

Newport Outdoor Group (YHA)



Editor

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Web Site

<http://walk.to/nogs>

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Get The Outdoor Habit!

EXETER

in February

by Jackie Roberts

The drive down was made more pleasant by what is becoming a regular stop for a meal at Wetherspoons at Bridgewater. After the usual cup of tea we had a fairly early night as we were pretty tired.

The next morning Ken joined us from his home nearby and decided to stay the night in Martins bed. Where was Martin? - we did not know, as he couldn't say.

The day started quite bright and sunny although it was cold and Brian led us into the centre on the bus to start a guided tour starting from the front of the Cathedral.

The area of the city has been extremely well developed and is very impressive to visitors. The history and tour of the of the Cathedral grounds and surrounding area took probably about one and a half hours and we were then free to have a bit of lunch over which we decided to try and find a watering hole that Nigel had discovered on a previous visit and had recommended for both the views and the refreshment!

Following his directions the canal leads from the basin in the middle of Exeter, and goes down eventually alongside the estuary at Exmouth.

We eventually found the Turf Hotel, it was the second stop we made and was well worth the journey.



FOREST OF BOWLAND

by Jackie Roberts

Five of us decided to drive up and explore this area over the early May Bank Holiday.

The drive up was via a coffee stop in Clitheroe, one of the most interesting towns, we are still searching for the famous coffee shop that also roasts and sells on site.

Slaidburn is one of what I would call the 'proper' hostels (see photo below), originally a public house, now a solid matter-of-fact building offering cheap accommodation to people who are willing to suffer a few minor discomforts. It offered everything we needed. I loved it !



On the opposite corner are the village stores, and opposite that again is the surviving pub called 'Hark the Bounty', renamed from 'The Dog' which was used in the late 1500's as a local court room to try local matters.

Down the road is the local church which still has the dog whips used at the time by a local character to keep the dogs in order when they were taken in for the service by their masters.

Friday night had a special fish night in the pub restaurant which drew locals from miles around, offering any one of half a dozen fish options for £6.00. Excellent value! We ate there for three nights.

Saturday we walked Langdon Beck in the Trough of Bowland area, finishing with tea at Puddleducks cafe in Dunsop Bridge.

EXETER in February (contd.)

Being so isolated it does not open regular hours and had only recently started opening at weekends. They sold Otter ale and we sat outside in the late afternoon sun enjoying the scenery and talking about future NOG events, including the BMR.

That evening we enjoyed a very good meal at the local pub and made plans for the next day. We decided to walk down to Buddleigh Salterton on the coast, via some beautiful woodlands, and enjoyed views over Torbay, including Thatcher Rock.

After lunch and a drink in a very nice pub, Pat from Pencoed decided to stay around the town for a couple of hours while Brian, John S, Ken, Norman and myself returned to the car via East Buddleigh and a large pig farm next to the estate of Walter Raleigh.

After collecting Pat back in the town we enjoyed a final drink in the same pub to end the weekend in traditional fashion.

A very interesting weekend as Exeter is one of the places that we often drive through or around to get somewhere, but really have never spent time just exploring the town there before. There is a lot of very interesting history and good town planning.

Particular thanks to Brian whose navigational skills were unsurpassed.



Everyone contributed some food towards what was eventually a substantial meal. The railway station venue proved a wonderful setting for the event with a cafe and facilities but the freedom for groups like ours to make picnics or barbecues as well. The group conversation was a mixture of reminiscence about past times together as well as catching up on other peoples' life stories.

After the picnic the group completed a short 2 mile walk along the river, through Tintern and back to base. The train at the station was firmly anchored on concrete and did not cause too much traffic worries for the children at the event. A really pleasant day was had by one and all and the weather came up trumps for once



FOREST OF BOWLAND (contd.)

On Sunday Brian led a walk around part of Stocks Reservoir. We spent the latter part of the afternoon in the sun with tea and scones, listening to the Heineken Cup Semi-Final on a small radio. It was a little bit tense. Norman needed a drink to recover afterwards!

Monday took us up to the highest point, called Wards Stone. The weather was a little bit iffy, but we survived.

Because that is what outdoor people do they survive!

And have a damn good time.

TINTERN RE-UNION

by Nigel Bolter

A gathering took place of some NOGS at Tintern railway station on Saturday 4th July. Some of the group who might have been there were either down in Cornwall with the group or abroad. The event was organised by Stella so that NOGS and friends could meet up with Juliette and Giliomee, the South African couple who were members of the group for two years around the Millenium Year. Stella, Nigel, Ian and Dorit have all visited this couple whilst touring South Africa. They now have three children; two girls and a boy, and live in Cape Town. The event was a communal picnic.