

Newport Outdoor Group



Putting our best
boots forward
since 1960

Editors

Mike Alder-Woolf

& Nick Meyrick

***"Norman
and I were
celebrating
our 30th
wedding
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what better
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***Get
The
Outdoor
Habit!***

PENZANCE

22nd August 2014

By Jackie Roberts

Our drive down on Friday with Brian and Steve with coffee break at Exeter and lunch break at Jamaica Inn was very pleasant and we arrived in time to settle in to the youth hostel and have a quick explore of the town.

We did a quick recce of the local Co-op, booked a table for Sunday evening and also managed to purchase food in another supermarket to supplement our planned BBQ for Saturday evening.

The rest of our group drove into town from Gloucester, (John and Les), from Basingstoke, (Tony) and from Newport in a car relay arriving late after a gourmet meal (Pam, Aly, Nigel and Ken).

We have not managed to have a scheduled August Bank Holiday trip for a number of years and were all very happy to have pulled it off this time.

Penzance Youth Hostel, set in a Georgian mansion and refurbished in recent years is now extremely comfortable rated with four and a half stars. There was however one small problem with facilities in the basement kitchen which we will come to later.

Saturday morning dawned bright and sunny and we all set off on a trek along the coastal footpath to Lamorna, led by Steve.



Julie Tonkin, a group member from years ago used to live in a cottage on the coastal path at Newlyn en route, and Ken popped in to say "hello" to Julie's mum, who still lives there. Unfortunately, she was not in good health at the time, and was waiting to be airlifted to hospital. But it was reassuring for Julie to have Ken on the phone on site.

We walked about 6 miles or so then returned to Mousehole for the traditional cream tea, and a traditional meet up when in the southwest with Paula, Alex and Anna, who used to be regular group members.



The three of them joined us that evening for our barbecue food produced entirely without charcoal. As we were running a bit late after our walk the plan was to partly cook the meat in the kitchen ovens and then finish it off on small portable barbecues. The food and drink was laid out on tables underneath a large gazebo and everything looked good.

We should have guessed that problems lay ahead as I'd had to take the kettle upstairs to boil it for a flask that morning. For some reason the electricity supply kept tripping out. Unsure of the reason, staff at the hostel were also finding it extremely frustrating.

There would be power for about 5 minute stretches, and then it would suddenly go down. Fortunately, we managed to cook what we could but Brian's Taste the Difference sausages and burgers were eventually cooked in the warden's kitchen.

We certainly enjoyed our food by the time it was ready and it was quite a delicious spread, if I do say so myself. It was tasty and very much enjoyed by all. (The champagne might have made a difference!)

The next day Pam led a walk along the beach to cross over the causeway to St Michaels Mount. The weather was turning and we were caught in a few showers during the day. The RS400 sailing race was taking place that morning so we had a very good view from the island.

On the way back to Penzance, a few of us walked while the rest did a bit of shopping and wisely hopped on a bus. Paula, Alex and Anna returned home to Torquay.

Our meal that evening in the Turks Head was exceptionally good, thanks very much to the warden for suggesting it and also to Steve, whose friend lives in Penzance and gave his recommendation.

Norman and I were celebrating our 30th wedding anniversary, what better way than with a group of good friends.



More photos of this trip appear overleaf (Ed).

