

FOOTPRINT

*The Bi-Monthly Magazine of the Notts Derby
Walking Group (NDWG)*

Feb 2006

www.ndwg.co.uk

www.ramblers.org.uk

IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT

OPTING IN FOR THE HARD COPY OF FOOTPRINT

No doubt you'll have noticed the new format of Footprint. That isn't the only change. From this issue onwards, we'll be encouraging all group members to receive footprint electronically, either via e-mail or via the NDWG's website. The reasons for this are as follows:

1. For a small subsidiary of a charitable organisation, the costs of printing and production are considerable. Therefore, they need reducing to allow group funds to be more economically spent for the benefit of all.
2. You too can save a tree! We can all do our bit for the environment and receiving an e-copy is a step in the right direction.
3. It also encourages advertising and dissemination. If you know someone who might be interested in the group, it's just a mouse click away to send them a copy.
4. Finally, the time associated with printing and enveloping etc means that copy may be out of date or limited in content as it needs to be prepared a good 2 weeks prior to publication. This is not such an issue with an e-copy.

Therefore, from this issue onwards, it will be assumed that all members are happy to receive an electronic copy.

However, we understand that not everyone has an e-mail address or access to a computer and if you still wish to receive the paper copy please complete and return the response box found at the end of this issue to our Membership Secretary, Neil Rogerson in order to continue to receive the paper copy.

WRITE UP: LOCKTON JAN 2006

FROM A NEWCOMER'S VIEWPOINT

End of January. One really long month that seems to drag on forever. Xmas blues, work doesn't seem to help a lot either. Still, a quick look at the walks programme reveals a promising weekend away in Lockton, North Yorkshire, right at the end of the month. Never been on one. I've met Pete Wilson, the organiser, before, a nice bloke, and all... Well, why not??

So Friday 27th we set off on our long drive through the mad traffic. Me, Neil T. & Belinda. Arriving at the hostel, we choose our beds; Belinda comes back from the toilets saying how posh they are. As I try the first door... goodness me, she can't possibly be talking about the compost toilet!! No, of course she wasn't... thank goodness!

As everybody else keeps arriving, we go on treating them to Belinda's special choc chip cookies (the best, I must say) and a glass of Baileys. Something nice and welcoming after a long drive, I think. So, moving on: night time! Pubs! Did anybody mention walking about 1.5 – 2 miles across a long stretch of mud in the dark night for a few pints?? Of course not, but... does it matter anyway?!? We do it for fun and the pleasure of drinking! Definitely worth it, 'The Fox and the Rabbit': what a great pub it was!

Well, Saturday's walk... led by Dave B. A brilliant walk it was indeed! Bright blue sky, and the sun shining... What else could we have asked for, really?!

We started off at Goathland and walked for 12 miles through a varied, beautiful landscape. One of the high moments was, in my opinion, the magnificent waterfall of Mallyan Spout! An absolute bliss, believe me! We walked across the Yorkshire Moors for a while and through the village of Egton Bridge, where we had a well-deserved pub stop at the Horseshoe. Hot chocs are becoming predominantly popular, I must say! Afterwards we carried on to Beck Hole, through the Birch Hall, and finally followed North Yorkshire Railway back to Goathland.

So, next day, Pete leading: not as sunny, but still, another glorious day. Start at the famous Hole of Horcum, lunch at Levisham Station and pub at Newton on Radcliffe. 9 miles. To me, it felt a lot more than that, and a lot tougher as well... but still a great walk with an extraordinary sunset blessing us in the end!



The group relaxing by the Hole of Horcum.

So, in the end, what I can say is it was a real shame we had to come back! As a newcomer at this fab weekend away (and there were quite a few new ones: Belinda, Ashley and Dimitra to mention a few), I really must say these Weekends Away are a lot of fun and definitely worth it! I highly recommend them. If you dare try! **(Susana Guerreiro)**

Note: Ashley's put up some pretty decent pics on the forum if anyone's interested in visiting this part of the UK.

SNOWDONIA NEW YEAR

WIND, RAIN and SNOW... ...and BROCKENSPECRES

Yep, just for a change it was pi...chucking it down in Snowdonia for the groups New Years bash. Still, no matter the weather, getting up into the hills and mountains sure beats the usual Notts and Derby town centre crowds.

We settled in at the Swallow Falls YHA on Thursday night. It's a good hostel in terms of location, bunks and showers etc but anyone who's thinking of using this place in the future should be warned that the kitchen's tiny which was very frustrating as other large groups and families were also present.

Still, we awoke early on the Friday for a 12 miler led by Don through the forests near Capel Curig and along the minor ridges east of Snowdon including Clogwyn Mawr and Crimpiau. Although small by Snowdonia standards, they're bigger than - say - Kinder Scout and far more rewarding, offering great views of Snowdon and the Glyders.

The next day, after more pub action, Liz led a Saturday trek up to Snowdon itself. It wasn't exactly

promising as the group huddled in the Pen y Pas visitor's centre to avoid the torrential rain but we had a decent trek up Snowdon's flanks via the Pyg Track. Finally, the rains started to clear although the path underfoot was increasingly becoming slushy and iced up. We were treated to some good views of the famous Horseshoe but at around 700m (out of Snowdon's 1085m) the slush was turning to ice and the rocks under foot were turning treacherous. Most of the group, sensibly, headed back down via the lakeside Miner's Path whilst a few of us continued onto the summit through the usual blasting cold / wind / snow. It was well worth it for the view. All six foot of it. Still, the trip back down was interesting; by now the steps had pretty much iced up (and the Pyg Track is a notorious accident blackspot in icy conditions) and there was plenty of slipping and bum sliding. At least, it keeps you fit I thought as I dusted myself off after skidding past a started group of walkers heading the opposite direction.

Later in the evening was the main New Year's meal. Naturally, the group re-arranged all the tables in the

dining room to form a rough circle. The food and company were great but the muzac the evil karaoke machine was playing belonged in a KGB torture chamber, not a hiker's New Years Eve bash. Anyway, after dinner, we hit the various bars in the adjoining hotel only to be rounded up by a proto-crusty with dreads, 3 teeth and personal hygiene issues and frog marched up stairs for the inevitable lock in. By this time, Liz and Ian had commandeered the karaoke machine and half the group were grooving to Abba late into the night. I've got to admit, it's all a bit a blur after that...

New Years Day, Sunday, bought more fun and games in the wind and rain and a blinding hangover. This time roughly a third of the group trekked from the Hostel to Moel Siabod, the big, rocky ridge towering over Capel Curig. Good fun was had clambering over rocks, bum sliding and generally messing around over the ridge. Another contingent from the group had the same idea and we met up within 10 seconds of each other at Moel Siabod's trig point which was a hell of a coincidence. Still, our group got to it first. All great

but for me, Monday the 2nd was the real highlight. Unfortunately, it was a case of the best being saved for last as only 3 of us remained. The weather had cleared and the sun was out (honest) as Don, Gary Olds and myself headed up the Watkin Path and onto Y Llywedd, part of the famous horseshoe and one of Snowdon's sister peaks. It's a big (roughly 900m high) ridge with some nice easy scrambling to the summit albeit with a bricking shear drop to the left.

We were treated to some jaw dropping views across the valley which included walking above cloud formation and my first sighting of a Brocken spectre (look it up on Google!), some interesting disused mine workings and a close encounter with a sinister looking mine shaft. Think pitch black, bottomless hole. Think the film, Descent.

Anyway, all in all, it was a brilliant weekend and a excellent way to round of the year (my first with the NDWG) and big thanks go to the weekend organiser, Liz Rawding. **(Phil Storer)**



The group chilling out on Crimpiau, a small yet rather fab peak, near Capel Curig.



A small faction of the group *really* chilling out on Snowdon's summit. Sorry the pic's a bit blurry, but my hands were freezing....

NAVIGATION COURSE

The navigation course started with an evening at the mechanics institute in Nottingham. We spent a couple of hours going through the theory of navigation trying to get to grips with the map, contours and compass bearings. Sat in a warm, comfortable room with a bar next door it all made perfect sense. There was plenty of help from experienced walkers as Rob Hill, Martin Burkinshaw, Gary Olds and Pete Wilson were on

THE DARK ARTS OF MAP READING REVEALED...

hand to give us help if we got stuck.

Then the following Saturday we went out for a day to see how we coped in practice. We started off in Hognaston and walked to Kniveton and Bradbourne. Initially, I found it quite a lot harder to navigate than I had expected and was beginning to regret having put my name down to lead a walk. Fortunately, as the day went on we all managed to

follow the map fairly successfully, although there were a few times that we got a little bit lost and ended up either climbing over barbed wire fences or crawling underneath them (the footpaths having been blocked by an unscrupulous farmer). Our leaders assured us this was a good demonstration of how things don't always go to plan, even for experienced walk leaders.

As someone who has been in the group for two years and got so much from walks, weekends and socials it was good to build up my knowledge and confidence at navigation. It is so easy to go to walks and appreciate the great company and scenery without any effort but it is important to know the

work that goes into leading the walks and to feel able to give back to the group by volunteering to lead a walk occasionally. I would recommend signing up for a navigation course to all those people who have considered leading a walk and just need a bit of practice to get the confidence to give it a go. **(Tamara Stewart.)**

NDWG CHRISTMAS COACH TRIP

17th DECEMBER 2005

The weather forecast for Saturday December 17th was cold and clear, and that it was. Firstly the coach picked up on Maid Marston way which left on time. Almost all persons present (guilty as charged – PS). Then, on to the Nurseryman in Beeston to pick up passengers including myself and then on to Derby. The coach driver took a wrong turn onto the A6 and ended up going through a housing estate, eventually getting back on to the A6 and heading to Belper to pick up more passengers. Half an hour late by this time. The final passenger was Ian at Ambergate.

The usual quiz got underway and was organised by Dave Murray. Soon we were at our drop off point on the A6 just outside Whaley Bridge. The start of our 6 mile linear walk, led by Rob Hill to the Cat and Fiddle pub. There was a steep climb at the start which spread the group out quite a bit. Once up on to the ridge we stopped for a re-group and take in the fantastic views over the valley.

The day was cold, the mud was frozen and the sun was out. What a perfect day. Off we went again until lunch time, when we had a 10 minute stop. The thought of a pint or a hot mulled wine at the end. Who wanted to stop their any longer?

We arrived at the Cat and Fiddle by 2.30. There was plenty of chatting going on and we were getting into the spirit of Christmas. 4pm and it was time to move on. Back on to the coach, now heading for "The Bear" at Alderwasley. Changing and

washing facilities were limited but we all managed to scrub up well in time for dinner at 6.30 which was served up with little fuss or confusion. The food was, as usual, good and well presented.

Time was moving on fast and it was nearing 9pm. Coffee was served and a raffle was organised by Chriss Robinson and the proceeds of £40 went to the Lake District Mountain Rescue.

Surprise of the evening was the arrival of Santa Claus and his little Elf with a present for everyone. Thanks to Chris Phelan and Rob Hill. Tables were moved to the side to make room for dancing and with our very own chairman/ DJ, Mr Millington, who had been setting the sound and light system up while we were all having our meal.

The lights were lowered the volume turned up and within minutes the floor was full, and stayed that way for most of the evening. A varied selection of music was played to suit most people. Thanks Dave. Before we knew it, it was 11.50 and time to gather ourselves and belongings to be on the coach by midnight. Back through Belper, Derby and on to Nottingham, dropping people off by 1am. I think I can safely say that a good time was had by all. A very good day and evening out. All with thanks to Chriss Robinson for co-ordinating the event. Not an easy task. Thanks Chriss. Another year past and another cracking event with the NDWG. **(Pete Wilson)**

SO WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO STAND FOR ELECTION AT THE COMMITTEE?

WEB EDITOR...

I thought what could I do to help out, to put something back into the group? A smart intelligent chap like me must have something to offer the NDWG. I had been a member for about 8 months when out on a walk I got talking to Alan. It turned out that Alan was the web editor and had been responsible for the design, build and running of the web site for the group. Alan had been the only one ever to look after the web site. But the committee had a problem; Alan was going to step down from the web editor's position on the committee. I put myself forward, got duly elected and became the new web editor (quite painless). So in a space of a year I was on the committee. Being on the committee can give you many things, something to put on your CV, have a say in the way the group is run. But for me I wanted to carry on Alan's brilliant work and keep the web site the main focal point for members and particular new members. When I am out walking and ask new members how they heard about the NDWG or why they are here, often the first words out of their mouth's are "I visited the web site". (**Mark Judson, Web Editor**)

FORTHCOMING SOCIALS

NOTTINGHAM and DERBY

Friday 3rd February 2006: NOTTINGHAM PUB CRAWL. Meeting at 8.00pm at The Bell (Market Square) followed by 9.00pm The Salutation, 10.00 Trip to Jerusalem and from 11pm onwards, The Irish. Contact Philippa Brown: 01949 875945

Friday 10th February 2006: DERBY PUB CRAWL. Meeting at 8pm Fat Cats, 9pm Tonic, 10pm Native State then vote where to end the night (or bribe the organiser)! Contact: Rob Hill 07984 412218 (or just turn up at any of the above.)

Wednesday 1st March 2006: NOTTINGHAM PUB MEET. The Canal House, Nottingham. Catch up on all the gossip, blooming spring romances and unofficial splinter cell walks. New members very welcome. From 8.00pm. (Also, there is the possibility of a walk leaders meeting on this date, too. *TBC in due course.*)

NOTE: CHECK THE WEBSITE AND LATEST DIGEST E-MAILS FOR THE LATEST UPDATES TO THE SOCIAL CALENDER

VOLUNTEERS WANTED RE: SOCIALS

I am looking for more willing or even unwilling volunteers to lead socials for the February/March period. If you have an idea you want to share but are not quite sure how to go about arranging it, you are welcome to contact me so we can get the ball rolling.

The socials we've had recently are largely pub crawls but the group would welcome meals out, trips to the theatre, "go ape" in Sherwood Forest or anything we haven't thought of before.

For those who are not familiar, the procedure is that you come up with an idea and a possible date in mind and then you contact me to confirm there are no clashes with the date, in which case I will offer you another.

I would be happy to support members, new or old, on any social they have in mind. My number is 07813 654 845. This group is only as good as the people that are in it so I look forward to your call! (**Diane Hennessy, Social Secretary**)

FORTHCOMING WEEKEND

**GRASMERE, LAKE DISTRICT 29th APRIL
(Robyn Huggins)**

Join us for a feast of top walks in the Lake District on the 1st Bank Holiday in May. Only 24 places are available so book early to guarantee your place. Accommodation is at Broadrayne Farm Independent Hostel (www.grasmerehostel.co.uk) the best self-catering hostel in the Lakes (it even has a sauna!) and we have sole use for the weekend. There's a pub 200 yards away, Grasmere Village is a mere 15 minutes walk, nearby Ambleside offers supreme retail therapy for gear freaks plus the best of the Lakes walking is on the doorstep.

Walks on offer will be high-level routes and include a Lakeland classic or 2 such as Helvellyn, Fairfield or the Langdale Pikes (weather permitting). **You will need mountain walking gear and fell walking experience.** Speak to the organisers if you are unsure of your ability. Low-level rambles will be dependent on the availability of leaders and reserved for foul weather. A highlight for the NDWG social calendar is Gazza's 40th on Saturday night.

Bookings open 8pm Wednesday 1st March, Nottingham Pub meet at The Canal House, (or book on-line). Total cost of the weekend is £49 per person for 3 nights with the cheque and booking form securing your place. (Robyn Huggins.) For more info contact: Robyn Huggins on 07963957867, email: rhuggins@ncht.trent.nhs.uk or Rob Hill on 07984412218, email: Robert.Hill@derby.gov.uk

OTHER NOTICES

OWT ELSE WE CAN THINK OFF!

EHIC: From 1st January 2006, UK residents travelling in Europe will require a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). This will allow you to benefit from free or reduced-cost medical care when travelling in an EEA country or Switzerland. The EHIC replaces the E111 and is free of charge. For further information on the introduction of the EHIC and on how to apply for an EHIC, visit www.dh.gov.uk/travellers, and apply online or call 08456 062030 or pick up an application form from the post office.

IMPORTANT DATES

FOR THE DIARY...

- NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FESTIVAL OF WALKS 29TH APRIL TO 14TH MAY 2006
Further details will appear in Nottinghamshire Walker Spring 2006.
- Outdoor Adventure Show 2006, 17-19 Feb Olympia London www.outdooradventureshow.co.uk
- Destinations, The Holiday & Travel Show 3-5 March, NEC Birmingham www.DestinationsShow.com

RAMBLERS ASSOCIATION

ACCESS NEWS

For many, if not most, of us, our knowledge of or interest in our parent organisation, the Ramblers Association, is limited to an annual membership card and handbook. Behind the scenes, however, the RA, works tirelessly on behalf of the thousands of walkers in the UK to allow us to enjoy our weekly, fortnightly, monthly, or occasional foray into England's (or Wales or Scotland's) green and pleasant land.

Thanks in part to campaigning by the RA and many volunteers, there are now over a million hectares of open access land in the UK. The campaign for 2006 is to extend these access rights to coastal land. The government is planning a consultation on this subject, and the Countryside Agency will be looking into ways access can be improved, taking into consideration existing rights, erosion, land types and wildlife habitats, as well as landscape improvements and nature conservation schemes which may be required. We may have cause to appreciate this work when we walk a coastal path in years to come.

Forthcoming local and national dates

- Sunday 19 February, Village Hall, Lambley. Notts Area RA AGM

- 17-19 March – Ordnance Survey Outdoors Show, Birmingham NEC
www.theoutdoorsshow.co.uk
- 21-23 April, RA General Council, Keele University
- 24 June – 2 July – National 'Use Your Paths' week (to raise awareness of the importance and value of local rights of way).
- 16-24 September – Welcome to Walking Week
- 17 September – National Walking Day
- 22 September – 'In Town without my Car' day.

SOCIAL WRITE UP

NDWG WALKS ON THE WILD SIDE

Neil Rogerson was the man in charge, leading us unerringly around some of the haunts in Nottingham's gay village. It was good to see he'd gone to the trouble to recce the social and introduce himself to the barmen so they knew his name when he popped in – a bit above and beyond the call of duty, but still, good effort Neil!

We started in the relatively straight 'Bunkers Hill' before venturing into the more scene oriented 'Lord Roberts'. As we walked in Mark Evans kindly offered to buy me a drink, I ordered a pint of bitter, he had a glass of red wine. At least the bar staff knew who was who's bitch. The Lord Roberts is a really nice pub, very laid back and chilled out, a nice change from the sometimes frantic Friday night atmosphere in some bars in town. We downed a couple there, the boy's bladders eventually winning out over our prejudices and we made that nerve wracking first trip to the toilets to discover...a normal pub toilet. Not what I'd been led to expect from some of my gay friends, who I now realise may have been winding me up or boasting. Or maybe it was just too early. There was a private party that was in full flow in the cellar, but it required we adhere to the 'dress code'. Sadly I wasn't wearing my Lowe Alpine wicking pants so had to give that a miss. Maybe next time.

The next on the Agenda was the Central. This was a bit livelier with a fair bit of shirt off action going on the dancefloor. We however were keeping our powder dry for the main attraction later and stuck to the edge of the room. We'd noticeably thinned out a bit by that stage with only the most hardcore fag hags and "no, we're cool with it" chaps left.

Finally we headed to NG1, very much the focus of Nottingham's gay village, which I've driven past for years wondering what happened inside. Let's get this out of the way now, NG1 is Nottingham's best club – no contest – places to sit and talk, it was easy to get served at the bar, the music was good and best of all was the atmosphere, really chilled out, very respectful and just really relaxed. It's a real change from the Stag/Hen Party dives, skanky Indie clubs and 'Too Cool for School' dance clubs like the Bomb and Stealth. I know that girls generally like going to 'gay' clubs as they know that they won't get hit on all night (that's also the reason I go to straight clubs – I get so sick of girls trying to pick me up), but I must admit I was a bit nervous about getting chatted up by a gay bloke, but I need not have been. Rather like the stunningly attractive girl who stands alone at the disco because everyone's afraid she's out of their league, I was left alone all night. I guess my raw sexual charisma is just too much. Still, it's good that I can now empathise with that girl. Well, that's not quite true, I nipped to the toilet the bloke standing next to me introduced himself, 'Hi, I'm David' I said before I walked quickly out. It's good to try new things but you've got to have a limit – right? He was a good looking lad though so I guess I've not lost the old magic. A few more dances later and it was time to go. As we left we noticed with surprise none other than Dave Josling, I think he said he'd come to meet up the NDWG, or maybe he said AC/DC – it was hard to say as it was pretty loud in there. I dunno, these Rugby boys...

So all in all a top night out – great to get to some new places and have some of my prejudices

challenged. Thanks to Neil for sorting it out and for everyone who came along. (Dave Millington)

CONTACTS: THE NDWG COMMITTEE

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COTSWOLD OUTDOOR SPRING DISCOUNT NIGHT 16th MARCH 2006. 9.30am – 8.00pm

The Cotswold Outdoor store on Castle Boulevard is again holding a special Spring Discount Day with 20% off the price of all clothing and equipment*.

All the new spring / summer ranges will be in store including the new range of tents and camping gear. Remember to bring your **RA membership card** and quote code N2051 to receive the special discount. For a sample of what's of offer go to www.cotswoldoutdoor.com

**Note: This offer excludes books, maps and GPS and is not available in conjunction with any other offers and discounts.*

FEEDBACK

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!

As a final note, your contributions are always welcome. Regardless, of the length of time you have been with the group, we're sure you'll have something to say, a question which could be asked or a even a piece of constructive criticism. This is a valid platform to air your views and if you're interested please forward your contributions to either myself or Andy Holbrook. Our details are listed above.

PS...

<http://www.paramo.co.uk>

Go on, you know it makes sense!

**IMPORTANT:
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By completing the form below, I am confirming that I still wish to receive a hard (e.g. paper copy) of Footprint.

By not signing and returning this slip, I understand that I will no longer receive a hard copy of Footprint and that I am happy to receive Footprint via e-mail or the NDWG website.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Membership Number: _____

Please RETURN ASAP to:

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