



GET THE OUTDOOR HABIT IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM

PARADISE FOUND

By Jackie Roberts

August Bank Holiday 2002 Friday early evening and the scene was set, the sea mist was gently nestling into the cliffs, the lapping of the tide making its presence felt. The temperature was perfect and the whole weekend lay ahead.

Pwll Deri youth hostel has changed dramatically over the years to become a most welcoming haven on the Pembrokeshire coast situated between Trevine and Fishguard. Twenty of us from Newport (Gwent) were to make it our haven for the next three nights and days. If you have not visited you must - it is one of the most perfect places.

Several group members have made a contribution to this write up, my task is just to edit - so here we go!

A room with a view inspired us to get up early. Under Normans guidance sixteen of us started off along the coastal path, and later split up, twelve going to the Woollen Mill, just south of St Nicholas. The weather was fine and warm and the flowers were beautiful shades of purple and yellow.

Dave's extension headed a little further down the coast towards Trevine. Dave, Sara, Soph and Dawn had a very pleasant walk and ate their sandwiches overlooking the sea. Their walk ended slightly early at Abercastle so that they could catch the Strumble Shuttle back to the hostel. Being a little early they decided to go into Fishguard for a cup of coffee and short walk before going back to queue for the showers.



Memories of Saturday - a full compliment of NOGS (16) starting a walk together on August Bank Holiday Saturday:-

- ✓Martin lying on his back sunning himself at the woollen mill after having been refused service by the café waitress at least three times.
- ✓Watching a seal swim in the bay below the hostel.
- ✓My highlight of Sunday was attempting to ring bells at St Davids, the first time outside Newport (Gwent). The walk was excellent, wonderful coastal views. Meal at Porthgain that evening was great, best ever banoffee pie. Beating the plebs at UNO!!!! - Dawn
- ✓Watching the climbers abseiling on the cliffs around St Davids over a relaxing lunch in the sun.
- ✓The city itself is well worth a visit.



Norman and myself did a stretch of coastline from Newport around Dinas Head and back - renowned for its beauty - it lived up to expectations - especially on our 18th wedding anniversary! Two small beaches en route - are well worth a visit, Cwm yr Eglwys has a ruined church which was destroyed in a gale in 1859 and dedicated to St Brynach - and Pwll Gwealod if only for coffee! This route is a well trodden path and reasonably well maintained but some parts were a little close to the cliffs.

It was quite a surprise to see Jack, a friend of son David from Cardiff, in the kitchen that evening. He had cycled up from Solva with some friends, they had decided to spend the night at Pwll Deri before riding back the next day.

- ✓The NOGS missed the best time at the beach, playing at beach, checking out the caves and dancing in the waves. Marvellous sun just at the right time to enjoy sun, sand and sea - Janice
- ✓The bank holiday weekend turned out to be pretty good all in all, apart from me (John H) being bogged down with some stomachache trouble which to some became a concern. Excellent walking though, on the coast and inland. Worth going on this trip!

- ✓ A fabulous trip filled with scenic coastline, history and great company. The weather couldn't have been better. Then to crown the day the choir from St Davids cathedral was uplifting. Easily the best Cathedral that I have visited.
- ✓ Most notable was the wooden ceiling. All in all, a fantastic day

So there we have it, a truly democratic write up of the weekend. I understand that six i.e. Lesley, Martin, Ali, George, Stella and James decided to extend their 'dash for freedom' until the Wednesday and went on to stay at Marloes Sands until the weather changed. The rest of the troop (they all want their names mentioned!) were Dawn, Soph, Janice, George, Neil, John H, Dave, Sara , Paula, Alex, Norman, Chris and of course Mollie who loved every minute. Ian K arrived a day late, Paula and Alex departed a day early and poor old Adrian didn't arrive at all due to an old war injury!

Australia

By Jamie Roberts



Just a quick message to thank everyone who kindly sponsored me for the excellent trip I had in Australia. The tour went very smoothly, and it was an amazing experience being part of the squad, let alone going to Australia.

The rugby tour was very successful, winning all of our games well. It was an awesome experience visiting cities such as Brisbane, Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast, Melbourne, Sydney, Townsville and Cairns. Each city offers its own culture and they are all magnificent cities. White water rafting was quite exhilarating, whilst snorkelling amongst the tropical fish on the great barrier reef was merely breathtaking. I'd like to recommend it to anyone. It's a fantastic and exciting country to be in and

maybe the NOGS could go there one year? Thanks Again!

Photography Competition

By Norman Roberts

The last NOGS photo competition was held in May 2001, so there was plenty of interest in the 2002 event, held on Monday 9th September, with a record entry in several categories. The 'Architecture' category for example had 43 prints entered, and the 'Landscapes/Seascapes prints had 44 entries. This meant a long evening ahead and we just managed to vacate the room in time at 10pm. The evening was attended by 21 NOGS, all looking to win yet another NOGS mug, and many were not disappointed. The standard of entry was undoubtedly the best ever, and with digital photography now making an appearance, the quality of prints and slides was excellent.

We had a 'Worst Print' category for the first time, and the inaugural winner was John with a magnificent view (?) from the Big Wheel in Vienna. Other winners included Maggie, Nigel, Ian Reese, Dawn (first time winner), Jamie, and Norman. (See attached list of winners).

Once again the photographic skills of Clive Sadler won the day. In addition to winning 3 of the 13 categories, Clive came up trumps with his winning slide of Pulteney Bridge in Bath. (This is reproduced above right in all its magnificence – Ed.) Congratulations to Clive for 2002 and let's hope he doesn't start on digital photography !!

My improvements for next year would be (1) Start the meeting at 7pm, (2) Have an overall print winner and an overall slide winner and (3) Purchase trophies which can be awarded each year to the 2 winners?

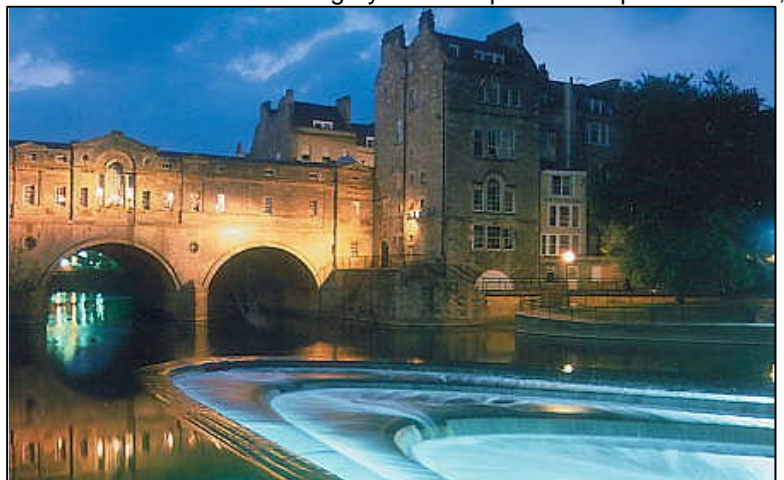


Photo Competition Winners

September 9th 2002

A) Best Print	Himalayas	Nigel
B) Best Print Natural History	Squirrel	Clive
C) Best Print Group Activities	Loading Boat At Barry - Flatholm Trip	Maggie
D) Best Print Fun Pictures'	Molly in Pool	Dawn
E) Best Print Architecture	Hong Kong Tower Blocks	Norman
F) Best Print Miscellaneous	Cat - New Zealand	Jamie
G) Worst Print Any Subject	View From Big Wheel Vienna	John
H) Best Slide	Scottish Sunset	Ian Reese
I) Best Slide Natural History	Family Of Ducks	Nigel
J) Best Slide Group Activities	Kitchen at Borth Hostel	Ian Reese
K) Best Slide Fun Pictures'	Teddy Bear On Mast - Sailing trip	Maggie
L) Best Slide Architecture	Pulteney Bridge Bath	Clive
M) Best Slide Miscellaneous	Transporter Bridge	Clive
N) Best Photograph	Pulteney Bridge Bath	Clive