

THE YOUNGEST ASCENT OF IRELAND'S COUNTY HIGHPOINTS

DILLON LYNCH'S BIG ADVENTURE

INTRODUCTION BY SIMON STEWART

Newest youngest completer.

From time to time we have had notable achievements by younger people involved in climbing summits or completing lists. We don't forget Cian Quinn, who started the County Highpoints at the age of 12, and finished them, less than a year later at 13. Or Tiernan who climbed Slieve Donard 850m in 2008, the highest mountain in Northern Ireland, at the age of 3 (<http://mountainviews.ie/summit/19/comment/2972/>)

Now we have a new young summiteer, Dillon Lynch (dillonkdy) who with his father Patrick O'Brien (paddyobpc) has completed the County Highpoints at age 9. Well done. Both are coming to the MountainViews Gathering on Fri 17th Feb, 2017, to receive their awards.



The start of it all: At Priest's Leap before the first County Highpoint, Knockboy



Dillon, his Dad and his sister Rachel on the summit of Lugnaquilla

YOUNGEST COMPLIER OF COUNTY HIGHPOINTS

Dillon Lynch (age 9) joined me (his Dad) in the challenge of climbing to the highest point of each of the 32 counties of Ireland. At the start we were just climbing local mountains, not knowing that such a challenge even existed and when we learned of the challenge we realised we had the County High Points of Munster almost complete. The challenge was completed on the 11 Sep 2016 and Dillon from Kildorrery, Co. Cork, is the youngest in the country to have climbed to all County High Points. The challenge began on 26 June 2015 and overall meant traveling the length and breadth of the country and walking almost 200km in mostly mountainous terrain. Dillon was delighted to meet with Kieron Gribbon the author of

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"Ireland's County High Points – A Walking Guide" (a must have book throughout the challenge and I would recommend anyone taking on the challenge to get a copy). Kieron took time out to meet Dillon on the evening of the final climb and we all had a great chat for a few hours about the book and the many adventures of the challenge.

With skills learned in a Coder Dojo Class, organised and run for free by Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services (CDYS) in Mallow, Dillon has created a website detailing and keeping track of his challenge. The website can be seen at the following link: <https://dillons32chpchallenge.github.io/progress>

We maintain a Facebook page for the challenge, again with pictures and details of all the walks, the facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/32-County-High-Point-Challenge-953465461439788/>



Chilly on Knockmealdown

Returning to the challenge earlier this year we decided to use the challenge to raise funds for Kildorrery Karate and Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services (CDYS) Mallow.

Sponsorship cards were in circulation over the summer but as a second

method of fundraising, the website also has an area for business's to advertise, and each advert appears on all pages of the website and are visible as people browse the website. The adverts are proving very successful, adding greatly to the funds raised and Dillon has proved himself as quite the salesman, presenting his idea and website to the potential business's.



Kippure beckons

The real end of the challenge took place on Saturday 15th October with an interview on CRK FM followed by a celebration and cheque presentation in Sheahan's Bar Kildorrery.

Dillon began by thanking everyone that supported the fundraising, anyone that helped with the completion of the climbs and everybody involved in preparing for the celebration night. Dillon then presented a cheque of €1,670 to Cloyne Diocesan Youth Services in Mallow followed by a cheque for the same amount to Kildorrery Karate Club. Dillon went on to congratulate his club colleagues of Kildorrery Karate Club on their recent success in the SKDUN World Karate Championships in Bulgaria. Members of the club displayed some of their karate moves for everyone to enjoy. A great night was had by all with great music singing and dancing provided by Dillon's sister, Rachel Lynch and her friends, Ciara Dunne, Micheál Fogarty, Anna O'Sullivan, Éanna Hyland and with lots of amazing participation by others making the night even more spectacular. ■ PATRICK O'BRIEN

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Muddy after Carrauntoohill



Moylussa



Arderin



Truskmore



Truskmore SE Cairn



Seltannasaggart SE Slope



Cuilcagh



Corn Hill

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Mullaghmeen



Slieve Na Calliagh



Start of Errigal climb



Heading for Slieve Beagh SE Top



Sawel: the Derry/Tyrone border



Mount Leinster



Cupidstown Hill



Brandon Hill



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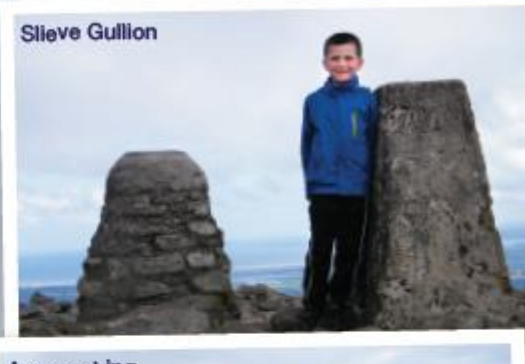
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Mweelrea



Starting out for
Slieve Donard

Slieve Gullion



Cloudy Galtymore



On the track to Benbaun



Approaching
Slieve Foye



Trostan



Yahoo - all done!