



GET THE OUTDOOR HABIT

Snowdonia 18th-20th July

By Angela Bengur

We arrived on Friday night quite late with some of the group having had trouble finding their way (is there a need for map reading lessons?) Everyone was quite tired so we retired reasonably early. Saturday arrived and in usual NOG tradition we left around 10.30 am and started our walk uphill and more uphill and yes you've guessed it more uphill. Phil and Nigel led the walk first to Tal-y-San approx 2000feet and then down into a valley path called Bwlch-y-Ddeusaen. We next climbed the Drum and the group split up. The group that were designated chefs returned along an old Roman path to the hostel and the pioneers climbed 3000 feet to Soelsrasover.

The cooking brigade arrived back around 6p.m. and had dinner well under way for the others who arrived wet and tired at 7.20 p.m.

As we were seated to begin our 5 star meal prepared by Dawn, Chris, Deanna, Angela and Martin, 3 Belgian tourists arrived dripping wet having backpacked for 3 hours after a plane/rail journey from

Belgium that day. We offered them hot food which was well received. We celebrated Sarah's birthday with a cake that had Dave and her picture on it. It was a great surprise for both of them. Next day we split into 2 groups – one visiting Llandudno and The Great Orme and the other Port Merion. This was a quieter day walking wise but also enjoyed by all.



Part of the Great Orme, Llandudno, N. Wales.

Quote of the trip: "How did you sleep with the sheep Dave?" Nigel.

Well Done, Kevin!

by N O Brakes

Congratulations to Ken Whatley who completed the 50 mile London to Brighton cycle ride in 7 hours 15 minutes. This event, held on 15th June 2003, on closed roads has 27,000 entrants and raises money for the British Heart Foundation. For further information, see the web site:-

<http://www.cycle-rides.co.uk/brighton.htm>



Photos of the 2003 event can be found at:-

<http://www.cycle-rides.co.uk/brighton.htm>

YHA News

5 YHA Campus locations are now open around the country. These make use of university owned high-class accommodation that is let out to the YHA over the summer months (July to August). Check out the New Medlock House, Manchester – an impressive building ideally suited to access to Manchester City centre! Perhaps something to think about for next summer?

Fancy a charity walk with a difference in 2004? In aid of the GIVE US A BREAK scheme, you can enjoy a 70 km journey across the amazing wilderness of Chile, encompassing glaciers and peaks of the Torres del Paine National Park. More details from the YHA web site at:-

<http://www.yha.org.uk>

That red blob in the sky is a bit close, ain't it?

By P L Anet

That red blob in the sky happens to be the planet Mars and August 27th 2003 heralds the closest that the red planet and our blue-green planet have been since 60,000 years ago. At that time in Earth history, the Neanderthals were roaming the surface.....no doubt looking up at the sky and grunting, "That red blob in the sky is a bit close, ain't it?"

The photo shown overleaf right depicts a very strange and bizarre Martian landscape feature as taken by the Mars Global Surveyor (MGS) Mars Orbiter Camera (MOC). The photo covers an area 2.9 by 4.1 km (1.8 by 2.5 miles), and was taken in October 2000 (Photo Credit: NASA/JPL/Malin Space Science Systems, website <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/allabout/>).

Is it just me, or can anyone else see a Giant's footprint in this photograph?



NOGS AGM

There was a good turn out of NOGS at the recent Annual General Meeting, held on 20th October.

The following brave-hearted members will continue the good works of the Committee:-

D. Green (Chair), P. Anderson (Secretary), C. Nevines, D. Faraday, D. Bishop, N. Bolter, I. Reese, J. Hobday.

CADBURY CUP SUCCESS!

By Dave Green

The NOG's put in another good performance in this years Cadbury Cup finishing in the best possible position – Second! The cup was won by the Gloucester local, who get the job of organising next years event; hence why second place is best. The best individual score was a team from the Boreham Wood local group, but as they only entered one team, they didn't qualify as overall winners, which is based on the aggregate of the best two teams from each local group.

In this years event based around the Ridgeway hostel, the NOG's entered three teams. Norman and Nigel had the best score, despite not reaching the final checkpoint within their 5 hours. Sarah made me run most of the way, so we were one of only a few teams that finished the course in less than 5 hours, however we didn't do very well on our questions. Dawn, Chris and Neil also had an excellent score.

For those not familiar with the Cadbury Cup, it's a trophy donated by the Cadbury family, for YHA local groups. You have to complete a 13-mile course in 5 hours, visiting ten check points en-route. At each check point you have to answer 10 questions or solve a puzzle and you are then given a grid reference of the next check point which you have to find. Therefore it's a good test of general knowledge, navigation and fitness. It would be great to see more members entering the event next year, even if you are unlikely to finish the course, it's great to take part.

NOGS NEWS REPORTER OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Dawn Bishop, who was judged to have written the best article to have appeared in our Newsletter for the year 2002-3. The winning article appeared in **NOGS NEWS No. 84 (Dec 2002)**, and featured the NOGS trip to Snowdonia. Dawn had to beat off stiff competition from several NOGS. Many thanks to all those who have contributed over the past year.

EMAIL LINK ENABLED FROM WEBSITE

An email link is now available for the first time from our Web site. This fulfils a request made at the AGM for a better means of communication from our web pages. This will allow visitors to send electronic mail to the NOGS, simply by clicking on a link that is located on the main page of the web site, as well as in the Members area. Thanks to Dave Green, who will be processing mail received in this way.

