

# DAG NEWSLETTER

**DAG Newsletter January 2007**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR READERS....**

And especially Congratulations to the club as a whole as 2007 is the 30th anniversary year of the club's existence. It all started ... are you sitting comfortably.....

.....Back in 1977 .....Mike Murphy decided to get a group of like minded people together and start a group which met at the Lockers, Gadebridge, Hemel Hempstead once a week and introduced young people to mountaineering and the hills in general. The key to the success was monthly trips to Snowdonia and elsewhere where we all went up together in a mini bus and catered and walked together - what has changed.

In 1978 the group invited Nigel Gifford to give a talk in the Pavilion, Hemel Hempstead on his experience of mountaineering with the army. The object was to sell tickets, raise funds and gain support and a higher profile in the community. Well, very few people attended, the event lost money and the press did not attend. However, I did .... and went on to become a member and can say that I have been a regular attendee since 1978.

While in the K Fellfarer's hut last November and staying up late, I began to read some of the club notes from other BMC affiliated clubs in the Climbing magazines . And, do you know... by comparison, we are not doing too badly.. We may not have a fashionable name ( explain the club name to an Aussie) or a hut of our own ( though we feel that we have part ownership of the HSC ) , but we do hold regular monthly trips and often have a full house. The club has had its highs and lows.. We were once very active in climbing and winter mountaineering, always had a canoe weekend down the river Wye, a sailing weekend in Essex!, went caving and had an annual camp on the Gower. Now we mainly confine ourselves to walking and scrambling, though some do go climbing – well they take out ropes and sometimes use them.

In the last two years we have organised week long trips to Knoydart and Lochabar, many have done unofficial, private trips to such places as Morocco, Romania, Botswana and, of course, Nepal. We have been entertained by Edwin and Helen's e-mails from South America. Individually and as a group we can say that we are very busy and active mountaineers – maybe not to the highest standards but, compared with many groups, we do a great deal. Edwin says “ we are fitter than the average person of our age groups” This shows that we do have difficulty attracting younger members. But if we are nothing else, we are a very social group. Try going out from the Herts Snowdonia Centre in a group of two or three – you have to plan your trip and departure time in secret least you get to enjoy the company of 10 members. It is great and, what's more, newcomers are welcome as well.

So... to celebrate this 30<sup>th</sup> year we are having our dinner in Beddgelert – the Saracen’s Head Hotel on the 17<sup>th</sup> February when we are based at the HSC. Guests of Honour will be Idris and Anne, the caretaker and his wife. We are hoping for a good turn out and would welcome all past and present members.

In addition, we would like to invite all past and present members to the HSC again in June (15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>) for a “normal” weekend. We might even have a special photo of the group and we could make it into a Christmas card and we could all send it to each other. Seriously, it would be good to get a good group photo of us all hanging out of the HSC and perhaps do a press release to the Lancaster Guardian / Cambridge Visitor / Derbyshire Herald – or wherever DAG members live these days.. Rumour has it that some still live in Hemel Hempstead. We could also have a mystery walk, you know, where some one gives you a series of map references and you have to use your map and compass. Any ideas, please forward to Chairman Colin or myself, the Newsletter Sec.

Awards at the Annual Dinner surely should be special 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary awards – I wonder either Chris Bonnington or Prince Charles are free that weekend.

So what have we been doing this last year.

- Jan 2006 – Tanrallt and a visit to the murky pub that no one is allowed to go to.
- Feb 2006 – Coniston and the annual dinner saw good weather and another ascent of the Old Man by some.
- Mar 2006 Poppit Sands, Pembrokeshire – a new centre but a tad far for us northern members – you know we only like to drive for 3 hours max !!
- April 2006 Chamois Mountain Centre – no-one to rescue this time but good days on the hills.
- May 2006 K Fellfarer’s – certainly everyone’s second favourite centre
- May 2006 Celebrations for Amanda and Patrick’s wedding - congratulations
- June 2006 HSC and long days on the hills, scrambles / climbs and we come across a mountain rescue operation.  
Clogyn Y Person The Parson’s Nose climbed
- July 2006 Skirfare Barn – a very full centre with people camping – Sunday saw an entertaining return to Strans Gill at Hubberholme - recommended
- Aug 2006 – A first for DAG, a centre booked and filled in August – Snowdonia
- Sept 2006 Dunmaill Raise, the AGM and only 16 – a poor turn out and probably the only weekend which was not at or near capacity, do the letters AGM put people off? It generally takes less than an hour (OK it may feel a bit longer), and drinking is allowed.

- Oct 2006      Abergavenny – Smithy’s Bunkhouse, South Wales – Beware the hazards left by the owners dogs.
- Nov 2006      K Fellfarer’s – great walks despite strong winds and a good rendezvous point established at the Slate Mine at the top of Honister before our usual visit to the pub.
- Dec 2006      HSC – of course – usual full works Christmas dinner and good walking too. Scrambling on Cloggy ! We all stay out till the day light goes and then to the pub in Beddgelert before the evening meal.

That is the official list of activities, but , as we stated earlier, this provides a basis for many private trips to such places as Scotland, Jordan, Morocco( Thank you to John D for organising this), South America ( all of it) Romania, Nepal and the Isle of Man .

### **Now for this year – 2007 –**

The official list is attached but we have had rumours of visits to Arran, The Outer Hebrides, Kenya and Greenland – but maybe this was the whiskey talking. But we should all make a concerted effort to drop in on David and Isobel Jordan in their new home in Switzerland – did they say that they had accommodation for 20 ?

The catering has gone from great to greater still and some think we ought to publish a DAG cookbook for dinner parties of 20 plus. But if food is your passion, then the list of caters is also attached – but we would welcome more.

### **See you in 2007 – our anniversary year**

Oh, I just forgot !! I am supposed to inform you what we decided at the AGM – 50 mins it took but we did re-elect the committee, and spend some money.

We agreed to donate £ 500.00 each to two Mountain Rescue Teams – one in the Lakes and one in North Wales. We also considered giving £ 1,000.00 to a charity concerned with providing First Aid equipment or education to mountain areas such as Nepal. We deferred a decision on this but, personally, I feel we should make all these donation as part of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year activities. We will still have £ 2,000.00 plus in the bank after these donations. We will canvass opinion at the Annual dinner and decide at the next AGM.

Chairman Colin reported that we had had a good year, I agree, with 53 paid up members. Each month we had between 20 and 30 attending a trip ( apart from Poppit Sands), there is a large core of very active members plus those less active, but who join us when they can. Most trips had us doing reasonable walks, scrambles and sometimes, climbs. The club remains affiliated to the BMC and we as club members – as opposed to individual membership – have BMC insurance – 3<sup>rd</sup> party.

Lynn asked those with space in cars to let her know before trips so that these spaces could be filled.

The Treasurer informed us that we were more than solvent, all trips made a surplus, apart from one, and we had £ 4,761.00 in the bank . This is quite a sum. It was noted that we are not a profit-making organisation and that we should spend some of this money as per the notes above.

We then elected / appointed the new committee and retired to the pub.

## **DACORUM ADVENTURE GROUP**

### **The Committee for 2006 - 7 is as follows :**

Chair	Colin Workman	
Centre Bookings	Ken Hodgson	
Club Sec – weekend Bookings	Lyn Mastroddi	07979 6898133
Treasurer	Edwin Hurst	01442 267592
Sec – Newsletter	John Entwistle	01524 791896
Publicity / Membership sec	Roger Bowman	01727 833093
Web Master	Colin Frame	01223 704447

To book onto weekends ....

Phone Lyn Mastroddi                      07979 6898133

**DAG Website:**                              **[www.dag4hills.org.uk](http://www.dag4hills.org.uk)**

## DAG Weekends January 2007 – December 2007

### 2007

19-21 January Grid Ref. 686 724	The Barnstead, Stackstead Farm, Ingleton, North Yorkshire LA6 3HS From the A65 take the turning which as the Masons Arms Pub on the corner
16-18 February Grid Ref. 626 511	Hertfordshire Snowdonia Centre, Hafod y Llan, Nant Gwynant LL55 4NL near Bethania on the A498 <b>The Annual Dinner will be held at the Saracen's Head Hotel, Beddgelert on Saturday evening</b>
16-18 March Grid Ref. 365 175 <b>New Venue</b>	Arnold School Outdoor Pursuit Centre, Almond Lodge, Glenridding, Cumbria From A592 at Glenridding village follow signs to Youth hostel, centre is at the top of the track beyond the Youth Hostel on the left hand side near the old mine workings.
13-15 April Grid Ref. 488 523	Tanrallt Mountain Centre, Chapel House, Tanrallt, Llanllyfni, Caernarfon LL54 6RR
11-13 May Grid Ref. 235 119	K-Fellfarers, Seathwaite, Lake District Drive straight ahead through farm yard passing barns on your right hand side, through gate and then turn left over wooden bridge and through gate to the centre.
15-17 June Grid Ref. 626 511	HSC Snowdonia Centre, Hafod y Llan, Nant Gwynant LL55 4NL near Bethania on the A498
20-22 July Grid Ref. 292 985	Yorkshire MC Hut, 3 Irish Row, Coppermines Valley, Coniston LA21 8HP Lake District (Please park on the road below the centre nr footbridge)
7-9 September Grid Ref. 331 110	Achille Ratti, Dunmail Raise nr Grasmere, Lake District The AGM will take place on Saturday night at the centre
October	Date and venue to be confirmed
16-18 November Grid Ref 235 119	K-Fellfarers, Seathwaite, Lake District Drive straight ahead through farm yard passing barns on your right hand side, through gate and then turn left over wooden bridge and through gate to the centre
7-9 December Grid Ref. 626 511	Hertfordshire Snowdonia Centre, Hafod y Llan, Nant Gwynant LL55 4NL near Bethania on the A498

**DAG caterers October 2006 – Sept 2007**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Caterers</b>
13-15 October 06	Smithy's Bunkhouse	Ken and Dympna
17-19 November 06	K-Fellfarers	John Rycroft
8-10 December 06	HSC	Colin Workman
19-21 January 07	Stackstead Farm, Ingleton	Lyn and Eric
16-18 February 07	HSC (Annual Dinner)	Need volunteer to buy breakfast and lunch stuff
16-18 March 07	Almond Lodge, Glenridding	Adrian and Ken Hough
13-15 April 07	Tanrallt Mountain Centre	Karen and Dave
11-13 May 07	K-Fellfarers	John Entwistle
15-17 June 07	HSC	Sue
20-22 July 07	Yorkshire MC Hut, Coniston	Volunteer required
7-9 September 07	Dunmail Raise	Liz