



## GET THE OUTDOOR HABIT

### DOING IT IN STYLE?!!!

By Jackie Roberts

Are you one of those 'average' people who would prefer to lie in bed on a rainy Sunday morning when there is nothing else to do? Or are you looking for something slightly different as you pack yourselves up to get to Godfrey Road car park for 9.30? The skies may get greyer, the rainfall may get heavier but nothing is going to deter you.

And so the day started on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May with rain clearing for sunny spells at 9.27 precisely and the rest of the day was dry, if a little cloudy and cold at times. 7 of us plus Mollie met at the Queens Head in the Llanthony valley and set off:-

- ✓ **Visiting Cwmyoy Church and its spectacular leaning tower** – well worth a peek, preferably when sober
- ✓ **Llanthony Priory** - excellent toastie sandwiches, Guinness and picnic table. And birdlife.
- ✓ **Skirrid Inn** - just the way to finish off a fine days walking - around a table with refreshments contemplating the summer months ahead.

An enjoyable relaxing day was had by all – Dave, Sarah, Phil and Mollie, Ian K, Ali, Norman and self. Thank you all for your company, particularly Mollie who may well be in training for Crufts!!!!

PHIL, DAVE AND MOLLIE TACKLE A VERY MUDDY STYLE



### GALLOPING AROUND THE GOWER

Five NOG's who completed the 19 mile Gower Gallop walk last year decided they needed a bigger challenge this year. I am pleased to say that Dave Green, Dave Fereday, Sarah, Nigel and

Dawn all successfully completed the 24 mile route on a very hot day. The discussion over a beer in the Gower Inn after was will we enter the 30 mile walk next year, then there is 35 miles for the following year; but all this talk was after a few beers.

Ken, Deanna, Phil, Chris, Angela, Paula, Alex, Terry



and Kevin all completed the 12 mile route. Martyn was camping but didn't enter the walks as he broke his toe falling out of bed!

### SETI@home

Search for **extraterrestrial Intelligence**

by Mike Alder-Woolf

**E.T. may not be phoning home**, but he may well be phoning you, thanks to many ordinary humans who participate in a world-wide scientific experiment that uses Internet-connected computers in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI).

Anyone can participate by running a free program that downloads and analyses radio telescope data. With the help of hopeful alien "listeners", the project has now analyzed about 10,000 hours of data from the Arecibo radio observatory in Puerto Rico, producing a database of several billion events.



From this database, "best candidates" have been extracted that, in best judgement, have the greatest likelihood of coming from an extraterrestrial synthetic source. The factors used in this evaluation include signal power, goodness of fit, detection of it several different times, and proximity to a nearby star (especially one similar to our Sun).

The next step is to re-observe the top candidates by pointing a radio telescope at that location in the sky and checking for a similar signal.

The project applied for telescope time at Arecibo (see photo below) and were granted 24 hours, in three 8-hour chunks on March 18-20, 2003. If everything goes well, this will be enough time to re-observe about 150 candidates. The re-observations will be done using the main receiver at Arecibo, which has a smaller beam and greater sensitivity than the antenna normally used.



I was fortunate to be allowed to run the Seti program (which is basically a screen saver, see picture below) at work, rather than home, and was able to clock up a lot of computer processing time of the signals over a month or so. For those technical NOGS, a total CPU time of 857 hrs 21 minutes has been logged! This ranks me as 1,474,631<sup>st</sup> out of a

total of 4,568,103 – which means that my PC completed more work units than 67% of all SETI users. Phewee!

For home users, I would only try this if you have a broadband connection, so that constant connection with the internet is maintained. My verdict? A very interesting, amusing and novel way of using spare PC processing power. So why not give it a go? You never know, you may find the very first true alien signal from the universe!

The following web sites may be of interest:-

<http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/>

<http://planetary.org/html/member/SETIoffer.html>

## WHATLEY DOES A WHEELIE!



**Congratulations to Ken Whatley** who completed the 50 mile London to Brighton cycle ride in 7 hours 15 minutes. This event on closed roads has 27,000 entrants and raises money for the

British Heart Foundation

At the last count, Ken had raised £200. For those wondering if Ken had to cycle back to London, the event has special trains to take the bikes and their rider's back to the start.

Lets see if we can have a few more NOG's entering next year.

