

Swansea University

Hiking Club

Newsletter – September 2008

Welcome to Swansea. Whether you are a new member or a returning one we hope that 2008-9 will be a fantastic year for the Hiking Club and it's members.

Among the highlights of last year we went to Mid Wales just as the leaves were turning brown, walked to St Davids and through Waterfall Country. The June trip to the Lake District fittingly rounded off an excellent year.

This term we are heading to the Peak District and mid Wales for weekends away in addition to our regular walks.



We will also be starting some *Saturday* walks and running a day with both Grade A (shorter) and Grade C (longer) walks to cater for all levels of Hiker among the membership. Don't miss our social program on Page 3 too.

You can also look forward to our Easter trip to Snowdonia ☺
Happy Hiking everyone.

Martin Lilley



Committee 2008-2009

As with every Club in the Athletic Union there is a committee that keeps the club in good shape:

Chairman: Martin Lilley

As Chairman Martin has to make sure that the club runs smoothly, which means he does a bit of everything. He is also the club main man for discussing things with the AU.

Vice Chairman: Ruth Walker

Ruth's job is to maintain the club's kit in perfect condition and to bring the right map for the right walk. She also takes on Martin's role when he is unavailable, like when he's out at sea.

Treasurer: Rhodri Bevan

Rhodri keeps his eye on the club finances and he challenges anyone to a game of pool. He is responsible for collecting membership fees and walk money. He is well known for bringing homemade brownies and lots of sweets on walks

Secretary: Stephan Sanger

Stephan has three main jobs in the club. He phones the pub at the end of each walk to let them know that walkers are coming, books the accommodation on the weekends away, and takes careful yet amusing minutes in committee meetings

Publicity Secretary: James Rayment

James' primary job is to send our e-mails, to let everyone know what is happening in the coming week. He is sometimes the voice of reason in the group but will still do silly things like walking straight into a pond of cold water.

Social Secretary: Amy Brook

Amy is a friendly person who is responsible for keep the hiking social scene fresh and exciting. She is the heart and soul of the party ready for an impromptu social!

Webmaster: Katherine Hooper

Katherine maintains our website (www.hiking.org.uk) which lets the whole of Swansea Uni what the hiking club has been doing. She also hunts people down for photos to be placed in the excellent hiking web album.

In late October there are elections for one international and two first year representatives. This is a perfect opportunity to see how the club is run and have your say. No experience is necessary to take on these roles.

James



Walks Calendar

September 2008

Sunday 28th - [Port Eynon - Rhossili](#) (Grade A,1)

October 2008

Saturday 4th - [Amroth to Tenby - Pembrokeshire Coast](#) (Grade B,2)

Sunday 12th - [Offa's Dyke](#) (Grade C,3)

Friday 17th -> Sunday 19th - [Elan Valley Weekend Away](#) (Grade A,2)

Saturday 25th - [Weobley Castle](#) (Grade B,1)

November 2008

Sunday 2nd - [Brecon Canal](#) (Grade A,1) **AND** [Pen y Fan](#) (Grade C,3)

Friday 7th -> Sunday 9th - [Peak District Weekend Away](#) (Grade B,2)

Sunday 16th - [Abergavenny and Sugar Loaf](#) (Grade A,1) **Variation on old walk**

Sunday 23rd - [Freshwater East - Pembrokeshire Coast](#) (Grade B,1)

Saturday 29th - [Caerphilly Castle](#) (Grade A,1)

December 2008

Sunday 7th - [Pontardulais](#) (Grade B,2) **New walk**

Social Calendar

Tues 30th Sept – BBQ + beach party

Weds 8th Oct – Cheap Gear night in Field and Trek; Bowling and AU night in town.

Tues 14th – Whitez Pool, Uplands

Weds 22nd Oct – First year rep elections & Around the World drinks

Fri 31st Oct – Fancy dress Halloween night walk

Tues 4th Nov - Laserzone

Weds 12th Nov – Orienteering in town

Weds 19th Nov – AU night in town

Tues 25th Nov – Ice Skating (provisional)

First week of December – Hiking Xmas Ball

Weds 10th Dec – A–Z of Wind Street & AU night

Easter Trip 2007-2008 to Exmoor

Last Easter holiday the hiking club went to Exmoor on a four day hiking extravaganza! And it didn't disappoint. Exmoor is located in north Somerset and offers stunning coastal walks and a beautiful expanse of moorland to explore. It was April which meant it was chilly weather for camping but what's camping without a camp fire! We pitched our tents, set our fire and we were right at home. Pool Bridge campsite is a complete gem – deep in a valley, surrounded by lush woodland, with a stream running through it. It's one pretty snazzy field and falling asleep with the sound of the stream in the background is lovely.

The first day of walking was a river valley walk via Tarr Steps – an ancient bridge made of huge rocks. We followed the River Barle until we reached the top of the valley, where we had a break in a nice sunny spot. I finally managed to convince everyone that gorse bush flowers do smell like coconuts! Our route took us to the village of Whithypool and we just had to stop in the pub for refreshments. We then circled back to Tarr Steps via a moorland ridge, along which we came across bog, views and a row of tall thin trees that someone may have attempted to pole dance on *cough* don't believe everything you hear! A hiking club style raid on the nearby woods meant we were set for that evening's camp fire. That night we had a BBQ and marshmallows – yummy.

The next day we had the most gorgeous weather for the coastal walk. Exmoor's coast is stunning and on a clear day you can see right across the sea to South Wales. We drove to the coastal town of Lynmouth and started the walk from there. We followed the coast east around Farland point where there is a lovely lighthouse that you can stay in! After getting up an annoyingly long hill we stopped for lunch that featured t-shirts and sun cream!! It was actually warm. We then did a stretch of coast that has these cool coombes every now and then. They were all jungle like because they were sheltered but wet. We then cut inland along the valley and followed the river back to Lynmouth. We paddled and skimmed our way along the river until we got to a lovely National Trust café at Watersmeet. Cake and tea stop☺. That evening we had bake potatoes cooked in the camp fire – more yummy!

On the last day of walking we explored some classic Exmoor moorland via Dunkery Hill. In an amazing feat of genius all the rain that day went either side of the hill so we didn't get wet at all! This was only a shame for one person who had a strong urge to get a good and proper rain soak – crazy man! We ended the day by visiting Porlock and having tea in The Castle pub. We then went back to the camp to enjoy our last fire. The next morning everything got a good soaking whilst we were packing up and the tents got very muddy! There might also have been a slight issue with car and mud and wheel spin but hey we got home safe and sound.

Ruth Walker



Ystradfellte Waterfall Walk

The best thing about every one of our walks - each one is unique in its own way. On the final walk of the year we went up the Neath Valley to do what is adventurously called "the waterfall walk". This walk might not be as far from Swansea as most, but it certainly feels different. Around every corner awaits another waterfall, each different and big, from the waterfall you can walk under, to the waterfall you can swim beneath, or dive into it's pool, or even the waterfall you can walk over. Of course the large cave system where we had lunch shouldn't escape mention, with its stalactites and swallow chicks. All in all a most enjoyable walk for those that like valley/forest/river walks with a bit of swimming or skimming stones thrown in. I did.



Rhodri



Social Outlook

Hello to all you Hikers, new and old. As your social secretary, it's my job to ensure you have the chance to relax and get to know your fellow hikers in a non-hiking environment. This year you are definitely spoilt for choice, we have everything from laserzone to orientbeering, drinking to bowling, pool to paintballing.



Every Tuesday or Wednesday we have something for you to do. We really do have something for everyone. Perhaps you aren't a big drinker, no worries because we have many non-drinking events too.

What better way to start off your year in Swansea, than with a trip to a beach for a BBQ and beach games. Friends are always welcome at our socials but we do encourage them to join the club aswell.

Perhaps once you have joined the club, you fancy getting a bit more involved. We have the first year rep elections, specifically for those of you who have just joined and also later in the year we have the AGM to elect a new committee.

A challenge for those of you who do drink is our A-Z of wind street. Think you can drink something beginning with every letter of the alphabet? This is definitely one for you! Even if you don't drink, this is a fun one to come along to as the results are usually funny.

Last but not least a quick mention for my personal favourite social, the Christmas dinner. This is a time where all hikers get together to eat good food, drink free wine and all in all to have a merry christmas!

These are by no means all the available socials however, but i can guarantee that all the socials we do have are fun!
Lots of love, your social sec
Amy!



Social Hiking in Swansea

Our evening hike started at Yates', where we had a few beers and mixers and waited for the inevitable late comers to arrive. The conversation was varied, touching on many subjects including our previous adventures (obviously including the usual sagas-for details ask a club member!) and location of our next.



After it became obvious that we were substantially intoxicated, we took a short hike (a whole 1 or 2 minutes) into town to the infamous Laser Zone. Two 'friendly' games of firing lasers at fellow hikers ensued with no major damage - only some damaged pride!



Continuing our trek, our next stop was Lloyds #1 where we paused to indulge our sweet teeth on Chocolate Bombes and top up our alcohol levels. Our final stop was a journey back in time to the 80's in the form of Reflex.

From then on followed an evening of no rest for our hiker's feet, instead we danced till we dropped,

however whether it was a result of tiredness or alcohol no one was in a fit state to decide!

Steve



Club information

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. Weekends away have separate sign up meetings.

Coach Pick-ups

On a Saturday or 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

*Katherine,
Webmaster*

