

Water Management



Studying a trail in the Wicklow Mountains in recent deluge conditions

The biggest problem facing Irish trails is **WATER**. Our soft ground is prone to water logging causing damage. On all trails, it is important to remove water from the surface. Mountain Meitheal volunteers can build water bars and water cut offs from materials often available alongside the damaged trail. Using timber or stone or both, building water bars and drains can be quite exacting if they are to work well, but it is good fun doing this. The rewards for the hard work are easily seen on trails previously notorious for their wet spots which now remain dry and sound. Not surprisingly it is best to study the trail carefully in wet weather to see where the water causes problems! (See picture above.)

Leaders' Workshop

Last February, Shay Walsh organised a very successful Leaders' Workshop attended by fifteen Mountain Meitheal leaders and potential leaders. The day was led by BOS approved trainer Tomás Aylward with support from Bill Murphy and Shay. Held at Sport HQ Park West in Dublin, the accommodation, facilities and catering were very kindly arranged by The Mountaineering Council of Ireland. Everyone had a golden opportunity to enhance their knowledge of project management, group dynamics, tools and manual handling and first aid.

On yer bike Mike!

Mike Dagley is one of the original members of Mountain Meitheal and he is

leaving his job as Administrator at the Mountaineering Council of Ireland after five years serving the MCI and its membership. Mike, whose passion for all things mountaineering, is also an ultra keen mountain biker and will be moving on this month to start his new job with Sustrans, a UK based cycle trail group. Although he will now be based in England, we hope to be seeing him back, wielding his very own favorite mattock from Hebden Bridge in Yorkshire. This pet tool has seen some sterling work from Mike over the years and we wish him all the very best for the future.



Mike demonstrates his 'pet' mattock while he leads a work day at Lough Dan

Countryside Recreation Network

Mountain Meitheal gave talks at two CRN seminars in the UK this year. Bill Murphy spoke at the first one and Shay Walsh at the second one on 28 June. Entitled "Strategies and Practice for Engaging Volunteers in Countryside Recreation and Management" Shay gave a case study on "Volunteering in Ireland" for recreation based activities and an introduction to Mountain Meitheal, its objectives, status and ethos. He outlined some projects and how they are organised and looked at some of the obstacles to greater involvement of volunteers from the volunteers' and land managers' side. The presentation finished with how Mountain Meitheal's future development might progress. The presentation was very well received. Other papers were given by BTCV, the Forestry Commission, Peak District National Park and the National Lottery UK. CRN predicts that volunteering will be one of the main issues in outdoor recreation and land management in the next ten years.

Calendar 2006

Sunday 23 July

Saturday 12 August

Sunday 27 August

Saturday 9 September

Sunday 24 September

Saturday 14 October

Sunday 22 October

Saturday 11 November

Sunday 26 November

Saturday 9 December -

Xmas Party!

Please regularly check our website for up to the minute programme details:
www.pathsavers.org

Apply for Membership today

Please return this form or a photocopy with your subscription of €20 to Mountain Meitheal

Brandon 6 Upper Churchtown Road, Dublin 14.

Any queries 'phone (01) 2986085 or Email: avison@eircom.net

Surname:

Forename:

Postal Address:

'Phone Nos:

(Home)

(Work)

(Mobile)

E-mail address: (if any)

Age: (if under 18 years)

For insurance purposes, are you a member of The Mountaineering Council of Ireland?

If so, are you an individual member/club member?

If in a club, please specify which one?

I wish to apply for membership of Mountain Meitheal and enclose my subscription of €20 (cash or cheque) and I agree to support the aims and objectives of the club.

Signed:

Date: