

# Newport Outdoor Group (YHA)



## As I was Walking To St. Ives...by Jackie Roberts

The journey down to St Ives on the Wednesday was very pleasant. It was a crisp sunny day and the lunch stop at Jamaica Inn for Dawn, Charlie, Norman and I was very welcome.

We arrived late afternoon at our terraced cottage, which was ideal for our stay, and after enjoying our first home cooked evening meal with Chris, we sought out the first of the real ale places and most congregated in the Castle Inn that evening to discuss plans for the coming five days.

Dave and Sarah were sharing a luxury apartment for four with Nigel and Ian Kerr. Sally and Martin along with their two children Victoria and Ben did likewise. Ken was to join us in the cottage the following day whilst Deanna and mum stayed in a nearby B&B. Nina, Angela, Jayne and another friend traveled down a day or so later and stayed in a caravan nearby.

On the Thursday after a day spent pottering around the town of St Ives, dinner that evening was after a drive to Mousehole to see all the Christmas lights along the harbour walls.

Next day was Friday and we were all ready for a good long walk. We traveled in a westerly direction to a place called Zenna along the South West Coast Path. The weather wasn't brilliant; it was abysmal, pouring with rain and very windy for most of the day.

Just before we reached the pub at the end of a very exhausting stretch, Norman decided to lose one of the lenses from his glasses. His timing was immaculate.

We all nearly developed pneumonia by sitting dripping in front of a log fire and then going out to catch the last bus of the day. The hot chocolate helped as, did Dawn's tot of brandy! Another home cooked meal that night was on the cards before a swift half at the Castle again. It was just a typical days walking with the group.

Saturday was New Years Eve and most of us walked in a south easterly direction along the coast towards Lelant. We crossed Carbis Bay and Porth Kidney Sands, supposedly one of the most beautiful viewpoints in the world. Shortly afterwards the main group split, with Norman and myself looking for a suitable place for a tipple. The rest of the group were keen to get back for the New Years Eve Celebrations and took a circular route inland over the highest points to give a panoramic view to include St Michaels Mount.

We chose to dawdle and whilst we were in the pub on the corner in Lelant who should arrive but Sally and Martin with children attempting for a lunchtime meal. Martin was by now feeling only slightly better having suffered flu like symptoms with a bad chest for several days. The children were in fine form, enjoying the adventure.

Back at the ranch, the NYE celebrations started with a Chinese feast organised by Sally and enjoyed by all in their flat. From there, fully attired, we made our way through the town to the Castle Inn to spend the greater part of the evening.

Fancy Dress Celebrations are serious business in St Ives, the police had cordoned off the town and all traffic was diverted.

The whole evening was great fun, Victoria and Ben really enjoyed seeing the array of costumes and images that were portrayed, though it all got a bit too much for Ben and he eventually fell asleep. Walking through the town I personally have never seen such a variety of so many exquisite fancy dress costumes in one place at one time. A special mention for Nina's portrayal of Carmen Miranda !

After a very late finish after fireworks over the bay and champagne drinks back at Dave and Sarah's a few phone calls were made to friends who were enjoying themselves elsewhere in the country.

And then we had to sleep.



Photo of St. Ives above by Charles Winpenny is reproduced here courtesy of <http://www.cornwallcam.co.uk>

Get  
The  
Outdoor  
Habit!

## St. Ives (Contd).

The next day we were slightly bleary eyed but had to enjoy more of the coastline. Nina, Jayne and Angela joined us from the cottage and we drove to a point from where we walked via St Michaels Mount along the coast. We hardly had a chance to put a foot on the island at the beginning before the tide came in.....never mind, there is always next time.

The rest of the afternoon, after a coffee break with celebration chocolates, was spent walking along the coast as far as Venton Farm.

There was a small scare when we were led to believe that we were locked in the car park but it was just one of the locals playing a trick on us. Dawn had already made plans to call a taxi!

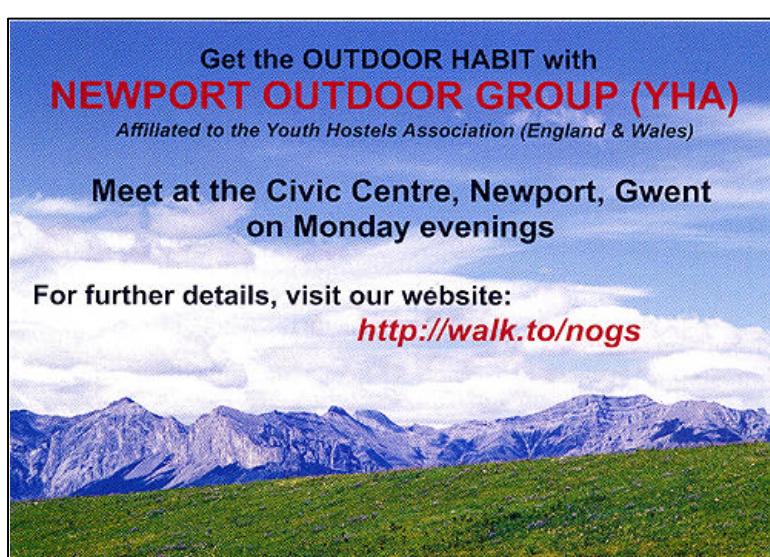
Back at the ranch, Angela lit the rest of her candles to complete the Jewish celebration of Light and quite a few of us went to the Sloop that evening for our final meal. It was excellent. The rest decided to finish off the takeaway food from the previous evening.

Next morning we left for home, dropping Ken off at Deanna and mums B&B. Lunch was recommended at the Old School restaurant overlooking the harbour at Port Isaac from where we viewed a giant model of a cow on the opposite hilltop. The cottage that was used to film the TV drama series Doc Martin was just below. We arrived home in the early evening, tired but very happy.

And looking ahead to the next New Year trip to Scarborough.

## Knock, knock . . . . who's there?

It's the NOGS of course! We can now leave behind our essential contact details for any prospective new member when visiting hostels by using the new calling cards (in glorious colour).



## Noggin The Nog



Two cannibals were eating a clown. One says to the other, " Does this taste funny to you?".

## Part of Wentwood Forest Saved!

Did you know that Wentwood Forest was under threat from commercial activities, as a result of 870 acres being put up for sale in June of last year?

This amazing ancient woodland, containing 23 species of native butterflies, 74 species of birds (including lesser spotted woodpecker) and other protected species such as the dormouse, has now been saved as a result of massive public support. Don't forget – it is also home to our adopted Trig Point! Celebrities, TV personalities and authors also backed the campaign. The Woodland Trust (Coed Cadw) had to raise at least £1.5 million to secure the purchase of the site and start its restoration. Many charities supported the campaign, as well as others including The South Wales Argus, and the overwhelming public response to this appeal shows how dear ancient forests are to us.

A detailed management plan will be prepared after consultation. Clearing of plantation conifers can now take place, which will allow more light to reach the forest floor, enabling the beautiful native flora to start to flourish. A special celebratory event at Wentwood Forest is planned for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May. For more information see the web site:-

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

