

End of September 2009 Bulletin.

Note from myself, Madam Chairman.

Hi everyone,

The beginning of September saw eight people on Mike Mac's Thursday walk - a ten-mile route in the Forest of Bowland. Hugely enjoyable, I am sure, but described as 'wild and wet' and that was the weather and not the real ale afterwards.

The first weekend in September saw eight people at the Chapel (not exactly the same eight as on the Thursday walk - I don't think so anyway). Dave Gray, ever keen, did Cyrniau Nod in the mid-Berwyns en route to the Chapel. The hardy eight did the Moel Eilio group above Llanberis on the Saturday, and on Sunday it was Creigiau Gleision. Melinda was spending a few days down there and did, amongst other things, Moel Siabod and Tryfan. While this group were in Wales, Phil was climbing at Stanage.

From 9th to 12th September Lin and Paul cycled the Celtic Trail (Sustrans Route 4) from Fishguard to Carmathan via the Marloes Peninsula - 122 miles and 2000m of ascent - staying in hostels including one at Trefin (between Fishguard and St. Davids) which they thought would be ideal for a club meet, and a wonderful remote cliff top Youth Hostel above Marloes Sands. Their route sounded really interesting, taking them past St. David's Cathedral and Pembroke Castle, and what's more, they say that the SUN SHONE ALL THE TIME.

Dave Antrobus has been in South Africa spending two weeks walking in the central and northern Drakensberg Mountains. They stayed at a height of approximately 1500 metres, with walking most days upwards over a further 1000 metres, their high point being 3004 metres. The peaks around them had unusual names such as Camel's Hump, Cannibal Cavern, Mushroom Rock and Baboon Rock. They also spent time staying near to the Royal Natal National Park walking to areas named Sentinel, Eastern Buttress and Policeman's Helmet. Dave thought it was a spectacular area, and well worth the seven days it took him to recover from the twelve days walking he did.

Saturday 19th September saw five people on a Day Walk organised by Mark Barley to Teggs Nose and Shuttlingsloe, and on Thursday 24th September there

was a further day walk, this time to Yorkshire Dales organised by Mike Mac - nine people doing ten miles - and Joyce doing her first 'scrabble' on Goredale Scar.

An e-mail has been received from Andy Chapman to say that on 24th September he reached the summit of Cho Oyu, using oxygen - he is already talking about the next mountains which are Mera Peak and Ama Dablam. His PS to the e-mail was: 'Really believe now I could climb Everest'. We look forward to the pics from the summit.

Phil Earl got married on 25th September and I understand that prior to this, to mark the occasion, a group went to the Lakes (no, they didn't stop at Blackpool, the Stag Night Capital), doing Scar Fell Pike and Sharp Edge and also visiting the Pencil Museum in Keswick?! - I'm sure his wife is really sorry she missed this. ☺ May I pass on congratulations on behalf of the Club.

The last weekend in September was a camping weekend for five people in the Pennines with Dave Gray, camping at Bowber Head campsite walking the wild area of the North Howgills, and I understand Reg caught a fish. On Saturday they did Green Bell and Randygill Top - a 14-mile day from the campsite in sunny weather and spotting red squirrels en route. Sunday saw them on Wild Boar Fell, cooler but clear with very good views including the Three Peaks, the Lakes and Yorkshire. So two unusual sights, red squirrels and Reg with a fish if anyone remembers the endeavours in Orkney!!!

Also the last weekend in September saw a Swiss Trip Re-Union at Sue's in Wales. They ascended Cnicht (The Welsh Matterhorn) only for Joyce to feel ill near to the summit and get airlifted off by a yellow helicopter (Aberglaslyn Mountain Rescue, based in Porthmadog) - she was checked out at the hospital but was fine, and apparently back eating and drinking at Sue's in the evening. As this was mentioned last Tuesday at The Stork people went on to reminisce about other helicopter rescues in the Club's history - Alan Parker and Wendy Burrows were benighted on Great Gully on Craig yr Ysfa in January 1972, and the event is recorded on John's book *The Gwydyr* as follows: 'They had left it rather late and when Wendy declined to follow the final diagonal pitch they were left with no option but to bivvy. The rest of us had no option but to call out the

Ogwen Mountain Rescue Team (OMR). The rescue took place the following morning: Wendy came down in the helicopter but Alan walked down. They were both O.K. and duly made a contribution to OMR funds'.

Apparently there was also an occasion when the Gilberts were on Crib Goch in winter with Pete Payne, and he was suffering from exposure. Mountain rescue were called out, and had words with the Gilberts - apparently they were ill-equipped wearing jeans and Pac-a-Macs.

Bonfire night 1995 saw a further helicopter rescue. Julie Rose broke her ankle on the miners track while descending from the Glyders with the Barleys and, more seriously, the head chef for the bonfire do, Dave Gray. She was rescued by helicopter, and a replacement cooking team of Marilyn, Reg and Martin Stanley stepped in to make sure that the bonfire night was a success.

All this makes for a club within a club.... The Big Yellow Bird club (and no, not Sesame St), membership restricted to those lifted off the hill.

Here's wishing for some helicopter-free hillwalking outings in October.

Regards.

Christine.