

End of August 2009 Bulletin.

Note from myself, Madam Chairman.

Hi everyone,

It would be difficult to do this month's bulletin had it not been for Hux's excellent work in keeping me up to par with what has been happening while we have been away - thanks Hux.

Paul and I have been in Canada for three weeks, staying with friends just outside Toronto and attending their 25th wedding anniversary bash. We did some of the touristy things like the sights of Toronto, and of course Niagara Falls, but the most enjoyable bits were when we were in the 'great outdoors' - the two of us rented a cottage by a lake in the middle of nowhere for a week, which came with a Canadian (of course!) canoe and a row-boat. There were no hills nearby, but LOTS of trees and water so no hillwalking but plenty of paddling and rowing, exploring the area.

After our cottage week we met up with our friends Heidi and Mark and their two children, and the six of us went canoe-camping in the Algonquin area of Canada to the north of Toronto. We loved it, and Mark and Paul were in their element chopping logs and making campfires. Even a thunderstorm on the middle day (while we were on a portage - carrying all our gear and canoes between lakes) proved memorable as we put up a tarp, found some twigs, made a fire and had a sumptuous lunch of steak, onion and pepper wraps while we were waiting for there to be twenty minutes without any lightning so that it would be safe to get back on the water. We were all soaked but it was warm and so we didn't get too cold.

We came back on 19th August, worked on 20th and 21st, then we were walking up Fleetwith Pike on our way to Black Sail Youth Hostel from Buttermere in the Lakes with Bryan and Helen, Mike Dagley, Reg, Sue Taylor and Dave Gray. The weather held out for Saturday, and we had a great evening at the Youth Hostel. Sunday, though, was true to the forecast and was very wet so we escaped via Scarth Gap Pass back to the cars.

Enough of us! There have been lots of other things going on.

Roger and Judy's barbecue at the beginning of August was a great success with eleven GMC members there - raising £2,200 for Mersey Kidney Research.

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That same weekend Allan et al were climbing in Snowdonia doing Crackstone Rib on Carreg Wastad and Ampitheatre Buttress on Craig yr Ysfa - Hux remembers them well.

Phil was in Coniston doing a scramble on Long Crag Buttress and also climbed Wetherlam.

On Thursday 6th August Mike's day walk in the Bala area went well - 13 takers doing 14 miles.

The second weekend in August saw a Peak District camping weekend attended by Adrian, Ross and Dave Cole with their achievements sounding very impressive: 'Day 1, Hayfield, William Clough, Ashop Head, circle of Kinder plateau, down via Edale Cross; Day 2, Glossop, Doctor's Gate, Pennine Way, down William Clough'.

The Gavins were in Pembrokeshire during this time doing various walks around the Newport area (and are now in Spain for six weeks!), and Geoff did the Marin Bike Trail around Betws.

The third weekend in August saw John and Carol, with Allan and Pete Vaughan doing four routes on Scout Crag in Langdale while a great day walk was had by five members on Lad Law and Boulsworth Hill.

At our Tuesday evening quarter-end meeting last week it was a pleasure to welcome Joyce Barnard as a member of the club - it seems she proved herself both from the walking and the drinking point of view in Switzerland!

Other members have been doing things further afield - Katie Harris has been in Arctic Norway, Nuala and her family have been in Sweden, Chris Russell has done the GR20 long-distance trail in Corsica over eighteen days, Dave Gray has been to China and Tibet and Andy, according to his last e-mail, was in Tibet on his way to ascending Cho Oyu, the 6th highest mountain in the world at 8201m.

I wonder what September will bring.

Regards
Christine