

Swansea University Hiking Club Newsletter January 08



Welcome to the Hiking Club! I hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. New members, we hope you like what we've got lined up for you – Returning members, we hope you enjoy the new walks and tweaked routes!

Last term we had some tremendous views, weather (in both senses of the word!) and FUN! The weekends away continue to be the highlight of our walks programme this term and there is also the sponsored hike to look forward to. There is also the usual packed social calendar so we can all get out of our hiking boots for at least one evening a week!

The current committee will be relinquishing the reins of power this term and we would like to thank everyone who makes the Club so special and wish the new committee good luck!

Alex Herridge

At this time of year, the current committee members are getting on a bit and need to retire. So, at the Annual General Meeting, the club will have a new committee! For a role in the committee, you need to be here for the next academic year. Anyway, I'll go over each committee role, and see what you may be up against!

Chairman – The Bossman of the show. Being Chairman, you are responsible for everything, including the 'overseeing' of each committee member to make sure they're doing their job, liaising with the Athletic Union and also looking after the club itself and making tea for the Vice Chairman! It is (strongly) recommended that becoming Chairman require some committee experience.

Vice Chairman – Obviously the best position of the club! Being the Vice Chairman, you are required to organise the transport for the walks. Also, the Vice Chairman looks after the club kit and all the many maps hopefully bringing the correct one to each walk! Sometimes, the Vice Chairman would hold the meetings if the Chairman is unavailable or late coming back from the chippy.

Treasurer – Being in this position doesn't mean you can spend the money in the pub. Looking after the club's money and financial situation is an important role. And you would have to spend the money wisely on kit and the bookings of hostels and such!

Secretary – Being the secretary, you would have to write down the minutes (or the Mini Oots) so that the club has a (rather entertaining) record of what's been going on! You would also have to book accommodation for weekends away.

Social Secretary – Being in this position, you are to create our social calendar and organise events and socials around Swansea and Wind Street. Also the Christmas Ball is a big event to pull off!

Publicity Secretary – This role is to let everyone know what's happening via e-mails about socials and walks and other stuff involving the club! Also, the notice board is in your hands.

Webmaster – You'd have to update our site and upload photos of our walks and socials for the World (or Swansea, for that matter) to see! The ones in the know will go over all the technical stuff with you if you don't know how to switch on the computer!

Aaron Jones

Walks Programme Easter Term 08

- **February 2008**

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- Sunday 3rd - [Chepstow to Tintern Abbey](#) (Grade A,2)
- Friday 8th -> Sunday 10th - [Shropshire Weekend Away](#) (Grade B,2)
- Sunday 17th - [Bannau Sir Gaer \(Black Mountain\)](#) (Grade B,3)
- Sunday 25th - [Three Cliffs Bay and Pub late Lunch - New Committee Walk](#) (Grade A,1)

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- **March 2008**

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- Friday 29th February -> Sunday 2nd March - [Rhinogs \(Snowdonia\) Weekend Away](#) (Grade B,3)
- Sunday 9th - [Glamorgan Heritage Coast](#) (Grade B,1)
- Sunday 16th - [Rhossili -> Swansea, Sponsored Walk](#) (Grade C,1)
- Easter holiday Camping Trip, after Easter itself. Hopefully going to Exmoor this year (Grade unknown)

Social Calendar Easter Term 08

- **January**

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- Tuesday 29th January - [Post-exam/Start of Term drinks](#)

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- **February**

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- Tuesday 5th February - [Pancake Night at 94 Marlborough Road](#)
- Wednesday 13th February - [A to Z of Wind Street](#)
- Wednesday 20th February - [AGM](#) - *This is your chance to stand for a position on the committee and have a say in the club.*
- Tuesday 26th February - [Rhossili Down Night Hike](#)

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- **March**

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- Wednesday 5th March - [Laserzone](#)
- Wednesday 12th March - [Uplands Social](#)

Summer Trip to Snowdonia 10th – 14th June

IMAGINE THIS: exams had just finished, the sun's shining and the weather forecast says this is the case *even* in Snowdonia. Ohhh Yeahhh I thought as we left Swansea, it was summer and we were heading to one of the nicest places on the planet (in my opinion!).

The Chamois Mountaineering Centre was our destination. It is located on the north westerly slopes of the Snowdon massif at 230m, with fine panoramas over Anglesey and the Llyn Peninsula. This view made the evening al fresco chill out sessions all the more brilliant. The accommodation was awesome: old, rustic and lots of space for Frisbee outside.

The first walk/climb was Tryfan. It's the rockiest, spikiest mountain I've ever seen! The approach was strewn with boulders until we began the steep ascent. All was good until we got half way up and the elders of the group tried to recall past years' routes up as there are no paths. We were soon taking in the stunning views of the steep and remote valleys. Eventually we reached the crunch point where we had to take the pointy spine to the summit, or the steep gully which was more sheltered. Typically, it started to sleet at the top, so we had some quick nosh and started our descent.

Our second walk was up Snowdon itself - in thick mist. We followed the Pyg Track: very nice, but a least one view would have been nice! We got to the top and had lunch on a summit that could be confused with an all white room! I had been in my comfort zone all trip so to make amends I stripped off and went swimming in the lake on the way down. This was definitely outside my comfort zone: so much so that 45 seconds in the water was enough!

Other highlights included Pete's Eats in Llanberis - Its reputation, portion sizes and mugs are as big as the terrain outside. The bouldering session at the climbing centre two minutes from Chamois was great. Evenings were spent reminiscing, drinking and playing twister. We also visited Caernarfon Castle for a bit of cultural stimulation.

We were very sad to leave but looking forward to the Austria trip in the next few days. We stopped off in Aberystwyth on the way back for food and yet more Frisbee!

Jack Jones

Weekend Away to the Peak District 19th – 21st October

You may think the Peaks are a long way to drive for just a weekend but oh it's worth it! The journey was spent anticipating the weekend, looking forward to getting out and about and making friends with whoever you sat next to on the mini-bus. I shall gloss over the youth hostel that we arrived at that Friday night. It was an experience that I don't regret – I think everyone should sleep in a barn at least once in their lifetime – however it was rather cold without the straw...

Despite the chilly night, the weather over the two days was glorious. Bright sunshine and blue skies were an awesome compliment to the beautiful scenery that definitely made the weekend. Saturday was spent walking Derwent Edge. It was one of those occasions where all your efforts getting to the top are more than rewarded by the spectacular views once you get there. A very blue Derwent reservoir snuggled amongst rolling hills and greenery. Derwent Edge also has many rocky outcrops that are good for standing on to admire the view and pretend it all belongs to you! We found a particular rock stack that we climbed about on for a good while which only the thought of lunch could drag us away from. We then dropped down off Derwent Edge following a grassy valley with a stream running through it – more lovely views. The valley brought us back to the edge of the reservoir which we followed round to the end of the walk. It was then off to the pub for dinner and the Rugby World Cup! It was a very busy pub, which made for a great atmosphere!

The next day we went to the quaint town of Castleton and started our hike. This is my favourite hike so far this year because not only did it give more awesome views but it was also a challenge. We went up Lose Hill and followed the ridge along to Mam Tor. I felt an awesome sense of achievement once I got to the top of Lose Hill: there is something about earning your lunch that is just good! After we dropped off the top of Mam Tor, we stopped to explore the weird road that once led to Castleton. It has suffered many landslides over the years so it has had to be repaired several times. The result is layers of tarmac all on different levels and some of the white lines leading off the edge! After sufficient exploration we took the fields back to Castleton. Once there we *had* to stop for fish and chips! It was an awesome weekend all round that was a great way to get to know others in the club – there is nothing like a good hike to make good friends.

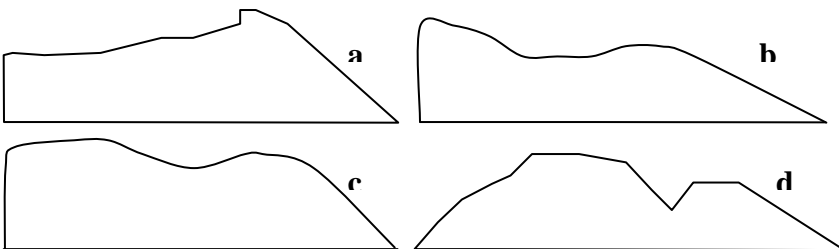
Ruth Walker

Navigation quiz

While winter is still here and the long dark nights require filling, I thought it was the appropriate time to bring on the next crop of leaders for the club. As a result here is a little quiz to get your navigation skills back into practise or to start creating them. The questions vary in difficulty but are all based on a piece of Dartmoor I know quite well on the map below.

To find out what the symbols mean you can download the standard Ordnance Survey key from our website www.hiking.org.uk/downloads/os_key.pdf.

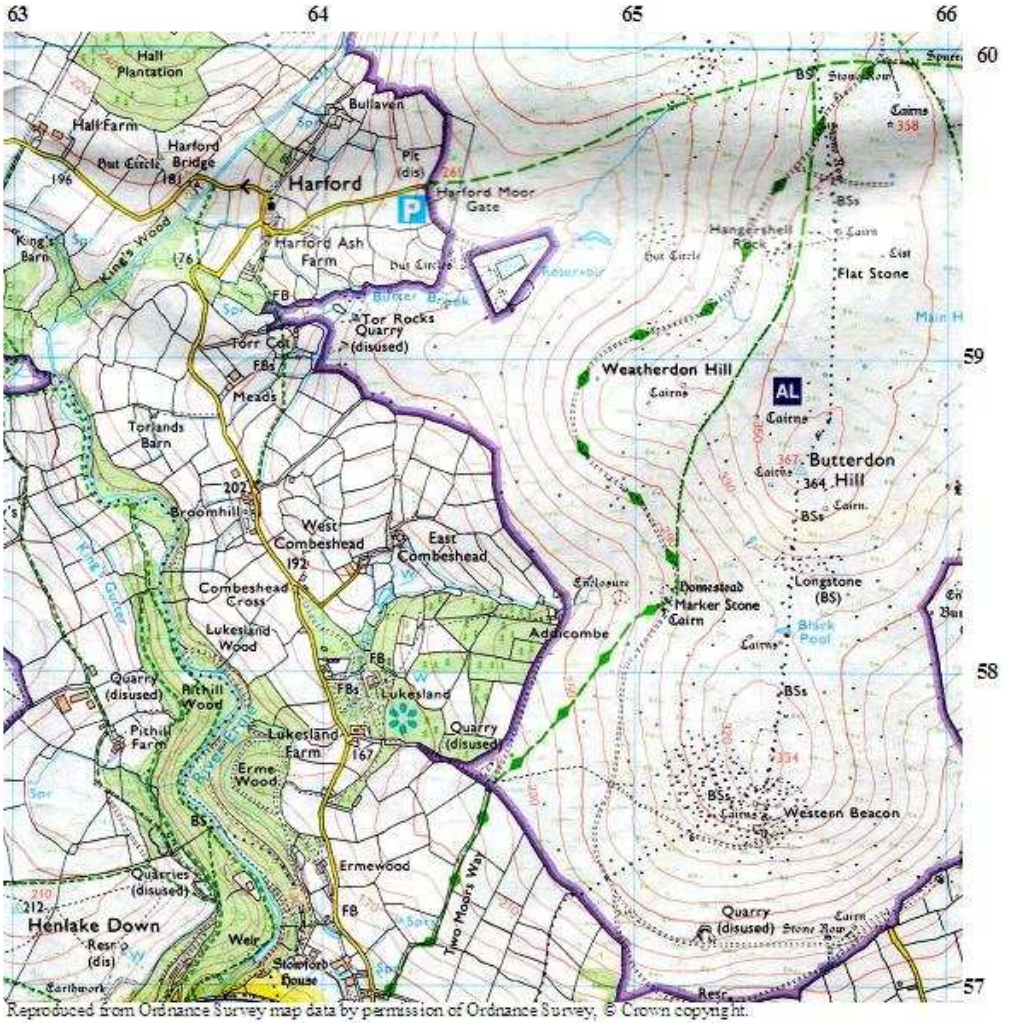
- 1) How high is the spot height on Butterdon Hill?
- 2) Give a six figure grid reference of Butterdon Hill trig point.
- 3) If you walk East from the Black pool (655582) are you doing up or down hill?
- 4) How far is it from Harford Moor Gate to the Boundary Stone at 655599?
- 5) To get from the Boundary Stone in Q5 to the Marker stone at 652583:
 - a) Which of the two marked paths is shorter?
 - b) What is the length of the two paths?
 - c) Which path will be steeper?
 - d) Which path is likely to be boggy and why?
- 6) What does AL at 655588 stand for? And are you allowed to walk there?
- 7) As you walk along the road from Harford Moor Gate (643595) to the church are you:
 - a) going downhill, passing a house on your right and then one on your left? Or
 - b) going uphill, passing a house on your left, then on your right
 - c) going downhill, passing a footpath on the right and houses on the left?
- 8) Name the Long distance footpath running from North to South across the map.
- 9) From point 654577 walking SW, is the ground going to be:
 - a) rocky or boggy?
 - b) ascending or descending?
- 10) Which of A, B, C, & D, represent the ground between 656590 and 655570



Happy Mapping!

If you need any help or for a copy of the answers please email me at webmaster@hiking.org.uk

Map for the Navigation Quiz



Quiz written by Martin Lilley

Sign Ups

JC's bar (Coffee shop side)

- ❖ Wednesday 12:30 - 13:30
- ❖ Friday 12:30 -13:30

The first few hikes of the term tend to be very busy so sign up early.

Coach Pick-ups

On a Sunday Morning:

- ❖ Uplands (outside Spar shop) 9am
- ❖ Student Village (Bus stop at bottom of village on main road) 9:05am
- ❖ Campus (Fulton House) 9:15am

We normally arrive back in Swansea between 18:30 - 21:00 in the evening.

Walk Equipment

Please refer to the Equipment and Safety Rules or the equipment page on the website for information on what you should wear and take with you on walks. Jeans and Trainers are not allowed.

If you are unsuitably equipped, you will not be allowed to walk for the safety of the group.

If you are unsure of what you should bring contact the committee.

Web Site Info

For the most up to date info on all the Club's activities and contact details for the committee.

www.hiking.org.uk