

because we feel there isn't a tradition of lean-tos in Ireland yet so it was felt that people wouldn't know it was there without loads of signs. The site was already impacted by over grazing so its impact on a pristine site is minimised. It is outside the Special Area of Conservation but close enough to the Maumattra valley where remoteness and solitude are in abundance. It's a good staging point for Nephin Beg and the more remote Corslieve.

Future plans

Mountain Meitheal plans to add a second lean-to next year. It will be located approximately 8-10km further north in a remote part of the forested landscape similar to those in northern Finland or Maine. If



Breakfast on a stormy morning in the Lough Avoher Hut

you are interested in helping or sponsoring part of the new

build we'd love to hear from you.

Mountain Meitheal South East

Mountain Meitheal South East started work on Sunday, 12th May, 2013. Behind that simple sentence lies a longer story, involving many people, much work behind the scenes and a lot of commitment and determination.

The seed was sown in Clonmel in November, 2011, during discussions at a Mountaineering Ireland consultation meeting on access and conservation. Seventeen interested people from across the south-east (Clare, Limerick, Cork, Tipperary, Kilkenny), then attended a further meeting in Kilcoran Lodge and an ad hoc committee was formed. More committee meetings followed, leading to an Open Day on the northern side of

the Galtees in November, 2012. The aims of the Open Day were to review some previous work carried out by Mountain Meitheal (in late 2001) in order to assess suitability for a project, and to decide a future course of action.

The Open Day included a meeting at the premises of Aherlow Fáilte in Newtown, Co. Tipperary, where a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Mountain Meitheal and Mountain Meitheal South East. The first committee was elected. Two volunteers from Mountain Meitheal South East then attended a skills training course in Wicklow, delivered by Mountain Meitheal.

Mountain Meitheal South East then identified a suitable initial project, which had the dual benefit of repairing a specific area while at the same time training volunteers in the requisite skills – for example cutting and laying brashing, digging and building water bars, handling and maintaining tools and, above all, working safely. The current project, the repair of the Saunders Lodge Path, started in May 2013 and will finish in November – seven volunteer days. On average, there were 14 volunteers out on any given day, and the weather was kind to us.

We wish to record our thanks to Robert Grandon and Shay Walsh of Mountain Meitheal for their advice and support



Bill Murphy giving a talk on Leadership Styles at the Leaders' Training Course held in Glendalough in 2013



Before ...



... and after

from the very beginning, and for their generosity and commitment in working with us throughout the project. We would also like to thank the local people of Newtown for

their hospitality, and for their practical support in providing storage for tools. We look forward to the spring and the start of a new project.

Phil Fitzpatrick

Mountain Meitheal South East Committee 2013-14

Chairman: Jimmy Barry
Secretary: Máire Ní Mhurchú
Treasurer: Fergus Flynn
Time Logging Officer: Mary Neligan

Training Officer & Vice Treasurer :
 Pat Lombard
Vice Chair: Frank McMahon
Vice Secretary: Vacant

The new Mountain Meitheal Website

Over the past year or so a team of Mountain Meitheal members have worked on the development and rollout of our new web site. Many hours of research and review led us to partner with a company called Exsite to deliver the new site.

Our journey started with friends and work colleagues being asked to critically assess the 'old' web site with a view to designing the new. Also we looked at the web site designs of likeminded organisations. The feedback gave us some good pointers, and helped us

understand the expectations people had of what the site should/could look like. We gathered all the feedback along with our own thoughts and met with Liz Clooney. Liz developed new templates which had the look and feel of what a new site could look like, and over many meetings and reviews the overall structure took shape and the new format was brought to life.

To move the process to the next level we met with the folks in Exsite, specialists in boutique type web site design, and they

proved to be a good company to work with. Over the following months the final web site design took shape, and we launched the new site in September.

We believe the new site represents a modern and active Mountain Meitheal organisation, and allows us to further develop and enhance its capabilities over time.

So we encourage you to jump in and look at the site – feedback is always welcome.

Web design subcommittee
 (Shay Walsh, Pauline Ryder, Laurence Lynch, Pat Nolan, Liz Clooney)
www.mountainmeitheal.ie