

Newport Outdoor Group (YHA)



Editors

Mike Alder-Woolf
& Nick Meyrick

Web Site

<http://walk.to/nogs>

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Get The Outdoor Habit!

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS at Llwyn-y-Celyn, a NOG Milestone.

by Norman Roberts

Newport Outdoor Group (YHA) celebrated its 50th anniversary in style at Llwyn-y-Celyn hostel on the weekend of April 9th to 11th 2010.

The group was actually formed by Chris Barber, and held its first meeting on Monday April 12th 1960 in the YMCA Commercial Street, Newport.

A committee named the 'Mag 7' was assembled back in August 2009 to plan the celebration weekend with the following members and responsibilities:-

Sue Shea – secretary and invitations, table decorations, guest book.

Sheila Holmes – publicity and notices, room allocation, information pack.

Alyson Bristow – catering officer - meal and wine, soft drinks, anniversary cake.

Charles Goodreid – parking.

Jinny Santavy and Chris Collier – walks programme and notice boards, banners and balloons.

Norman Roberts - chairman and finances, hostel booking officer, slide shows, scrapbooks and memorabilia.

'Mag 7' meetings were held on a monthly basis between September 2009 and April 2010. It was

decided to allocate spaces to past members and current members on a roughly 50:50 basis, and to print formal 50th anniversary invitations, as shown below.



The hostel at Llwyn-y-Celyn was actually booked for the weekend back in May 2009, and with only 41 beds available, there was always the chance of being over-subscribed. As things turned out, however, a total of 36 people attended the event, with 20 current members and 16 past members, including Dave Matthews (the first group Chairman) and his wife Jo. In addition, 3 current members, Stella Goodreid, Ian Kerr, and Nick Meyrick, joined up with the others on Saturday to participate in the planned walks. Alyson organised the baking of the anniversary cake which depicted walkers in the countryside and a stone wall with animals and fungi in fabulous detail, and the wording 'Newport Outdoor Group (yha) 50 Years of





Walking’.

The meal was prepared by the hostel warden, Francis Lawson and his team, and comprised a 3 course meal with wine, as follows:-

STARTER: Homemade Carrot + Coriander Soup, or Meat Pate and Toast.

MAIN COURSE: Breast of Chicken in White Wine Sauce, or Leek and Mushroom Pie (Cranks Recipe), or Salmon with Dill.

SWEETS: Apple Crumble, or Eton Mess (Meringue + Strawberries + Cream).

During Friday evening as guests were arriving, they were greeted with a glass of wine, and digital photos of NOG events during the past decade, using the recently acquired NOG laptop and digital projector. The NOG scrapbooks were on display, together with a folder of NOG memorabilia.

Sheila prepared an Information Pack for each guest, containing details of the walks, a list of attendees, room allocation details, contact numbers, menu choices, and a copy of the current NOG programme. The pack was placed on the dormitory beds awaiting guests’ arrival.

Many old friendships were rekindled with past guests, including Malcolm and Julie Hewson (and their children Dominic and Tean), Jon and Kath Singleton, Andrew Clabon, Kevin Hooper, Steve Pointing, Chris and Kay Nellins, Chris Priest, Jackie Griffiths, and Frank Hunt. Amongst the assembled during the weekend, there were in fact 10, yes 10, chairpersons of the NOGs.

Later on Friday evening, the guests were formally welcomed by our current Chairman, Martyn Rogers, who thanked everyone for coming and wished them an enjoyable weekend stay.

The ‘Mag 7’ duly delivered two days of perfect weather (ordered 50 years ago!). On Saturday morning, official photographer Ian R, assembled all guests for group photographs taken



WALKS MENU

Saturday 10th April

3 boot walk led by Chris

16 miles, 400 m total ascent

Duration 8 hours

The walk starts with a very steep climb following the cliff edge of Craig Cerrig-Gleisiad Nature Reserve. It will then follow the Beacons way to Fan Dringarth (617 metres) and then onto a picnic site beside the Afon Lila. The return route will follow the Roman Road to Pont Blaen-Cwm-Du and then onto Forest Lodge. There will then be a climb over the lower slopes of Fan Frynych with a descent into the Craig Cerrig-Gleisiad Nature Reserve.

2 boot walk led by David & Sarah

8 miles, 640 m total ascent

Duration 6 hours

Leaving the hostel we will progress North East along the Taff Trail, after 3 miles we will turn back South and ascent the North Ridge of Pen-Y-Fan to reach the summit of South Wales’ highest mountain. We will then visit the summit of Corn Du and then descend to Storey Arms and finally walk along the Taff Trail back to the hostel. However, if there is a strong Southerly wind we might do the walk the other way round to avoid walking into the wind on the mountains.

Sunday 11th April

2 boot walk led by Ian

10.5 miles, 405 m total ascent

Duration 4 hours

A 3-mile extension of Norman’s one boot walk, following the same route until the 400m hill known as Cefn Llechid. We will then follow field paths down to the Usk Valley and ascend to rejoin Norman’s route at about the 60% point of his route (Cwm Camlais Uchaf). The 2 groups will start walking together but will soon part company, my group increasing the pace significantly to cover the extra distance.

1 boot walk led by Norman

7.5 miles, 290 m total ascent

Duration 4 hours

Delightful circular hill walk, starting and finishing at the Beacons National Park Visitor Centre. Extensive views of the Brecon Beacons and hills north of the A40.

at the front of the hostel. This was after he almost manually destroyed his tripod by accidentally stepping on it!

The programme of walks for the weekend which was co-ordinated by Jinny and Chris, included a 16 miler and an 8 miler on Saturday, and a 7.5 miler and a 10.5 miler on Sunday. Details of all of the walks are listed on the previous page. The most popular walk turned out to be Dave Green's 2 boot walk on Saturday to the summit of Pen-y-Fan, which attracted 29 starters. It was not surprising that the handful of walkers taking part in the 16 mile walk arrived back at the hostel before the 8 milers!

The anniversary meal on Saturday evening and the post meal speeches and slides proved to be a highlight of the weekend. The dining tables were beautifully decorated by Sue and Sheila, and Jinny provided the many banners and balloons. Jeremy called silence for Martyn to formally call Grace, and then the party commenced. No broken wine glasses, no spilt soup, no washing up to do!

After the meal, Dave Matthews gave a fascinating speech describing exactly how the group came into being and his part in the formative years. This was followed by the cutting of the cake by Jo and Dave.



Further entertainment followed in the form of a slide show presented by Norman, showing pictures of group activities between 1972 and 1993, which proved to be popular with the representatives from that era. The show finished well past midnight, and concluded a perfect evening.

Several guests had to leave on Sunday morning to travel back to their respective homes, but the majority stayed to take part in one of two walks commencing from the National Park Centre, led by Ian Reese and Norman Roberts. Unfortunately Kevin slipped during his descent from Cefn Llechid and sprained his ankle. However, he was fortunate to be offered a lift back to the start of the walk by some individuals staying at a local holiday cottage.

Back at the hostel we all enjoyed a share of a birthday cake. Not the NOGs, but Chris Nevine's 50th birthday cake. Her 50th birthday on the Sunday coinciding with that of the NOGs.

Everybody was asked to sign the Guest Book supplied by Sue Shea. This will prove to be a real memento of a memorable weekend.

Thanks must go to all members of the 'Mag 7' for their efforts in planning the event and helping to make it such a success, to the warden Francis and his team for the excellent catering, to Ian R. for his role as photographer, to Martyn Rogers for his numerous welcome speeches, to Dave and Jo Matthews for their speech and for cutting the cake, to Dave Green, Chris Collier, and Ian for leading the scheduled walks, and to everybody who attended and shared in a wonderful experience.

Last but not least, we must express a huge thank you to Chris Barber, our founder member, who delighted us all with his personal memories of the first 10 years of the group in a talk to the NOGs on Monday April 12th 2010 (the actual 50th anniversary date), and of his contribution to the restoration work on Llwyn-y-Celyn hostel where we have all just shared such a historic weekend.

LIST OF ATTENDEES

PHIL ANDERSON
 DAWN BISHOP
 ALY BRISTOW
 ANDREW CLABON
 CHRIS COLLIER
 CHARLES GOODREID
 DAVID GREEN
 SARAH GREEN
 JACKIE GRIFFITHS
 DOMINIC HEWSON (CHILD)
 JULIE HEWSON
 MALCOLM HEWSON
 TEAN HEWSON (CHILD)
 SHEILA HOLMES
 KEVIN HOOPER
 DEANNA HOSKINS
 FRANK HUNT
 DAVID MATTHEWS
 JO MATTHEWS
 PAULA MURPHY
 CHRIS NELLINS
 KAY NELLINS
 CHRIS NEVINS
 STEPHEN POINTING
 CHRIS PRIEST
 IAN R
 MAGGIE RENSHAW
 JACKIE ROBERTS
 NORMAN ROBERTS
 MARTYN ROGERS
 JINNY SANTAVY
 SUE SHEA
 JONATHAN SINGLETON
 KATH SINGLETON
 KEN WHATLEY
 JEREMY WILLIAMS

