

Sliabh Liag Hillwalkers AGM

In his address to the fourth AGM of the Sliabh Liag Hillwalkers the outgoing chairman Paddy McBrearty stated that 2013 was another busy year for the club.

The walking festival was a great success, with over seventy walkers on the hills over the two days, walkers taking part from all over Ireland, the UK and USA. The weather was reasonable over the two days and everyone enjoyed the walks and promised to talk part in future walks organised by the group. He thanked all members who helped out. He went on to thank Sean Scoile na Carraige and Aislann Chill Chartha for accommodating the registration on the festival walks, the Bridge Bar, Carrick and Kilcar House, Kilcar for providing soup and sandwiches, Joe Haughey and Patrick McShane for providing the transport. He also thanked the many landowners for their support and kindness and all the leaders and everyone who helped during the Walking Festival and through the year. He thanked Cllr. Brendan Byrne for his support and Cllr John Campbell for his support and a cheque of €200.00. He thanked Declan Gillespie for organising the Mountain Skills and First Aid training and the tutors Bren Whelan and Mick Tracey.

The club met for the two walks per month, it was good to see new walkers joining for the first time, and hopefully this trend will continue this year. The numbers participating on the walks was reasonable throughout the year although some walks were affected by clashing with other events.

New walks were undertaken which were enjoyed, including a walk on Benbulbin, the weather was lovely and thirty walkers took part from all over Ireland, Poland, etc; thanks to John Murrin for leading that walk.

On another positive note the Sliabh Liag Walkers were able to help out in the organisation of the Kilcar Fleadh walk raising €1,300.00 for Crumlin Hospital and with the Centra Kilcar fundraising walk, raising the sum of €800.00. The club also organised a fundraising walk for the Donegal Mountain Rescue Team raising €1,000.

The club helped Coláiste na Carraige students with their Gaisce Bronze and Silver Award when walking to Port and Glenlough, camping in Port overnight and returning to Carrick by Glen Head and Cashel, club treasurer Brid McGinley presented the awards to the students on the presentation evening; a big honour for the club.

Members of the club also helped Coláiste na Carraige Students with a history walk , with twenty five students from transition year taking part.

The club is always willing to help out with local events and schools. The club has been asked to help out with the Killybegs Vocational School this year on their Gaisce Awards.

Club members led other walks including two days leading a visiting group of Garda from Dublin, which was enjoyed very much. The Secretary of the Garda Mountaineering Club; Stephen Gavin

wrote a lovely article about the walks for their magazine, the article was also published in Mountaineering Ireland magazine 'Mountain Log' Autumn 2013.

Before moving on to the election of new officers Mr. McBrearty said it was a real pleasure to serve as Chairperson of the Sliabh Liag Hill Walkers for the last two year and thanked all the committee and club members, leaders and people who helped.

The following officers were elected for the coming year: Chairperson - Paddy McBrearty, Vice Chair - Marion McGinley, Secretary - Mai McCann, Assistant Secretary - Peadar Gillespie, Treasurer - Brid McGinley, Assistant Treasurer - Suzanne Byrne, PRO - Seán Ó Beirne.

The members are very grateful to the management and staff of the Slieve League Lodge, Carrick for providing a room for meetings on a regular basis and also to the Killybegs International Carpet Making & Fishing Centre and Áislann Chill Chartha.

Annual Membership Fee is €25 for individuals and €35 for a family. Completed Membership Application Forms should be returned with appropriate fee (if paying by cheque, to be made payable to Sliabh Liag Hillwalkers) to either :- Brid McGinley, Sieve, Glencolmcille, Co. Donegal or Suzanne Byrne, Main Street, Carrick, Co. Donegal or to any member of the committee.