



Chairman's Column

Welcome to the first newsletter with your new committee. Well, not completely new as Janice, Stuart and Tracy have each stayed for a second term. This makes a very good mix of experienced and newer committee members. As you know Georgina has held her first planning meeting, Peter has extended the social programme into 2010 and, of course this is the first newsletter from our new editors; Liz and Steve. We hope that we can help everyone have a very enjoyable year with the group.

Remember that the group belongs to us all and we get out of it what we put in so please bring any suggestions or questions to any member of the committee.

December is packed with celebrations each week. This weekend we have our annual party weekend, held at Salisbury this year. The following week the pre Christmas ramble organised by Dave Lauder and the week after our Christmas party at the hall.

Regards

Graham



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

Stop Press...

Here is a short bit about the fringe next year.

The probable dates are Saturday 14th August until people want to go home. I am planning to stay for a week, but others can stay for however many nights they wish. We will be travelling up to Edinburgh by train from London.

The cost will be approx £29 per night in a SYHA summer hostel in the city centre. They provide single rooms in apartments with 24-hour access. There are kitchens and showers in the apartments.

I need to know who want to go by the end of February, because the accommodation gets booked up very quickly. When the booking is made I have to pay in full, so I will also need the money for however many nights each person wants to stay.

Stuart

Remembering Jan

Jan sadly lost her battle with cancer on Saturday 21st November. Jan first joined BYHA in 1989; her first weekend was the Barnet Bank Holiday weekend in September 1989, which was spent in Cornwall. Jan was on the BYHA Committee a few times and held the posts of New Member, Secretary (twice), Chairperson (twice) and Social Secretary. Jan also organised various weekends, and social events that were always great fun.

The following is a tribute from Claire.

I recently visited Jan at home and we talked about our trip to the Sing-along Carol Concert in the Albert Hall in December and future theatre trips. The theatre was one of Jan's many interests. We also talked about the cruise she was due to go on earlier in the year, however she was unable to do so because of her treatment. Jan showed me post cards she had received from friends and members of the BYHA of their travels in the U.K. and abroad; she called it "Arm Chair travelling".

Jan was always determined to live life to the full, never putting off until tomorrow what she could do today. She was always very bubbly and would readily help others.

On her first BYHA Sunday walk she came on Jan was wearing a red baseball cap, given to her by her brother, which had the words "I'm a little devil" written on the front.

As well as loving life Jan's other love was DOGS, they were all hugged, (with the owners permission), wherever and whenever they were encountered.

Jan would have made an excellent Blue Guide, as she knew every inch of London especially the Piccadilly and Victoria Lines!

Jan was very generous; at Christmas time and birthdays her friends would receive a bag of presents, the contents of which were always fun and never ending.

Our mutual friends Mandy and Graham came to visit Jan on 17 November. They returned to visit Jan and friends at the weekend. On Saturday evening we opened a bottle of Cava, which was one of Jan's favourite wines and made a toast to our dear friend Jan.

We will all treasure our friendship with Jan and remember the fun and laughter we had together.

Claire





After a period of time out from the committee and having been editor and treasurer in the past, I've come back to the editor's post once again.

This month, Peter brings you a hearty selection of indoor activities to mid February to put in your new diaries and Georgina has beefed up her outdoor programme with more walks (volunteers appreciated). For details see the Programme of Events page on the BYHA web site.

Have a very merry Christmas, a fantastic new year and make your resolution to get away a little more next year – I know I will.

Please forward anything for the January 2010 newsletter to me, before **25th December 2009**.

Steve

Benington, Herts.

Date: Sunday 15th Nov 2009

Organised by: Stuart

Peter & I met at Barnet Odeon on a glorious, sunny, Sunday morning with not a breath of wind in the air (a welcome change from the high winds of the previous few days). When we arrived at Benington, Stuart, Alan and Ann with Harry were already there while Graham and Helen arrived shortly afterwards. Boots on and we started across fields and tracks to Wood End and on to Haultwick for lunch. Alan and I stopped for a few free cooking apples that were in a box in front of someone's house. Alan was going to freeze some, whereas I thought, apple crumble tonight. While we were enjoying our picnic lunch on the village green a walk leader from another group stopped to chat.

Our afternoon walk crossed more fields, tracks and woodland where Stuart spotted two groups of deer a short distance in front of us. We finished early due to the short distance (8.5 miles) and only a short lunchtime stop. The ground wasn't as muddy as I thought, even after all that rain. My thanks to Stuart for leading the walk and everyone else for their company, and last but not least thanks to Harry, as it's always a pleasure when he joins the group walks.

Wordsearch

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STREATLEY	SALISBURY	OXFORD	SHEEN
BURLEY	ALFRISTON	HELMSLEY	AMBLESIDE
DUBROVNIK	CARDIFF	MARLOES	STREET
BRECON	RIDGEWAY	HATHERSAGE	BENINGTON



Jane L



xmas cactus

