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Festival Dinner :
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www.nirevalley.com

The 21st Nire Valley Autumn Walking Festival.



11th & 12th October 2014.
Nire Valley Co. Waterford.



A message from the organisers.

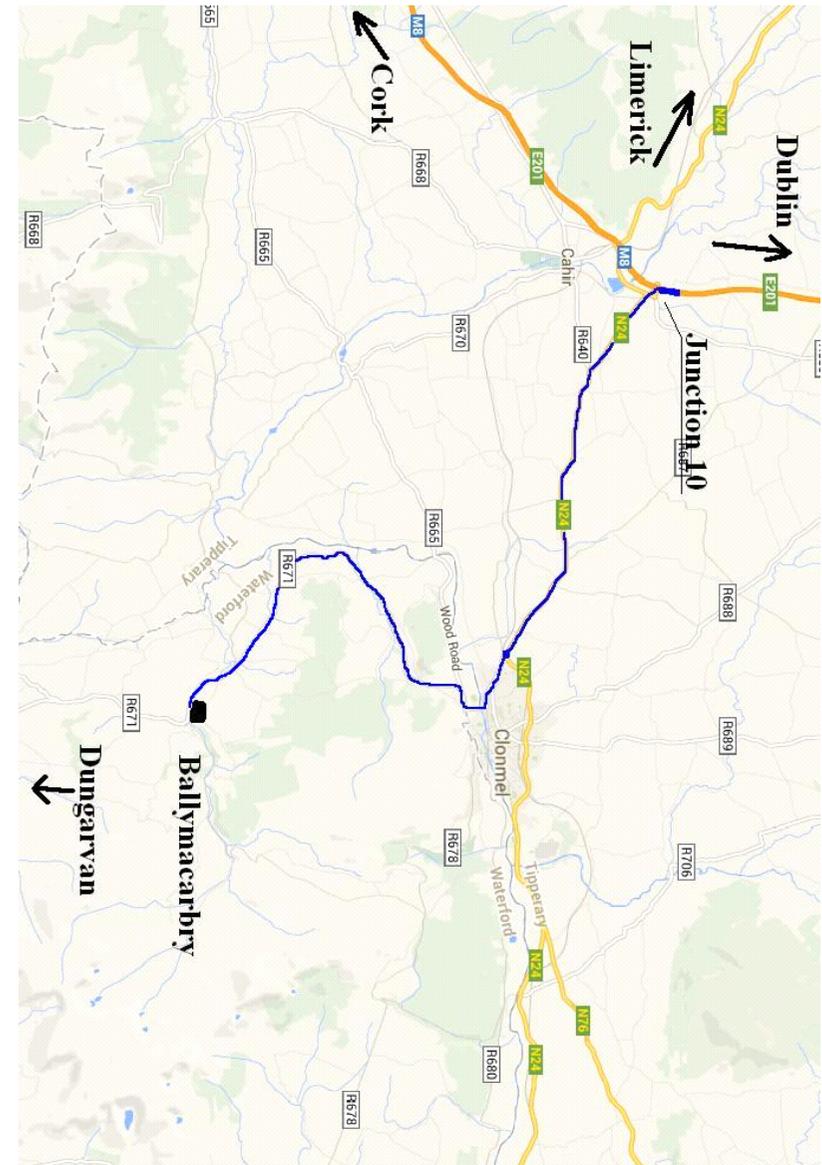
Welcome to the 2014 **Nire Valley Autumn Walking Festival** brochure detailing the events to take place in October. The organisers have been busy putting together a varied programme to satisfy as wide a range of walks as possible.

This year there are walks for every level, those who are familiar with our Festival, and there are many who return year after year, will recognise the variety we offer and should enjoy our selection of walks and the social event that this walk offers. Walkers new to us can also be assured a great welcome with fabulous walks in wonderful countryside and an organisation that will look after your needs. We have a large number of local helpers assisting on the walks to whom we are hugely indebted.

We are here to make your **Nire Valley Autumn Walking Festival** a memorable adventure, so study the walk descriptions carefully, making use of the grids and tables for each walk, select the walks within your capabilities and come and enjoy the Comeragh mountains.



It should be noted that Hill Walking is an adventure sport and not devoid of an element of risk. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement. Our team looks forward eagerly to meeting you in October. All updates will be found on our website www.nirevalley.com.



If you are travelling South on the M8 come off at Junction 10 Cahir.

DO NOT come off at Junction 8 even though it is marked as the Clonmel exit. Junction 10 will take you to Clonmel on a better road. From Clonmel take R671 to Dungarvan.

Accommodation.

Where to stay:

Hostel Accommodation

Ballymacarbry Hostel 087 2664001

Rathgormack Hostel 051 64 6969

Guesthouse

Glasha Farmhouse 052 6136108.

Hanora's Cottage 052 6136134.

Cnoc na Ri Guesthouse 052 6136239.

Kilmaneen Farmhouse 052 6136231.

Dawn Grace 052 6185000

Hotel

Clonmel Park Hotel 052 6188700

Hotel Minella, Clonmel 052 6122388

Park Hotel Dungarvan 058 42899

Self-catering.

Nire Valley River Cottage 087-2229239

Nell's Farmhouse 051 646102.

Fox's Farmhouse 052-6136263

Nire Valley Hunting Lodge 052 6136442

Helen's Cottage 087-2405061

For general accommodation enquiries contact

Mary Wall 052-6136134

ESSENTIAL

How to get to Ballymacarbry:

The Village of Ballymacarbry lies on the R671 between Clonmel, Co. Tipperary and Dungarvan, Co. Waterford. If travelling on the **M8** exit at **Junction 10 Cahir**, take N24 to Clonmel and R671 to Dungarvan.

Accommodation: There is an excellent range of accommodation within easy reach, including hostel, guesthouses, B&Bs and self-catering accommodation. Details of accommodation see page 13 or our website www.nirevalley.com.

Booking: Pre-booking is not required. The registration fee is €20.00 per person per day which includes transport to/from the walks where applicable, light refreshments and showers after the walk. To speed up registration you can complete the attached form.

Note children on the family walk on Sunday are FREE.

Registration: - All walks sign-in at Ballymacarbry Community Centre at the time stated herein, note there are different start times for each walk. In adverse circumstances a walk may be changed at the leaders' / committee's discretion. Walk leaders reserve the right to refuse participation due to unsuitable attire, equipment and/or experience.

Friday Night Welcome.

On Friday night, 10th, at 9.00PM we have welcome night in Melody's pub with a talk on the area and details on the walks and events at the weekend.

The Walking Festival Meal.

Saturday Night 11th at 8:00pm

Our walking festival is in its 21st year and as part of our celebrations we are have a 21st birthday meal in the Community Centre Ballymacarbry, this is open to all and we would love to see you at the meal.

Come and celebrate with us and fellow walkers, the meal and entertainment is €20.00 each, it is necessary to book in advance, with Ann Kelly (086 3924256) or email:- thenirevalley@gmail.com



Sunday 12th October 2014

Tooreen Archaeological Site. Walk Type C.

The walk registers is at Ballymacarbry Community Centre from 09:30 to 10:00. Bus to / from Nire. Walk 6km. Ascent 125m.

Tooreen Archaeological Site.	1	2	3	4	5
Length		■			
Ascent		■			
Steepness		■			
Rough Ground			■		

Turrphuca Wood—Family walk.

The walk registers is at Ballymacarbry Community Centre from 11:00 to 11:30. Bus to / from start and end of walk, walk 6km . Ascent 100m.

Turrphuca Wood—Family Walk.	1	2	3	4	5
Length		■			
Ascent		■			
Steepness					
Rough Ground			■		



Sunday 12th October 2014

Oldbridge to Ballymacarbry. Walk Type B+.

The walk registers is at Ballymacarbry Community Centre from 08:30 to 09:00. Bus to Clonmel. Walk 16km from The Oldbridge, Clonmel to Ballymacarbry following The Munster Way. Ascent 420m.

Oldbridge to Ballymacarbry—Munster Way	1	2	3	4	5
Length				■	
Ascent		■			
Steepness			■		
Rough Ground		■			

Knockanaffrinn Ridge. Walk Type B.

The walk registers is at Ballymacarbry Community Centre from 09:00 to 09:30. Bus to Nire car park, walk 10km from The Nire Car park along Knockanaffrinn Ridge to Nire Church. Ascent 465m.

Knockanaffrinn Ridge.	1	2	3	4	5
Length				■	
Ascent			■		
Steepness			■		
Rough Ground			■		



The walking festival is for people that enjoy, walking, nature and the company of others, both friend and stranger. Our first walking festival, in the Comeragh Mountains, was in 1993. The idea of a walking festival was novel and we were not too sure what it should involve. We had three walks each day and were not sure how to label them, there was a walk for people of a high level of fitness, one for moderate fitness and a walk for those that wanted to experience walking for the first time. There was no internet and mobile phones were so big that they were referred to as car phones. We had eighty walkers each day and were so pleased with our success that we planned a second event for October 1994. We haven't looked back since; going from strength to strength each year.

Trends have changed in the twenty-one years but numbers have remained constant and people are still discovering the Nire Valley and the Comeragh Mountains. The longer, tougher hikes are becoming less popular, the shorter and family walks are become more popular, but the social side of the walking festival remains strong. A walking festival is an ideal break for people that want to explore the countryside in the company of friends old and newly met.

In that twenty-one years we also remember friends and founders that are no longer with us, Seamus Wall, Mick Danagher and Mike Colligan come to mind. My Daughter was born during the fifth walking festival and she now assist on the family walks on Sunday. Walking like the mountains is in our blood in the Comeragh Mountains.

ESSENTIAL

Transport: Transport (minibus) is supplied to take you to or from the walks if needed; should you wish to use your own vehicle you must discuss this with us in advance, as we cannot offer return transport.

Dogs: In common with other similar events, dogs are not allowed on walks. As well as going through livestock areas, many walks pass through the breeding areas of ground nesting birds. This rule is strictly enforced.

Sign In: You must sign in on the morning of the walk, you may fill out the form before you arrive see pgs 7&8.

Leader Decision: The decision and authority of the walk leader on all walks is final.

Leave No Trace: Please adhere to the Code of "Leave No Trace" and what you bring with you, bring home with you.

Liability Insurance: Participants in the Nire Valley Autumn Walking Festival take part at their own risk, but you are strongly advised to check that you have adequate personal accident insurance.

Latest news updates: see our website: nirevalley.com or follow us on Twitter @comeraghbogtrot Or Facebook Nirevalley Bogtrotters.



"Let the locals lead the way"

Saturday 11th October 2014.

Nire Lakes. Walk Type B.

The walk registers is at Ballymacarbry Community Centre from 09:00 to 09:30. Bus to Nire Carpark. Walk 10km from Nire Carpark to the Nire Group of lakes at low level. Ascent 260m.

Nire Lakes	1	2	3	4	5
Length					
Ascent					
Steepness					
Rough Ground					

Sguilloges. Walk Type C.

The walk registers is at Ballymacarbry Community Centre from 10:00 to 10:30. Bus to Nire Carpark. Walk 6km from Nire Carpark to the Sguilloge lakes and back. Ascent 185m.

Sguilloge Lakes	1	2	3	4	5
Length					
Ascent					
Steepness					
Rough Ground					



Saturday 11th October 2014.

Knockanafirinn Ridge to Ballymacarbry. Walk Type A.

The walk registers is at Ballymacarbry Community Centre from 08:00 to 08:30. Bus to Nire Carpark. Walk 22km from Nire Carpark to Ballymacarbry across Knockafirinn Ridge and Lachtnafrankee. Ascent 746m.

Knockanafirinn Ridge to Ballymacarbry	1	2	3	4	5
Length					■
Ascent				■	■
Steepness			■	■	
Rough Ground			■		

Ballymacarbry to Mt Mellary. Walk Type B+.

The walk registers is at Ballymacarbry Community Centre from 08:00 to 08:30. Walk 18.50km from Ballymacarbry to Mt Mellary, Ascent 270m. There will be a bus to bring you back from Mellary to Ballymacarbry.

Ballymacarbry to Mellary	1	2	3	4	5
Length					■
Ascent			■	■	
Steepness		■	■		
Rough Ground		■			



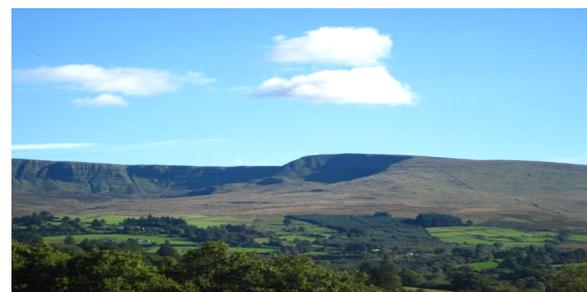
ESSENTIAL

Walk Grading: On pages 9, 10, 11 & 12 there is a broad description of the relative difficulty of each walk, use the table to judge relevant aspects of each walk under the headings of -

- **length,**
- **ascent,**
- **steepness**
- **rough ground**

which are graded into five levels from 0 =easiest to 5 = hardest, these at best can only be pointers, length and ascent are given in metric units.

We trust this will help you avoid biting off more than you can chew whilst ensuring you know the challenge being faced in your particular chosen walk!



Coumfea one of the Nire Lakes

The Nire Valley Autumn
Walking Festival.
Sat 11th / Sun 12th 2014.

Sign –in Form

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please complete the form clearly in capital letters and **bring** with you on the day.

Name.....

Adress

.....

Tel:

Mobile.....

Email:.....

In case of emergency (ICE) Contact.

Name:

Phone No:.....

It should be noted that Hill Walking is an adventure sport and not devoid of an element of risk. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement. I here by accept the risk and do not hold the organisers, their servants or agents responsible.

Signed.....

Date.....

The Nire Valley Autumn
Walking Festival.
Sat 11th / Sun 12th 2014.

Sign –in Form

The organisers reserve the right to make changes to the itinerary. I agree to the conditions of this event (see attached sheet) and will follow the instructions of the leader on my group.

Participating in :-please tick one

Saturday 11th | |.

A | |

B+ | |

B | |

C | |

Sunday 12th | |

B+ | |

B | |

C | |

Family | |

