

Newport Outdoor Group (YHA)



Editors

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Web Site

<http://walk.to/nogs>

“As well as a market in the central square, we enjoyed the start of the Keswick Mountain Festival.”

**Get
The
Outdoor
Habit!**

CUMBRIA CLASSIC by Jackie Roberts

This was planned back in October last year – the original planning being the idea of Feraday/ Roberts Enterprises nobly supported by Bishop and Roberts J.

It was to follow on from the St Cuthberts Way done in May that year from Melrose to Lindisfarne.

Saturday 10th May 2008

Drove up to Kendal.YH.

Sunday 11th

After a hearty breakfast we all then drove to Ulverston. Parked our cars in local garage and set off on the first 15 or so miles to Coniston, Holly Howes. Gwyn and his crew seemed to think it was Coniston Copper Mines YH and so did an extra couple of miles! Very hot day, thunder in them thar hills ! After a very good meal we all slept like logs. Probably the hardest day walking of the week.

Monday 12th

Early start and 9-10mile walk to Elterwater. Another very hot day. Norman’s favourite hostel from days gone by. Lovely food.

Tuesday 13th

Long trek to Borrowdale. Extremely hot. Two pub stops enroute at Dungeon Gill old and new for old times sake. Borrowdale hostel was extremely well run. Very good food. Though Brian thought the salmon could have been cooked more imaginatively.

Wednesday 14th

Not so long walk to Keswick, over Catbells. An extremely smart youth hostel which has been refurbished recently, similar to a city hotel.

Thursday 15th

Morning at leisure in and around the town. As well as a market in the central square, we enjoyed the start of the Keswick Mountain Festival. After a meal at 3.30 we met up with a few of the others to walk the 5 miles to Skiddaw House in the glorious evening light. The rest of the group did a route via the top of Skiddaw and met us there. An old shepherds bothy, this was perfect accommodation for the location. It was very simple, but the shower was first class. And the warden had come from Epping Forest.

Friday 16th

Walked to Caldbeck across the moors. Minibus drove us to Cockermouth YH for accommodation where the group had stayed the previous New Year. Sheila, Dawn and Brian organised a great evening meal for us. Well appreciated after a strenuous walk.

Saturday 17th

Minibus dropped us back to Caldbeck to walk the last stretch to Carlisle to complete the route and watch the big game. Minibus drove us to Bluebell camping barn at High Crosby, 7 miles from Carlisle. An evening meal in the local pub. Awards were given for achievements of the week, most notably for navigation. Sorry, Gwyn!

Sunday 18th

After yet another comfortable night we were driven back to Ulverston to reclaim our cars and drive home. Some of us made the most of the day and extended the Wetherspoons UK tour. Brian stayed an extra night on a camp bed in the shed of the camping barn and after a nice hot cup of tea the following morning

returned on the train in the afternoon, as was the original plan back in October. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the planning and smooth running of the trip.

We look forward to the next Feraday & Roberts Epic Journey.

My thought for the week:-

MY IDEA OF HEAVEN
IS COFFEE AT ELEVEN
AND A WALK ALONG THE
CATBELLS RIDGE
THE ROUTE FROMGRANGE
TO KESWICK
REALLY IS MESMERIC
IN MAY, WITHOUT
A SINGLE MIDGE!



The NOGS have magnetic attraction!

Ever on the look out for new means of spreading the publicity for the Group, our latest venture is a magnetic car magnet. Designed to easily stick on and peel off any car, the 28.6 cm x 21.6 cm magnet features the usual logo, website address and slogan, as shown in the photo below – now you can say the NOGS are well and truly on the move!



News from NOG Chairman Dave Fereday

DON'T BE SHY

We are currently preparing the Autumn and Winter programme, and a key date on that programme is our Annual General Meeting, which is scheduled for Monday 10th November. As usual all members are warmly welcome.

It will be the third AGM at which I am Chairman, having been elected at the 2005 AGM, and in line with NOG convention I am stepping down.

I must stress that I have really enjoyed my time as Chairman, but am most definitely aware that I must not over stay my welcome. Also it is wise that to maintain the unique character and attraction of the group is that we do not become stale and the best way to achieve this is to have regular transfusions of fresh blood in the Chairman's role.

Consequently there will be a vacancy, not just for Chairman, but also for the committee. Many of you are regularly putting ideas in the suggestion book and your enthusiasm would be extremely welcome on the committee. You know who you are, so don't be shy.

HOSTEL BOOKINGS

Firstly the Good News! Youth Hostels are now busier, consequently there should not be any more wholesale Hostel closures as announced by the YHA a few years ago. Secondly the Bad News! It has resulted in Norman not being able to book Hostels as agreed on the programme.

Firstly there was Marloes Sands over the May Bank Holiday weekend. We had to change to Broadhaven, which of

course allowed Dai to fall in love with Catherine, the Manager there. She was a lady who certainly knew the way to a man's heart, or at least Dai's heart, was through his stomach.

Then in June we had a brilliant weekend on Dartmoor, staying at Bellever Youth Hostel. However, our original plan, following an idea in the suggestion book, was to stay at Dart Valley Hostel. Similarly the July trip was an inter-hostel trip taking in Tanners Hatch, which was again full. The early August trip to Coalport was cancelled as again the Hostel had no beds, quite remarkable considering the size, and we can only assume the conference facilities there were being used. The August Bank Holiday trip to Slaidburn had to be moved from the Forest of Bowland to Snowdonia, as Slaidburn was not available. Now finally to our September trip in the Peak District, which was intended to be two nights at Crowden, we have been forced to spend the Friday night at Alstonefield instead before moving on to Crowden for the Saturday.

We discussed the situation at the last committee meeting, and agreed the only way forward if we wish to stay at the Youth Hostels we want, is to unfortunately bring forward our booking nights. We are suggesting four months for normal weekends and six months for Bank Holiday weekends.

We do realise that this may present problems for some of you due to factors such as working patterns, but it is the only way we can continue to visit the Youth Hostels included on our Bucket List.