



# Walking Group

**Date:** March 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Time:** 11am  
**Venue:** Somewhere around Newcastle (to be decided)

## Previous Walks



**February 2012:** On a beautiful morning, the walk followed the hidden paths around Ardglass, and 16 hardies enjoyed the walk, the views and the craic. Lunch at Ardglass Golf Club finished off a lovely morning.

**January 2012:** Despite the threat of rain, seven of us walked along Castle Island Road to the Quoile Yacht Club and back to the bird hide, thence for lunch in the Cricket Club.

**December 2011:** The hardies enjoyed a quick trip round Castlewella Lake in the sunshine followed by a lunch in Maginns.

**November 2011:** Mandy and Maura introduced us to the delights of The Craig Road and a loop round, including Church Road and Inch Church. Many thanks to Maura for organising a liquid lunch afterwards.

**October 2011:** Eileen led the way on a walk round Portaferry.

**September 2011:** The planned walk in Castleward fell foul of the trails being closed because of other events or because they had heard of the unruly walking group. However Maureen saved the situation and there was a relocation to Strangford.

**August 2011:** A lovely walk along the lanes of Drumee and Maghera when once again Maureen arranged for the rain to wait until we were back in the cars en route for lunch at the Maghera Inn where we were impressed by Sheila Crea's invitation to breakfast with Kenny Dsalglis.

**July 2011:** Despite the forecast, Maureen arranged for the sun to shine over Rossglass when we walked from St John's Church down to the lighthouse and back to a lovely lunch provided by Maureen, with the assistance of Sheila and Raymond.

**June 2011:** We had a great day in Carlingford on June 2nd – good walk, good food, good weather and the company wasn't bad either. See photo gallery for images.

**April 2011:** The Dumaness Lanes

**March 2011:** A glorious sunny day we walked through Murlough Nature Reserve.

**February 2011:** See the gallery for the hardies who enjoyed a walk in the sheltered Tollymore Park.

**January 2011:** On January 6th we visited the highs and lows of Downpatrick enjoying some great views from Gallows hill and Samson's Stone.

**November 2010:** A lovely walk in Newcastle area taking in rivers, forest and sea was slightly marred by the rain. We were able to dry off at the fire in the Percy French before having lunch

**October 2010:** an easy 3 mile walk around the Ballyalton area led by Margo.

**September 2010:** Dundrum Railway line. On a glorious warm and sunny day we discovered what for some of us was a hidden route. This was followed by lunch in the Dundrum Inn.

**June 2010:** Killard Nature Reserve. Organised by Anna. We were just overwhelmed by all the wild flowers – orchids, squill, birds foot trefoil, thrift, bluebells, primroses – not to mention the geological and geographical features! The walking was secondary! Lunch in the Cuan in Strangford.

**May 2010:** The Lanes of Saul. Organised by Eileen. This was a great walk skirting round by Loughmoney which the members did at their leisure. Lunch in Paddy's Barn.

**April 2010:** Downpatrick Racecourse. The walk was to include Vianstown Road and Dunleath Park but it had rained continuously for several days and Dunleath Park was under water so the walk had to be curtailed. We did what the horses do and went round the course twice – although in opposite directions. Lunch in Red Brick – we won't be hurrying back!

**March 2010:** Old Course/Ballymote. A very beautiful spring morning but a very poor turnout of walkers – only 3. This was probably when I began to think did we need a Walking Group. The three of us had a great walk and managed to have a peek at some of the animals in Grangecam Open Farm.

**February 2010:** Dundrum Coastal Path. Organised by Jenny. Six stalwarts turned up on a wet and windy morning when I seem to remember an umbrella played a big part in fending off the wind and rain from the bay. The weather did improve slightly and lunch in the Buck's Head was our reward.

**January 2010:** The January walk had to be cancelled due to frozen snow which made all minor roads impassable for a week or so.

**December 2009:** Castlewellan Forest Park. Organised by Adrienne. We had a brisk walk round the Lake to sharpen our appetites for Christmas Lunch in Hilliard House. As far as numbers go we had 16 people – the biggest turnout of the year. I'm not sure whether to attribute this to the venue, the promise of Christmas Lunch, or maybe just the leader on the day!

**November 2009:** Audleystown and Castleward. Organised by Helen. This was the walk where half the group could not pass the aroma of coffee coming from the shop in Castleward. The rest of us finished the walk and went to the Cuan for lunch.

**October 2009:** Janes's Shore and Portulla Wood. Organised by Anne. It was a good day and a good number of people enjoyed a lovely walk followed by lunch in Downpatrick Cricket Club.

**May 2009:** Hollymount: The Hollymount walk lived up to expectations. The weather was kind, if not exactly good. The bluebells and wild garlic were in full bloom and everyone agreed it was a wonderful experience. Afterwards ten of us had a very enjoyable lunch in the Lakeside Inn

**April 2009:** Newcastle. Nine people turned up to walk on a cold, blustery and showery morning. Nevertheless we had a very enjoyable walk which took us along the Shimna in Tipperary Wood, through Donard Park and finally along the new Promenade. We then adjourned to the Percy French restaurant for lunch. We were joined here by three "extras" who – for one reason or another – could not manage the walk but did not want to miss out on the lunch!

**March 2009:** Killyleagh. When the morning news announced there was snow in Killyleagh and Killinchy we all thought the Walking Group was jinxed! Would we have another cancellation before we had even managed to have a walk? However the snow did not last and 15 people turned up at the appointed place at 11am. Lillian and Bertie Forsyth took us on a lovely walk through Killyleagh – around the harbour and then out to Mary's stile famed in Lady Dufferin's "Lament of an Irish Emigrant". Along the way Bertie gave us an insight into

the history of Killyleagh and made sure we were well informed about the various churches. We then walked out the Downpatrick road and back into Killyleagh along the shore of Strangford Lough. Afterwards we adjourned to the Dufferin Arms for soup and sandwiches – a very enjoyable morning and hopefully the first of many. Thanks to Lillian and Bertie.