

Sliabh Liag Hillwalkers

Review of the February 2014 Walk

By Peadar Gillespie

The first walk of 2014 organised by the club brought us to Glencolmcille on Sunday afternoon, 24 January 14, with the start point at the picnic area located 1 km from Cashel Village. It's a scenic vantage point with panoramic views over the Glen valley and Atlantic Ocean.

Despite testing windy conditions with occasional flurries of hail showers, the group nevertheless enjoyed a fine loop walk and completed the journey without getting wet.

As we traversed the firm track high above Cashel Village toward Dooey, the whitecaps and surf waves of the turbulent sea breaking on the headland rocks were a marvelous sight on the day, with dramatic photos being snapped.

Walking further along through moorland and bog on the track, we encountered two showers of hail which thankfully passed after a few minutes as we climbed to the crest of the hill and then descended towards Malinmore – with Malinbeg and Rathlin O'Birne Island lying further afield.

The island was partly obscured due to the prevailing weather conditions.

The track now reached the public road linking Malinmore to Meenavean. We turned left here and proceeded to walk along the road for 1.5 km to Glenmalin Valley, with the neat premises of Glencolmcille Woolen Mills on left.

This area has archaeology in abundance, with standing stones, portal, wedge tombs and a court tomb, which feature as part of the landscape through this area.

A short distance further on we left the road and took to the track on our left and began to climb the hill towards Mullyoo. We viewed two mountain lakes some distance from this track. On reaching high ground here we descended and soon the vista of Cashel Village, the Glencolmcille Valley and the coastline came into view once again as we retraced our track back to the start point at the picnic Carpark.

This is an enjoyable moderate walk of 9 km, which can be easily done over two hours. The club organizes a program of walks through the year with a strenuous walk on the last Sunday of month and a easy walk on mid Sunday of the month.

Why not join us on an upcoming walk?