



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL NOGS!

AGM 2004

By Chairman Green

If you missed it or fell asleep during the Annual general Meeting of October 25th then find out what happened here!

This year we had a good positive AGM, although a clash with the half term holiday increased the number offering their apologies; perhaps something to avoid next year.

- The minutes of the previous years AGM were accepted and the chair pointed out a number of actions as a result of points discussed; these included an e-mail link on the web-site and the purchase of 2 way radios to prevent people becoming detached at the back. I gave my Chairman's report, which included the following points:
- Attendance on weekends away showed a significant increase.
- Attendance at evening and day walks were similar to previous years.
- Membership was the same as last year with those not renewing their membership being replaced by 5 new members and 3 former members returning.
- Notable events were pointed out including the various Rent A Hostel weekends, the 10 day Easter trip to the Borders, May Bank Holiday weekends, the Israeli evening, the 3 boot (Strenuous) day walks led by Norman and Nigel.
- Good profitable challenge walks with a record BMR entry raising £2600 for the mountain rescue, and a good TT raising money for group funds.
- Cycle events had been disappointing, so the committee may look to arrange a joint NOG / COG cycle programme for 2005.



The Treasurer presented the accounts, which showed a significant operating surplus for the year. With a strong cash balance, a motion was passed to protect the group by creating a reserve fund of £1,000 only to be used for emergencies. This motion was passed unanimously. Next was a move to change the group constitution to bring into line with how we operate and to ensure it reflects our current relationship with the YHA as an affiliated group. (*The Constitution will shortly be made available from our web site - Ed*)

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (Dave, Dawn and Phil) were re-elected unopposed with Ian Reese, Nigel, Dave Fereday, Norman, Martyn and Angela all unanimously elected. Chris and John Hobday stepped down and were thanked for their efforts.

Jackie Roberts won the award for Reporter of the Year for her article on George's 3 peaks exploits (*this appeared in NOGS NEWS No. 89 - Ed*).

Any other business included suggestions including:-

- greater use of the radios
- co-ordinators for weekends
- a greater variety in length and duration of day walks
- changing the pub to the Engineers Arms

Minutes will be available shortly and any member who didn't attend is welcome to a copy of the accounts.

MAYDAY, MAYDAY - MAYDAY, MAYDAY

By Dave Fereday

Where best to spend May Day but in a former Coastguard station. Well not just May Day as we actually travelled back home on that day, it was the May Day Bank Holiday weekend. This was the

newly opened Hostel in Littlehampton, in the words of old Music Hall song in "Dear Old Sussex by the Sea". It was situated right on the quay at Littlehampton, a joint venture between the YHA and the local council. (See photograph on this page – Ed). It has to be said that it bore more of a resemblance to a Travelinn or Travelodge than a traditional Youth Hostel, with the rooms all bearing names with a nautical theme.

Now anyone who has been to a NOGS committee meeting or indeed a meeting in general should know that if you want to do a coastal walk in that area it has to take in the Witterings. So after a drive to East Wittering, it was a coastal walk to West Wittering taking in a tour of East Head en route, with views across to Hayling Island. On the return journey there was the obligatory stop for a pint.

Unfortunately there was a power cut at the pub, so if you had the right money you could have a pint, however if you needed change as the electric till was down you were snookered. Oh for those heady days of manual tills like Arkwrights, with or without the Cigar tin on the top.

We awoke Sunday morning to glorious sunshine and as we had done a dead flat walk yesterday it was decided to do some mountains today, or at least Sussex's excuse for mountains the South Downs. So after a short drive to Arundel we set off through the grounds of the Estate past Swanbourne Lake over the hill to the village of Amberley. There we had a café stop on the banks of the River Arun before setting out along the South Downs Way National Trail. After witnessing the aftermath of a motorbike accident, crossing the busy B2139 road we ascended to the peace and tranquillity of the South Downs. The view from our lunch stop on the top of Springhead Hill was tremendous, south to the Channel and north across the plain to the North Downs, even though it wasn't even 200 metres high. We then descended to the village of Wepham, returning to Arundel along the banks of

the River Arun near Arundel Youth Hostel. On the way we came across the remains of a burnt out tank, all that was needed to complete the picture was Captain Mannering, Sergeant Wilson and the rest of the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard!

That evening we made a visit to the Gribbling for a meal, labelled by our illustrious Chairman as the best pub he has ever visited. The meals were okay, but the reason for Dave's enthusiasm for the place was the Micro Brewery on site and the range of real ales available ranging in strength from 3.4% to 6.5% and all were par excellence.

The following morning, the actual May Day Bank Holiday, we decided to walk along the banks of the River Arun to Arundel and return to Littlehampton on a boat. En route we saw two interesting sights. Firstly, an aeroplane on a stick, indicating the Base at Tortington.

Secondly, we saw two guys excavating in a field by the side of a public house at Ford. They were not digging into the cellar. They advised us that they were looking for the canal linking the river to Portsmouth and indeed the small hole they had dug did reveal the remains of a Lock. However what they had done so far, and what they hoped to do, reminded one of the Artillery Officer in HG Wells' book "War of the Worlds", building his brave new world with a spade. As we approached Arundel the weather changed to real British Bank Holiday weather, as the heavens opened. So after puddle dodging in Arundel it was time to catch the boat back to Arundel, complete with a welcome hot drink, cake and the cheerful banter of the Captain.

So all in all a really enjoyable weekend with contrasting weather and another Hostel to tick off. Special thanks to Sarah, whose local knowledge not only made us aware of the Gribbling, but also provided a willing volunteer to lead the walks.

