

Newport Outdoor Group (YHA)



Editors

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Web Site

<http://walk.to/nogs>

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***Get
The
Outdoor
Habit!***

BEER OR AMALFI?

Memories to keep us warm in winter
by Sue Shea

Between the 15th and 17th of October 2010, 17 NOG's and 2 NOGettes would have been forgiven for thinking they had been transported to the Adriatic Coast for the week-end; so amazing was the weather, the walking and the scenery.



It was lovely to look back on this time and place given the Arctic weather that blew in the following month.

Saturday 16th October - We started the walk from the hostel, heading for our destination of Sidford.

The sky was royal blue sporting a blazing sun that thought it was still August. We had progressed just a little way down the road when Paula Murphy drove up with beautiful baby Anna on the back seat. After friendly greetings and much 'ooing and aahing' over Anna, two NOGs joined them on a drive into Branscombe.

For the rest of us the terrain for the walk was undulating with plenty of ripe blackberries to be picked en route. Lunch was enjoyed on a pebble beach, with sail boats lazily bobbing by.

After lunch at sea level it was time to head for the cliff top and this was reached via 180 steep steps. It was a slow climb up, but well worth it for the views from the top.

Megan, however didn't think so and burst into tears half way up but Jessica (who is older) simply 'breezed it' and wasn't even out of breath as she gazed around at the top.

We passed through Branscombe (didn't see the errant NOGs & baby NOG who were sitting outside a tea shop enjoying the food and balmy weather.)

We did, however, stop to read the information board regarding the cargo ship

NAPOLI that was shipwrecked less than a mile off the coast in January 2007. Readers may remember this was a constant 'news item' for a while, as looters were taking away some very varied cargo that had been washed ashore.

At this juncture Richard could not resist his daily ice-cream intake, even though he had vowed, a few weeks earlier 'not to eat between meals'. 'Well, I am on holiday', he retorted when this was pointed out to him!

The next sign post pointed to Sidmouth, but there was a group decision to forego a cream tea there in favour of catching an earlier bus from Sidford, thereby giving us more time to enjoy the evening socialising.

As we walked on to Sidford, Martyn spotted a Kingfisher but this magnificent bird was too quick for anyone else to get a glimpse of the turquoise and gold!

We had time for a pub stop in Sidford followed by a bus journey back to Beer Hostel to enjoy our customary 'cup-of-tea' and a slice of Ken's latest culinary masterpiece a melt-in-the-mouth ginger cake made with crystallised ginger yummmmm! Thank you, Ken.

That evening most of us visited the Dolphin Hotel for an exceptional meal of local fish and other produce, very reasonably priced, and washed down with the local brews. It was rather nice that the room was large and we were all able to sit at the same table. We were all well fed and watered and enjoyed the short walk back to the hostel.

Sunday 17th October - As the glorious tropical weather continued, we made our way into Beer to get the bus to Lyme Regis. This is a lovely sea side town of great historical interest and many fossils (a few more while the NOGs were in town - the old ones are always the best ones, don't you think?).

We sauntered through the picturesque, narrow streets of Lyme Regis and couldn't resist a stop in a delightful coffee shop to set us on our walking way.

From here we walked along the beach promenade and got a good view of 'The Cobb', known to everyone who saw the film, *The French Lieutenants Woman*.



Next we made for the coastal path on our way to Seaton. Much of this leg of the walk is through forestry known as the Undercliffs, so few sea views I'm afraid, but there are interesting facts to read on information boards approximately every mile of the route.

Dawn took a few little side excursions hoping to find a fossil or two (insert your own quip here) but no luck I'm afraid.

The lunch stop was memorable. There was a clearing in the woods and we sat on fallen logs gazing out and down on an azure sea dancing and sparkling in response to the sun's rays. This is the very spot that we felt we could easily have been in Amalfi.



Most of us were reluctant to leave this beautiful spot, but Nigel decided to get in some training for his next mountain climbing holiday and went full steam ahead. We eventually found him sat on the beach at Seaton, waiting for the slow-coaches to catch up.

Time now for a tea stop, of course, and we found a delightful family-run tea shop called Pebbles where we ate some tasty home-made cakes with our tea.

Walking back through the town of Beer, one of the churches had a 'Festival of the Sea' display inside. A few of us popped in to look at this - lots of flotsam & jetsam and left a donation, as this was to go towards the roof restoration.

I think the whole wonderful week end was summed up by Norman when he said "That was among my top 5 favourite week-ends!" Praise indeed.



NOGs PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION RESULTS

January 24th

a) BEST PRINT

The Great Outdoors

Chalet in Switzerland – Taken by Margaret

The NOGs (and what they get up to)

Dave Fereday eating banana - Taken by Dawn

Natural History

Ladybird on plant – Taken by Margaret

Creative Photography (or obscure art?)

Civic Centre – Taken by Jeremy

What Makes Us Laugh

Rager and Roberts (Jackie and Norman) - Taken by Richard W

b) BEST PROJECTED

The Great Outdoors

Ennerdale Water – Taken by Norman

The NOGs (and what they get up to)

Wet Whether in Ennerdale - Taken by Dawn

Natural History

Piglets suckling - Taken by Dave Green

Creative Photography (or obscure art?)

Millipede - Taken by - Margaret

What Makes Us Laugh

Julian astride two rocks – Taken by Dawn

c) BEST OVERALL

Best Overall Print

Ladybird on plant – Taken by Margaret

Best Overall Projected

Ennerdale Water – Taken by Norman

There were prizes of chocolate and wine for the winners of each category and the two overall prize winners won two nights each at a Rent a Hostel trip of their choice.

That's a prize well worth carrying your camera around all year for. Now is the time to start looking for that picture that will make you a winner next year.

Copies of the winning photographs from the projected category are shown overleaf - sorry we cannot include the wining prints on this occasion.

**Winner - Best Overall Projected
Ennerdale Water
Photograph by Norman**



**Winner – The Nogs (and what the get up to)
Wet weather in Ennerdale
Photograph by Dawn**



Winner – Natural History
Piglets suckling
Photograph by Dave Green



Winner – Creative Photography
Milepede
Photograph by Margeret



Winner – What makes us laugh
Julian astride two rocks
Photograph by Dawn

