



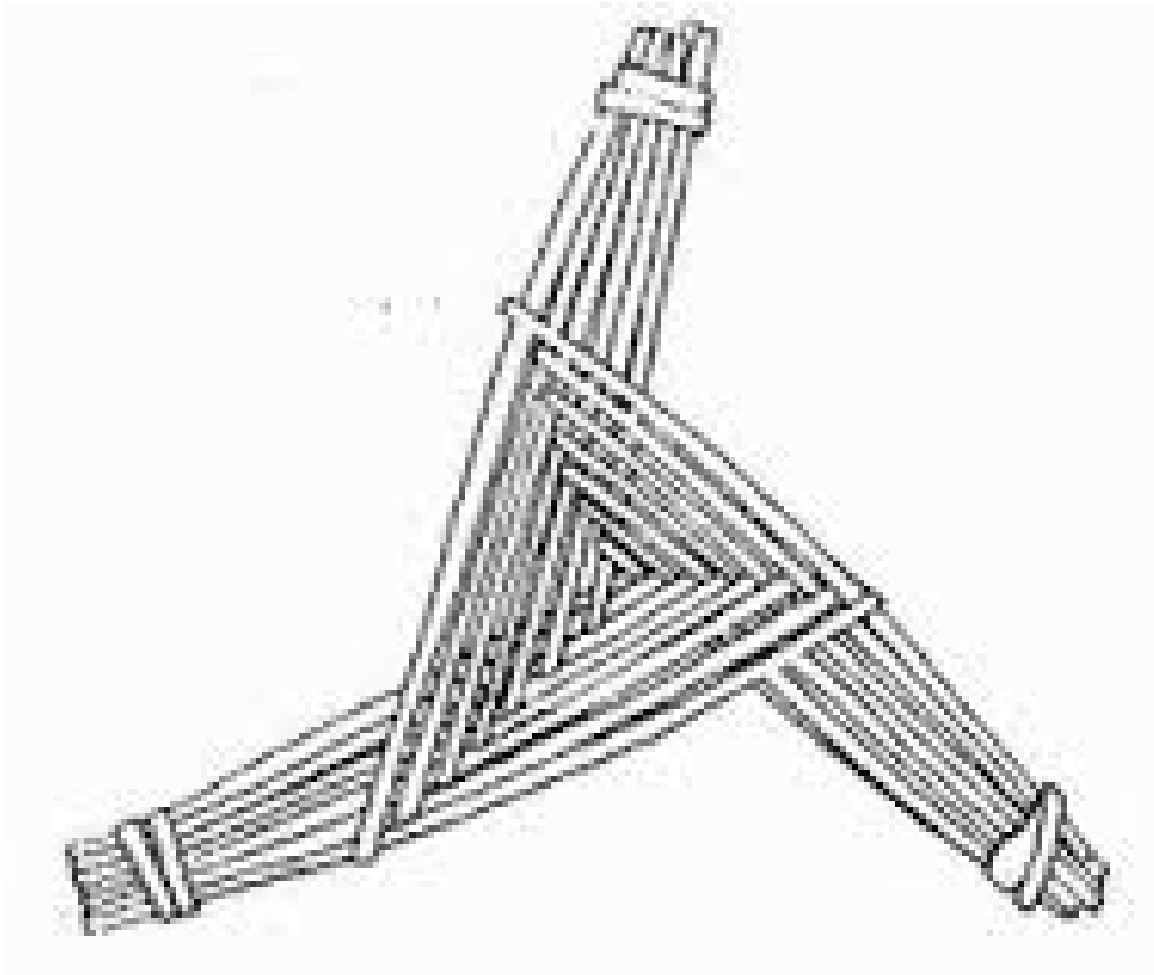
Cumann Siúlóirí  
na h-Éireann

# The Rambler

February 2017

Contributions to:  
[editor@theramblers.ie](mailto:editor@theramblers.ie)  
Deadline for March, 2017 issue:  
16th Feb, 2017

*As Brigid comes with white cap on  
We face another day*



*When the joys of birth...  
Can wash a Winter's tear*

Tim Dennehy

## PLEASE NOTE

If you have **not yet renewed** your membership you should be aware that this is the **last Rambler** before the deadline of **January 31st**.

### Hike Programme – February 2017

Please remember that all hikes commence from the Start Point and at the Time given in the hike programme. Please note the start times given below and plan to arrive at least fifteen minutes before that time.

The Club would encourage members to continue to seek to car pool to hikes if at all possible, so please use the club website to do so or make arrangements directly with your fellow hikers, as others already do, or contact those living in your area. Members availing of lifts should offer to share/contribute towards drivers' expenses. It is advisable to try to share your car with others and not to rely totally on the beneficence of others. Car pooling arrangements should be made in advance of the hikes. If members are uncertain about how to get to the start location, they should contact the leader or another member to get directions. **Leaders please ensure the hike departs at the laid down time from the start point.** Essential requirements for all Club hikes are adequate weatherproof and waterproof clothing, a map and compass, hiking boots, a rucksack, sufficient food and hot drinks, plus emergency rations for the day; a whistle, torch, double survival bag and first aid kit. For comfort after the hike a towel and change of clothing are recommended. Leaders and hikers please do not lose contact with each other. ***In common with all forms of mountaineering, hiking/hill walking is an adventure activity with inherent risk of personal injury or death. You are responsible for yourself on the mountains at all times.***

Please check the **Club Website** the day before in case of hike changes, details of changes if any will be shown in red and will be available on the '**Current Hikes Page**' in the Members Area.

In uncertain weather, contact leader before leaving home

**Hike Leaders please remember to complete your hike report on the Rambler Web Site**

### THURSDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY

Area: Enniskerry

Security Curtlestown: Vera Lynch & Geraldine Cleary

**Please car pool from Enniskerry and only bring full cars to Curtlestown as space is limited, a great chance to practice car pooling please try it!!!**

**Grade 3+ Start Time: 11:00 Leader: Clodagh Veale Ph. 087 959 8275**  
**Start Curtlestown CP (O: 185 169) - Curtlestown Wood - WW - Prince William's Seat - Knocknagun - Pine Forest - Bornaraltry - Ballinaughtach - Raven's Rock - Curtlestown Wood.**  
**Distance: 17.6km Ascent: 824m**

**Grade 3 Start Time: 11:30 Leader: Eoghan Brangan Ph. 086 3013532**  
**Start Curtlestown (O 185 168) - Wicklow Way - Raven's Rock - Prince William's Seat - Knocknagun - Neal's Quarry - Kenny's Quarry - Wicklow Way - Cars.**  
**Distance: 14km Ascent: 550m**

**Grade 4 Start Time: 11:00 Leader: Jack Morrissey Ph. 086 8302423**  
**Start Battle of the Boyne Centre (via Donore) - Boyne River - Drogheda - Battle of Boyne Centre**  
**Distance: 13km Ascent: 75m**  
**Special Option of a guided tour of the Centre @ €3/4 per person**

**Grade 5 Start Time 11:00 Leader: Jack Morrissey Ph. 086 8302423**  
Join **Grade 4** today for a hike in the Boyne Valley – Details as in **Grade 4** entry above  
Note that the coffee shop will be open beforehand!

**SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Area: Enniskerry**

**Refreshments & Food: Powerscourt Arms Enniskerry**

**Security Long Hill/Djouce CP: Hugh McNally & Shelia Powell**

**Crone Wood CP: Patrick & Caroline Gray**

**Grade 1**

**Start @ 10:30 Leader: Brian Casey Ph. 087 2870058**

**Please check with Brian in advance to confirm if hike is on**

**Grade 2**

**Start Djouce Wood CP (O: 213 132) @ 10:30 Leader: Orla Mhic Athlaoich Ph. 086 2391497**

Djouce/Long Hill CP – Deerpark – Maulin – Tonduffs – War Hill – Djouce – Deerpark - Cars

**Distance: 22km Ascent: 900m**

**Grade 3+**

**Start Djouce Wood CP (O: 213 132) @ 10:30 Leader: Aine Gaughan Ph. 0863510633**

Djouce Wood – Detail to follow

**Distance: km Ascent: m**

**Grade 3**

**Start Crone CP (O: 192 142) @ 11:00 Leader: Donie Harmon Ph. 0868098397**

Crone CP- WW- Djouce - Maulin - Forest Tracks - Cars.

**Distance: 16km Ascent: 800m**

**Grade 4**

**Start Crone Wood CP (O:192 142) @ 11:30 Leader: Betty White Ph. 087 2151868**

Crone Wood - WW - Glenree Valley - WW - Knockree - Tracks - Lackan Wood - Cars

**Distance: 10km Ascent: 350m**

**Grade 5**

**Start Crone Wood CP (O: 192 142) @ 11:30 Leader: Una Whitney Ph. 087 2932572**

Crone Wood - Ride Rock - contour woods and tracks around Maulin – Tracks – Cars

**Distance: 10km Ascent: 300m**

**THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Area: Enniskerry**

**Security Long Hill/Djouce CP: Des O Connell & Anthony Kenny**

**Grade 3+ Start Time: 11:00 Leader: Grainne McLaughlin Ph. 087 2493714**

**Start Long Hill CP (O: 213 132) - Earls Drive - Powerscourt Waterfall - WW - Djouce - Masons Glen -**

**Powerscourt Paddock - Forest Tracks - Cars**

**Distance: 17km Ascent: 730m**

**Grade 3 Start Time: 11:30 Leader: Liam Johnston Ph. 087 7595297**

**Start Long Hill CP (O: 213 132) – Forrest Tracks – Paddock Pond – Wicklow Way – Djouce – Tracks - Cars**

**Distance: 14km Ascent: 550m**

**Grade 4 Start Time: 11:00 Leader: Hazel Doyle Ph. 086 6095681**

**Start Kilgobbin Cemetery (O: 190 224) - Fairy Castle - Two Rock – Barnacullia**

**Distance: 13km Ascent: 450m**

**Grade 5 Start Time 11:00 Leader: Deirdre Stuart Ph: 086 2571828**

**Djouce Woods CP (O: 213 132) - tracks – Paddock Pond – tracks - cars**

**Distance: 11km Ascent: 300m**

**SATURDAY 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Co-ordinator Michael Cosgrave Ph. 087 9720003**

**Area: Laragh/Glendalough**

**Security Trooperstown CP: Mary Crosbie & Paul Anthony Dooley**

**Grade 3 Start Time: 11:00 Leader: Paul Gorecki Ph. 087 6468895**  
**Start: Trooperstown Car Park (T: 159 969) – Forest Tracks – WW – Paddock Hill – Scarr – Tracks – WW – Annamoe – Forest Tracks – Cars.**  
**Distance: 16km Ascent: 600m**

**SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Area: Cruagh/Tibradden**

**Refreshments & Food:**

**Security Tibradden: Joe Reinhardt & Vincent O Hagan**

**Grade 1**  
**Start @ 10:30 Leader: Brian Casey Ph. 087 2870058**  
**Please check with Brian in advance to confirm if hike is on**

**Grade 2**  
**Start Glencree Recon Centre (O: 142 179) @ 10:30 Leader: Doreen Lynch Ph. 087 956 5863**  
Glencree Recon Centre - Road to McGuirks Cottage – Eagles Crag – Kippure - Turfcutters Road – Bullaun Stone – White Sands Mountain – Glendoo – Knocknagun – Track to Oldboleys – German War Cemetery – Cars  
**Distance: 20km Ascent: 1000m**

**Grade 3+**  
**Start Glencree Recon Centre (O: 142 179) @ 10:30 Leader: Sheila Moran Ph. 086 3745207**  
Glencree Recon Centre (O: 142 179) - Lough Bray - Eagles Crag - Turfcutters Road - Glendoo - Knocknagun - P. Williams Seat - Old Boleys - Cars  
**Distance: 18.5km Ascent: 620m**

**Grade 3**  
**Start Tibradden CP (O: 139 227) @ 11:00 Leader: Connie Ryan Ph. 087 9257746**  
Tibradden - Tracks - Tibradden Mt. - Three Rock - Fairy Castle - Tracks - Cars  
**Distance: 12km Ascent: 500m**

**Grade 4**  
**Start Tibradden CP (O: 139 227) @ 11:30 Leader: Rita Cummins Ph. 087 6204413**  
Tibradden - Tracks - Fairy Castle - Two Rock - Tracks - Three Rock - Tracks - Cars  
**Distance: 14km Ascent: 400m**

**Grade 5**  
**Start Tibradden CP (O: 139 227) @ 11:30 Leader: Mary McMahon Ph. 087 2825833**  
Tibradden CP - Dublin Mountain Way to Fairy Castle and back.  
**Distance: 10km Ascent: 200m**

**THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Area: Glen of Imaal/Pier Gates**

**Security WW North CP: Eoghan & Carolin Brangan**

**Grade 3+ Start Time: 11:00 Leader: Aidan Punch Ph. 086 8514209**  
**Start Donard Church (S: 932 979) – Drumreagh – Sugarloaf – Logar – Lobawn – Corriebracks – Kilcoagh – Cars**  
**Distance: 18km Ascent: 600m**

**Grade 3 Start Time: 11:30 Leader: Peter Caulwell Ph. 086 2335943**  
**Start Donard School (S: 929 978) - Road to tracks - Sugarloaf - Logar - Lobawn - Pinnacle - Road to Cars**  
**.Distance: 15km Ascent: 460m**

**THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY (CONTINUED)**

**Area: Glen of Imaal/Pier Gates**  
**Security WW North CP: Eoghan & Carolin Brangan**

**Grade 4**      **Start Time: 11:00**      **Leader: Pat Cummins**      **Ph. 086 2535812**  
**Start Wicklow Way North CP (O: 169 075) - WW - White Hill - Djouce - WW - Paddock Wall - Ballinastoe Wood**  
**Distance: 12km**      **Ascent: 400m**

**Grade 5**      **Start Time 11:00**      **Leader: Ann Stenson**      **Ph: 087 6713857**  
**Meet: at 11:00 at Tolka River Bridge** on Finglas Road (Bus No 40 or 140 from Upper O'Connell Street to bus stop after service station, after cemetery, before river bridge)  
Tolka Valley Park - Ashtown - Royal Canal Way - The Twelfth Lock - Phibsborough - bus back  
**Distance: 10km**      **Ascent: nominal**

**SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Area: Blessington**  
**Refreshments & Food: West Wicklow Pub Blessington**  
**Security Ballyknockan CP: Fran Clarke & Carol Doyle**

**Grade 1**  
**Start @ 10:30**      **Leader: Brian Casey**      **Ph. 087 2870058**  
**Please check with Brian in advance to confirm if hike is on**

**Grade 2**  
**Start Ballyknockan (O: 011 073) @ 10:30**      **Leader: Dorothy Byrne**      **Ph. 087 9698184**  
Ballyknockan - Silsean - Moanbane - Mullaghcleevaun - Black Hill - Pound Lane - Road to cars  
**Distance: 20km**      **Ascent: 810m**

**Grade 3+**  
**Start Ballyknockan (O: 011 073) @ 10:30**      **Leader: Grainne McLaughlin**      **Ph. 087 2493714**  
Ballyknockan - Silsean - Mullaghcleevaun - Moanbane - Silsean Quarry - tracks.  
**Distance: 16km**      **Ascent: 860m**

**Grade 3**  
**Start Lackan (O: 012 108) @ 11:00**      **Leader: Paul Caffrey**      **Ph. 087 6593529**  
Zellers Pub - Lackan - Black Hill - Sorrel Hill - Lugnagun - Road walk - Cars  
**Distance: 14km**      **Ascent: 500m**

**Grade 4**  
**Start Lackan (Zellers/Church) (O: 012 108) @ 11:30**      **Leader: Donie Harmon**      **Ph. 086 8098397**  
Lackan (Zellers/Church) - Road walk - Blackhill Hill - Sorrell Hill - Lugnagun - Cars.  
**Distance: 13km**      **Ascent: 530m**

**Grade 5**  
**Start Lackan (Zellers/Church) (O: 012 108) @ 11:30**      **Leader: Josephine Keane**      **Ph. 087 6906365**  
Lackan - Sorrel Hill - Lackan  
**Distance: 9.5km**      **Ascent: 380m**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Area: Glendalough/Laragh**

**Grade 3+**      **Start Time: 11:00**      **Leader: Deirdre Morris**      **Ph. 086 8109280**  
**Start Glendalough Visitors CP (T: 126 969) - WW - Brockagh's - Lough Ouler - Tonelagee - Wicklow Gap - St Kevins Road - Cars**  
**Distance: 17km**      **Ascent: 770m**

**THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY (CONTINUED)**

**Area: Glendalough/Laragh**

**Grade 3 Start Time: 11:30 Leader: Mary Delahunty Ph. 01 8461930**  
**Start Glendalough Visitor Centre CP (T: 126 969) - Brockaghs - Forest Tracks - WW – Cars**  
**Distance: 15km Ascent: 500m**

**Grade 4 Start Time: 11:00 Leader: Carol Doyle Ph. 087 4186693**  
**Start Trooperstown CP (T: 159 993)- Trooperstown Woods – Paddock Hill**  
**Distance: 13km Ascent: 300m**

**Grade 5 Start Time 11:00 Leader: Anita Muldowney Ph: 4936710**  
**Cars to Roundwood (on left before Coach House Inn)**  
**Trooperstown –Brushers Gap – Slopes of Scarr - Paddock Hill – Trooperstown**  
**Distance: 10km Ascent: 300m**

**SATURDAY 25<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Co-ordinator Michael Cosgrave Ph. 087 9720003**

**Area: Glendalough**

**Grade 3 Start Time: 11:00 Leader: Mary Conlon Ph. 085 1314032**  
**Glendalough Visitors Centre (T: 126 969) – Green Road – Derrybawn Ridge – Cullentra/Mullacor**  
**Junction – Forest Tracks – Green Road – Reizen Rock – Tracks -Cars**  
**Distance: 14km Ascent: 550m**

**SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY**

**Area: Glenmacnass**

**Refreshments & Food:Coach House Roundwood**

**Security Glenmacnass: Michael Cosgrave**

**Grade 1**  
**Start @ 10:30 Leader: Brian Casey Ph. 087 2870058**  
**Please check with Brian in advance to confirm if hike is on**

**Grade 2**  
**Start Glenmacnass CP (O: 114 030) @ 10:30 Leader: Joe Byrne Ph. 087 2463634**  
**Glenmacnass - L.Ouler - Tonlagee - Barnacullian - Mullaghcleevaun - M. Lake - East Top - Carrigshouk -**  
**Tracks – Cars**  
**Distance: 18km Ascent: 900m**

**Grade 3+**  
**Start Glenmacnass CP (O: 114 030) @ 10:30 Leader: Teri Neylon Ph. 087 2322367**  
**Glenmacnass CP - Scarr Mountain – Paddock Hill – Red Barn – Barton Woods – Boy Scouts Lough Dan –**  
**Brown Mountain – Kanturk – Cars**  
**Distance: 18km Ascent: 650m**

**Grade 3**  
**Start Glenmacnass CP (O: 114 030) @ 11:00 Leader: Frank Sutcliffe Ph. 085 7386245**  
**Glenmacnass – Brown Mt. – Scarr – return via Inchavarra River – Brown Mt. – Cars**  
**Distance: 15km Ascent: 500m**

**Grade 4**  
**Start Glenmacnass CP (O: 114 030) @ 11:30 Leader: Dermot Leahy Ph. 087 9067796**  
**Glenmacnass - towards Scarr – Kanturk - Lough Dan – Inchavore River – Forest Tracks - Cars**  
**Distance: 13km Ascent: 450m**

**Grade 5 Low Level Hike**  
**Start Malahide Dart Station @12.00 Leader: Pam Forde Ph. 087 2340611**  
**Dart Station - Malahide Castle – Paddy’s Hill – Coastal Path – Dart Station**  
**Distance: 10km Ascent: 60m**  
**Dart Dept Bray 10.30, arrive Pearse 11.08. Change to Drogheda train leaving Pearse 11.18, Connolly 11.25**  
**arrives Malahide @ 11.44**

**FINAL AGM REMINDER**

The Club’s AGM will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> March in Wynn’s hotel at 7.30pm.

Members are reminded that nominations and Motions for debate must be proposed, seconded and received in writing, or by email, by the Secretary, Ann Egan, 68, Taney Road, Dundrum, Dublin 14 (e-mail: secretary@theramblers.ie) on or before the 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2017.

**FORMAT FOR NOMINATIONS**

I nominate .....for the position of .....

on the Executive Committee of the Irish Ramblers Club 2017

Signed.....Proposer\*

Signed.....Secunder\*

I accept the nomination..... Nominee\*

All of the above \* must be Full Members or Honorary Life Members of the Irish Ramblers Club

**Spreading our Wings: February 13<sup>th</sup> 2017.**



**Colm Wilkinson Concert at the National Concert Hall.**

**NB. Ticket holders take note: The Concert is on Monday night.**

**Please meet me at the Reception Desk area between 7.15 / 730pm to collect your tickets. After that time tickets not collected will be left at the Reception Desk to collect yourself. My contact on the night is**

**087 657 5813.**

See you there. *Angela.*

*Date for your Diary: **Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup>**. Marsh’s Library Tour.  
Thank you *Angela Hickey.**

Our condolences to

- Max O’ Neill on the recent death of his wife, Mary, both former Ramblers;
- Michael Doorly, father of Rambler Michael;

May they rest in peace.



**Boy, this Grade 5 Drum Up looks good!**

*The Thursday Grade 5 Drum Up had a visitor recently. Photo courtesy of John Gaughan*

#### **NEW MEMBERS**

Please extend a warm welcome to Anita Muldowney, Kay Tyrell , Angela O' Neill, Vincent Mc Donnell and Kevin Roche who have recently progressed from Associate Membership to Full Membership.

#### **OFFICIAL EVENT APPROVAL**

The Executive Committee has approved a proposed trip to the Burren on foot of a proposal from Eileen Murphy. Details as follows:

Two night stay in Falls Hotel Ennistymon on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> walking in the Burren at Grade 4 level. The special rate for dinner bed and breakfast is €180 pp for single room, €150pps. Deposits (20%) will be required at end of March. Booking and queries to Eileen Murphy. Email [eileen24murphy@gmail.com](mailto:eileen24murphy@gmail.com)

#### **REMINDER**

Sean Quinn invites you to PEARSE STREET LIBRARY , on WEDNESDAY, 15th FEBRUARY ! Refreshments and chat from 6 pm, for 6-30. Admission free. All welcome.



## All You Ever wanted to know about Phenology

The study of the timing of recurring life cycle events in plants and animals is called Phenology. Bud burst in trees, arrival of migratory birds and emergence of insects in Spring are examples of phenological events. Athur Stelfox initiated phenological records in Ireland in 1927. These early reports can be found in the Irish Naturalists Journal. A more systematic approach began in the 1960's where phenological gardens were established in Valentia, in Kerry, J.F.K. Park in Wexford, Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin and Johnstown Castle in Wexford. As a result of this initiative we now have almost 50 years of data for approximately nine cultivars of trees and shrubs. These records are part of an International Phenological Network. Here key events such as leaf unfolding, beginning of flowering and leaf fall are recorded. Data from 21 European countries indicates that 75% of Spring and Summer phenological events occurred earlier in 2000 than in 1971. This change was driven primarily by rising temperature. .

While it may not be surprising that rising Spring temperatures have had impacts, it is important to gather evidence of precise changes and to know what the implications are for ecosystems. In 2006 a study from 21 European countries used more than 100,000 Spring phenological records to demonstrate climate change effects on European ecosystems. Irish records suggest that Beech leaf unfolding occurs nearly three weeks earlier in 2008 than in the 1970's. This appears to be a good thing as longer growing season implies greater growth and carbon capture. However in years where late Spring frosts occur these tender young leaves will be more susceptible to damage. Later leaf fall is much less obvious from records as it is thought that day length is a stronger environmental cue than temperature in timing of this event.

Appearance and flight time of a range of moths and other insects and arrival of some Spring bird migrants and departure of Winter visitors are also recorded for Irish Phenological Records. Warmer June temperatures have resulted in earlier emergence of several common moth species. Insects are particularly sensitive to temperature for growth and development. At warmer temperatures extra generations can be produced in a given year and this has huge implications in terms of availability of food to the birds or animals that feed on them. Where the insects are pests of crops it has an economic impact. Numerous but not all, aquatic and terrestrial birds are arriving several weeks earlier. In a recent report it was found that from 1969 to 1999 the common cuckoo and sedge warbler were actually arriving later. Whooper swan arrival and departure dates are available from Kilcolman Nature Reserve in Cork since 1972. Whooper swans are now departing earlier in Spring than in 1972. Warmer soil temperatures in February trigger early grass growth and once the swans have gained enough condition from eating this grass they are ready to go.

Oak leaf emergence and caterpillar emergence are both responding to rising temperature at the same rate. Migrant birds feed on caterpillars. The birds also arrive early but not early enough to benefit from the peak in abundance of their food. This results in a reduction in number of bird chicks

that the food source can sustain. The worry is that mismatch in phenology may become more important in the future.

The Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) funded a major phenological study in 2007. Funding became available for the establishment of the Nature Watch website in 2010. This allowed citizens to contribute to phenological observations. Unfortunately this has been discontinued as funding ended. The BSBI (Botanical Society of British Isles) has continued to collect data from the public who can submit records on wild plants in flower over the New Year period.

Eileen Murphy



*Ramber Tom Moran in Joycean mode on a recent hike in Wicklow*



Miriam Byrne made Rambler history by completing all her induction hikes and her MS course and leading her first hike in less than 5 months. The picture shows Miriam and her on Sunday 8th January. Photo courtesy of Derek Treacy



Members of the grades 3,4 and 5 at the Lead Mines Chimney on the Combine walk on St Stephen's Day  
Photo courtesy of Catherine McAuliffe. .