

Presidential report 2016

Philip Withnall, 2016-02-11

Trips

- **Ennerdale**, February 2015: A joint trip with OUWC, where both clubs taught each other some things. There were 50 people on the trip, our largest ever, and this was a bit of a challenge for the poor trip leader and safety officer, Tom L and Josh A. We did the Ennerdale horseshoe in partial winter conditions, to the surprise of some OUWC members. Vegetable tapas and chocolate torte were on offer on Saturday night. Tom L continued his tradition of returning to the bunkhouse after his self-imposed deadlines.
- **Littondale**, March 2015: A joint trip with CUMC, to potentially the best bunkhouse we've ever been in, complete with sauna. This may have driven Tom and Valerie to install their own. The weather was good, the valley was quiet, and the Three Peaks were conquered. One group failed to cook brownies on Saturday night.
- **Cwm Dyli**, April 2015: As is tradition, we returned to Cwm Dyli for easter. Weather was mixed, walks were varied, and no sheep got into the bunkhouse this time. Only one undergraduate was present on the trip. Meals included 'something tasty', 'something more tasty' and cherry bakewell cake.
- **Rhyd Ddu**, May 2015: Sign up was full at 06:29, giving many people miserable expectations for future sign ups. Joe H ran a successful navigation course. There was lots of rain and wind. Food included strawberries dipped in chocolate, and spicy seafood fried noodles.
- **Cleveland** (day trip), May 2015: Our second ever visit to the North York Moors, this was a sunny day trip with lots of new members in the club. A lot of time was spent trying (and failing) to identify birds on the moors. The trip ended with cream teas at the highly-recommended tea shop in Hawnby.
- **Rydal**, June 2015: The first outing of our new songbooks, this trip was a windy one to end the year. 38 people went, though only 37 went back on Sunday due to one person bailing out early through illness. Gorge scrambling happened, as did vast quantities of kitchiri, risotto and beetroot.
- **Tan-y-Grisiau** (unofficial), July 2015: An unofficial trip led by an overly-keen committee member to the Lancashire Climbing and Caving Club hut, which was charmingly cosy. Lots of walking round the area of Cwmorthin quarry, despite some rain. Custard was the prevailing food of Saturday evening.
- **Roybridge** (unofficial), September 2015: Our semi-official summer Scotland trip had 8 people on it, exploring the area around Ben Nevis and its decidedly boring tourist track. A tea shop was visited, but nobody knows what other food was eaten.
- **Edale** (day trip), October 2015: The weather for this year's Edale was described as 'a bit

pants', but apparently everyone enjoyed it all the same. There was more car faff than normal, which is something to bear in mind for next year. There were no notable bog incidents, despite 62 people being signed up for the trip. 25 (52%) came back on a subsequent trip.

- **Caseg Fraith**, October 2015: This was a cloudy trip. We tried enforcing fewer, larger cooking groups due to the limited space in the Caseg Fraith kitchen, which worked well. A surprising number of bottles of whiskey appeared on this trip. Adrien provided pumpkins to the amusement of everyone. 40 people were on the trip.
- **Elterwater**, November 2015: A bit of a wet trip, people left on Sunday morning due to the imminent threat of being flooded into the Lake District. Josh ran a successful navigation course on Saturday. Andrew celebrated his 50th trip that evening. Raspberry bakewell cake was had this time (there may be a theme appearing on trips with Sumita).
- **Holwick**, November 2015: Christmas in the Holwick camping barns, and hence we made Christmas dinner despite not having any of the equipment, time, or leadership. People were enthusiastic, though, and this somehow produced a feast. The local pub was well received; the heavy and persistent rain was not.
- **Seathwaite**, January 2016: Surprisingly, this was not a wet trip. Nobody on the trip (11 people) had been to High House before except Paul C. One of the cars suffered a tyre blow-out on the return journey. There was only one call to Mountain Rescue. Almost all meals were vegetarian.
- **Dolgellau**, January 2016: A mixed bag of weather, the bunkhouse was warm, but the kitchen was cramped which resulted in some groups eating much later than was good for them. Saturday saw people eating ratatouille and sticky Swedish chocolate cake. There were a few knocks to the vehicles, and a bit of finding-the-bunkhouse faff, but the trip went well overall.
- **Roaches** (day trip), February 2016: Various transport problems hit this trip: one driver dropped out on Friday due to illness, and another was unable to pick up their hire car due to not having their license long enough. Tom A saved the day. Weather was variable but generally held; at least one person (Jens) has come back. Joint meet with CUMC was a success and they want to do another one.

Trip statistics

(Thanks to Andrew for putting these together.)

Note that all of these statistics apply to the last 14 trips, which is conveniently, the number of trips run since the last AGM (Ennerdale, Littondale, Cwm Dyli, Rhyd Ddu, Cleveland, Rydal, Roybridge, Edale, Caseg Fraith, Elterwater, Holwick, Seathwaite, Dolgellau, Roaches)

- 177 separate people on trips over that period (last year 214 people, but skewed by Anniversary trip)
- 1 person (Paul C) on 11/14 trips; 2 people (Tom A & Sumita C) on 9/14 trips; 2 people

(Adrien L & April C) on 8/14 trips; 3 people on 7/14; 6 people on 6/14; 4 people on 5/14; 8 people on 4/14; 14 people on 3/14; 40 people on 2/14; 97 people on 1/14

- Sumita C came on 9 consecutive trips (Cwm Dyli to Holwick, inclusive)
- 62 people on Edale, of whom 48 were new
- Of the 48 new people on Edale, 23 (47.9%) did not return for a trip (yet), which means 25 (52.1%) did return for a trip since
- Compared to previous years' retention rates for Edale: 2008-09 (32%), 2009-10 (21%), 2010-11 (29%), 2012-13 (37%), 2013-14 (26%), 2014-15 (26%) — this year's retention has been exceptional and unprecedented (something was done right!)
- 2 of the newcomers for Edale returned for 4 trips since (Arion P, Patrick R); a further 2 (Taavi T and Romaric M) came on 3 trips since
- Of the 17 people coming on 2 or more day trips this year, 7 of them only came on day trips and no weekend or vacation trips
- 7 people only came on vacation trips and no other trips
- Only 1 person came on all 3 day trips (Paul C)
- There were 4 people called Tom (Leach, Ashton, Hare, Chudley) who came on the last year's worth of trips

Membership

- Currently 155 members; 138 paid (89%), 17 unpaid (11%); 51 recently expired; 60 undergraduates (39%), 95 postgraduates or others (61%); 110 CU students (71%)
- Last year: 106 members; 38 undergraduates (36%), 39 postgraduates (37%), 27 unknown; 78% CU students
- Ben (8) has usurped Tom (3) as the most common name
- Most popular colleges: Pembroke (10), Darwin (10), Magdalene (8), Jesus (7), St. John's (7)
- We've switched to an online membership system, which is working well and making the committee's lives much easier. A few people have opted out of having their details stored online, but there is provision for that.
- We're collecting statistics automatically now.

Transport

(Report by Camilla.)

Courses

- Three navigation courses: by Joe H on Rhyd Ddu, and Josh on Elterwater and Glenridding

(upcoming), all well received, though the Elterwater one had to be cut short due to flooding

- Scrambling course on the Rydal trip, well received
- REC L2 first aid at Girton in February 2016, well received

Socials

(Report by Adrien.)