

# JUMP ABOARD THE DUBLIN MOUNTAINEER!



**THE DUBLIN MOUNTAINEER LINKS THE DUBLIN MOUNTAINS WITH THE LUAS IN SANDYFORD. WEEKENDS & BANK HOLIDAYS**  
**5 SERVICES A DAY DEPARTING SANDYFORD LUAS STATION**  
**10:00AM, 11:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:15PM, 5:00PM**

CHECK OUT [WWW.DUBLINMOUNTAINS.IE](http://WWW.DUBLINMOUNTAINS.IE)  
 TICKETS AVAILABLE ON THE BUS: DAILY €5  
 FAMILY RAMBLER €12 (2 ADULTS, 2 KIDS)



**Dublin Mountains Partnership**



**trailHEAD**  
 The Dublin Mountains Partnership Newsletter

*View from the Scalp Lookout*

## Welcome to the Summer issue of Trailhead

Its been a busy first half of 2009 with the reconstruction of over 1.2km of the Wicklow Way at Tiknock, the construction of the new mountain access route in Cruagh, the waymarking and opening of the first section of the Dublin Mountains Way and the installation of a permanent orienteering course in the Hellfire Forest with support from the Irish Orienteering Association.

2009 has also seen a huge increase in community and volunteer involvement in the DMP. The most notable aspect of this is the start up of our volunteer ranger programme which is proving very successful. We have also benefited hugely from the contribution from Mountain Meitheal and Google volunteers who are allowing us to do much needed trail repair works while maximising our resources. The Irish Ramblers Club are sponsoring the materials to build an important link on the Dublin Mountains Way.

We are beginning to see the real benefits of working together – local authorities, Coillte, NPWS, recreation users and the community. The partnership is showing real innovation and vision in its use of all the resources to deliver better recreation for the citizens and visitors to Dublin.

Below we have printed just one of the many comments that regularly come into our website or are passed onto our ranger service from recreation users, and it illustrates that the DMP is making a difference in improving recreation use of the public lands in the Dublin Mountains.

**“ Many, many thanks for all the work you have done in Cruagh/Tibradden It has made a great difference. May there be more of it!”**



**Dublin Mountains Partnership**

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE DUBLIN MOUNTAINS PARTNERSHIP

[www.dublinmountains.ie](http://www.dublinmountains.ie)

## Volunteer Ranger Service



As part of its programme to enhance the recreation experience for the users of the Dublin Mountains, the DMP has developed a Volunteer Ranger Service. Volunteer Rangers play an important role in the management of outdoor recreation in many other countries including the UK and US.

The DMP set about recruiting Volunteer Rangers early in 2009. Enormous interest was expressed in the Volunteer Ranger Service from a wide range of people living all over Dublin and beyond, with a variety of backgrounds and experience. Interviews took place in Marlay Park in April and 14

# SUMMER LAUNCH!

candidates were selected. A basic training weekend for the new recruits took place at the end of May, and more training is scheduled over the coming months.

Ranger duties will include providing assistance to visitors to the DMP area, leading and helping with DMP organised events, promoting responsible use through the Leave No Trace programme and providing support to the DMP full-time staff.

The DMP Volunteer Rangers have been out on the mountains since the first of June, and the Volunteer Ranger Service was officially launched by Minister Ó Cuív on 19th June. This is a very exciting time for the DMP and hopefully you will meet the Volunteer Rangers out and about in the DMP area over the summer months. Please feel free to come up to them and have a chat about the area and what's going on.



## Dublin Mountains Way

A new long distance walk stretching from Shankill in the east to Tallaght in the west, covering over 38km, is being developed by the DMP. The first section was launched on 19th June by Minister Ó Cuív.

The Dublin Mountains Way will be a varied, interesting walk with magnificent views of Dublin city, the coast and the Wicklow mountains. It will cross a variety of landscapes from the conical hill of Carrickgollogan, through the old woodland of Barnaslingan, past Johnnie Foxes pub and the dolmen in Ballyedmonduff forest, up to the flat open heathland of Fairy Castle and Two Rock. Joining the Wicklow Way for a small section, it then heads across Tibbradden mountain into Cruagh forest. From here it follows the Owendoher River through Massy's Estate and over the road into Hell Fire. The next section is still to be confirmed, but it will eventually head down through St. Ann's graveyard and around the Glenasmole reservoir. Finally it passes through Kiltipper lands and Sean Walsh Park into Tallaght. The only section waymarked at present is from Tibbradden to Cruagh. The section from Shankill to Barnaslingan will be waymarked over the coming weeks. The Dublin Mountaineer (see page 4) will be ideal for those wanting to walk part of the DMW.

## Permanent Orienteering Course

Local orienteering clubs have wished for a long time to establish a network of permanent orienteering courses around the country. The first of these is nearing completion at Hell Fire/Massy's. This project involved co-operation between the DMP, Coillte, Setanta Orienteering Club, & South Dublin County Sports Partnership.

The course involves 52 control points which can be used for a variety of events, including courses suitable for primary and secondary schools (with an education workbook of mathematical and nature questions), and suggested courses of varying lengths for orienteers. Orienteering is a requirement on the school curriculum.

Details, maps and education workbooks are available on the DMP website. Bookings should be made through the DMP Recreation Manager.



As more and more people enjoy outdoor recreation, our collective mark on the environment and its natural processes, increases. Leave No Trace principles are designed to minimise the social and environmental impacts to natural and cultural heritage areas. Leave No Trace depends more on attitude and awareness than on rules and regulations.

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)

## TIBBRADDEN & HELL FIRE CAR PARKS OPEN

The DMP with the aid of the Volunteer Rangers have reopened the car parks at Tibbradden and Hell Fire on weekends and Bank Holidays. Opening times are from 11am to 5pm. Cars left in after these times will be released on payment of a call out fee of €75, so please respect the closing times.

Also please take care and do not leave any valuables lying about in your cars. If you see any dumping taking place in any car parks, forest or mountain areas, please report it to the PURE hotline on Lo Call 1850-365 121.

### Contact Us

DMP Manager Tel 01 201 1187  
c/o Coillte Email [info@dublinmountains.ie](mailto:info@dublinmountains.ie)  
Dublin Road Web [www.dublinmountains.ie](http://www.dublinmountains.ie)  
Newtownmountkenedy  
Co. Wicklow

## NEW SIGNAGE INSTALLED ACROSS DMP SITES

The DMP has recently installed lovely new signage across nine forest recreation sites in the Dublin Mountains. Threshold signs, which welcome visitors to a forest were placed at the forest entrances. Trailhead signs, which display a range of information including a map of the forest, information about the area, length and ability of trails, along with the Leave No Trace principles. Trailhead signs can be found in the car park area, and also at the junction of some trails such as the Cruagh Mountain Access Route,



and the junction of the Wicklow Way and the new Dublin Mountains Way. Maps displayed on the trailhead signs can be downloaded on the DMP website [www.dublinmountains.ie](http://www.dublinmountains.ie) - Recreation Sites. Unfortunately two signs were vandalised—the sign at Tibbradden has now been replaced and the one for Hell Fire is on order.

Six picnic benches, some with BBQ facilities, were also installed in Tibbradden and Cruagh Forests.

## Google help build trails...



32 Google employees came out to Barnaslingan Wood, near Kiltarnan, over two days (9/10th June) to waymark and upgrade the new Dublin Mountains Way and Scalp Lookout trail. A great amount of work was achieved, a big thanks to all the volunteers involved.



### Trail News

#### Wicklow Way Upgrade in Kilmashogue Completed

A 1.1km section of the Wicklow Way in Kilmashogue has been completely upgraded by the DMP. The trail was built using a reversal trail building method utilising natural material on site for both trail and water bars. This new trail should be much more sustainable and reduce the erosion and water damage suffered in the past. This trail forms part of the first section of the Wicklow Way from Marlay Park to Glencullen. It also provides links to Tibbradden Mountain, Fairy Castle and Three Rock.

#### Mountain Access Route in Cruagh

Mountain Meitheal ([www.pathsavers.org](http://www.pathsavers.org)) have now completed the Mountain Access Route in Cruagh. A 400m bog-bridge was constructed up through the forest to National Park land. The DMP provided the materials and Mountain Meitheal, the many hours of hard labour. Thank you to all the volunteers! This route now provides easy access to the open mountain over as far as Prince William's Seat and an alternative looped walk in Cruagh Forest.



#### Irish Ramblers sponsor trail in Cruagh

Work will commence in mid July on a further 370m of the new Dublin Mountains Way, linking Cruagh and Massy's Estate. Mountain Meitheal volunteers are constructing the turnpike trail, which winds through the lovely mature larch and spruce forest, exiting along the laneway leading to the bridge over the Owendoher River. The materials for the project are being kindly funded by the Irish Ramblers Club.

