-type thing in the trees... something for everyone. Subsequently Keeragh Mountain 363.2m which was part of the route was added as a Local Historical Cultural summit. It dominates this coast in the area.

Link: mountainviews.ie/track/report/5174/

TRACKS



SOUTH-WEST:

MULTI STORIED CAR PARKING

Every so often it's worth emphasising some important access arrangements that have evolved within mountain areas, and with that in mind we're featuring **nupat's** route across the Carran hills in roughest West Cork, where a very fine walk can be enjoyed if you comply with the farmer's entirely reasonable parking requests. This track covers three tops but others could be visited by relatively minor diversions.

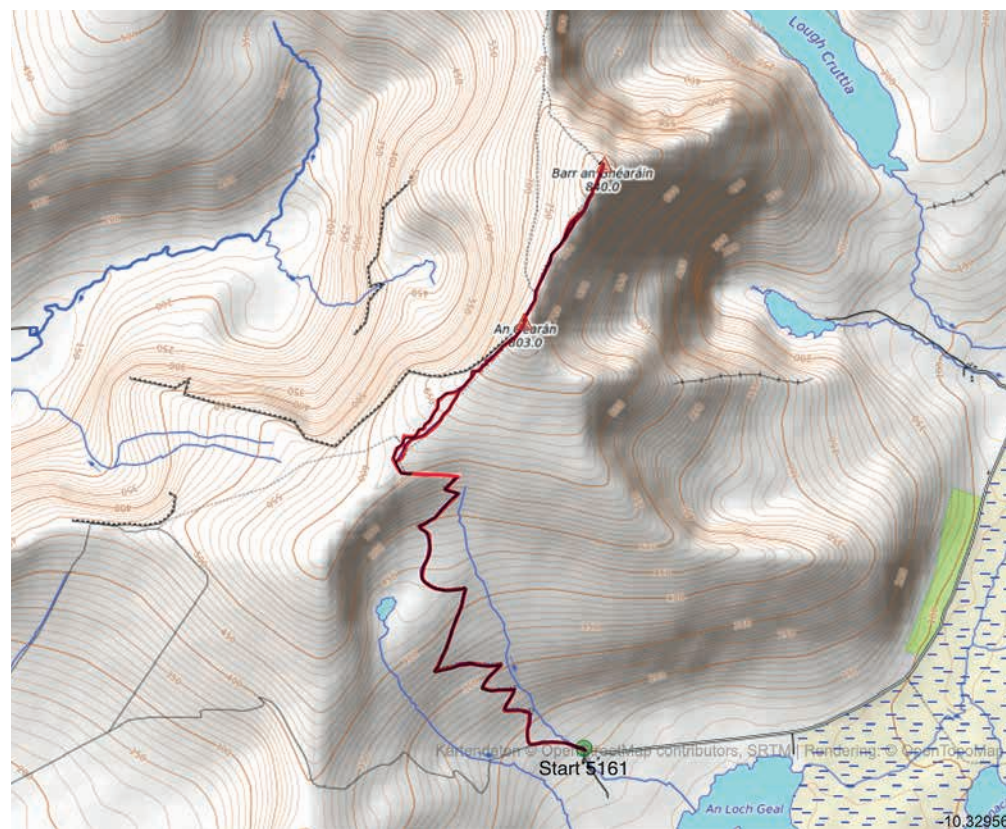
Link: mountainviews.ie/track/report/5162/

SOUTH-WEST:

LEFT, RIGHT, REPEAT

I suspect quite a lot of people have used the zigzag path south of Gearhane as a means of descending from the great Brandon ridge (your track reviewer included) but it makes a straightforward route in the other direction, and **glencree** has used it to access that summit and also Brandon Peak. It can be used as a shortish out-and-back, or can be part of a much longer traverse of the range with some road to finish (see track 3204, for example).

Link: mountainviews.ie/track/report/5161/



NAVIGATING THE NEW MOUNTAINVIEWS.IE

BY COLIN MURPHY

With the launch of the redesigned MountainViews.ie interface, we are starting a series of articles aimed at helping people get the maximum possible benefit from the website. In light of this, this latest edition of The Summit features this article dealing with navigating the site. This article will describe in relatively simple terms how to use the new interface to find information on an area or an individual mountain that you might want to visit. This article focuses mostly on using MV on a mobile phone. However, the new design is also optimized for other devices such as tablets, laptops, and desktop computers. For instance, on a laptop with greater width, the page reconfigures itself to take advantage of this. This way of working is known as “Responsive Web Design” as opposed to the existing “Fixed Width Design”.

Starting the New Version

Currently, both versions of the interface are available on the website. Clicking on the main menu option “Home” | “Main Display” moves to the new system. When other pages

are visible on the website in the new system, then they will be used; otherwise, the old.



left, you will see three tabs – Outline, Area and Detail (highlighted in blue in **Figure 1**).

Click on the Outline tab, which will bring you to a map of the island of Ireland with each of the separate mountain and hill

Exploring the MountainViews Landscape

As an example, let's say you're living in Galway and want to explore the Maumturks. When you open MV, you will see a random hill displayed, such as Lugnaquilla in Wicklow, for instance. Above the map on the



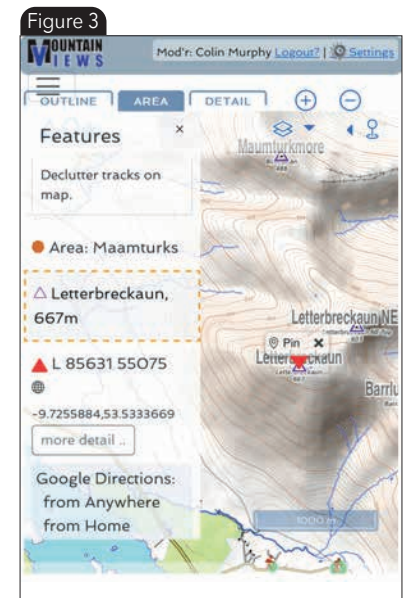
areas indicated (**Figure 2**). You can enlarge or reduce the map using the + and - buttons at the top, or by using two fingers.

Getting Transport Directions

Zoom in on the Maumturk area so you can

see individual mountains. Tap on or near a particular mountain (e.g., Letterbreckaun), and you will see a 'Pin' appear, along with a Features column on the left with the name of the summit, its height and its grid reference (**Figure 3**).

The column also offers you Google Maps directions from 'Anywhere' and from 'Home.' Tapping 'Home,' for example, will



immediately open Google Maps with the directions from your home to one possible starting point to ascend Letterbreckaun. Tapping 'Anywhere' will provide you with directions from your current location. This feature works anywhere you click. Specifically for Starting Places, mentioned later, we have a similar but optimized way of getting directions.

If you tap Letterbreckaun in the column,



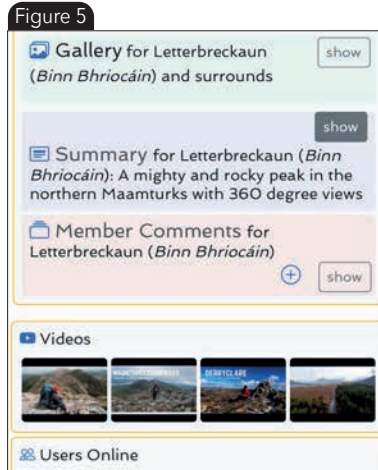
your phone will automatically scroll down to a page giving you detailed information on this summit (**Figure 4**).

Scrolling down further will take you to various options such as a Gallery of members'

photos of the summit, a Short Summary of possible approaches, and Members' Comments and suggested routes (**Figure 5**).

Controlling the Clutter

You can show or not show many of the panels such as "Gallery" or "Members'



the next time you use the website. Click on the show / hide button to change it any time.

Working Further with the Map

Scrolling back up to the map, the column on the left can be removed by tapping the small 'x' at the top, which will allow you to see more of the map of the Letterbreckaun area.

The Little 'Red Men': Starting Places

You will also see on the new version the presence of lots of little 'Red Men.' These represent potential Starting Places for a walk. Each individual 'Red Man' has an abbreviated title, which refers to some feature particular to that precise location. For example, almost directly to the south of Letterbreckaun you can see the Red Man symbol with the name WW Ina Cots (highlighted in blue in **Figure 6**). Tapping on or near any of these Red Men symbols will also cause the 'Features'

Comments" using the "Show" button at the top right of each panel. These settings persist, that is for the device you are on, the setting for "Show" or "Hide" will remain even for

column to appear on the left - in this case revealing that the Red Man notation refers to Western Way Inagh Cottages. Tapping it will also reveal if there is parking available at that point, if it is free and for how many cars. The column also reveals nearby tracks, a grid reference and the option of getting Google Map directions (All 'Red Men' are positioned on public roads).



The Green Circles

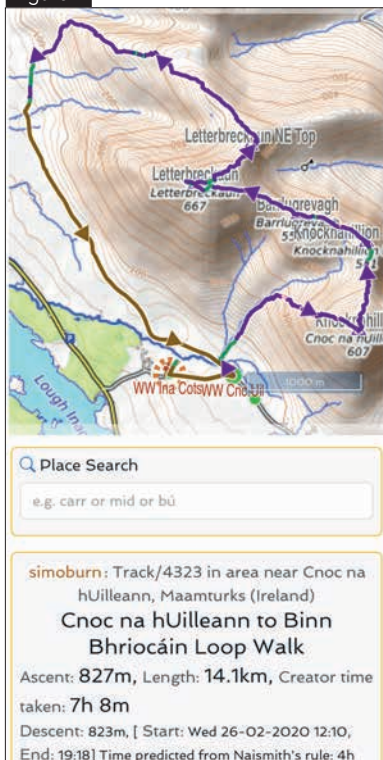
Anywhere you see a Green Circle on the map indicates the beginning and end of a track that a member has uploaded. Tapping one of these will reveal

a track or route that a member previously followed. In the case below, member simoburn has uploaded a Knocknahillion to Letterbreckaun loop walk of 827m ascent and 14km length (**Figure 7**).

Green Circles versus Red Men

MountainViews is moving towards replacing the Green Circles with Red Men starting places. However, some tracks or user points

Figure 7



of interest have not yet been included as Red Men, so for the time being, we are including both.

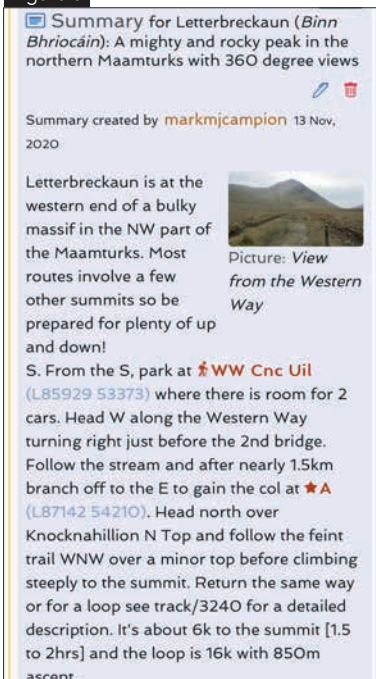
Looking at the Summary for a Summit

Alternatively, you may wish to climb Letterbreckaun in isolation. Scroll back down to 'Summary' and tap on the

'Show' button on the top right. This will open a page with a short guide to ascending the summit, and also availability of parking or otherwise (**Figure 8**).

You can also see other members' suggestions and comments on the summit by scrolling further down to 'Member Comments.' Here you will find multiple observations by MV hillwalkers, sometimes extending over several pages, detailing members' varied experiences down the years, and often suggesting alternative routes and usually with accompanying

Figure 8



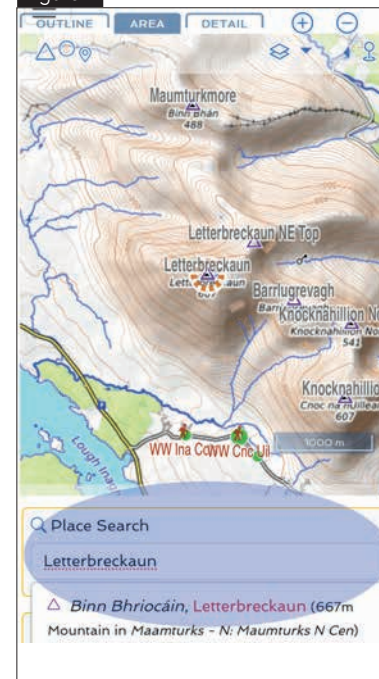
to know the name of a particular summit you would like to visit, there is another very simple way of finding it - the 'Place Search' option (**Figure 9**). You'll find this just below the map on your mobile. Simply start entering the name or part of the name of the summit in English or Irish or an EastWest name, and MountainViews will provide you with all options for summits with that name - in the case of Letterbreckaun, the search panel shows Letterbreckaun itself and also Letterbreckaun NE Top (highlighted in blue below). Tapping on either of these will take you to the MV page for that summit. It is also possible to search for an area such as

photos. These comments can be invaluable in terms of knowing what to expect on your climb e.g., if there are access issues, if the terrain is marshy, rocky, steep, hazardous etc., are there good views, and so on.

Search by Name

If you happen

Figure 9



new website's benefits for you. It must be said that the new MV site is still a work in progress, but hopefully, we'll be home and dry in the not too distant future.

If it doesn't work or could be better, tell us at admin@MountainViews.ie

(There will be further articles on exploring other aspects of MountainViews' extensive database of information on Ireland's wild areas in the coming months. In the future, we intend to modify this sort of description into a help system.)

'Maumturk,' 'Sperrin' or 'Caha,' and so on.

We're Getting There

We hope that this article has helped you to navigate your way around the site and Ireland's beautiful landscape, and gone some way towards maximizing the

CHALLENGE WALK NOTES

From 'Bruscar'

The only challenge walk news that I have for 2025 is that two of the host clubs have fixed their date very early this time, which is great for people trying to plan holidays around potential participation and to organise accommodation, especially if trying to get a group from your own hillwalking club to go. Hopefully a few more of the host clubs will follow suit before Christmas. I have noticed that several other challenge walks also sold out earlier (quicker) in 2024. A healthy sign for the level of interest among hillwalkers for these annual challenge walks.

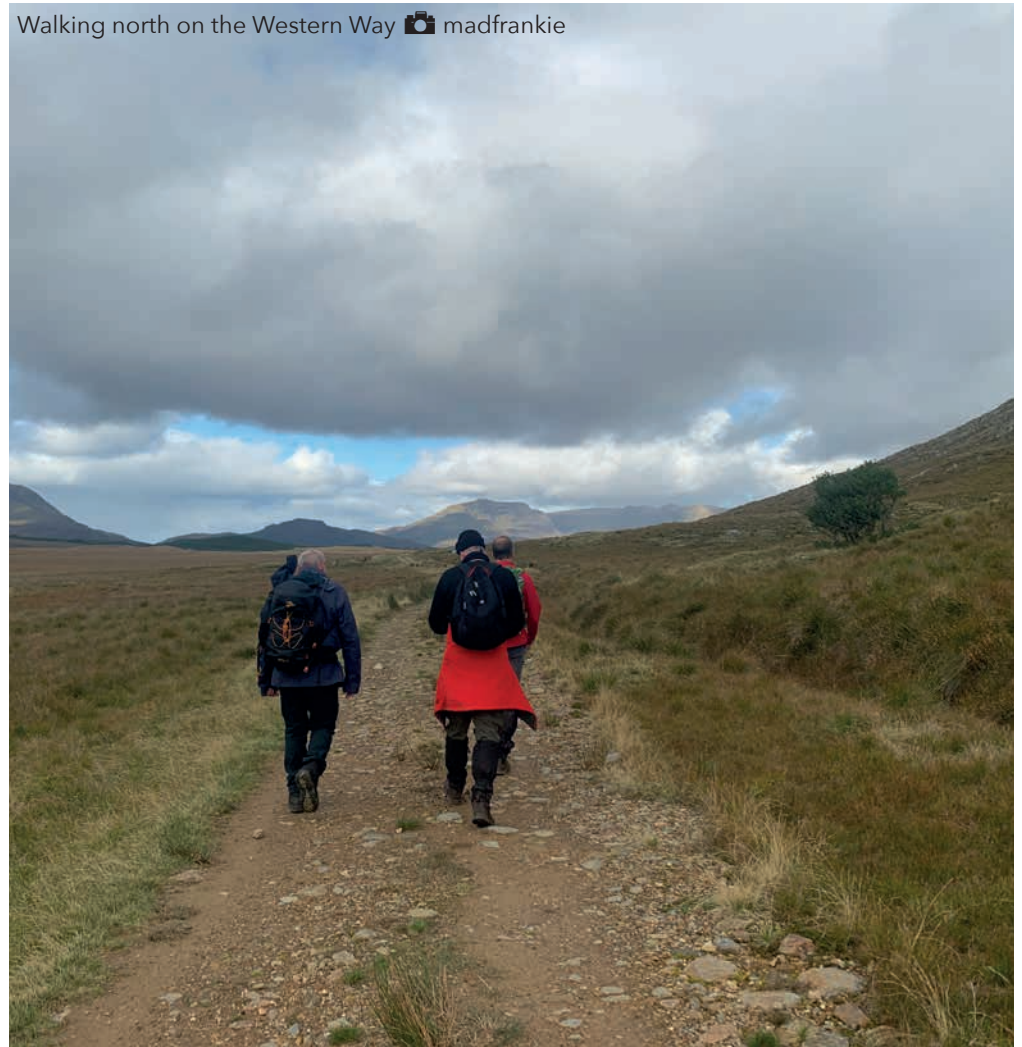
- **BlackStairs Challenge - Saturday 17th May 2025.**
- **Connemara Walking Marathon - Saturday 9th August 2025.**

View to Mount Leinster from Knockroe 📷 Stock



Though the BSC always sold out in about 15 minutes, 2024 was the first year for the CWM to sell out a few weeks ahead of the event day. More than a few walkers who regularly did this latter challenge in mid-August were caught out this time as they left it too late to register. They had got used to doing so about a week beforehand in previous years.

Walking north on the Western Way 📷 madfrankie

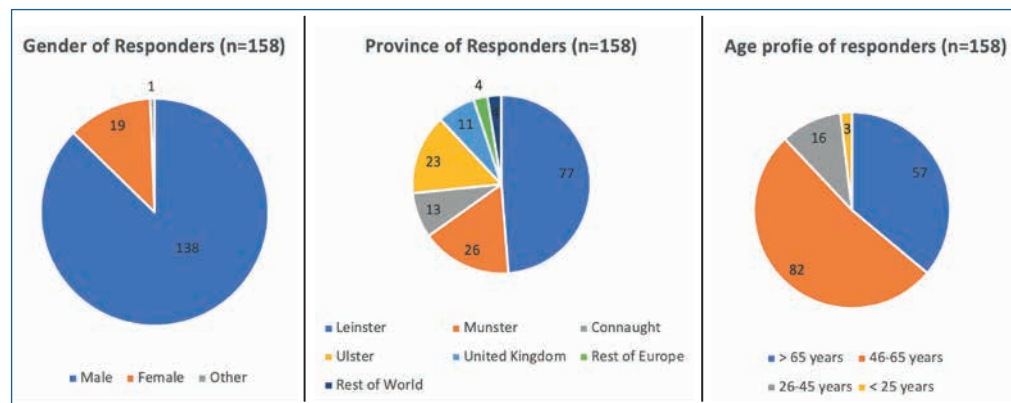


MOUNTAINVIEWS SURVEY: THE RESULTS

The MountainViews Committee are extremely grateful to all those that took time last February to complete our survey. We now want to share a summarised version of the key messages and insights from this survey so that everyone can share in this collective view. It was hugely rewarding to read peoples enthusiasm, gratitude and recommendations for improvement. 158 people responded to the survey, which shows the reach of the website and how willing people were to engage with the process.

The committee have taken all feedback received seriously and it is probably an appropriate time upfront to remind everyone that we have one sole developer for the website - Simon. To tackle many of the improvements identified by our community of users we will need more helpers to make that possible. Please do reach out and let us know if you are willing to volunteer some of your time and enthusiasm, we will likely find a job for you!

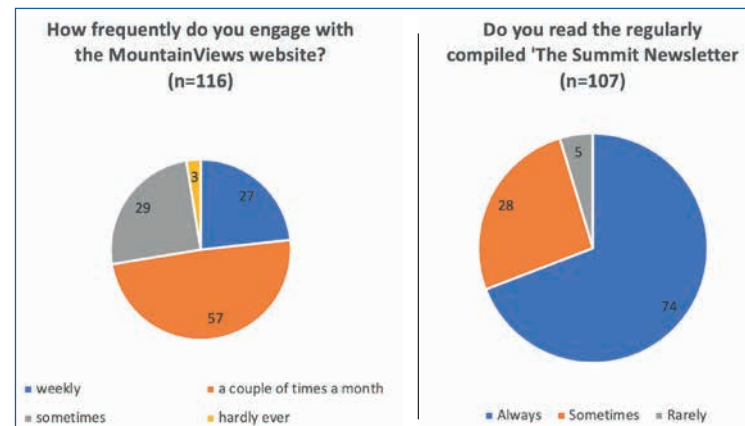
Demographics of Responders:



Engagement with the Website & Newsletter:

Key Themes from free text questions:

There were a number of survey questions that allowed responders to provide feedback on functionality they liked and functionality that

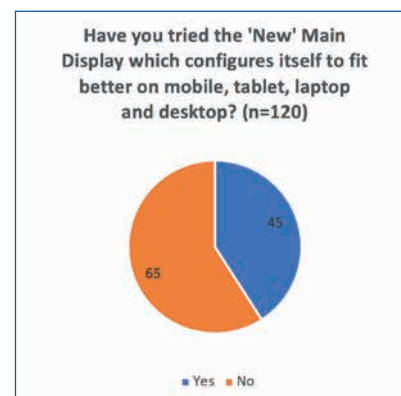


they would like to see changed in the future on the Website and Newsletter. With 158 responders, this resulted in a 28 page report.

We noticed

that some of the feedback was associated with the 'Old Display' and users may discover that the 'New Display' eliminates a number of the frustrations that are experienced. However, the 'New Display' is still a work in progress and Simon continues to work on identifying and eliminating bugs. We know it's not a finished product yet but would encourage users to dip into the 'New Display' to see how it's progressing.

NOTE - At some stage in the near future - the 'Old Display' will be made unavailable for users, we will of course ensure that everyone is informed of this planned switch over.



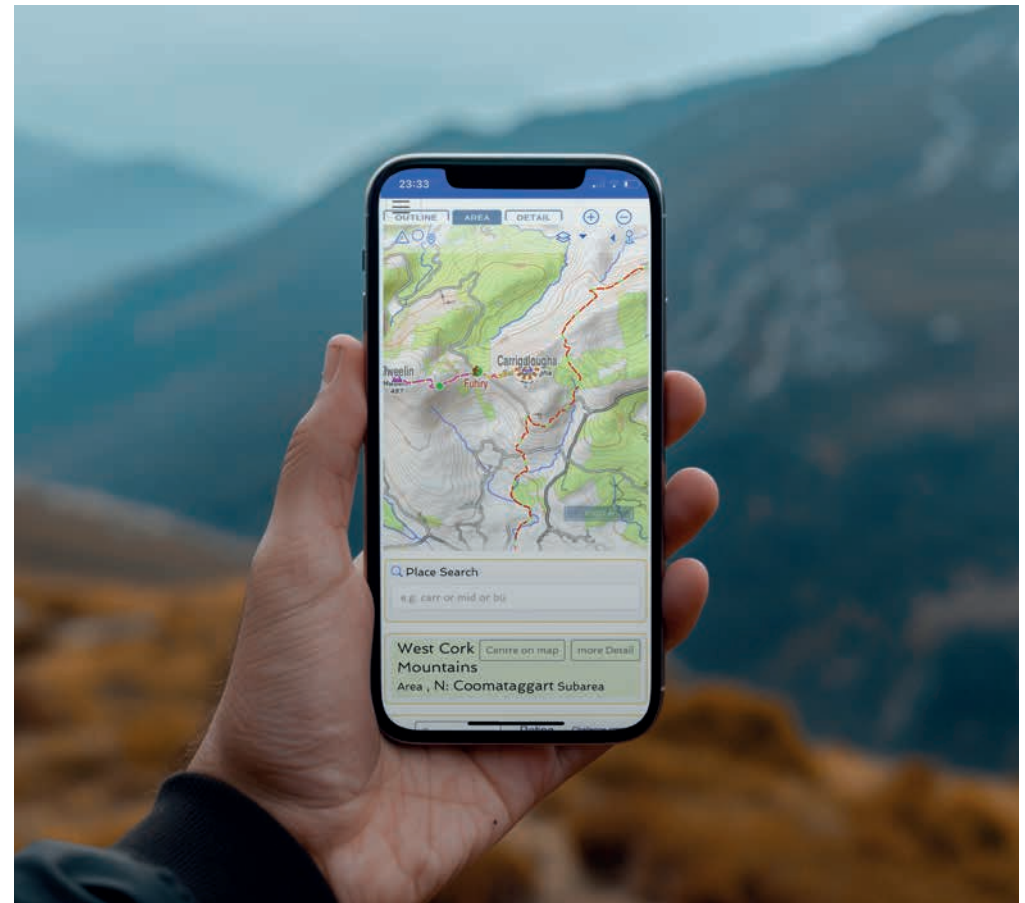
We have summarised the information for 4 key questions below into key themes and have included some sample comments against these themes to give everyone a sense of what the community is thinking. We have also included commentary from Simon to provide feedback on a number of these comments received -

this is done with the purpose of generating dialogue and clarifying intentions rather than dismissing any of the feedback received. All feedback – be it complimentary or criticism has been received as a spur to action! (Feedback from Simon shown in **red**).

	Question	Theme	Sample Comments
1	What are your favourite features of the MountainViews website - what should we keep doing:	1.1 Route Information and Descriptions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users appreciate detailed route descriptions for hikes. The importance of access information, including where to start and any potential access issues. Maps were highlighted as useful, particularly when they include parking advice and route hazards.
		1.2 Lists and Tracking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existence of summit lists like Arderins and Vandeleur-Lynams is valued for tracking climbing achievements. The feature to check off peaks as they are climbed was frequently mentioned. The community aspect of sharing and maintaining lists is seen as beneficial.
		1.3 Community Engagement and Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ability to view comments from other users about their experiences on specific peaks is appreciated. Suggestions to allow users to reply to comments indicate a desire for deeper interaction. Sharing hike accounts and experiences fosters a sense of community among users.
		1.4 Quality of Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The high quality of newsletters and in-depth articles is highly regarded. The overall level of detail in the information provided was frequently praised.
2	Are there any features that you would like to see changed in the MountainViews website - what annoys you:	2.1 User Interface and Experience Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UI/UX (User Interface/User Experience) is fiddly to navigate and find things. Clearer fonts, now almost every word has different size and it's a pain to read. – not sure this is talking about the old or new system, but we will certainly review the new system for possible changes. It's not very user friendly and can be difficult to use/navigate. – an actionable part of this is to have proper system guidance/instructions material. We have started to write introductory guides for the new system for this purpose and will eventually will evolve that into an online help system.
		2.2 Navigation Difficulties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The map is incredibly fiddly to navigate and select features e.g. different tracks and peaks. – hopefully much simplified in the new system. A click gives a single list of the features near where you clicked. Still find it quite awkward to use the 2 maps side by side

			<p>on the homepage on a mobile device. – the new system doesn't have two maps side by side for that reason.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I find when I've looked for walk routes that it's very hard to make it out on the map. – on the new system the width of the selected track was increased.
		2.3 Content Organization and Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I would prefer that all commentaries on routes, peaks, access were presented in chronological order with the most recent first. – many of the great comments are older ones. There may be value in making it configurable however, though inevitably someone will then say, the interface is more cluttered. The introduction message coming up every time I log on, even though I clicked I wanted to hide it for 30 days. – not in the new system. Summiteers Hall of fame does not list in order of completion (ie by date of completion). – true, unfortunately this would be difficult to fix.
		2.4 Mobile Usability Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I find it is difficult to navigate the MVs site using the mobile or tablet. – try the new system which configures itself to the width of the screen. Better mobile presentation. Website seems to be down a fair bit. Functionality of features sometimes erratic. – fair point. Sometimes this has been factors outside our control (we had two outages caused by our hosting company this year), sometimes we could use a tester to check for adverse side-effects of developments.
3	The Summit Newsletter	3.1 Content Variety and Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions for hiking skills articles, including navigation, safety, and Leave No Trace principles – we are happy to include such ideas. Interest in features on farmers and hill farming, indicating a desire for diversity in featured articles A suggestion for layout changes to cater to different skill levels, such as beginners and experienced hikers – hard to implement with the current resources. It is possible to turn off a number of features in the new system.
		3.2 Quality and Structure of Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More editing to keep it more concise and of a higher quality. – the summit comments can indeed be too long, we do have a "Short Summary" programme to provide the basics for each summit. A little more accuracy on best of multiple possible starting points. It's fine as is - we believe that it's a work in progress, but thanks for the compliment!
		3.3 Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciation for community-building features like "Summit comment of the month" that encourage engagement

		and Contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive feedback on the professional appearance and the effort involved in compiling the newsletter• Enthusiasm for sharing personal hiking stories and experiences
		3.4 Focus on Local Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A strong preference for more Ireland-focused content rather than international sections• Feedback suggesting less emphasis on lists, indicating a desire for more narrative-driven content• Interest in local issues such as access, transport, and community events related to hiking – what suggestions would you have for building a network of voluntary informants for this?
4	Have you any final comments you would like to share with the MountainViews Committee:	4.1 Appreciation for the Resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MV is a tremendously valuable resource. You should be proud of what you have produced and the service you continue to provide.• Thank you for all the work you do and giving us a place to share information. For a lone hiker, this site's information is invaluable.• Thanks for all your hard work. Without this resource, I don't think I'd have made so much of the hills as I have. - these comments and others like them make it worth continuing, thanks.
		4.2 Desire for Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I think there is a lot of room for improvement, especially around usability. – totally agree. The best we can do is to build a prioritised list of the things to fix – help welcome.• I'm new to the site and so far have struggled to use it. I hope that this will become easier.• Sometimes the articles are too wordy, long boring, and come across as egotistical. – some measures are being put in place with regard to article quality if you are referring to newsletter articles. For summit comments, give the over wordy a lower score.
		4.3 Encouragement and Support for Continued Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep up the good work.• Congratulations on being such a successful and encouraging part of Ireland's mountain and hill walking community.• What an amazing website! Thank you for all your hard work.
		4.4 Community and Connection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The annual gathering is always very enjoyable, so hopefully this will continue.• I hope it can continue to grow, and I spread the word to anyone who will hear me out.• Great job! It's a great website and I'm grateful to have access to it.



This information provides Simon and the rest of the committee with valuable insight on priorities for development and insight as to what is working well for users. The themes reflect the overall sentiment towards MountainViews resources - highlighting appreciation, areas for improvement, support for ongoing efforts and the positive sense of community that it fosters. Many thanks again for your continued support, patience and feedback!

Survey created by Miriam Kennedy.

Article summary: Miriam Kennedy and Simon Stewart, using comments from hundreds of members.

PAMIR MOUNTAINS TREK

ONE MAN AND HIS YURTS

FERGAL HINGERTY

Kyrgyzstan landscape

One man and his yurts



In this adventure, Fergal Hingerty ventures deeper into Kyrgyzstan's dramatic landscapes.

After an eventful trek to Ala Kol Lake in the country's eastern Tien Shan Mountains (see *MountainViews Annual*), we flew south from Bishkek

to the vibrant yet gritty city of Osh. As Kyrgyzstan's second-largest city, Osh has long served as a gateway to the Pamirs, a landscape steeped in mountaineering lore and home to nomadic communities, rugged peaks, and isolated trekking routes.

From Osh, we began our drive southward toward the Pamir Mountains, traversing the Taldyk Pass at 3,346 meters. The pass snakes its way through barren, rock-strewn terrain, with narrow switchbacks and precarious drops—an ominous reminder of the conditions awaiting us in the higher reaches. Although Taldyk Pass feels remote and exposed, it pales in comparison to the heights and

raw isolation of our destination: the towering Pamirs.

Trekking the Pamirs

The Pamir Mountains, often called the “Roof of the World,” straddle the borders of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and China, offering an unforgettable blend of brutal isolation, lofty summits, and breathtaking glacial landscapes. With much of the region lying above 4,000 meters, trekking here is more than challenging—it demands resilience, preparation, and respect for altitude. This is a world where every step feels heavier, and each breath thinner as oxygen levels drop drastically above 3,000 meters.



We set out for Pik Lenina (7,134m), Kyrgyzstan’s second-highest peak, lying just shy of the Tajik border. The surrounding region, dotted with ancient glacier-fed rivers and semi-permanent nomadic

camp, is tightly patrolled by border guards, reminding trekkers of the underlying tension in these remote, disputed regions. For those who venture this far, the landscape offers solitude, sweeping vistas, and a tangible sense of exploration.

High-Altitude Hazards

Trekking in the Pamirs demands more than physical endurance; altitude itself becomes the most significant hazard. With camps positioned well above 3,500 meters, trekkers face risks of altitude sickness—acute mountain sickness (AMS) being common, and more severe conditions like High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE) or High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) posing serious, sometimes fatal, risks. The Pamirs are infamous for erratic weather, with clear mornings giving way to sudden storms, dropping temperatures, and gale-force winds.

While the Pamirs are a world apart, the rewards of trekking here are immense. But trekkers must be prepared, both mentally and physically, for the challenges posed by one of Central Asia’s last true wildernesses.

Tulpar-Kol and Achik-Tash Base Camp

Our journey took us to within 4 kilometres of the base camp, where we paused by the shores of Lake Tulpar-Kol—a serene, glacier-fed lake named for the mythical flying horse of Kyrgyz folklore. Here, at around 3,500 meters, we completed a gentle acclimatisation walk to Achik-Tash base camp (3,600m), a plain surrounded by wild, windswept terrain.

Pik Lenina towers over it at a height of 7,134 Metres and it is still not the highest peak in Kyrgyzstan! That honour goes to Pobeda Peak (Jengish Chokusul) which comes in at a mighty 7439m, which is slightly more challenging than Captain’s Hill in Mullingar!

The base camp at Achik-Tash is extremely well laid out with showers, two-person tents with lights, toilets, food tents and a shop. All these mod cons are necessary as Pik Lenina is not an easy peak to

ADVENTURE

climb and its sinister presence overlooks and overwhelms the camp. The new official name of Pik Lenina is Koh-i-Garmo (Warm Mountain) and it definitely looks the complete opposite as it was covered in glaring snow and ice.

However, despite the name change everyone still calls it Lenina Pik. It is interesting to note that with the base camp at Achik-Tash being at 3600m the impression you are given even though the air is thin is that you have not even started to get near the summit!

Early next morning we walked over an easy route to the Lukovaya Polyana (Onion Field) Pass at a height of 3800m. Along the way numerous marmots popped out of their burrows and whistled to their pals to let them know that we were out and about. There were also numerous herds of wild looking yaks scattered around the grassy section of the mountainsides. They are more ferocious looking than they are in reality, however.

The scene was incredibly idyllic with grassland and wild flowers here and there scattered around, not to mention the steep snowcapped peaks in all directions. It started off easily enough, but little did we know what was to lie ahead in the trek to Camp One. First, we climbed up a steep scree filled narrow track to the Puteshestvennikov Pass at 4150m. The views from here of Pik Lenina were wonderful and it was here the group split as some were returning to the base camp and the rest of us were pushing on to Camp One.

We left Puteshestvennikov Pass and followed the narrow shale track along the side of the mountain towards Camp One. This wandered up and down with sheer drops to one side and loose rock underfoot; a challenging and high concentration walk. Every now and then horses passed us by somehow on this narrow track; an easier (?) way to get around maybe. The skill of the Kyrgyz young horsemen is phenomenal as it was hard just to walk with two feet let alone four.

The mountains were grey and forbidding, capped with snow and with a large bubbling brown fast flowing river below us awaiting

should we not be careful enough with our footsteps. Normally this would be enough sights to enthrall us, but the ominous presence of Pik Lenina was there always in sight. The day was both sunny and cloudy until we reached a height of around 4500m when a very light snowfall took place.



Eventually we dropped down and crossed a few rivers and a brief walk on some glacier ice got us to the Camp One. This was situated in a bleak landscape of rock and ice just below Pik Lenina at a height of just over 4600m.

There are two more camps on the more popular and somewhat easier way to the summit of Pik Lenina. Camp Two is at 5800m after a difficult glacier traverse and Camp Three is at 6100m just below Razdelnaya Peak at 6148m; from Camp Three though it is still over 1100m to the summit!

ADVENTURE

Camp 1

Camp 1 is set in a stony area with the glaciers and white snow of Pik Lenina dominating the bleak and stark landscape. This camp site was moved here after the world's worst mountaineering accident took place at the original camp site in 1990. Sadly on that occasion an earthquake triggered an avalanche which engulfed the original camp site and 43 of 45 people there at the time died.

We stopped for a cup of tea and rest in the food yurt in Pik Lenina Camp One and shortly afterwards swiftly headed back along the long and torturous route. The scenery was magnificent though! The day out was 1300m of ascent, was over 25km and took a little over 12 hours; it was nearly dark when we got back to the base camp. The meal in the yurt was much appreciated that evening and a solid night's sleep was had by all who did not turn back at Puteshestvennikov Pass.



As we had our meal that evening at one of the two tables in the yurt, the other table was occupied by a grizzled group of 16 professional climbers of whom only three reached Camp Three (6148m) at the subsidiary Razdelnaya Peak, and just another three

reached the summit of Pik Lenina itself. The temperature when they summited was a balmy minus 37 degrees Celsius including the delightful wind chill you get in these parts.

Returning to Osh

The following day, it was back by minibus to Osh with a stop off to drink a roadside Kumis (fermented mare's milk) and it was not as bad as some people have commented upon; It is said to be good for digestion and that was fine by me. We knocked it back by the side of the highway with a magnificent view as a backdrop. It was a fitting end to the majestic Pamir Mountains adventure; they stretched

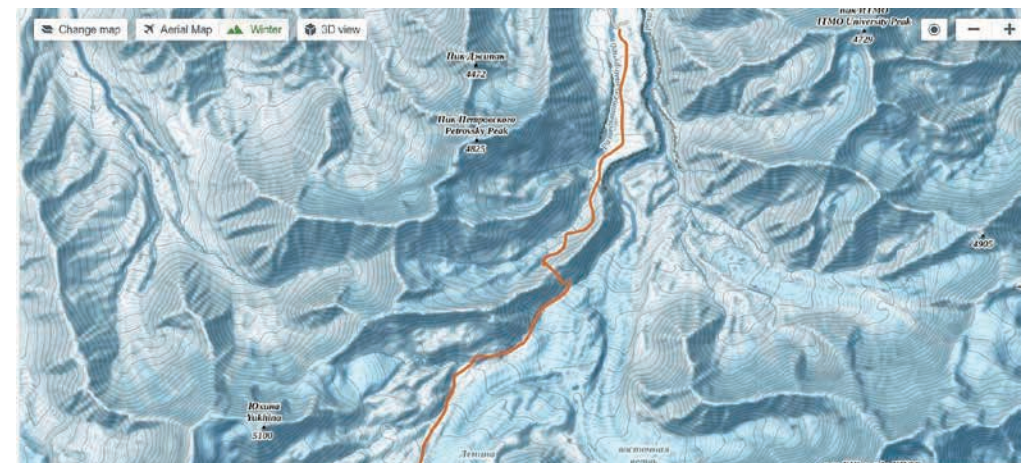


Map from Wikipedia

in a big long line with snow-capped peak after snow-capped peak all over 4000m as far as the eye could see both eastwards and westwards.

Travel details for Kyrgyzstan can be found here:

www.discoverkyrgyzstan.org/en



COMING SOON.

AN IRISH MOUNTAIN GATHERING 2025



THE TALBOT HOTEL, STILLORGAN.
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28TH, 2025

Speakers to be announced
closer to the event.

ANNUAL NUMBER TO **MOUNTAIN VIEWS** PUBLISHED 2025
THE SUMMIT
FOR HILLWALKERS AND WALKERS IN IRELAND

Without our members input, there is no annual magazine.

Would you like to write an article for the 2025 edition of the Summit Magazine? We're currently looking for contributions from our members. Interested? Contact us at admin@mountainviews.ie for details and look at previous issues at: mountainviews.ie/newsletters/



The island is 14km long, 3.5km across at its widest point and rises to a maximum height of 123m - clearly not a physical challenge for hardy MountainViews readers, so why visit?

Inishmore has been described as an outdoor museum - there are over 500 recorded archaeological sites on the island. Prominent among them are the large stone forts - seven across the three

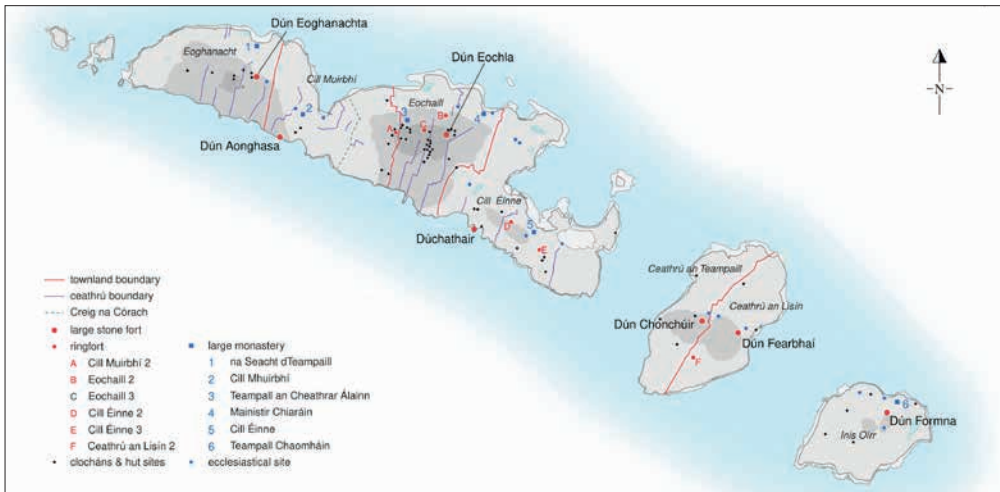
islands, of which four are on Inishmore. The best-known - the cliff-edge fort of Dún Aonghasa and the promontory fort of Dún Dúchathair / the Black Fort are the subject of this piece.

Getting there

All year round ferry from Rossaveal to Kilronan, Inishmore (aranislandferries.com for times etc). All year-round air service from



An Bóthar Ó Dheas (South Road), looking west to Dún Aonghasa. The road hugs the southern coast of the island - great vistas and no traffic makes it ideal for walkers. Many of the scenes in *The Banshees of Inisherin* were filmed from here.



There are seven exceptionally large forts on the islands, including Dún Aonghasa and Dún Dúchathair on Inishmore.

Connemara Airport, Inverin to Inishmore (aerarannislands.ie). Bus connections to/from Galway operate for ferry and plane services.

Getting around

Three roads lead west from Kilronan across the island. At busy times the main road is clogged with tourist mini-buses. Best to take the lower (north) road if you're walking or cycling, the turn off is near Joe Watty's pub and may be signposted 'Seal Colony'. Bicycles can be hired at the head of the pier in Kilronan. Talk to the staff if you want to do a cycle/walk combination, they may be able to pick up your bikes from a drop point. Cycling to Dún Aonghasa and walking back via An Bóthar Ó Dheas (south road) is a great option on a fine day. The walk back can take well over an hour, depending on how often you stop to admire the view, the stones walls etc. Taking one of the 30+ minibuses is another option, good on a very wet day. Buses go west to Dún Aonghasa, give you time for a visit to the fort, optional lunch in the fantastic Nan Phaidí's restaurant at the bottom of the hill, and a quick spin to see the Seven Churches monastery about a kilometre further west. The ferry company and bicycle hire give out basic maps.

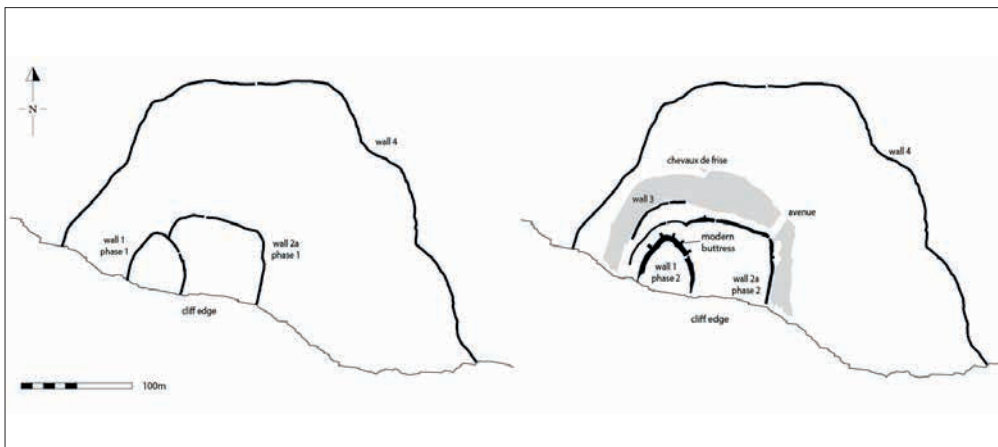
Walking to Dún Dúchathair is the best option, but if you're stuck for time you can cycle up to the southern cliffs and walk from there. You'll be taking the coast road going east out of Kilronan and turning off after a kilometre near the old ball alley (signposted). If you have plenty of time you could continue walking east along the cliff after you visit the fort. This will take you past the puffing holes - be sure to have a map as getting back down to the road can be tricky. Look out for the tiny Teampall Bheanáin, on the way back - it looks like a giant tooth against the sky. Éanna or Enda had a monastery at this end of the island, so famous that a long list of 'angels from on high' visited it on a daily basis.

Editorial Note: Getting around Inishmore isn't straightforward - on a visit some years ago we used one of the tour buses to get some of the basic transport to the west done and then left the tour and walked

back via various archaeological, historical and geological features.
See [track/3498](#)



Perched at the highest point of the southern cliffs, Dún Aonghasa looks out on the Atlantic and the west coast down as far as Kerry. The origins of the hillfort go back to the Late Bronze Age ca. 1000BC.



The ground plan of that prehistoric fort - three nested enclosures defined by curving drystone walls - survives to the present day

Dún Aonghasa

Access

7.5km from Kilronan to the Visitor Centre, from there its an 800m walk over uneven ground up to the fort. The centre is closed until March 2025 but the fort remains open.

L81748 09741

All the walls terminate at the cliff edge. Undoubtedly there has been some cliff-fall over the centuries but there is no evidence to support the theory that the fort was originally circular.



Archaeological excavations in Dún Aonghasa 1992.

Excavations 1992-5

Dún Aonghasa was excavated over a four-year period as part of a government funded research project. The excavations showed the builders had used the fort for both ceremonial and domestic activities. All the communal activities of the kin group probably took place there - religious ceremonies, seasonal celebrations,



Part of a broken mould for a sunflower pin; the reconstruction is based on a laser scan. The wearing of sunflower pins may have been related to a solar cult that existed across much of Europe during the Bronze Age



High status prehistoric finds. Amber beads traded from the Baltic and a boar-tooth pendant

would have been treasured heirlooms taken out only on ceremonial occasions.

rites of passage, distribution of food surpluses etc.

Ceremonial finds

Broken clay moulds and crucibles found in the inner enclosure provide rare evidence for bronze-casting on an Irish site. Moulds for weapons, tools and items of personal adornment were present. Many of the items cast were possibly part of the ceremonial dress of a warrior. Together with other high-status goods from the site (amber and blue glass beads, bronze rings and tweezers, talismanic animal pendants), they



Four bronze rings possibly used as horse trappings - the horse seems to have been regarded as a cult animal in Late Bronze Age.



The foundations of a prehistoric house in the middle enclosure

the past. Cremation was the usual burial rite during the Bronze Age, but it seems children up to a certain age were interred.

Later rebuilding

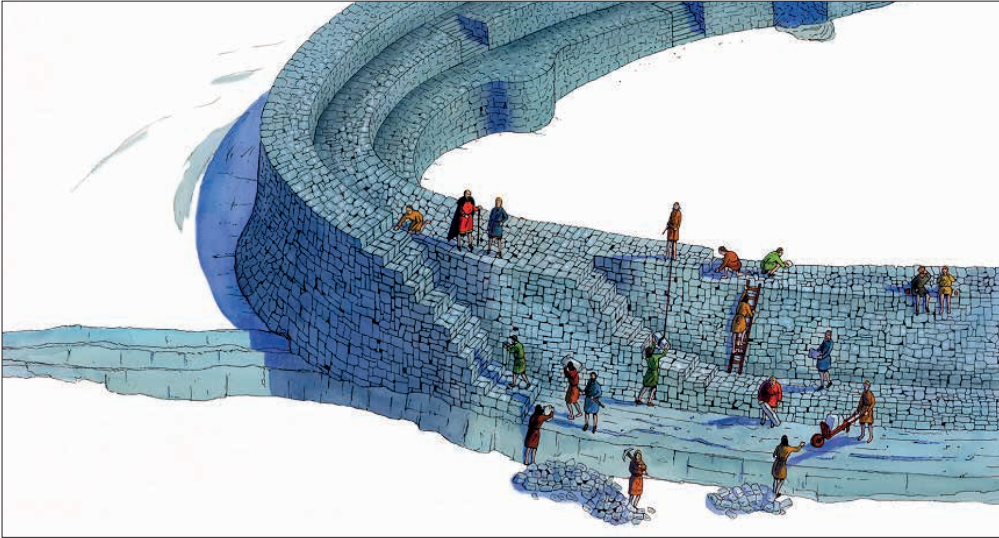
While the origins of Dún Aonghasa go back to the Late Bronze Age (1000BC), its present-day appearance owes much to the major refurbishments that took place in the Early Historic period (ca. AD800). The works saw the middle and inner walls heightened and terraced, and a wide belt of chevaux de frise erected outside the middle wall.



Part of a mould for bronze axe

Settlement in the fort

Remains of prehistoric houses, cooking hearths, and middens of discarded food refuse recorded in both the inner and middle enclosures suggests that elite members of the kin group lived in the fort, at least from time to time. The skeletal remains of six neonates were also found, a reminder of the high infant mortality rates that prevailed in



The Early Historic builders built up the walls in vertical layers.



The chevaux de frise at Dún Aonghasa is the most impressive example known to exist. Densely set stone pillars, some up to 2m in height, form a protective barrier outside the middle wall. 80% of the 100 or so examples of chevaux de frise known to exist are in the mountainous border region between northwest Portugal and Spain.

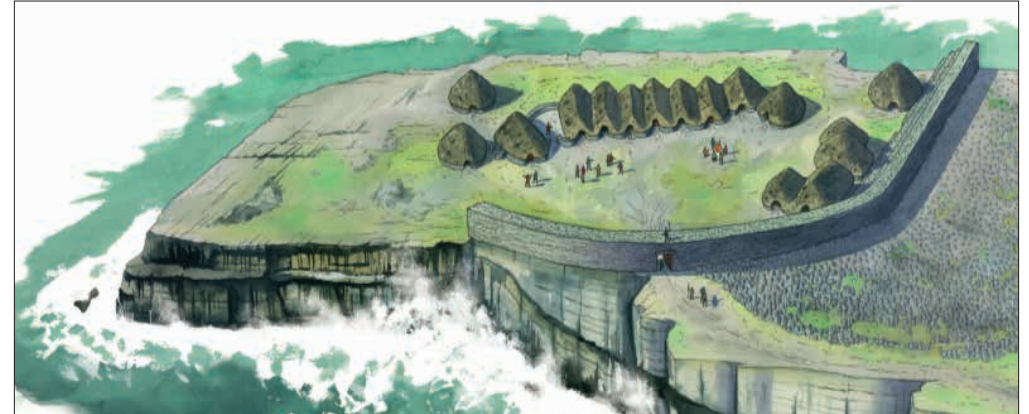


A massive wall cuts off a long promontory. Outside is a band of chevaux de frise. Cliff erosion is chipping away at the promontory - the collapsed entrance now lies precariously close to the cliff-edge.

Dún Dúchathair / the Black Fort

2.5km from Kiltronan by road, the last kilometre or so unpaved. Getting from there to the fort involves a 1km hike across broken limestone pavement.

L87046 07317



The collapsed remains of a row of longhouses are medieval in date at the earliest, but may be as late as the 18th century. The surrounding plateau is now almost denuded of soil, possibly due to overgrazing - the pre-famine population of the Aran Islands (ca. 3500 people) was around three times the current population.

Claire Cotter is a professional archaeologist who has worked extensively in the west of Ireland,. She was involved in the Archaeological Surveys of Co. Donegal and the Dingle Peninsula, and has directed multiple excavations including those at Dún Aonghasa and Dún Eoghanachta on Inishmore.

MOUNT WASHINGTON AND THE WHITE MOUNTAINS: A HIKER'S JOURNEY

MICHAEL SEAVER ON HIKING IN THE HIGHEST SUMMITS
OF THE NORTH-EASTERN UNITED STATES

Editor's Note. This excellent description of walking in the White Mountains evoked memories of walking in the Adirondacks in northern New York State. The same walking on regulated trails, often without views, the same volunteer support culture and accommodation. The author's comparisons with Ireland are amongst many great observations in the article.

One of the warning signs
near Mt. Washington



REACHING THE SUMMIT: THE ALLURE AND REALITY OF MOUNT WASHINGTON

Anticipation and Arrival

Picture it. A 7km hike to a height of 1,917m. I'm approaching the summit, eagerly anticipating views and solitude to reward my effort. Reaching Mt. Washington, the highest peak in the Northeast USA, I'm greeted with swarms of tourists who have driven or taken the cog railway to the summit.

Eating a hot dog after buying a stamp and sending a postcard from America's highest post office sums up the experience for tourists who visit the Mount Washington Weather Observatory. And the obligatory selfie at the summit sign. But for thousands of hikers who approach it from a spider's web of trails, it is the lodestar of the Presidential Range, a collection of summits in the White Mountains in New Hampshire named after American Presidents.

CHOOSING YOUR ROUTE: TRAILS AND CHALLENGES

Popular Trails like the Ammonoosuc*

These trails to Mt. Washington vary between precipitous and relatively easy. The most popular is the Ammonoosuc Trail (7km to the summit with an elevation gain of 1,157m), which begins with gentle slopes near woodlands and ends with boulder hopping near the summit. Choosing this, I was guaranteed an easy trek following a clear trail, with the back-up of trees and rocks blazed with paint, important navigational aids when the path is obscured with snow.

Whichever route is chosen, the changeable weather is a constant consideration. Mt. Washington has the worst weather in the USA, with the highest wind recorded at 372km/h in 1934. (Signs with bleak warnings greeted me as I left the Alpine Zone and headed onto the exposed rocks.) But in good weather, the White Mountains offer a huge choice of hikes, from isolationist treks into forests up to 20km from the nearest road, to always-busy family routes. Straddling almost 9,000 sq km, the range has 3,000km of carefully maintained paths, some dating back to the nineteenth century.

NORTH AMERICA

View from Mt. Washington
with Cog Railway line



EXPLORING THE PRESIDENTIAL RANGE AND BEYOND

Handy lists

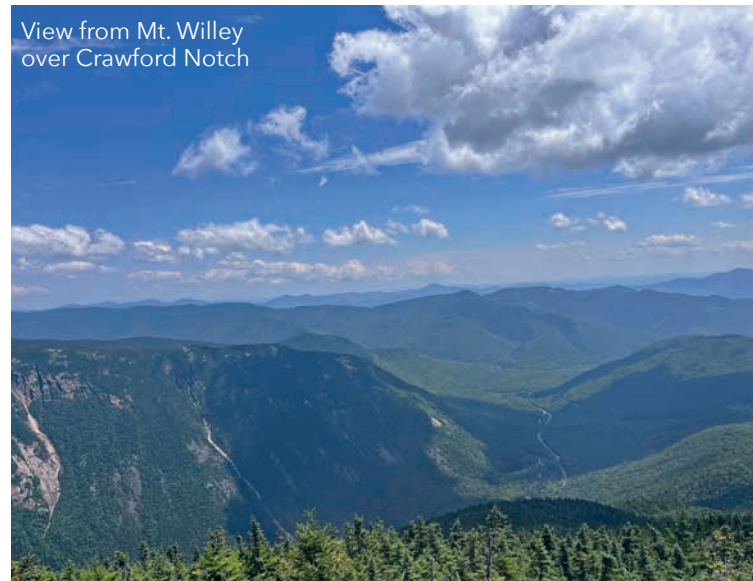
Deciding on a hike is helped by the various lists. There are the "4,000 Footers": forty-eight mountains throughout the range over the height of 4,000 feet or 1,219m. Then the "Terrifying 25": hikes where precariousness takes precedence over height, distance, or views. And then the "32 With A View": hikes for the to-die-for selfie.

Key Peaks: Mt. Tom, Mt. Field, Mt. Willey

With an eye to ticking off some 4,000-footers and after conquering Mt. Washington, I set out to bag three more in a single outing. Mt. Tom (1,234m), Mt. Field (1,301m), and Mt. Willey (1,293m) are all reachable in a 15km hike with just 1,026m elevation gain. Conveniently, the trailhead is in Crawford Notch, where the Appalachian Mountain Club's Highland Center offers parking, meals, and accommodation.

Although armed with a map, my hike was defined by trails, each clearly signposted at every interchange, so the route felt like driving directions. Starting on the Avalon Trail, continuing on the A-Z Trail, taking a right at the Mt. Tom Spur, then doubling back to rejoin the A-Z trail, taking a left up the Willey Range Trail to Mount Field and Mount Willey, then doubling back via the Avalon Trail to the car park.

View from Mt. Willey
over Crawford Notch



SENSES OF THE FOREST: HIKING THROUGH NEW ENGLAND WILDERNESS

A Different Kind of Hiking Experience

Apart from the clear signage, what is different is the lack of

constant views. Used to treeless ascents in Ireland, here the majority of the trails are enclosed in forests up to the tree line of about 1,160m to 1,280m. Panoramic vistas are paid for in hard steps, and not always guaranteed. Mountains higher than Carrauntoohil can be tree-bound at the top.

This lack of visual stimulus is compensated by other senses: constant birdsong and the fragrance of balsam fir - which New Englanders preserve in scented cushions - add to the enjoyment of the ascent. Mt. Tom and Mt. Field offered no views, but a viewpoint near the summit of Mt. Willey had a sweeping vista of Crawford Notch.

NORTH AMERICA



On the summit of Mt. Pierce looking towards Mt. Washington (centre)

FOLLOWING HISTORIC PATHS: THE CRAWFORD PATH AND APPALACHIAN TRAIL

Mt. Pierce and Mt. Jackson Treks

The next day, two more 4,000 footers were ticked off. I could bag Mt. Pierce (1,308m) and Mt. Jackson (1,211m) in 12km with an elevation gain of 882m. The route again began from Crawford Notch, this time heading east along the 205-year-old Crawford Path, the oldest continuously-used mountain trail in America.

Mt. Pierce is regarded as the easiest of the 4,000 footers, and its summit offers views across the Presidential Range. The Crawford Path continues to Mt. Washington and beyond in a route known as the Presidential Traverse (think Maumturks Traverse except with an extra 5km and 200m elevation gain). Above the tree line, it rewards the hiker with constant views across the range.

Experiencing the Appalachian Trail Culture

Leaving Mt. Pierce and the Crawford Path, I turned south towards Mt. Jackson on the Webster Cliff Trail. I was now following the

Appalachian Trail, the 3,540 km trail between Georgia and Maine, where passers-by included hardened through-hikers traveling north on their way to Maine. Just 550 km to go. On the way, I had a breather and refilled my water at the Mizpah Hut. Like the Highland Center, it is run by the Appalachian Mountain Club, offering overnight accommodation, meals, snacks, and advice.



The inside of the Mizpah Hut on the Appalachian Trail

MANAGING POPULARITY: CROWDS, CONSERVATION, AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Increased Popularity and Rescue Efforts

As in Ireland, hiking and trail running have become more popular, and this increased activity has led to crowded car parks and increased call-outs for volunteer mountain rescue groups. On a weekend this October, all 1,500 car spaces at the Franconia Notch State Park were full, taken up by sight-seers viewing the beautiful autumn foliage on Artist Bluff Trail. The chaotic scenes at the over-

NORTH AMERICA



Trees blazed with coloured paint keep the hiker on course

crowded path and viewing point made national news. The nearby Franconia Ridge is the most popular area in the White Mountains, and some trails have had to be re-designed due to an increase in accidents.

Volunteer Support and Local Concerns

Various episodes of the SLASR Podcast ("Sounds Like a Search and Rescue Podcast") - there are lots about hiking in New Hampshire - outline how many of the ill-equipped

hikers that need rescuing are day-trippers from Massachusetts - disparagingly referred to as "Massholes" by locals. The irony is that the original trails were constructed by individuals from Massachusetts excited to open routes into the White Mountains. Nowadays, it is teams of local volunteers who clear debris and check signage.

COMPARING NEW ENGLAND TO IRELAND: A UNIQUE BUT WORTHWHILE TREK

Differences in Terrain and Navigation

There is much to admire in the White Mountains' comprehensive network of trails and huts. They are well-maintained, free from litter



Sign at the beginning of the Crawford Path

and vandalism, and well supported by Federal, State, and volunteer bodies. But there is a certain lack of independence for the hiker. In clear weather, if you stick to the trails, no other form of navigation is required (but is always advisable). It is a

different hiking experience from Ireland, but since it needs just one flight to Boston and a 3-hour drive, it is one well worth exploring.

Ammonoosuc*

The name "Ammonoosuc" originates from the Abenaki language and refers to a "small, narrow fishing place" or, more generally, a place known for its fishing opportunities. This name was likely inspired by the river's numerous narrow sections that are ideal for fishing. The Ammonoosuc River begins in New Hampshire's White Mountains and flows southwest, eventually joining the Connecticut River. Historically, this area was significant to the Abenaki people, who relied on its abundant fishing spots and established temporary camps along the riverbanks.

Today, the Ammonoosuc River is recognized for both its natural beauty and cultural heritage, playing a notable role in the region's environmental conservation efforts and recreational activities.

AUGUST PHOTOS



Carrauntoohil: From just below Beenkeragh 📷 [omurchu](#)
Photo source: mountainviews.ie/summit/1/comment/24269/

AUGUST PHOTOS



Keelogyboy Mountain Far East Top: from the col with Hangman's Hill. 📷 Colin Murphy
Photo source: mountainviews.ie/summit/742/comment/24251/

AUGUST PHOTOS



Ben More: Brocken spectre in the mist 📷 Lauranna
Photo source: mountainviews.ie/summit/B1301/comment/24272/

SEPTEMBER PHOTOS



Crossderry: Looking into the Black Valley from ridge 📷 Colin Murphy
Photo source: mountainviews.ie/track/5170/

SEPTEMBER PHOTOS



Coolroe: Seen from Kerry way, col to the left 📷 Colin Murphy
Photo source: mountainviews.ie/track/5171/

SEPTEMBER PHOTOS



The Blue Eye: Source of the Bistricë River, Albania 📷 *Colin Murphy*
Photo source: mountainviews.ie/track/5165/

OCTOBER PHOTOS



Maumturkmore: Looking NW from the summit 📷 Colin Murphy
Photo source: mountainviews.ie/track/5185/

OCTOBER PHOTOS



Maumturkmore: Nature's light show, between Bencollaghduff and Benbaun, from Maumturkmore's flank 📷 *Colin Murphy*
Photo source: mountainviews.ie/track/5185/

OCTOBER PHOTOS



Binnein Beag: Viewed from the Binnein Mòr ascent, Mamores, Scotland 📷 *billbaggins*
Photo source: mountainviews.ie/track/5188/

THE BEST VIDEO PICKS FOR NOVEMBER

Cruach Mhór to Cnoc na Péiste Ridge



The Eastern Reeks

YouTuber **John Finn** tackles the intimidating summits of Cruach Mhór and The Big Gun in the MacGillycuddy's Reeks of Kerry. Known for their rugged beauty, Cruach Mhór (931m) and The Big Gun (939m) are part of the Reeks, Ireland's highest mountain range, offering spectacular but challenging climbs.

youtube.com/watch?v=UTgeYqtiyA8

Sligo-Leitrim Mountaineering - 4K HDR Drone Footage.



Sligo and Leitrim by Drone

YouTuber **Mountain Mac** presents sumptuous aerial footage of Sligo and Leitrim, capturing Knocknarea, the striking flat-topped Benbulbin, and the Devil's Chimney waterfall, Ireland's tallest. This stunning film showcases the iconic landscapes of the northwest in remarkable detail.

youtube.com/watch?v=SDvhKSv8rjI

A strenuous yet rewarding hike & camp - Glencorbet Horseshoe, Twelve Bens Connemara



The Twelve Bens

Miriam Kennedy explores Galway's Glencorbet Horseshoe in the Twelve Bens, a challenging circuit of peaks known for their jagged silhouettes and expansive views of bare land as cropped by sheep. The Twelve Bens are renowned for their mostly quartzite peaks and provide some of Ireland's most rewarding hillwalking experiences.

youtu.be/SilribPqxdk?si=S4ltR-hHVGmOSihG

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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. 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 1800 365 123
- 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 visited some of the less well known places, we would appreciate a place rating (click here to rate place) and also GNSS (GPS) readings for the summits, islands, headlands etc using the button  to 'Improve Grid Reference'
- 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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Assistant editors: Colin Murphy, Peter Walker

Article preparation: Peter Walker

Summit comment reviews: Colin Murphy, David Murphy

Track reviews: Peter Walker

Book reviews: Conor Murphy, Peter Walker

Videography: Peter Walker

Graphic design: Brendan O'Reilly

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