

Swansea University
Hiking Club Newsletter
Autumn 2006

Hello and welcome to Swansea University Hiking club, or if you're a returning member, welcome back!

Well what a fantastic year last year was and we have plenty of new ideas for the coming year. The walks program has been compiled with our usual mix of walks including old classics such as Pen y Fan and new walks such as the Usk reservoir. We've even dug up a few walks the club has not done for year such as The Elan Valley. Our walks aim to cater for all abilities of hiker and the walks are graded by length and height gain. See the walks program on page 3 for more info.

As always we have plenty of weekends away, ranging from the Dorset coast path, The Shropshire Hills and Snowdonia. These weekend holidays are very reasonably priced and are an un-missable part of our club experience.

This year our social calendar is jam packed full of events and nights out. Our first social is next Tuesday when we meet up in JC's bar for a few drinks. If you forgot to buy a waterproof before coming to Swansea fear not! On Wednesday 11th of October we'll be heading to a large outdoor shop in the town centre called Leisure quest where you will be able to enjoy a minimum of 15% off all prices, if we spend enough this discount may increase.

Also this year we will be holding many of our socials at our new venue in Yates.

Do you fancy getting more involved with the running of club? Well if its your first year in the club you can try for a place on our committee as a first year rep, elections for this are on 25th of October. More information about this will be emailed to members nearer the time.

Lastly if you've got any comments or want to know feel free to ask!
Hope to see you all soon

Chris Laidler (Chairman)



The Committee

Chairman, Chris Laidler

Chris as our Chairman is responsible for the club as a whole, he keeps his eye on the rest of us committee members and makes sure that we are doing our job's! Chris spends many an hour in the Athletics Union arguing our point to them! You can always find Chris as he is at the front of the group leading and making sure that we are going on the smooth correct route that the walks always take!

Vice Chairman, Philip Dickinson, ME

Hi, in the club, I am responsible for the organization of transport so that we can go on the many fantastic walks that are going to take place this year. I am also responsible for the maintenance of the club Kit to make sure that we are safe on the walks and that we don't get lost with a plentiful supply of the right maps!

Treasurer, Julia Summerfield'Tigger'

Julia is in charge of the clubs vast fortune,LOL and to make sure that we spend it wisely and do not blow it on unnecessary hiking gadgets or to many parties! Julia also spends a lot of time with the Athletics Union checking our financial status matches what they think we have.

Secretary, Rosie Crook

Rosie is responsible for the upkeep of the minutes from meetings so that they can keep the committees of the future (*could be you!*) entertained and record the general status of the club as a whole. Rosie also books the accommodation in some of the fantastic places where we have our weekends away. And probably, most importantly making sure that the pub at the end of each walk is expecting us all!

Social Secretary, Matt Dumelow

Matt is in charge of organizing our fantastic socials that see us going all around Swansea and venturing out to the legendary mumbles mile, and many a time throught the year along Swansea's Wind street and many other social events and activities through t the year.

Publicity secretary, Andrew Sprules

Andrew is the person who makes sure you know what is going on in the club, he will be sending you regular weekly E-mails informing you of the walks we are having in the weeks coming up and any other important events that are taking place within the club that you might be interested in getting involved in!

Web master, Alex Herridge

Alex is in charge of our fantastic web-site on which you can see details for upcoming walks and socials, Alex is in charge of putting the pictures that we send in of some of the fantastic scenery and silly hiking club members that we come across and putting them in the gallery so that we can all see them!

Phil Dickinson (Vice Chairman)



Walks Programme

Autumn Term

- Sunday 1st October - Rhosilli to Port Eynon (Grade A,1)
- Sunday 8th October - Presilli hills, Pembrokeshire (Grade B,2)
- Sunday 15th October - Pen y Fan (Grade C,3)
- Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd October - Peak district weekend away (B,2)
- Sunday 29th October - Offa's Dyke (B,2)
- Tuesday 31st October - Cefn Bryn nighthike (A,1)
- Sunday 5th November - Pembrokeshire coast path route 1(B,1)
- Friday 10th - Sunday 12th November - Elan Valley weekend away (A,1)
- Sunday 19th November - Fan Fawr (C3)
- Sunday 26th November - Woebly Castle (B,1)
- Sunday 2nd December - Neath Valley (A,1)
- Sunday 10th December - Caerphilly Castle (A,1)

Grades

A grade: 6-8 miles	1 grade: less than 200m climbing
B grade: 8-12 miles	2 grade: 200 - 500m climbing
C Grade 12+ miles	3 grade: 500m + climbing

Autumn Term Social calendar

- **Tuesday 3rd October.** Start of Term Drinks, meet up for a pint in Jc's and get to know more of the club members.
- **Wednesday 11th October** - sign up for peaks trip, equipment trip to leisure quest, free cheese and wine.minimum 15% discount.
- **Wednesday 18th October** - around the world pub crawl @ wind street. sports night.
- **Wednesday 25th October** - 1st year rep elections @ Yates: free food, all shots, shorts, bottles and pints £1.50.
- **Tuesday 31st October** - Elan valley sign up, Cefn Bryn Halloween night hike, fancy dress with prize/prizes for best dressed.
- **Wednesday 8th November** - Lazer zone. then sports night.
- **Wednesday 15th November** - Night in Jcs
- **Wednesday 29th November** - bowling. then sports night
- **Wednesday 6th December** - mountain rescue talk (TBC)
- **Monday 11th December** - provisional date for Christmas dinner @ Oxwich Bay Hotel.
- **Friday 15th December** - end of term drinks in JC's



Rhynogs Weekend

Our grade B,3 weekend took us to the Rhynogs, the mountains just south of Snowdonia. The peaks are as impressively rugged as those in Snowdonia, but there are far fewer tourists.



We stayed in a camping barn converted from an old school, which had the luxury of several rooms – i.e. one for girls, one for snorers, etc. Unfortunately, we couldn't work the showers... so some people had platypus showers, while most people (nobly?) went without. Karl, who drove us, had the challenge of negotiating the minibus between two stone pillars and turning onto a very narrow road with a vertiginous drop on the far side every time we left the camping barn!

Our first hike had a couple of scrambles and two peaks, including Rhinog Fawr. At lunch, most of us enjoyed the view of the inside of the emergency shelter, as it was too windy to sit outside. Joey and Matt, however, determinedly chased a yellow Frisbee up and down the hillside.

On Saturday evening we walked to the nearest pub (a mere 2km down the road) and met up with Bristol Uni's Explorers. It was fun to meet up with a bunch of like-minded nutters and we agreed to meet up for a Sunday hike at Ystradfellte, about halfway between Bristol and Swansea.

The next day, the braver (or more cold-resistant) hikers walked up part of snowy Cadair Idris. The weather wasn't good enough to allow us to get to the top, so sledging was a better alternative. The rest of us went for a significantly longer walk in the valley and admired Cadair from a distance.

On Sunday evening we made our way back to Swansea via a fish and chip shop in Lampeter, rounding off another very enjoyable weekend away.

Julia Summerfield AKA Tigger (Treasurer)



Christmas Ball- Posh frocks and Dragons!

The annual Christmas Ball enables us to ditch those muddy hiking boots and necessary waterproofs for strapless dresses, worryingly high heels or James Bond style suits. If you check out the pictures at www.uwshiking.org.uk, we scrub up very nicely!

Taking place at the beautiful Oxwich Bay Hotel with views of the sea; the three course meal of traditional Christmas Dinner was devoured this year by three tables of hungry hikers. Novel ideas of entertaining us girls included Karl's novel idea of passing the sprouts around the table with a homemade catapult-classy!



The traditional after dinner speech by the Chairman of last year Grandad got off to a conventional start with the admission that preparation for this prestigious event had not occurred. However, this year's speech also contained the chance to know his middle name which brought to the end a year long competition. In case you meet him this year, Grandad's middle name was revealed as Tharby, which led to the hilarious comment by an American student who shall remain nameless- "Did he say Barbie?". That made my day you CRAZY one! (hint).

Apologies must go to the Archery team who shared our ball for waiting patiently through our mad speeches for the classy disco that followed. Requests for songs during the meal generally ends with such classics as the Macarena being chosen, leading to some awesome group dancing displays by both clubs. Award for best dancer this year should go to Phil, our distinguished vice chairman and his dancing partner, the Archery Dragon! Special mention should go to his coach Mr Alcohol for Phil being confident enough to strut his stuff in front of the camera!



Another fabulous Christmas ball ended with the arrival of coaches to return us to our abodes. However, with purchase of a reasonably priced student ticket, in 2006, you can capture the hiking spirit of fun as 'you too shall go to the ball'!

Rosie Crook (Secretary)



An Intro to Socials

The social side of the club is my responsibility and i'm sure you will be pleased to know we have a wide range of activities planned this year.

I challenge the freshers amongst you to have a guess at what orientbeering involves, and do you know what a ceilidh is. well as the year unfolds you will find out.

There is one social particularly close to my heart, the A-Z of wind street. to those of you who don't yet know, Wind Street is Swansea's main street for night time entertainment with no less than 30 pubs restaurants and clubs. This social is one for those of you who like a drink or three! Quite simply you have to go into the first pub and have an alcoholic drink beginning with the letter 'A', eg Archers, Aftershock. Then proceed through various pubs in Wind St progressing through the alphabet. Legend has it that someone once completed this frightful task... but after 26 drinks how am i supposed to remember that!!

Finally a plug for this years first few socials. On Tuesday 3rd of October, meet up in JCs for a few drinks, be there from 7.30pm. Also the equipment trip to leisure quest in Swansea @ 7pm Wednesday 11th October where you can buy all you need for the year at specially discounted prices, and also enjoy the cheese and wine provided by our hosts.

Hope to meet you all during the year. Happy hiking.

Matthew 'mountain mat' Dumelow
(Social secretary)



Orientbeering

Orientbeering, its such a beautiful word and whoever invented it must be a genius, as well as an alcoholic, but I'm not complaining!

The idea of orientbeering is to navigate yourself to the various points of the course collecting beer and chocolate along the way, you are provided with a map to show the course so you don't end up getting lost! The course ends at a pub where you need to show your empty beer bottles and chocolate wrappers as proof of completing the course.

On the day just after lunchtime we all met at the entrance to the student village. The course was set and ready for us to begin, with the beer having been very well hidden at various points by Chris. At ten minute intervals in small groups we all set off to find the beer!

I went round the course with Hannah, we were also given Pancake (a hiking mascot dragon) who we lost and when we backtracked to find him he was mysteriously perched on a wall. How did he get there? We hadn't even started drinking yet! We were the penultimate group to leave yet we were somehow the last group to finish (by a long time) without even getting round all the beer stops (so unfair)! Just to rub it in we are both geographers so we shouldn't have been able to get lost but we did! In our defence the map was poorly designed!

More than once our path crossed with that of Joey and the Crazy American's team. Each time they managed to find the beer bag for us! I think Hannah and I really had a dodgy map that day!

Eventually we had to abandon our quest and head to the pub, which was still quite a trek in itself. At the pub we found, not to our surprise, that everyone was already there waiting for us! Then a few of us had a nice meal at a different pub down the road.

For next years orientbeering Hannah and I have vowed to actually finish the course! Hope to see all of you at orientbeering next year!

Andrew Sprules (Publicity)



General Information

Sign Ups

JC's bar (quiet 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.
Weekends Away have separate sign up meetings.

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.

Club Notice Board

For the latest information on club events, the notice board is on the ground floor of Fulton House, opposite the Health Centre.

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

www.hiking.org.uk
Webmaster. Alex Herridge

