

## Contact Details

### The Blackwater Rambling Programme:

A walks development project has recently been implemented as part of a new range of programmes designed to support cross-border community activity and social interaction. The Boots n Bogs walking festival is one of a series of walking events that forms part of the Blackwater Rambling Programme for 2007.

For a copy of the programme or for more information about walks development projects please contact the Cross-Border Walks Development Officer at the offices of the Blackwater Regional Partnership, Caledon Courthouse, 42 Main Street Caledon, Co Tyrone, BT68 4TZ.

Tel: 00 44 (028) 3756 9104 Mob: 0 (00353) 872598291  
email: dpurdy@monaghancoco.ie

### Knockatallon Rambling Club:

The Boots n Bogs walking festival is being organised and hosted by the Knockatallon Ramblers, a very pro-active club that have their own programme of walking events on Sunday afternoons throughout the year. The club would like to acknowledge the support of the neighbouring Clogher Valley Walking Club. Each walk is led by competent guides and new members are always welcomed and looked after.

For more information about the festival please contact:

Paddy Sherry Tel: 0 (00353) 47 89055  
Mob: 0 (00353) 879670379 or  
Marie McQuillan Tel: 0 (00353) 47 89548  
email: mariemcq@eircom.net

### Registration fees:

€10/£7 per walk  
€18/£12 for two days walking

### Accommodation:

A special accommodation package has been negotiated with the Sliabh Beagh Hotel, Knockatallon for those wishing to make a week-end of it.

**Two nights B/B plus one evening meal plus two packed lunches - €120 pps.**

Single room supplement is €20 per night.  
Live music in the Bar every Saturday night.  
A limited number of rooms are available.  
To book telephone: 0 (00353) 47 89014

## Walking Info

It is important that you choose a walk that is suited to your level of fitness. The walks on this festival week-end are mostly grade 2, requiring a moderate level of fitness over distances of approx 8-10 miles/12-15 km that will take up to 4-5 hours (including breaks) over terrain that will include mostly tracks, forest paths and open blanket bog.

### WALK LEADERS

Competent guides will lead and sweep all of the walks: please respect their instructions and do not go ahead of the leader. The guides will be identified at the beginning of each walk. Where part of a route follows a public road, walk no more than two abreast, on the right, facing oncoming traffic. Whilst every effort will be made to make this festival a safe and enjoyable event, it should be recognised that walking in the countryside carries risks. Those taking part in any of the walks must take some responsibility for their own safety.

Note: Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. The walks are not generally suitable for children under 14 years.

### FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHING

Walking boots are essential for this festival. Even if the weather is good, please bring suitable waterproof clothing along with the suncream! Denim jeans are not suitable – they will become heavy when wet, are slow to dry out and provide poor insulation. Bring a change of clothing.

### REFRESHMENTS

Some light refreshment will be provided at the end of each walk but it is essential that you bring some food and water to sustain you en route as frequent breaks will be included

### LEAVE NO TRACE

The walks include routes over forestry, bog and farmland to which access has very generously been permitted. Please take your litter home, respect wildlife and be considerate of other people and their property.

**Dogs are not permitted on any of the walks.**



Blackwater Regional Partnership



Cross-border Walking Festival

May Bank Holiday Week-End  
Sat 5th & Sun 6th May 2007

Presented By:

**The Knockatallon  
and Clogher Valley  
Rambling Clubs**

This festival is supported by the  
EU INTERREG 111A Programme for Ireland/Northern Ireland

**Border Action**  
Poverty and Combat Poverty working in partnership

EU INTERREG  
Project part financed  
by the European Union

# Welcome . . .

To the 'Boots n Bogs' cross-border walking festival 2007 based in the beautiful Clogher Valley in County Tyrone and the Sliabh Beagh Hills of north Monaghan . This festival is part of the Blackwater Regional Partnership's programme of rambling events for 2007. The River Blackwater that characterises this region made up of the administrative districts of Armagh, Dungannon and Monaghan has its sources in these hills.

The Knockatallon and Clogher Valley rambling clubs have put together this two-centre festival.

Day one includes a variety of walks through the lush green Tyrone landscape and the forests of the Clogher Valley, home of the acclaimed 19th Century poet and novelist, William Carleton.

Day two allows you to explore the bogs and bye-ways of the starkly beautiful Sliabh Beagh Hills that have themselves evoked the emotions of many an Irish poet...

*"The wild hare hops across the moor,  
the beagle cries behind,  
Eishmore looms high above it all,  
bedecked with spruce and pine.*

*On a moss clad swamp behind the lake,  
a moorhen shy is wadin',*

*While a bumble bee drones through  
the air with heather honey laden.*

*And "Carraig na Sladdery" guards Toal's Glen  
like a giant pike of hay,*

*These sights I see these sounds  
I hear on the Mountain of Sliabh Beagh.*

.....

*I stand and gaze on this grand domain  
with awe and deep concern;*

*The heather bell, bogcotten white,  
sundew and trembling fern,*

*The smallest midge, the red moneog,  
the hue across the land;*

*My thanks to him for a chance to see  
the splendour of his hand.*

*These gems of nature, these simple  
things and I only hope and pray,*

*That these sights and sounds man will preserve on the  
Mountain of Sliabh Beagh."*

Extracts from the 'Mountain of Sliabh Beagh'

By Peter Keenan

# Events Programme . . .

## Saturday 5th May 2007

Registration for both walks at the Clogher Valley Rural Centre, Main Street, Clogher.

### Grade 2 Walk

Registration: 11.00am  
Bus leaves: 11.30am  
Approx. time: 4 – 5 hours

**Route:** this walk is for those who enjoy the challenge of walking over open bogland. The route starts near Brackenridge's Folly and then heads into open bog for the next one and a half hours before emerging above Fardross Forest. The route continues through the forest and over more bogland to finish near the starting point. At this stage there is the choice of returning to Clogher by bus or on foot.

### Grade 2 Walk

Registration: 11.30am  
Bus leaves: 12.00noon  
Time: approx. 4 hours

**Route:** the walk starts in Knockmany Forest, one of the first State forests to be landscaped and planted in Ireland. The mixed woodland consists of spruce, larch, oak and beech. The leaders will guide you through a maze of forest tracks to the chambered grave, the burial place of Queen Anya, standing on top of Knockmany Hill and dating from Neolithic times. The route through the forest is very steep in places. The route continues into leafy Lumford's Glen with its waterfall and Mad Woman's Leap. Leaving Lumford's Glen the route follows a narrow country lane where a stream runs alongside the road. The route crosses a river through a small ford and then returns to Clogher along the main road.

**Light refreshments will be available on return to the centre. There will be breaks en route so bring snacks.**

If you have any energy left the Sliabh Beagh Hotel, Knockatallon, will provide the venue for some evening craic.

## Sunday 6th May 2007

Registration for both walks at the Sliabh Beagh Hotel, Knockatallon.

### Grade 1 – 2 Walk

Registration: 11.00am  
Bus leaves: 11.30am  
Approx time 4 – 5 hours

**Route:** the walk begins from the Big Rock along a quiet country lane, continuing unto trackway and then into the more challenging blanket bog and open grazing of the uplands that will take you around several small lakes before emerging back unto trackway in the townland of Knockanearla. The route continues along forest track and laneway back to the centre. Depending on weather conditions there may be the option to extend the walk for those who feel fit to do so to take in the Three Counties Hollow and Shane Barnagh's stables.

### Grade 2 Walk

Registration: 11.30am  
Bus leaves: 12.00noon  
Approx. time: 3 - 4 hours

**Route:** the walk begins through Eshcloghfin following forest tracks then crosses over blanket bog and makes its way to the Bragan Penal Cross where Fr McKenna was shot in 1838. You will be ready for a picnic break at this stage and a chance to take in the views before continuing over farmland to return to the centre.

**Light refreshments will be provided on return to the centre. There will be breaks en route so bring some snacks**