



# VIEWPOINT

The **Dublin Mountains Partnership** Newsletter



## Welcome to the inaugural issue of Viewpoint

The Dublin Mountains Partnership, or DMP, originally began working together in early 2006, and was formally established in May 2008 with the ultimate aim of improving the recreational experience for users of public lands in the Dublin Mountains, whilst recognising the objectives and constraints of the various landowners.

The partner organisations involved are Coillte, South Dublin County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Dublin City Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Dublin Mountains Initiative, an umbrella group representing the recreation users of the Dublin Mountains.

**“improving the recreational experience for users of public lands in the Dublin Mountains”**



**Dublin Mountains**  
Partnership



# Dublin Mountains Partnership Launch



On Friday 24th October, 2008, Eamon Ryan TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, officially launched the Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP) at an event in Tibbradden Woods.

A stormy set up day with marquee components blowing all over the car-park preceded a perfect crisp sunny Autumn morning for the launch. Speaking at the event, Minister Ryan said: "I am delighted to see

this Partnership formed with a strategic vision for the Dublin Mountains. As a frequent user of the area and a local representative, I have been aware of the pressure on the land owners to provide access for recreation for a number of years and also to manage the anti-social behaviour that can take place here. As Dublin's population has grown, so too have the demands on these hills, and the DMP has a plan in place to balance the needs of all. I commend all the members of the DMP and wish them well as they work together to improve on the already great recreation opportunities which the Dublin Mountains provide."

Also speaking at the event, Bill Murphy, Chairman of the Dublin Mountains Partnership said:

"This initiative brings together the key stakeholders to address the many issues faced by forest and other land managers in managing access to lands for recreation on the urban fringe. "

## DMP website launched...



For more information, please visit our website at [www.dublinmountains.ie](http://www.dublinmountains.ie) where regularly updated news, events and suggestions for activities in the DMP area are listed.



## Trail News



**THE WALKING TRAIL THAT CROSSES TIBBRADDEN MOUNTAIN HAS BEEN COMPLETELY UPGRADED, RAISED AND CAMBERED. WATER MANAGEMENT FEATURES HAVE BEEN ADDED AND ALMOST ALL MATERIALS USED IN THE TRAIL RECONSTRUCTION WERE SOURCED ONSITE. A SLEEPERED BOG BRIDGE WAS CONSTRUCTED AT THE SUMMIT IN ORDER TO MINIMISE GROUND DISTURBANCE AND LEADS TO THE STONE BURIAL TOMB WHICH IS PRESERVED AS A NATIONAL MONUMENT. WHERE POSSIBLE LARGE FLAT STONES WERE ALSO USED TO CONSTRUCT A PERMANENT TREAD WAY THAT WILL NEVER WEAR AWAY, THESE WERE ALSO USED A STEPS UP THE STEEP ACCESS ROUTE.**

Due to wear and tear over the years from many foot prints and the odd mountain bike tyre, the old trail had become very worn and unsustainable. In some places due to water damage, ruts of up to 6 feet deep had formed and in other places to try and avoid wet areas people had widened the trail ten fold. Due to the lack of water management features, the access route became a small water course in wet weather.

This was an ideal trail to start work on as part of Dublin Mountains Partnerships trail renewal plan. After a site evaluation a contractor with experience in trail building was chosen and work started at the beginning of September 2008.

Work finished on the trail at the end of November 2008 and we look forward to many more people enjoying this trail, both for the enjoyable walk but also for the magnificent views of

Dublin and the bay that can be seen from the top of Tibbradden mountain.

The next trail project will commence in 2009 in partnership with Mountain Meitheal, where a new mountain access route to national park land from Cruagh forest will be constructed.

This project was funded by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs under the Outdoor Recreation Programme



# Plans for 2009:

Amongst other projects in 2009 is the exciting development, in partnership with Mountain Meitheal, of a new mountain access route to National Park land from Cruagh Forest.

## Trail Upgrading and Conservation with Mountain Meitheal

Late February/Early March 2009

Mountain Meitheal (the volunteer trail conservation group) will commence work on a new mountain access route to National Park land from Cruagh forest in late February/early March.

The work will involve constructing 400m of bog bridge across badly eroded and wet peat soils along a forest ride line.

Volunteers are welcome to join the MM workdays which are held every second weekend throughout the season (February to November).

The work days begin at 10.30 am and alternate between Saturdays and Sundays.

For a full programme log on to [www.pathsavers.org](http://www.pathsavers.org)

The Cruagh is a joint project between Mountain Meitheal and the Dublin Mountains Partnership.

Get out, Get dirty, Give back.



## MANAGER PROFILE:

# Karen Woods

### WHAT'S YOUR NAME AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I'm Karen Woods (née Bothwell) and I hail from Sutton in Co Dublin, although my Summers were spent with my grand parents in Cavan, visiting Killykeen Forest Park from where my interest in forestry and the great outdoors began.

### WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER SCHOOL?

On leaving school, I attended UCD where I completed a degree in Agricultural Science specialising in forestry. During my time in UCD I spent two summers working in Berkeley University, California research forest with weekends exploring their amazing National Parks. It was here that my love for forestry was confirmed.

After graduating I secured a scholarship to complete a Masters in Forest Sciences

at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Here I saw Sitka spruce and Douglas fir in the magnificent old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest – it can be a most beautiful tree! Nearly three years later, I left Canada and went to work for a forestry company in New Zealand, followed by a few months hiking and kayaking the wonderful trails out there.

### PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR INTERESTS AND HOBBIES FOR US:

During my time in New Zealand I regularly used the countries numerous outdoor recreation facilities and I also started competing in triathlon. Returning to Ireland somewhat reluctantly, given its lack of recreation facilities, I got involved in a number of clubs – triathlon, road cycling and running. I represented Ireland in both road cycling and triathlon, and in 2005 set a new

Irish Women's Ironman record. During this period of intense training I also completed a Higher Diploma in Education.

### CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR CAREER TO DATE?

I commenced working with Coillte in 2004 and since 2006 have been working as Forest Manager in Kildare and East Laois, including Donadea Forest Park. My main areas of interest are forest ecology, forest recreation, and continuous cover forestry systems.

### WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS IN YOUR NEW POSITION AS DMP MANAGER?

I am thrilled to get this opportunity to combine my love for the forest environment with sport and outdoor recreation. The DMP will develop world class recreation facilities and encourage more people to get out, explore and enjoy the mountains and forests.

## VOLUNTEER RANGER SERVICE

As part of its programme to provide an enhanced recreation experience for the users of the Dublin Mountains, the DMP is embarking on a process of developing a Volunteer Ranger Service. The intention is to recruit a small number of people who would be interested in supporting the work of the DMP as volunteer rangers.

Volunteer rangers play an important role in the management of outdoor recreation in many other countries including the U.K. and the U.S. DMP volunteer rangers will play an important role in achieving the overall DMP objective of enhancing visitor enjoyment.

The duties undertaken by volunteer rangers will include assisting visitors to the DMP area, leading and helping with DMP organised events, promoting responsible use through the Leave No Trace Programme within the DMP area and providing support to the DMP full-time staff. Volunteer rangers will be expected to be able to commit to at least two days a month.

# VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

The role will be of interest to people who are attracted to working in the outdoors and who enjoy dealing with the public and being of service in a recreation type environment. Full training will be provided and it is anticipated that the new service will be launched in the coming Summer.

If you think you might be interested in such a role, all you need to do is to log on to the new DMP website, [www.dublinmountains.ie](http://www.dublinmountains.ie) and click on the link 'DMP Volunteer Ranger Service', where you can register your interest and your contact details. DMP will then contact you with further details of the application process.



# Upcoming DMP Events

## Irish Mountain Running Association – February 1st 2009

IMRA are running an event in Fairy Castle on Sunday 1st February starting at 11am - contacts should be through the website race coordinator <http://www.imra.ie/contacts/> and the event can be found here: <http://www.imra.ie/events/view/tab/details/id/580/>

## Night Orienteering – February 10th 2009

In addition there is a night event in Killiney Hill on Tuesday, 10th February. Starting times are between 18:00 and 19:00. Contact [juniorrep@orienteering.ie](mailto:juniorrep@orienteering.ie) or 045 867183



## The DUBLIN MOUNTAINS WAY



First mooted over twenty years ago in the County Dublin development plan, an east west route across the Dublin hills is beginning to take shape under the DMP stewardship. The new DUBLIN MOUNTAINS WAY will, when finished, be a long distance route that stretches from Shankill in the east to Killinarden in the west of the county. The route will cross a variety of landscapes from the conical shaped Carrickgollogan and the flat open moor lands of Fairy Castle and Two Rock to the Glenasmole valley with its reservoir. En route it will pass small villages like Glencullen and evidence of earlier man as it passes the prehistoric monuments on Fairy Castle and Tibbradden to the more recent Hell Fire club on Montpelier. The route will be mostly on forest and mountain trails and tracks or quiet county roads.

The first section of the new Way is already complete with the development of the Tibbradden mountain trail that links the car park at Tibbradden with the Wicklow Way.



Practising a Leave No Trace ethic is very simple: Make it hard for others to see or hear you and Leave No Trace of your visit. The seven principles of Leave No Trace are:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Be considerate of others
- Respect farm animals and wildlife
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Leave what you find
- Dispose of waste properly
- Minimise the impacts of fire

[www.leavenotraceireland.org](http://www.leavenotraceireland.org)

## COMPETITION!

We are looking for a catchy name for the new Dublin Mountains Partnership newsletter. Please email your suggestions to [info@dublinmountains.ie](mailto:info@dublinmountains.ie).

The winner will be selected by a panel from the board of the Dublin Mountains Partnership and will receive a gift voucher from an outdoor store to the value of €100.

Put your thinking caps on and get back to us with your ideas!

## Contact Us

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# Try This...

## The Dublin Mountains in half a day

Why not try our featured walk/hike some weekend this spring. With the recession and energy costs making us think more about our car use, this route allows us to take the bus or drive the short distance to the edge of the city to the start of our walk.

This route will take 3 – 4 hours with a stop for a break. Be prepared for all weathers, with waterproofs, extra fleece layers, sturdy boots and map and compass. This route is moderate to strenuous.

Starting at Marlay park (Dublin Bus route 16 will take you to Marlay from O'Connell Street or just come off to M50 to find ample parking at Dun Laoghaire Rathown County Council's wonderful Marlay Park). From here follow the Wicklow Way as it heads south parallel to the M50 before going under the motorway at White Church Road, then follow Kilmashogue Lane to the entrance to Kilmashogue Forest. The route now follows the forest road/ Wicklow Way as it climbs and enjoy some great views over the city and Dublin Bay. Stay on the forest road (leaving the Wicklow Way to your right) to join a tarred road that leads to the radio masts on the summit of Three Rock Mountain. Here you take a mountain trail to the top of Fairy Castle and rejoin the Wicklow Way as it heads towards Glencullen. Follow the Wicklow Way for about 20 minutes.

Approximately 5 minutes after you reach the Tibbradden Forest boundary you will see a new trail to the right, follow this trail over Tibbradden Mountain with its megalithic grave and down through the forest on the forest road towards the car park. At the Y junction leading to the car park follow the forest road/ track right to join the county road in Kelly's Glen, turn left on to the county road. At the next junction turn left (right will bring you to Larch Hill) and then veer right and right again to bring you back to Kilmashogue Lane.

Maps for this route can be found using the link on [www.dublinmountains.ie](http://www.dublinmountains.ie) (Kilmashogue/Ticknock Forest and Tibbradden Forest.)