

# Newport Outdoor Group (YHA)



## Editors

Mike Alder-Woolf  
& Nick Meyrick

## Web Site

<http://walk.to/nogs>

## Find out who's story is this:

*He was worried about being swept away and he was hanging on to the rocks underwater!!!*

**Get The Outdoor Habit!**

## Cockermouth: New Year Trip Report



Photo: Dave Crisp

### by Melissa, (age 12)

(with a little help from my Dad - Dave C)

This was my first hostel visit and weekend trip with the NOGs. Norman, Jackie, Dawn and Alyson asked me to write this article for the newsletter: which feels quite appropriate because my middle name is **Noggah!** My parents called me Nog-nog *before* I was born and my god-mother who is Jewish said Noggah means 'light, bright star, morning light' in Hebrew, so I ended up with Noggah as a middle name (thank goodness they didn't make it my first name). My Dad thought it was a good idea for me to write this article as well.

### Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December

Dad drove Sue, Simon and I up to Cockermouth; it should have taken 5 hrs but the traffic was quite bad so it took 7hrs – but we did stop for lunch on the way!

We arrived at the youth hostel at about 6:30, after scraping the bottom of the car coming down a very rough and muddy road to the hostel.



Photo: Dave Crisp

The hostel was formerly a Mill and is right next to the noisily rushing River Cocker.



Photo: Dave Crisp

We said hello as most people had already arrived, unpacked, and had a look around. Then for dinner we had yummy spaghetti bolognese due to the chef: my Dad.

On the ground floor were the drying room and toilets with an excellent hot shower! On the 1<sup>st</sup> floor was the kitchen, dining room and warden's office and living-room, also the 4-bed family room which Chris, Adam and Hannah stayed in. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor were the dorms; the ladies' 10-bed room was on the right and had 2 sinks, all the bottom bunks were gone; so I had to sleep on a top bunk. The Men were in the other dorm which slept 12.

The doors to both dorms were really squeaky and made a really loud creek in the middle of the night when someone got up to go to the toilet. On Sunday Sue suggested I oil the doors with some cooking oil from the kitchen. I did and from then on the doors were silent, and whenever someone went out of the room, everyone stayed asleep.

## Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December

For Breakfast I had left over bolognaise on toast. On that morning there were 3 walks planned

1. (A) Grizedale Pike  
Leader: Richard Denby  
Length: 8 – 10 miles  
Peak(s): i Grizedale Pike – 791 m
2. (B) Great Gable  
Leader: Dave Green  
Length: 6 miles  
Peak(s): i - 899 m
3. (C) Buttermere  
Leader: Chris  
Length 6 – 8 miles  
Lake(s): i Buttermere  
ii Crummock water

Sue, Stella Chris, Hannah, Adam, Sally and I went on walk C. We walked around Buttermere (lake) which had beautiful views even from the bottom of the mountains. The colour of the bracken and heather was amazing. We stopped for lunch towards the end of Buttermere and then we headed for Crummock Water. We walked almost half way round and started to cross a stream which was quite difficult and we could see it was getting darker and Hannah could hardly walk anymore so we decided to turn back.

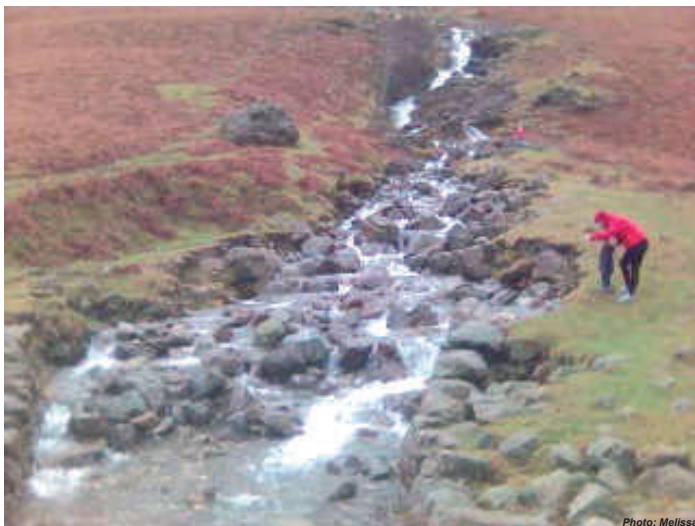


Photo: Melissa

On the way back we saw two sheep walking in the road with no way to get off and they were in danger of getting hit by a car: so we scared them into a field (but probably not the right field).

When we got back to the car we drove into Buttermere town and went to 'The Bridge Hotel Pub' and had tea, beer and hot chocolate (not all in the same drink). We almost bumped into the Grizedale Pike group in the same pub. They had cut the walk a little short because of the failing light, but we missed them because it was so crowded.

When we got back to the hostel my Dad cooked a really nice Indian curry (Chicken Tikka Marsala) for us, then we played rummikub until it was time to go to bed!

## Ian's incident on Walk A

On the A walk to Grizedale pike Ian fell into a river and nearly drowned! Here is his short-ened account:

He was crossing a river using some stepping stones. He jumped onto the first stone and mis-judged his step. He said he was thinking a bit too casually about jumping and jumped a bit far: landing on the far edge of the rock. So he decided to continue with his

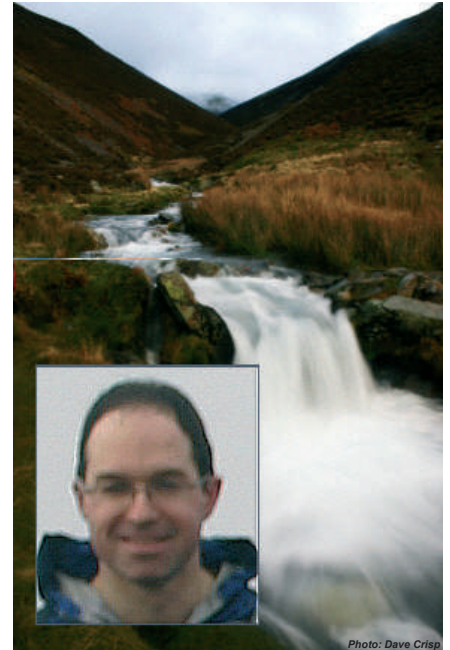


Photo: Dave Crisp

momentum and jump to the next rock, but he was out of balance and landed badly on that rock as well. He looked down and saw the water below him and realised he was falling into the river; so he decided he was going to make it look good by falling in head-first. The river here was quite deep and fast flowing and about 2 – 5ft below him. He fell in the river and the water came around 5ft above his head. He was worried about being swept away and he was hanging on to the rocks underwater. He was under water for what seemed like nearly 2 minutes and as he thought he was going to die. His whole life flashed before him...

Then he saw Richards hand sticking out through the water, and with his last ounce of strength, he reached up and grabbed onto it. Richard had to pump the water out of Ian's lungs! Phew that was a close one!

He walked back to the car without saying much. When my Dad talked to him, he didn't realise what had happened and just thought that Ian's wet hair was due to sweat. Dad only found out when they got back to the cars. Alyson had decided to go back early in the walk and had taken Ian's car key: so Ian had to stand in the cold in his wet clothes. Luckily Alyson came back early and he didn't have to wait long. It was luck also that Ian had lent Aly his mobile, else it would have been ruined in the water.

Ian was very traumatised by the accident, but it became a highlight of the trip for everyone else!



Photo: Dave Crisp

## Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December

Everyone was treated to a full English breakfast which the very kind Bogs and Nogs cooked. A very filling: Tomato, mushrooms, fried bread, fried egg, bacon and sausage treat!

On that morning there were 2 walks planned:

1. (A) Cat Bells
  - Leader: Dave Green
  - Length: 10-12 miles
  - Peak(s):
    - i Cat bells – 451 m
    - ii Maiden Moor – 576 m
    - iii High Spy – 653 m

Sue, Ian, Dave G, John, Dawn, Dave C, Chris, Anne, Alyson, Hannah, Adam, Sarah, Ken and I went on this lovely walk.

2. (B) Buttermere to Scales Force
  - Leader: Richard Denby
  - Length: 6 (ish) miles
  - Water fall: Scales Force – 400 m
  - Peak: Red Pike – 755 m

This group didn't quite reach the top of Red Pike because the weather was bad and it was getting dark.

On the Cat Bells walk we mostly had a fabulous time with great views over Derwent Water and Keswick. First we went up a really steep hill and I didn't understand why I hadn't died already: I was hardly even out of breath and I was shocked, because usually I would be dead: then we got to the top and had a snack.

I decided to follow Dawn to see if I could keep up with her, and I *could!*



Photo: Dave Crisp

DaveG decided to *extend* the walk to Maiden Moor and High Spy - and so we went up 2 extra peaks!!! It was quite misty up there and we came a really slippery steep way down and it made my knees sore. I even fell asleep in some heather with a bag on my head during the lunch break.



Photo: Dave Crisp

When we got to the bottom we had to walk all the way around the edge of the mountain as well. I thought I wasn't going to make it back to the car, but I found the strength somehow to race Adam down a hill and I won! I even got to the car first! The Cat Bells walk was my favourite part of the weekend. We found out when we got back that it rained during most of the other walk, yet on Cat Bells we had mostly good weather.

When we got back to the hostel we played rummikub again and everyone had a Chinese take-away organised by Dave and Sarah (many thanks) which was very filling.

Then, those that stayed in, had great fun playing Balderdash and Who's Who until midnight. We heard the Big Ben midnight chimes on a tinny sounding radio of Dave G's and then we sang Auld Lang Syne and pulled lots of party poppers. The group that left to go to the pub to celebrate New Year returned about 1 ish and at 2:00 in the morning I went off to bed to sleep.

## Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> January

For breakfast I had leftover Chicken Tikka Marsala and prepared to go on a drive around Bassenthwaite Lake and Keswick. Dad, Sue and I had a look round the very impressive Castlerigg stone circle. A small section called 'The Sanctuary' is shown in the picture below.



Photo: Dave Crisp

We then carried on to Keswick and Sue brought some tops and we bumped into Brian who had gone on an early walk with some of the other very keen walkers. We also went to the 'Ginger and Pickle Café' for hot chocolate and cake, though Dad had rum butter on scones with a pot of tea, and Sue had a huge teacake with hot chocolate. The Christmas lights were turned on as we left for the hostel.



Photo: Melissa

When we got back from Keswick, we got changed: with Sue wearing her new pretty shiny blue top and we set off for a meal at The Bitter End pub. I had a steak and ale pie and the sausage and mash was also a popular choice. Dad had the lamb cobbler. After that we walked back and it was then that I was asked if I would like to write this article. So I interviewed a few people made some notes and then went to bed and was out like a light!

## Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

I got up at 8:30 packed and cleared up my bed. I ate the rest of the Chicken Tikka curry for breakfast and put all my bags in the car. Dad had time for a few final photo's and managed to get a good one of a red squirrel for which the area is famous.



Photo: Dave Crisp

Then I said sad goodbyes, double checked the drying room and we drove off, looking forward to visiting these parts again.

## For more Information

Go to:

<http://www.yha.org.uk/find-accommodation/the-lake-district/hostels/Cockermouth/index.aspx>

[http://www.leaney.org/lake\\_district\\_fells.php?fell\\_id=grisedale\\_pike&size=F](http://www.leaney.org/lake_district_fells.php?fell_id=grisedale_pike&size=F)

[http://www.virtual-lakes.co.uk/walk\\_Cat\\_Bells.htm](http://www.virtual-lakes.co.uk/walk_Cat_Bells.htm)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Gable](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Gable)

<http://www.buttermereweb.co.uk/framesets/framesetlakedistrictlandscapes.html>

[http://www.keswick.org/interactive\\_guide.asp](http://www.keswick.org/interactive_guide.asp)