



Footprint

November Edition 2009

Chairman's Column

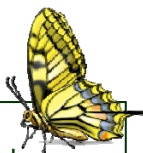
By the time you read this we will have elected our new committee to take charge and take us into 2010. Please join me in expressing thanks to all those who have taken on committee roles in the previous year, and also importantly please do your best to give your support in either standing for a committee role or supporting the new committee in their various jobs.

Very best wishes for the year ahead.

Michael J, retiring Chairperson

The next committee meeting date will be advised once the new roles are in place and a date has been set.

If you have any comments or issues for the next meeting, please see the new Chairperson or a committee member..



"We hope that there will still be fireflies and glow-worms at night to guide you and butterflies in the hedges and forests to greet you.

We hope that your dawns will have an orchestra of bird song and that the sound of their wings and the opalescence of their colouring will dazzle you.

We hope that there will still be the extraordinary varieties of creatures sharing the land of the planet with you to enchant you and enrich your lives as they have done for us.

We hope that you will be grateful for having been born into such a magical world".

Gerrald Durrell, Author and Naturalist (1925-1995)

Editor's Column

This is my last edition as editor of *Footprint*, so thanks to you all for contributing your articles for this edition and throughout the last year, they have been.... sometimes serious, sometimes silly but always interesting, and thanks for the lovely photos. A big thank you to Michael J for collecting the newsletter from the printers each month.

I have decided to put in one of my favourite quotes instead of an Eco tip this time. It is from Gerald Durrell. He was an author and naturalist, who worked to save species from extinction, and has a proven record of doing just that. He died in 1995 but his work continues and is well known all around the world.

I was really pleased to visit the Durrell Conservation Trust, in Jersey, three years ago on a BYHA trip!

Please forward anything for the December newsletter to the new Editors' Steve or Liz, before **20th November 2009.**

Sue B

BARNDANCE

Saturday 12th December
In Enfield
Stuart will update with details
on a Tuesday evening soon.





Hertford day walk.

Date: 20th Sept 2009

Organised by: Dave La

On a glorious sunny Sunday morning, a group of us met up in my home town of Hertford. It was wonderful being able to put my walking boots on outside my flat and walk to the starting point, in Hartham Park, a vast park which leads to open countryside. I first met two prospective members who had made their way there, then Dave and Jane La arrived along with others.

We set off, with the careful navigation of Dave La and his 'student' Anne J, through the outskirts of Hertford, via Port Vale (not the footy team in Stoke), which is a nice quiet street with quaint cottage like terrace houses and two nice pubs. Unbeknown to me, this was previously part of the Hertfordshire way, we left Hertford and walked through lovely countryside alongside the river Beane. This took us, via the Waterford Heath nature reserve, to a church in Stapleford where we sat in the sun and enjoyed elevenses.

We then carried on along the river Beane a bit further until we reached a turning point. We then pulled away from the river and headed south east until we reached the village of Chapmore End. We sat on the green here by the pond and enjoyed lunch. Here we met another contingent from the group who happened to be doing another walk, what a coincidence! After lunch we all went on our way, we headed back across the fields, past an old, working gravel pit and then onto Bengoe, which marks the outskirts of Hertford.

We walked round the back of Bengoe through a pleasant housing estate and then back towards Hartham Park via the Kings Mead open land, at this point we competed with cyclists and others on a Sunday afternoon stroll. The contingent headed off back to Barnet or wherever while I went for a coffee in Hertford before heading back home on foot!

Thanks to Dave for leading the walk and for showing me a new walking route out of Hertford!

Chris K



All Stretton. Photo by Julie K

All Stretton Bunkhouse, Shropshire.

16th-18th October 2009

Organised by: Julie

Julie, Sue, Alex, Georgina, Andrew C., Greg, Caroline, Dave Li, Helen W., Malcolm

An email went out that there was still a space available for this trip. I hadn't been to Shropshire for years but this bunkhouse was new to the group, I knew the walking was ideal for my less than fit self and a quick look at who was going - a decent crowd - and no hard sell was needed for this one.

Having been on Peter D's Stour trip last year, I've got to say this new breed of bunkhouses is very pleasant. Ok, so the space is a bit limited and it does help if you get on with your fellow inhabitants. As with all dormitory accommodation you have to accept that we're all going to snore at some point - the variations are amazing! You also have to be prepared to 'timeshare' in the kitchen/sitting area. Similarly, the bathroom arrangements: the communal shower/toilet room saw heavy usage throughout the weekend - particularly after the Saturday walk where military timing was needed to ensure we could all get to the pub on time in a freshly showered state. I think 7 minutes was the agreed allowance - somehow Andrew took 3 people's time. I can only think it has something to do with the beard - just not sure how! Anyway, you get the picture that the hostel was compact but, hey, it was cosy. How often have you been away in October and shivered in bed? A big thumbs up for under floor heating. Oh yes, there was another toilet 'room' but if you tried swinging a cat in there you'd hear a lot of clonking.



The Saturday evening pub meal at the Yew Tree seemed to fill us all well (except for wannabe chip thief, Alex). I had been drinking and would have used that fork to defend my lovely but strangely too well-formed chips! Puddings were declined as we had a cake awaiting us for Alex's birthday. I won't give his age away but let's just say it wasn't a special one - he's well past it!

Oh yeah, we did some walking as well. Georgina led us around the top end of the Long Mynd on Saturday (Cardingmill Valley-Pole Bank-The Portway-Little Stretton 10 miles). The paths are wide and easy to negotiate without having to watch every footstep, which allows you to admire the ever-changing views in all directions. On a clearer day we could have seen as far as Snowdonia. I love the openness of it. Greg, Sue and Helen couldn't resist adding Ragleth Hill at the end.

Sue took charge of the Sunday walk from Cleobury North, around and up Brown Clee Hill (8 miles). This was more varied with occasional forests, open moors and finally private parkland. I think I managed to speak to most people at some point but frankly lagged at the back most of the time - sometimes by choice, but mostly due to lack of fitness.

These bunkhouses are well worth investigating. I think the private owners have a more vested interest in making them work and they give us new options...and cheaper.

Thanks to everyone for their usual good company and Julie for organising a really nice break.

Malcolm

**Slaidburn, Lancashire
"Barnet Bank Holiday"
weekend, 25th-28th September
Organised by: Ann S**



Ann, Julie, Steve F, Janice, Sue P and Peter D and Mike D. were greeted at Slaidburn youth hostel by Stuart, who was voluntary warden for the weekend

Saturday 26th September

Julie K led a walk from the hostel, following the course of Crossdale Brook to the Roman road on Crossdale Fell (very boggy, brown, sinking mud plus Filthy dog) to Dunsop Head for lunch back via Bowland Fells. Ann had prepared a delightful communal meal for us all to enjoy in the evening. Everyone agreed that Ann's coq au van was exceptional and far superior to anything that could have been purchased locally.

Sunday 27th September... saw us embark on a Circular Walk via Stock reservoir and walked Stock Reservoir circuit. We were joined by Ann's sister Elaine and her nephews Jack and Sam, who had clearly learned from a previous group walk and took great care in navigating boggy areas of the terrain and were a pleasure to be with. We ventured back to the hostel for birthday cake and progressed to the Hope and Anchor public House where we celebrated Ann's Birthday.

Monday 28th September.

We drove to Clitheroe and explored the Castle and Keep. On Monday afternoon we explored Brugerley Park sculpture trail, where we saw natural objects represented in wood and metal. Particularly impressive was a Kingfisher sculpture. Harry the dog defended himself manfully when he was attacked by an out of control bull terrier.

We departed for home, happy and content after enjoying a pleasurable weekend, in an area not often visited by the group.

Thanks to Ann for organising such a fun weekend and providing a great meal on the Saturday evening. Thank you to the drivers and to Stuart for playing host for the weekend.

Mike D



Stow-on-the-Wold weekend, 2nd-4th October 2009

Organiser: David Li

We arrived Friday night at Stow-on-the-Wold hostel which overlooks the market square. The following day we went on a nice country walk. We had lunch at the beautiful town of Bourton-on-the-Water by the River Windrush. I couldn't believe that this beautiful calm river was the cause of a devastating flood two years before. In the afternoon we returned to the hostel via the village of Lower Slaughter, where some of us briefly visited the museum or bought ice-creams.

In the evening we went for a tasty meal in the Queen's Head pub, directly across the square from the hostel. Some of us went on to sample a few of the other hostelrys in the town before retiring to bed.

On Sunday morning, we drove to Moreton-in-Marsh, where we started our circular walk. The walk involved going through beautiful tracks in the countryside. It was a bright day with plenty of sunshine. Back at Moreton-in-Marsh we treated ourselves to teas and cakes in a nice small café. Thanks Dave for organising the weekend and thanks to everyone for making our trip so enjoyable.

Nazar

