

# The Burren Ireland

23 - 31 May 2003

Three generations with more than a tenfold difference in ages from the youngest to the oldest walking along the highest cliffs in Ireland, the cliffs of Moher, to Hag's Head in glorious sunshine was an idyllic start to the week.

The designated base was Doolin though groups were scattered in cottages spread over a few miles. Ample high quality accommodation was found and booked over the internet and despite being scattered we kept in touch throughout.



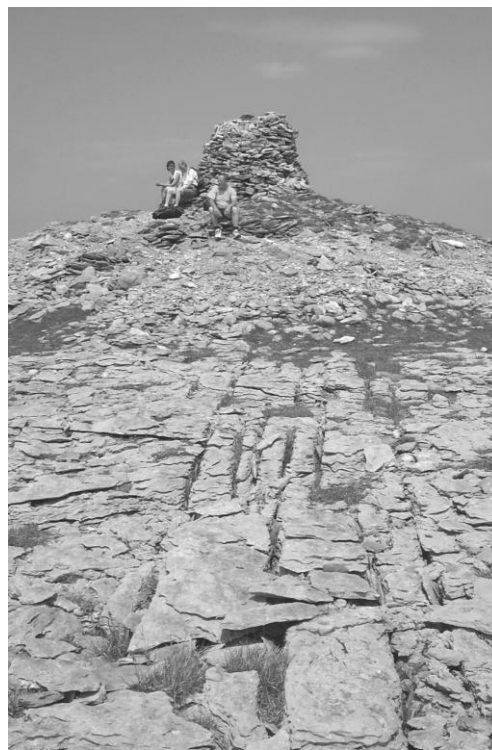
The area was steeped in history: Megalithic tombs; hut circles; hill forts; Holy wells; Spaniards landing on Crab Island and later hanged on a nearby hill; numerous defensive towers and a German submarine landing.



Most evenings were spent in a lively Irish bar with live music. It was a grand and sociable way to end each day, especially for the clan ensconced in a cottage just a couple of hundred metres away and no need to drive back. The organisers' cottage could be reached by walking along narrow country lanes provided you were willing to risk the late night Guinness fuelled drivers. One of

their party taking to the seaward footpath to avoid the cars nearly ended up over the cliff in the sea.

Footpaths were not numerous but the Burren Way provided a long clear track and access to the hills was not generally a problem. The extensive limestone dried quickly after showers and shone brightly in the sunshine.



There was plenty of caving for the enthusiasts and it kept them occupied all week and opportunities for novices

too. The whole area between the north end of the Burren and Spanish Point and inland as far as Inis Dónáin was explored thoroughly. There were ample opportunities for further visits further north or south.

Caving, walking and climbing were supplemented by watching wild goat, fox, hare, porpoise and seal, plus archaeology, cycling, horse riding, kite flying and building sandcastles. All made better by the generally good weather.

Thanks go to the Pennys for organising this meet and arranging group outings.



Tim prepares novices Helen and Fiona

Attendance:

- Alan Fletcher
- Bruce Bensley
- David Hick
- Christine Marriott (guest)
- Beth Marriott (guest)
- David Martindale
- Jim Rusher
- Michael Smith
- Helen Smith (guest)
- Richard Smith (guest)
- Fiona Smith (guest)
- Peter Smith and Karen (guest)
- Hazel Bonnington (guest)
- Richard Sealy
- Tim Josephy
- Tony Penny
- Val Penny
- Shaun Penny

The above list may be incomplete.