

Newport Outdoor Group (YHA)



Quantock Physics by John Cullen

During the NOGS Christmas party weekend in Crowcombe, we stumbled across a previously undiscovered branch of Physics, Quantock Physics.

Quantock Physics has certain similarities with Quantum Physics. Quantum physics is the science which tries to make sense of the counter-intuitive effects which occur in the world of the very small. A key tenet of quantum physics is the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle. The principle states that it is impossible to simultaneously know both the momentum and position of an object, in the realm where Quantum Physics operates. The magnitude of momentum is equal to speed multiplied by mass (non-scientists call mass weight apparently).

During our Saturday walk we discovered that it is impossible to simultaneously know the position of all members of a walking group if they have momentum. I will call this the Jackie Roberts Uncertainty Principle. A corollary of this principle is Dual Group Paradox, whereby a "slow" group travels at a greater average velocity than a "fast" group, while members of the "fast" group search for lost members. Jackie tried to provide a classical explanation for her disappearance (she was talking to a follower of the Hunt which was passing by) but I think deeper forces were at work. It is believed that the Jackie Roberts Uncertainty Principle may also have been responsible for my navigational error on the Sunday.

The theory of Special Relativity was developed by Albert Einstein while he was working as a Patent Examiner in the Swiss Patent Office. According to the theory, time passes more slowly for moving objects than for stationary ones and moving objects contract in length from the perspective of a stationary object. Consequently, a round trip to Crowcombe from Newport at 60mph will make you 20 trillionths of a second younger than you would be if you had stayed at home (I think). Of course, this

new found youth pales into insignificance in comparison with the half hour Dawn, Charlie and I lost trying to find the hostel. Special Relativity is only usually significant at speeds considerably in excess of the national speed limit. In fact, it can probably be safely ignored at speeds below one hundred thousand mph.



Perhaps if I was allowed to examine simple subject matter such as cuckoo clocks and pen-knives as Einstein undoubtedly did then this Patent Examiner would have produced a seminal work before now.

During our walks over the Quantocks we discovered that, rather than observing length contraction at fast speeds, we experienced length expansion at slow speeds (below 2.5 mph). The effect was most pronounced on the Sunday, when I could have sworn that Dave Green's 6 mile walk felt like 10 miles at least. Further experimental work is required to determine whether the enhanced length expansion experienced on the Sunday was due to a significant mass increase of the NOGS, following Pam's excellent and copious Xmas meal on the Saturday evening (which included every type of fresh vegetables sold by Tesco). It is also notable that those of us located in closest proximity to the wine boxes

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Web Site
<http://walk.to/nogs>

"During our Saturday walk we discovered that it is impossible to simultaneously know the position of all members of a walking group if they have momentum"

***Get
The
Outdoor
Habit!***



Quantock Physics contd.

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during the meal reported the greatest perception of length expansion on the Sunday (and least perception of everything else on the Saturday evening).

Other physical phenomena which defy explanation by modern physics occurred, such as the spontaneous teleportation of Neil's Boots to Alison's feet and the fact that all photographs of Dawn taken on the Saturday evening were over-exposed.

Don't think that the Crowcombe weekend was entirely dedicated to scientific research; there was time for fun and games as well. After the Xmas dinner we passed Dawn's multi-prize containing parcel, and later played "Who's in the bag". "Who's in the bag" is tremendously entertaining, and similar to "The Name Game" from They Think It's All Over. Ally was in the winning team for every game. Perhaps next year we could play "Feel The....". On second thoughts, perhaps not.

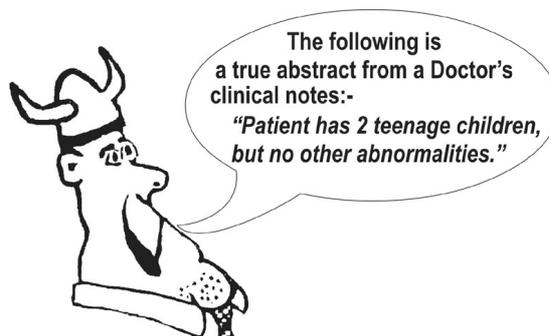
The Crowcombe Hostel was a great venue for the weekend. It has spacious bedrooms and public rooms, and a sleep inducing real fire in the lounge. The building is also very impressive from the outside. It's a pity it will soon be closed down.

The surrounding area also offered plenty of scope for large, mixed group walking as the modest hills provided a sufficient gradient to satisfy keen walkers, without being over-demanding to those more accustomed to inter-tea-shop walking. We were able to benefit from Ken's local knowledge. He pointed out lots of scenic landmarks theoretically or actually visible from the hills, such as Llanwern steel works and a nuclear power station. That reminds me, Nuclear Physics.... (only kidding).

The weekend finished back at the hostel with tea and disgustingly enormous slices of Martyn's Birthday cakes, which we had been too full to eat on the previous evening. It was an enjoyable way to finish an enjoyable weekend. As Jinny put it: "Good food, good company, reasonable weather; a perfect weekend except for the hangover".



Noggin The Nog



The following is a true abstract from a Doctor's clinical notes:-
 "Patient has 2 teenage children, but no other abnormalities."

Better late than never, here are the results of the Nogs Photo competition (thanks to Norman) held in November last year. The photo displayed above is the winner of the "Best projected" category, by John Cullen:-

<u>Category</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Winner</u>
A. Best Print - The Great Outdoors	Trees below Hatterall Ridge	Maggie
B. Best Print - The Nogs (and what they get up to)	Norman's winter walk Jan 2005	Maggie
C. Best Print - What Makes Us Laugh	Jackie and Angela - poking tongues	Babs
D. Best Print - The Weather	Mountains in Switzerland	Jeremy
E. Best Print - Whatever You Like	Jellyfish - aquarium New York	Babs
F. Best Projected - The Great Outdoors	Seagull in flight near Seattle USA	John Cullen
G. Best Projected - The Nogs (and what they get up to)	Evening meal - Jersey trip	Norman
H. Best Projected - What Makes Us Laugh	Dawn's muddy rear end	Dawn
I. Best Projected - The Weather	Sand blown by wind - Duddon Estuary	Dave Green
J. Best Projected - Whatever You Like	Orange Butterfly	Jeremy
K. Best Print	Jellyfish - aquarium New York	Babs
L. Best Projected	Seagull in flight near Seattle USA	John Cullen