

Alumni newsletter - Summer 2007

New OUWC Alumni Scheme!



I'm Laura Bernstone, your OUWC Alumni Secretary. This new committee post was

made permanent in Hilary Term 2006 TGM, and the reason for creating this role was to enable the club to keep in touch with all its old members! We aim to hold termly alumni events such as special alumni walks and socials, and to send you all a yearly newsletter to keep you up-to-date with what's happening in the club. To join our email list and online register, see www.ouwc.org/alumni or email me at alumni@ouwc.org. We hope to hear from you soon!

OUWC Trips 2006-2007

We had the usual variety of Weekend and Minibus Day Trips last year; starting off with the old favourite of Snowdonia and including a timely return to the Howgill Fells (complete with a rabbit suicide alley), we finished with a weekend in Pembrokeshire enjoying good weather and a swim! Minibus day trips have taken in the Wenlock Edge, South Downs (eventually!), the Roaches, New Forest and the Brecon Beacons.

We're very grateful to the leaders and drivers who make trips possible. A winter skills course was organised for leaders in the Cairngorms at Easter. There have also been subsidised First Aid and Mountain Leader courses to increase our leader numbers.

Big changes in OUWC!

As some of you may know we've been having a lot of debate about possible changes to our leading structure, due to dwindling numbers of new leaders and increasing workload on existing ones. In order to try to get trip participants more involved in planning routes, navigating, helping out on trips etc. (instead of just following like sheep) we proposed a new system where people plan and do their own walks instead of having a formal leader. However despite having the backing of the BMC, the University have turned down the plans, so we have to stick with the old way. But we are still trying to bring in some half-way measures to get people more active and foster a less formal and more "club-like" atmosphere. If any of you have any ideas of things we could try, please get in touch!



*The Seven Sisters, Dorset.
© Piers Dawes*



*Brecon Beacons. ©
Christopher
Thomas*

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The OUWC Social Calendar!

This year we have had some fantastic socials, including a photo exhibition, international food and chocolate fondue evenings, watching films and playing board games! The annual dinner, which many alumni came to, thank you!, was held at St. Bennet's hall and was a lovely evening. Last year's Ceilidh was great fun and this year's is already planned for Saturday 24th November, so please come for what will be a very enjoyable evening!



Why we need your help!

We have been warned by the OU Sports Federation that in the near future we may have to rely much more on the support of our alumni. At the moment there are a few things that we really need your help with:

In order to encourage participants on trips to become more involved with planning of walks and navigation, the main things we need are many more maps and map cases. We have 2 sets of scrambling kit and may need more of these as well.

We urgently need new leaders and drivers and to do this we need to subsidise more training courses including Mountain First Aid (now £900 per course!), Walking Group Leader, and Mountain Leader (£285 per person) courses.

Your kind donations would be very gratefully received and would help to ensure the future of the club! To make a regular donation, you can fill in the direct debit form included with this newsletter. Or for a one-off amount, send a cheque (payable to O.U Walking Club) c/o the Oxford University Development Office at the address to the right.

Thank you, on behalf of all OUWC members!

Club merchandise!

Something to remember those good ol' OUWC days by? (Ok OUHRC if you're ancient!) We have t-shirts, mugs, posters and personalised fleeces/hoodies - take your pick! To order or for more information email the quartermaster@ouwc.org or take a look at our website.



One of our posters

Thanks for reading, keep in touch!

www.ouwc.org/alumni

Please send donations to:

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