

## Out and About

Summer is here! The last few months have been excellent for the club with members out and about all over the country. Club meets have been well attended and it's great to see some new faces getting out on the hills and crags.

Richard's trip to Lundy was a great success (see page 3), so much so that it has been booked again for next year, so if you don't want to miss out again, keep your diary free!

A great weekend was had by all taking part in WaterAid, with the group reaching the summit of Cnicht and raising over £300 for the charity, so well done to all who took part.

Climbers have been making the most of the light nights and good weather, with many trips up to the Peak, Wales and local quarries (see page 2). Trips are recorded on the Route Book on the forum, and are planned both down the Holywell on Thursday nights and on the General forum on our website, so if anyone fancies getting out on the rock, there's always someone around!

After last years successful Coast to Coast cycle ride, some of our intrepid girls tackled the Lon Las - a cycle ride across the Cambrian Mountains i.e. 235 miles from North to South Wales.

Back in May we attended the Burbage Common Open Day, where local groups get together to have a good day out and show some community spirit, whilst informing the public about their activities. We had a particularly successful day, with many people showing an interest in the club, and it's always nice to see what else goes on in our area!

Thanks to all those who wrote articles for this edition, if anyone has any write ups, news etc, please email me or take it to the Holywell.

*Andrea*

## President's Meet 2009

Time marches on. It's that time of year already! Our annual President's Meet will be at the Chamois Hut in Llanberis, North Wales on October 9/10. The cost of the weekend is £30 which **includes** 2 nights accommodation, a 3 course meal on Saturday eve (cooked by a selection of our very own members) and wine with the meal. Recession busting or what!

The menu and booking form is attached to the newsletter, so if you would like to go, please return the form along with your **cheques**, by **Friday 18th Sept.**

As there are limited spaces available, and with the club growing rapidly, I recommend that you return your form ASAP to ensure you have a place. Return forms by Friday 18th September 2009

We can only take **a maximum of 50**, and with the recent upsurge in membership (over 80), we know this year will be particularly challenging, so - book early to avoid disappointment!

We're looking into some entertainment and will probably run a photo competition - further details will follow.

The Chamois Mountaineering Club has a website detailing the centres facilities and it's handy for all activities, including walking, climbing and biking. See you there.

## Cragrats

The climbers have been out enjoying the summer sun, with a mix of hard climbs and sunbathing! In April, Brian and Sarah had a weekend at Stanage with Sarah leading The Ariel VD\*\* and Recess Crack VD\*.

In May, there were lots of trips to the Peak and Wales. In early May, Stacey, Chris, Rich, Claire, Simon Tanya, Gen and Lee went to Birchen Edge. Saturday was very successful, with Chris leading The Crow's Nest VS 4c\*\*, and Stacey led Visitors Only HS 4a\*. Rich and Clare climbed Emma's Temptation HVD 4c and Nautical Crack VD among others. On the Sunday, rain was threatening, and Chris led Reynard's Crack

S4b and managed to knock out their only piece of gear as he passed...a hasty retreat to the pub was required! Meanwhile, Rich, Claire, Kev and Ruth had a great day climbing 6 routes including Short Slab HVS 5a.

Richard and Andy T spent a scorching weekend in Wales at the end of May climbing in the Llanberis Pass, managing Thumbelina, Severe, 300ft with 4 pitches.

Lee, Becky and Ewan had an eventful day, climbing Main Wall HS 4b and other routes. However, "The whole day was quite 'atmospheric' due to a couple below us having a rather nasty accident that led to both parties needing to be Air-vac'd to hospital." The worst part was that the downdraft from the helicopter blew one of Lee's trainers away, leaving Lee with a very interesting walk down from the top of Cynr Las!

Gianluca went for some "big wall" climbing at Markfield quarry, leaving the following posting on the forum: "*must remember to take my portaledge next time!*" Stronso!

Potential new member Vanessa put up with 5hrs of driving (with Andy T) and 5 hrs of climbing (with said Andy; Gianluca; Pete B, Dave G and Barra at Harborough rocks. In glorious sunshine, they ticked Overhanging Wall HS4c; Steep Ridge (V Diff) Trident Eliminate (HS4b) + others Talking of sunshine, Becky said "there were lots of opportunities for sunbathing on the belays" on Crackstone Rib (S 4a) and Wrinkle (VD/S) which she duly completed with Stacey. Claire & Rich have been climbing well at Secret Stange, completing Creepy S4a\*; Sinister VS 4b; Left VD\* and Right HS 4b Former member Helen Tait, together with Dave G, were in North Yorks, on Ling Buttress HS 4b\*\*\* and Groove & Crack HVD

.....  
After a weekend climbing in Wales, Barra posted the following on the forum:

*Barra 31.05.09 - Perfect weather, dry route!!!*

*Barra + Ewan - The Grooves (E1 5b, 5b, 5b) - Cynr Las*

*After a slightly hungover start I managed to convince Ewan he wanted to walk all the way back up to Cynr Las to help me search for my missing trainer once again...*

*Whilst up there I thought it would be rude of us not knock off another of the crags classic 3\* routes...*

*After minor deliberation (Rock, Paper, Scissors, Lizard, Spock) I 'won' the chance to lead the first pitch...*

*With the hangover in full flow I launch up the route 'Madonna' style... (Into the Groove - I have the song in my head the whole route) :o(*

*After the first 40m of the first pitch (still 5m to go before I get a rest at the belay!) the adrenaline has kicked the hangover into touch, but left me with a mouth as dry as a sock having been worn for a week, and tasting pretty much the same...*

*Ewan seconded the pitch with no troubles, apart from my complaining that he had neglected to bring any water with him... (So what if it had never been in the plan)*

*Ewan then decided (upon looking further up the route) that as I was enjoying myself so much that I was more than welcome to lead the next pitch as well...*

*This was most definitely the crux pitch of the route, and 37m later and safely at the stance (only a minor wobble and moment of doubt) my mouth was now feeling like the week old corpse of an armadillo in the Arizona desert.*

*Again, Ewan seconded the pitch with no trouble which led to him arriving at the belay claiming that as I had done such a good job so far that I should continue to the top with aplomb...*

*And boy did I...*

*What an awesome pitch 3 turned out to be... Totally absorbing climbing in such an outstanding position...*

*If only it had been longer...*

*Again, Ewan seconded the pitch with no trouble... (I'm going to have to find harder routes to slow him down!)*

*With a swift descent back to the bags (after a drink from the stream) a spot of lunch gave us the energy to make the long walk back to the hut... (How much more comfortable/enjoyable this is with two trainers on - words can not do justice!)*

*All in all a jolly fine day in the mountains!*

*Let's just hope next weekend is as good!*

*Luv Barra! xx ©™*

As ever, there will be many trips out climbing throughout the summer, so keep an eye out on the

forum if you're interested in heading out or to see more of what the climbers have been getting up to.

## **Castaways on Lundy JUNE 16 - 20 by Dave G**

Conditions in the Towers' motor were quite comfortable, even for four of us, thanks to the addition of the Beasley roof box. Gianluca gave us the benefit of his technical expertise by suggesting it would be aerodynamically more efficient if it was a teardrop shape. So watch out in future for cars heading down the motorway with giant radishes strapped to the roof. The normal repetitive query of, 'Are we there yet?' was replaced by, 'Where is the rock?' delivered in a soft Italian accent. GL met his match however with his first full Devon cream tea followed by full English, 'Sausage for breakfast?' Thus undoing thirty years of healthy Mediterranean diet in a matter of hours.

We cannot thank Rich enough for the effort he put into organising this trip, and his work paid off with the miracle of all thirteen of us on the quayside in Ilfracombe. A pleasant meal followed by either luxurious B&B or a night in the stables saw us on the MV Oldenberg, which seemed remarkably small for 275 people. Jokes about Egyptian ferries were not well received. At this point it is fitting to mention the debt we owe to Matt, who had been before and got us organised, with climbing gear with us and the rest stowed in the hold. He also secured us a spot on the back of the boat, where we neatly stacked all the gear and settled down for the two-hour voyage. We were feeling pretty smug until a deckhand, washing the deck after a spot of mal de mer, swept a wave of diluted vomit towards our gear. Hasty relocation took place. Not entirely successful.

On landing, Matt's advice paid off and we were away to climb quickly with Matt and Mo grabbing the Devil's Slide (cool lead of the crux traverse by Mo) and the rest finding their way down via the Battery to climb a number of Severes and get sea-cliff heads in order.

Accommodation for us was in the Barn. This is of very good club hut quality though we did find ourselves using campsite showers to spread the load on the single one in the hut. Shop and pub were excellent considering the isolation, with a warm welcome and prices that would have been fair on the mainland. Nice to see some people not capitalising on what could have been a 'rip-off' opportunity. Puddings were exceptional in both size and quality. We hesitate to name and shame those who could not finish theirs. Well at least until October!

On the Wednesday we had high winds and eventually rain. Could we fester for a whole day without the chance of retail therapy? No problem –high quality festering is obviously the forte of the club. The day was a mix of less experienced members practicing prussicking, self-rescue and protecting abseils (at some risk to the hut balcony), and strolls out to inspect cliff tops and approaches. GL gave a fabulous impression of Mussolini from the balcony and also contributed to the mass study of guidebooks and bird ban maps with the immortal words, 'These f\*\*\*\*\* birds are everywhere. Why don't they just move all the nests to one cliff?' Throughout the week we were kept highly entertained by GL's wit, and in particular his views on nature conservation.

Thursday was dry but windy. Five members went for the Slide where Stacey D got himself into trouble with the authorities by attempting total submersion without a diving licence. Stacey redeemed himself later in the day with a splendid on-sight of a HVS 5a to get himself, Pete and GL out of the wrong zawn. Original intention had been to finish off the day with a gentle V.Diff. Interesting route in that Pete was able to pass some parts of the crux down to GL to examine before he got there.

Friday saw a mass attack on the Devil's Slide with most remaining team members going for the tick. Good leads of the crux by Rich and Stacey Grew. Others tackled Albion, and we saw some nicely controlled climbing on the sustained 140ft 4c crux from GL, Stacey D and Matt.

Trying to make the most of the last day teams spread out across the island. Richard was missing with a BAA (Beer Assisted Injury). Stacey D, GL and Pete completed Shamrock; a tough 3 pitch VS with a trouser filling 60m abseil in. GL, on sighting a chick and egg in the same nest, 'Fry one and scramble the other'. Team Pink (Stacey G and Claire) did it for the girls; locating and abseiling into an unknown zawn and finding and on-sighting two routes. A good experience.

All in all a great four days with good company and a unique and welcoming setting. The wildlife is spectacular. Birds are obviously top of the list, but not just marine types. We sat and watched a peregrine strutting its stuff on a nest not 30yds away. Seals, goats, deer and Soay sheep complete the picture, and you could certainly chill just wandering and exploring. Thanks again to Rich. We have re-booked for next September (2010).

## **Stoney Middleton May 15-16<sup>th</sup> by Brian K**

Friday morning saw Pete H and me dashing up the M1 (at least as far as J24) to the Robin Hood. We set off for a walk in the Chatsworth estate via the garden centre café (well, we are

Saga Louts) to Pilsley and Baslow. We then returned to the Robin Hood via Baslow Edge. Then it was off to the moon (ok...The Moon) for the evening waiting for Richard and Becky with the key to the hut. Later Stacey and Chris arrived – only 6 members in the hut this year, due to some wedding or other.

The weather forecast was not good, but the climbers were hopeful and they all claimed to have headed to the crags after breakfast (and shopping). Richard and Becky cut their losses and walked to Great Longstone whilst Stacey and Chris headed for the Foundry for some climbing. Pete and I settled for a walk from the hut via Froggat, Grindleford, Hathersage, Foolow and Eyam. Saturday evening was a return to The Moon for meal and a few beers. One surprise was that after leaving the pub four members remembered that they had not paid for the food so they returned to settle the bill. The fact that they came back and paid for the food was not the surprise – it is was that they had left well before closing time and the pub was still open and serving when they returned. What is the club coming to?

Sunday morning was full of expectation for a good day on the crags. Pete and I headed off to do the Five Dales from Peak Forest. It started raining by late morning and by lunch it had stopped raining and started pouring! Perhaps not such a good climbing day after all.

## Things to note...

### Cotswold Discount

Don't forget our Cotswold discount. For those of you that aren't aware of it, we are getting a **15%** discount in Cotswold shops. We have a discount code that you will need to present when making your purchase. Our code is printed on the back of the membership cards - so if you want your discount, make sure you pay up!

If anyone has had trouble with the number, please let me know as we need to spend £1k this year to continue with the benefit.

**Born Extreme** a new gear shop in Hansom Court, Hinckley will give us **15%** discount (with HMC card)

### Stanton Beer Festival

Back by popular demand. Beer & BBQ at the Ed's house on

**Sat 22nd AUGUST**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

and some camping or dossing available if required.

### HMC 30th Anniversary

Next year see s the club's 30th anniversary. The club has gone from strength to strength over the years, with new members joining all the time, and some of our founder members still getting out on the rock/hills. We started out as Hinckley Outdoor Pursuits Association, (HOPA) and were founded by Brian Cooper, Don Ward and others in 1980, meeting at the local leisure centre.

To celebrate, we'll be having events throughout the year.

On 21st January 2010 we have Andy Kirkpatrick coming to Lutterworth College to give a lecture. Watch this space for price, time etc.

Then on 24th April 2010, the actual 30th anniversary bash will be held at Lutterworth Golf Club but probably with a sit-down meal and different band from this years do.

On a more active note, there are some fools up for the Welsh 3000'rs - probably in June and someone has plans to do 30 Munros.... any more ideas?

### Contact Details

It has been noted that some members of the club wouldn't mind their personal contact details being published in the newsletter in order for members to be able to contact them regarding trips etc. Obviously for data protection reasons we are unable to provide members with a list of details for other members in the club, but if you would like to publish your contact info in the newsletter (NOT on the website) then please let me know. I would suggest details such as mobile number and email address,

rather than home info. Also, just to remind people that the forum can be seen by **anyone**, not just HMC members, so please keep this in mind when placing phone numbers etc on there.

## **Skittles 2009**

Our annual skittles match against Rugby MC will be going ahead this autumn. No date has been confirmed yet, but Andy T will be in touch as soon as it is organised.

## **Lon Las Cymru:**

### ***The Girlies Cycle Ride: Holyhead to Chepstow by Carolyn***

#### **Day 1 Holyhead, Anglesey to Porthmadog**

Tracey, Jo, Karen and Annette started the 235mile ride across Wales from Holyhead ferry port, with Carolyn doing first support shift (driving!). Other support teams: Ken & Megan (who also covered all the top MTB trails in Wales over the 4/5 days) and Andy and Hannah (18 months old) who covered part of the Lon Las. The morning was an easy undulating start to the ride covering the length of Anglesey and crossing the Menai Bridge, stopping for lunch in a marina in Felinheli. Carolyn and Karen took it in half-day turns to ride and provide support in the car. After swapping over the riders continued on a fairly flat ride but into the wind to Porthmadog.

*(Buns report: too hot to handle!)*

#### **Day 2 Porthmadog to Machynlleth**

After some fantastic grub in the Harbor Restaurant in Porthmadog that evening and several bottles of wine later (it worked well for Gino Bartali and Fausto Coppi who shared a bottle of Merlot during the 1949 Tour de France and went on to win first and second place!) we went back to a cracking B&B run by Mrs Overall. We continued on our journey the following morning past Trawsfynydd Lake and into Snowdonia territory. The Sustrans routes are usually very well signposted, however, as we approached Coed-y-Brenin Forest we ran into a serious lack of signposts which led to adding a tough 5 miles extra onto the route. Karen then finished the morning off by coming down the end of Dragon's Back (black trail) in Coed-y-Brenin on her road bike (pah!, who needs chunky tyres!) Meanwhile the support teams had been sunning themselves in the visitor's centre where we all met up for lunch.

The start of the afternoon was led by Hannah and her Dad escorting us out of the forest. After Dolgellau we hit a steep little section with a ~400m climb described as highly strenuous in the book. We grabbed a brief rest at the top with time for Tracey and Jo to top up the lippy before tazzing down the other side. Good job Tracey was looking her best for the driver of the car she met head on half way down. Skillfully she managed to skid (both wheels) through the narrow gap down the side of the car and the bank/hedge on the side of the road. After this excitement and still tazzing downhill we managed to miss the turnoff to our Day 2 accommodation, Corris YHA, and continued to Machynlleth for a well-earned bier. The support gave us a lift back to the YHA where we found our pre booked room was full of other people. The five of us squashed into a four-person bunk room for the night but hey ho the food at the local pub more than made up for this.

*(Buns report: hot cross buns!)*

#### **Day 3 Machynlleth to Builth Wells**

Out of Machynlleth and we were straight into the biggest climb of the ride, eight miles up to Rhiw Fawr at 510m, 500m ascent. On the way down we had a brief encounter with some big chaps in Lycra and went on to meet Karen for Lunch in LLangurig (don't fancy the toad in the hole any more). Onto Builth Wells where we shared the town with a load of hairy bikers from an event. As Jo asked Ken to tell the 6ft, 20 stone, mean looking, brick s\*\*\* house to put his fag out (in a public house) we wandered off to find a very nice hotel for dinner, puds, more wine and chit chat with some locals.

*(Buns report: pass the Vaseline!)*

#### **Day 4 Builth Wells to Chepstow**

This was the longest day covering 68 miles in total for Jo and Tracey. After a steady start we hit an extremely steep short section that had all riders off pushing, even 'machine legs' Tracey. We then started to climb another biggie up to Gospel Pass at 540m, 460m ascent, taking in a very picturesque Lord Hereford's Knob en route. Descending through a long tree archway, passing the pub in Stanton and on to The Crown in Pantygelli to meet Carolyn for lunch.

Onto the final leg...talking of which, were all fine and dandy at that point. Just as well as the map gave a warning pointing to a 'steep hill take care' no s\*\*\*t as we climbed another steep little b\*\*\*\*r! Then the Severn

Bridge was in sight. Some tricky navigating through Chepstow followed after some of the signs had been taken out. Couple of young local lads pointed us in the right direction to the Castle and to the end of the Lon Las Cymru.

*(Buns report: buns of steel!)*

Had a fantastic 4 days and would thoroughly recommend the route. It was a good opportunity to eat as many puddings, jelly babies and cereal bars as you could fit in. Big thanks to Tracey for organising it.

## **WaterAid with Dave T ... and Dave G**

Dave G posted on the forum:

*"I beg to report that at 11.50am GMT on Saturday 6th June, 2009 young Sir J Guilfoyle daringly forced his way to the summit of Cnicht. Other members of the expedition, splendidly led by Lord T of Desford, then followed in his footsteps. This despite inclement conditions, a shocking fall to the very edge of a terrifying abyss by Lady Ed and the wiping out of their entire nursing contingent on the lower slopes. It is probable that Sir "H" of Ellistown will receive further honours in the New Year's list; following his discovering of the Pell traverse that allowed exhausted and injured members to avoid the dreaded approach scramble in descent. God Save the Queen. P.S. Tea and cakes in the Croesor caf - Brilliant!"*

I suppose it was too much to expect! We still held on to our memories of warm sunshine, outdoor pints and sizzling barbecue but as day dawned in Nant Gwynant it came with a very damp and cold flannel to wash us back to reality!

Still, despite the inclement weather, the intrepid dozen made off for Croesor intent on bagging Cnicht and getting down again as soon as possible. The morning was not without incident and some were forced off early with sickness (no, not alcohol related!) and others rolled and tumbled but eventually made it to the top. We were a bit early this year with the first of the party topping out at ten to twelve.

Summit gained it was time for some to head for the café to bathe injured and aching limbs whilst others headed off into the howling wind to drop down above the dam and then back to Croesor. Tea and cakes were enough to raise spirits despite a welcome which matched the weather! A couple of pints later (indoors this time) we were all back in the cosy confines of Pete's Barn where we turned barbecue to oven roast and still managed to have a great evening. At least there were no midges this time!

Sunday proved a better day with Dave G off early in the direction of Rhydd Ddu, Harry coming and going or rather going and coming (careful!) and others heading home. Ed and Sue (ouch!) joined Jane, Nettie and Teresa on a wander over the foothills above Beddgelert while Dave T and Julie were blown up and down Yr Aran. The magnificent seven (yes!) then enjoyed tea and a warm welcome in the Gwynant Café-much better!

Congratulations to all who took part, particularly to Josh for not only taking part but also providing colour coordinated blankets for the ladies-he also raised an impressive sum-well done Josh. Jane had her first experience of Pete's and will return (won't you Jane) and Pete as ever was our charming and attentive host. Wouldn't life be dull with predictable weather?

In addition to the above, Richard, Claire Mike and Sam did their bit for WaterAid by travelling up to the Isle of Skye to bag the Inaccessible Pinnacle on the Cuillin ridge - and then drove straight back. Crazy or what?

Well done guys, an incredible achievement and many thanks once again to Dave T for organising HMC's contribution to this worthwhile cause.

## Coniston

Hut owners, Yorks MC, had just spent a small fortune upgrading their hut in the Copperines valley and we were first in to use it. An excellent job, great showers and facilities, and great location.

As with nearly all the Lakes huts, we had a full house+ the camper vans (23 of us).

We also had the weather.

A mass ascent of Wetherlam/Swirl How & the Old Man was the order of the day for Sat. We had great views from all of the summits, and from the top of The Old Man, Sinc said he could just pick out Brian G sipping tea and eating Liz's cake outside the hut.

Pete H is making great progress and we will soon have to reign him back.

In training for the Big Bike Ride, Carolyn went on a training run which included cycling up and down both Wrynose and Hard Knott Pass. Pure madness.

Swampy climbed on Little How Crag, just below the summit of Swirl How with Tracy & Mark T managing three cracking routes, the best of which was Thunderclap VS 4c.

Six pieces of gear in to protect 35m of climbing; the guidebook says it's a well protected route!

Newbies Ewan & Becky chose to climb at the head of the valley and Pete & Cheryl joined us on one of their first meets since moving back down from darkest Oban.

For a change from The Black Bull, we ate at The Sun Hotel on the Saturday and I can recommend the Fish & Chips - excellent, if a bit pricey, but aren't all the lakes pubs expensive these days?

On the Sunday, Carolyn joined Swampy, Tracy & Mark on the North Face mountain bike trail in Grizedale forest and were happy to report no injuries - this time!

Poor old Ken & Meg had to scoot off early -something to do with golf I think.

The weather was brilliant and as everyone headed for the hills - Shani said "I reckon this is one of the best places I've ever been to".... Ah, bless!

Amazing what a bit of weather can do!

**Nant Peris**

**by Shorty**

A new hut for us in this years programme, this one owned by London MC, and not too bad either, apart from the midges.

Dave T said "Another great weekend enjoyed by all. The new comedy act will sweep the board at next year's Britain's got talent (Brian and Bertie of LMC of course!).

Dave T completed Snowdon Horseshoe with Julie after doing Crib Goch with Harry, Elvin, Jane W, Ray and Sue. Absolutely amazing cloud inversion after being in mist for most of the route-never seen a vertical inversion before-one side dense white cloud , the other glorious sunshine-truly awesome sight. Great day on the Horseshoe, missed the last bus but easily hitched lift from first car! No "4 mile blues" this time around!

3 virginities lost in the same day - whatever next! Legs not feeling too clever just now!"

Potential member Sue C's posting on the forum summed it up:

"I think I've been (crib) Goch'ed !!" (will she be back?).

Meanwhile, Ewan, Becky, Rich & Claire completed. the North Ridge of Tryfan. "Great fun in the mist" said Rich.

Brian G, Dave P and myself opted to avoid the low clag and have some decent weather with an easy 10 miler on Anglesey.

We needn't have bothered - clag down to sea-level and pi\*\*ing it down. The RSPB reserve at south stack was however, impressive. shame about the fog horn every 10 seconds though (or was that Brian!) oer...

A pleasant evening at The Vaynol Arms was had by all, Jane & Sue (totally knackered) just making it in time for food @ 8.40

It was so hot on Saturday evening that half a bottle of Richards' Glenmorangie evaporated - whilst he was asleep!!! Must have been the angels share.

(Rich...they were very tall angels, but as you know, I'm not one to gossip).

Sunday.

Rich & Claire climbed in the Pass doing Crackstone Rib S4a, and Becky and Ewan did The Cracks HS 5a. Harry & Elvyn climbed on the pinnacles at Capel - opposite the Pinnacle Café, which was handy for me (mmm) before doing a short trek in the Ogwen. Dave T, Julie, Sue & Ray went to Harlech for a short walk followed by some sunbathing on.....**a beach**....hard mountaineers or what? Alas poor Dave got severe sunburn after falling asleep.

Julie rushed him to Harlech hospital where the doctor rubbed lotion over him and prescribed viagra.

"Viagra?" exclaimed Julie. "What good is viagra in his condition?"

The doctor replied "It'll keep the sheets off him"

## Saga Louts

The latest Monday 10 mile trek started at Over Haddon, went over to the Magpie Mine and then on to Monyash and the Bulls Head (formerly known as the Hobbit). Glorious sunshine for the Magnificent Ten-yep ten of us. Geoff Kelham (one of HMC's original members) had joined us for his first outing with "louts" and kept us amused in the beer garden for *some considerable* time. Eventually, we staggered off down Lathkill Dale and were grateful of the shade. The final pull out of the dale led us to The Lathkill Hotel and, as it was soooo hot, we just had to partake in yet more refreshment, which set Nettie B & Stef up for 40 winks on the drive back.

In addition to the regular forays into the Peak District, a walk is usually organised on a Wednesday. Most of the participants are retired, semi-retired, self-employed or lucky enough to get off work for the day. If anyone is interested in joining this merry band of reprobates, just let one of them know. The main instigators are John T (80), Dave P (66) and Ed (32), but obviously anyone can get involved.

## You Could Be Here

OK. Chamonix is all but full. I have my own plans for next year but I am willing to organise the same or something similar if there is enough interest. Let me know.

Now. If you want to go on the camping meet in Pembroke (Aug Bank Hol) I will need names by THURS AUG 6th LATEST.

I have a few sites to choose from and quite a few names interested in going, but need to firm it up– the weather forecast is bright blue sky with a cool wind from the south-west. No rain! Great climbing. Great walking etc. If you need a tent...let us know...or anything else for that matter. Loadsa gear available.

*NOTE: Pete M has places available on Aug Bank Hol in Nant Gwynant. See Pete.*

In September, we have a nice little hut at Stair, just outside Keswick, and close to The Swinside Inn. The only thing I will say is - whilst *there will be* some disappointed members, there will also be 20 smug members!

Looking ahead to the New Year, if enough are interested, I will book something for Scotland (or the Lakes) and yes...I am running a ski trip. Please let me know if you are interested in any of the above.

*Remember, book early to avoid disappointment*, and if you want to know who's going, (e.g. to hook up with your favourite climbing or walking partner) - just ask me! [ED](#)

FOOTNOTE: It p...ed it down! More news later.

## **HMC programme 2009**

### **"Anyway, Anyhow, Anywhere"**

<b>JAN</b>	<b>23/24/25</b>	<b>Seathwaite. Lakes</b>
<b>FEB</b>	<b>14-20 ½ term</b>	<b>Glencoe, Scotland then</b>
<b>FEB</b>	<b>20/21</b>	<b>Hawkshead YH. Lakes</b>
<b>MAR</b>	<b>13/14</b>	<b>Nant Gwynant, N Wales</b>
<b>APR</b>	<b>11-18 Easter</b>	<b>Fontainebleau, (see Lee)</b>
<b>APR</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Spring Ball Lutterworth</b>
<b>APR</b>	<b>18/19</b>	<b>Coniston, Lakes</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Burbage Common</b>
<b>MAY</b>	<b>15/16</b>	<b>Stoney Middleton, Peak</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>5/6</b>	<b>WaterAid, Nant Gwynant</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>16-20</b>	<b>Lundy (see Richard)</b>
<b>JUNE</b>	<b>27/28</b>	<b>Nant Peris, N Wales</b>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>11 onwards</b>	<b>Chamonix (4 weeks)</b>
<b>AUG</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Stanton Beer Fest &amp; BBQ</b>
<b>AUG BH</b>	<b>28-30</b>	<b>Pembroke camping w/e</b>
<b>SEP</b>	<b>11/12</b>	<b>Stair, Lakes</b>
<b>OCT</b>	<b>9/10</b>	<b>Presidents Meet N Wales</b>
<b>NOV</b>	<b>6/7</b>	<b>Brecon Beacons</b>
<b>DEC</b>	<b>4/5</b>	<b>Hubberholme, York's</b>