

## Dingle Trip

C Group

26-30 May 2017

Ten of us at varying times made up the number on this trip - Alice McParland, Hilja McMahon, Toni Taylor, Mary O'Dea, Noel Rice, Gabriel McAuley, Kingsley Thompson, Norman Patton, Dermot MacDermott and Ray Gray. The aim of the C Group was to cover the same walks as the B Group, but at a much easier pace. None of us are getting any younger, particularly yours truly!

Day 1. Stradbally and Beenoskee

This was our opening bid. The weather forecast, although for dry weather, predicted mist on the tops. As these hills are local to Annascaul where we were based we did not wish to venture very far until we had the "feel of the mountains" This proved to be a great day and an excellent opener. We covered 16km with over 1000m of ascent. This was accomplished in seven and a half hours which gives a clue as to our steady pace! The only down side was that we did not enjoy much in the way of views above 600m due to the mist.

Day 2. Carrauntoohil

This was the big day! The weather forecast was much improved and for once became reality. Our route was through the Hag's Glen and up the Devil's Ladder. Our return was via the Zig Zags. This added a couple of kilometres onto the journey but was much preferred to descending via the Beenkeragh Ridge. We left that to the B Group! The walk was 13.5km with well over 1000m of ascent. We were on the hill for just short of 8 hours. Quite a day!

Day 3. Slieve Mish Mountains

This was another day with a poor weather forecast. Although it remained dry, again the mist was a problem the higher we climbed. There were one or two clear spells where spectacular views were to be seen, albeit briefly. This walk started and finished at sea level and included the summits of Bautregaum, Caherconree and Gearhane. We covered over 14km and ascent was a little short of 1100m. We were on the hill for 7 hours and it was another enjoyable day.

To conclude, I would like to express my thanks to Andrew McKibbin for organising the trip and also to personally thank Norman for assisting me in leading the C Group.

I look forward to next year!

Ray Gray