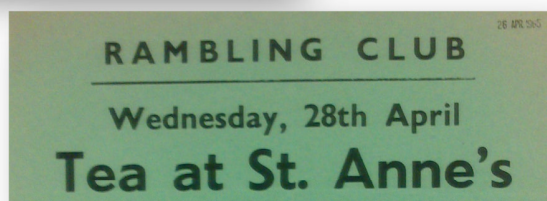
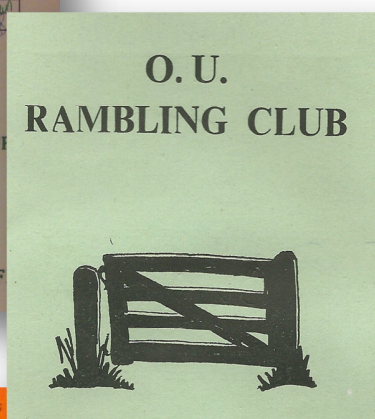
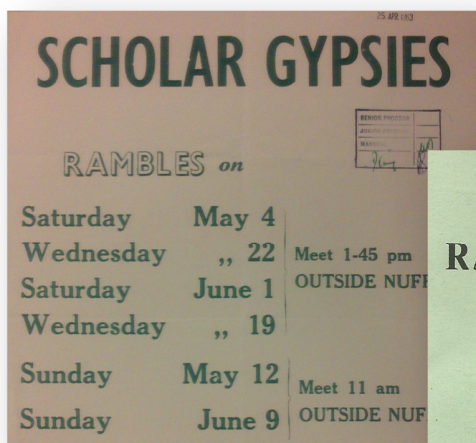


# OUWC Alumni Newsletter

50 years of memories...  
1963-2013



## Hello!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this special anniversary edition of the OUWC Alumni Newsletter. As you know the Club reached a major milestone this year. Like that other national institution, Doctor Who, the Club has been around for half a century. Also, like Doctor Who it has been through various incarnations over the decades from the Scholar Gypsies, through to the Rambling Club, the Rambling and Hillwalking Club (see later in the newsletter on the story behind this change) and now the Walking Club. Over that time many rambles have been had far and wide and lifelong friendships have been made and kept.

One of the nicest things about being involved in the anniversary preparations and celebrations this year has been the opportunity to meet so many of you either by email or in person. It has been really heart-warming to realise how important the club has been to so many people. This was really apparent by the fantastic turnout for the Anniversary Weekend events. We hope you really enjoyed yourselves. We really had a blast and were delighted how it all went. I hope you can see that the club is still in fine fettle. I am absolutely sure that there will be a hundredth anniversary...Right, better get that Tardis ready ☺

*Carina - OUWC Alumni Secretary*

## From the President...

2012-2013 has been a very busy and successful year for our club. We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a weekend of activities including pints in the Kings Arms, a local walk titled 'The waterways of Oxford' and a sumptuous Anniversary dinner at St Hugh's College. It was very well attended, with over 89 members spanning all the decades of the Club's existence, and a record number of 44 ex-presidents in one room, including some of the original founders. We were stunned by the beautiful term cards and posters and the huge levels of activity the Club has had over the years.



Having said that, those of us still in Oxford are keeping ourselves very busy, and the Club continues to diversify the trips on offer to cater to every walker. In addition to local walks every weekend of term, we now run a mixture of minibus weekend trips and minibus daytrips to give a chance for the busier members to venture further afield from Oxford. Michaelmas 2012 saw our first weekend camping trip to the Forest of Dean, which has become quite famous due to a string of bad luck, ranging from an unmapped fence causing one group to have to make an unplanned diversion, to the incredible downpour experienced on the Saturday night. We also had a BIG Lake District trip and a Peak District weekend trip. Hilary 2013 included the BIG Snowdonia trip and a minibus daytrip to the South Downs. In Trinity 2013, in addition to the usual haunts of Snowdonia and Lake District, we ventured as far as Northumberland with our LONG trip at the end of 9<sup>th</sup> week, with Hadrian's wall, two castles and a trip to the Farne Islands among the activities. Finally, in Michaelmas 2013 we had one BIG weekend trip to Snowdonia, one weekend trip to Pembrokeshire (during which we spotted 34 seals), and two BIG minibus daytrips to accommodate the huge number of Freshers. We also saw unprecedented numbers of signups to the email list, with over 900 names, which translated to an increased membership and a huge interest in both minibus trips and local walks, some of which saw up to 30 participants too.

We organised a number of socials last year: the Ceilidhs in Michaelmas 2012 and 2013 with our favourite Mouse and Trousers were very well attended and a lot of fun! The Hilary term annual dinner was a delightful occasion for appreciating the history of our Club, the Pancake Tuesday social provided the much needed calories, and the Whisky tasting was very educational. Trinity term's outdoor social pursuits were hugely successful too, with a punt and Pimms party in the sunshine. Our croquet match was interrupted by rain and had to be turned into an indoor picnic in Magdalen College bar, and BBQ had to be cancelled due to bad weather, but this has not stopped us from having fun. This Michaelmas, we ventured to a pub quiz at the Turf, an evening at the board game cafe, and organised a popular Christmas/end of term dinner at St John's College.

The Club committee is standing strong this term, with all positions filled and some of the more strenuous ones shared between two members. We continue in our quest to involve more members in the daily workings of the Club, and I am happy to report that all the trips in Hilary 2014 will be organised by new Trip Organisers (with the assistance of experienced ones). We have also had several new drivers trained this term, from both experienced and new members.

Our training plans for this year include organising a First Aid course in Hilary term, already nine of the 12 places have been filled with either current or prospective leaders. We have had a couple of people interested in becoming Mountain Leaders to lead trips for the Club, but the strenuous training requirement, time investment and the considerable cost involved dampen the interest in that a little. As a Club, we are committed to subsidising the Mountain Leader training courses for our prospective leaders to lessen the burden on them, and we always very much welcome donations toward this cause.

Here's to a happy and successful 2014 for OUWC and all its members past and present!

*Marta Sarzynska OUWC President*

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## Walking Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend



Photo credit: Geoff Stearn

### *Wine, walking and song...*

The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary weekend 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2013 kicked off on the Friday night with a pub meet at the King's Arms. A great mix of people got together to meet, chat and look over old term cards prior to the weekend's festivities. No Walking club anniversary weekend would be complete without walking! So, on Saturday morning Joe Delo, the President in Hilary term 2013 led a local walk called the 'Waterways of Oxford'. There was a great turnout in spite of the slightly damp conditions and it was the ideal way to prepare for the dinner that evening.

We had a lovely evening at St Hugh's College. First we had a wine reception with a display of photos, club memorabilia (including old club ties featuring what appeared to be an old man with a stick and the University crest!) and old term-cards for people to peruse. Then we had the main event, a four-course meal with several speeches made by former Presidents. The first was made by one of the Club founders and St. Hugh's alumna Marian Liebmann. She was then followed by Graham Johnson and Katrina Lidbetter. A surprise performance of a re-worked Ewan McColl 'Rambler' song was performed by Caroline Robertson and friends and brought smiles to all. See later on in the newsletter for the lyrics.

Wines	University of Oxford Walking Club 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner St Hugh's College Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2013
<i>Matra Hills Pinot Grigio 2010</i>	<i>Roasted Cherry Tomato in Balsamic with Rocket and Parmesan Shavings</i>
	***
<i>St Hugh's Merlot 2010</i>	<i>Chargrilled Chicken Supreme with a Butternut Squash Risotto and Chervil Sauce</i>
	<i>(V) Pumpkin, Aubergine and Courgette Tagine with a Fruity Spiced Cous Cous</i>
	***
	<i>Bailey's Crème Brûlée with Langues de Chat</i>
	***
	<i>Tea, Coffee and St Hugh's Mints</i>

*We would like to thank all of the speakers and performers on the night. Also, thanks to all the attendees for coming in such numbers. It was a really special evening and one that will live long in the memory!*

**OUWC Committee**



Photo credit: Kathryn Newton

## "Getting There: An American attempts to see the British countryside" by Tucker Cholvin

Growing up in the Cascade Mountain foothills way out in the Pacific Northwest United States, hiking and the outdoors are part of my blood. When I was in high school, a great hike was only ever a half hour's drive away; on my eighteenth birthday, my friends and I piled into my car after classes ended and hiked the 633 meters to the top of Rattlesnake Ledge with a birthday cake in tow. Hiking's a big part of my life, and I'm always keen to get out into the mountains.

Moving to England, then, I had my doubts. Mountains are in short supply here, and I learned quickly that there was no hiking club, but instead a 'walking' club in which to go 'rambling.' I confess I was sceptical—I wasn't looking for leisurely strolls in the countryside underneath my fringed parasol. But, a junkie who needed his fix, I suspended my suspicions and joined the OUWC this year as soon as I showed up to Oxford.

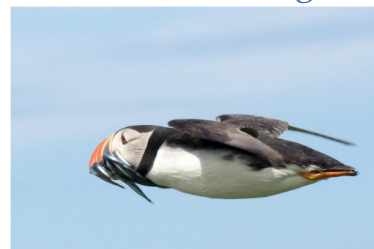
Eight weeks later, any doubts or hesitations I had about the joys of walking in Britain have been completely erased, mostly by one weekend in Pembrokeshire. For the record, no country has a right to have a coastline as beautiful as Britain does; this may help explain other countries' repeated attempts at invading it.

What Britain perhaps lacks in elevation gain on its mountains, it makes up for in the extensiveness of its paths. The public right to roam—through driveways, farmers' fields, backyards, and the occasional church graveyard—is probably the greatest British innovation since the sandwich. Walking through people's private property with thirty other university students still feels like something I should be arrested for, but I also feel incredibly empowered. I feel like the public paths can take me anywhere I want to go, as long as I pack sufficient tea, Kendal mint cakes, a rain jacket, and (of course) money for the pub.

Even more than the chance to see more of Britain, I'm grateful for the community I've found in the Walking Club. It's a group of people who welcome everyone at this university, even if you show up for a walk in blue jeans and old trainers (*though we don't encourage trainers on weekend trips! - Ed.*). I've loved where the Walking Club has taken me in the past weeks, and I can't wait for many more.

Tucker writes a blog at <http://www.37ando.com/>

## Castles, causeways, Roman walls and puffins -Northumberland Summer Long



Top left: Bamburgh strand. Left: Drinks at The Olde Ship Inn, Bamburgh. Above: The famous tree on Hadrian's Wall. Photo credit: Carina Brehony. Above right: Puffin in flight on the Farne Islands. Right: Refuge on the Causeway, Holy Island. Photo credit: Bernhard Elsner.



*A hillwalking poem...***Return to Tryfan**

Rising determinedly from Llyn Ogwen's shore.  
 Feisty little mountain with carefree demeanour,  
 Like a playful puppy anticipating fun  
 Inviting exploration of the rocky heights.  
 Approaching eagerly after absence too long,  
 Sight of your rugged skyline sends my heart soaring.

Memories of past ascents flood my mind,  
 Previous companions, countless adventures.  
 Familiar features harbour their stories;  
 Scrambling the North Ridge in sun and rain,  
 Balancing nervously on East Face climbs  
 Leaping to freedom on Adam and Eve

I bring my young son now to share with him,  
 The magnificence of this wild landscape.  
 Seated amidst the summit slabs, we smile  
 May he grow to love and cherish these hills.

*by Caroline Robertson - inspired by an ascent of Tryfan with my  
 16 month old son Joseph, and several of the OURHC crowd*

*Debate over the Club name change*

*Recounted at Anniversary Dinner 9th February 2013*

*Hilary Term 1986. Free Tea, Lady Margaret Hall*

*Phil:* So, Richard, are you thinking of coming on the ramble on Otmoor this weekend?

*Richard:* Isn't it a bit flat there?

*Phil:* Well, it depends on your perspective. It's a fine ramble.

*Richard:* Rambles are all very well, but I didn't join the Rambling Club to slog through muddy fields all day. Why don't we go hillwalking sometimes?

*Geoff:* Actually, we do go hillwalking quite often, on the minibus trips and vac trips.

*Richard:* So why's it called the Rambling Club? I nearly didn't bother joining the Club because I want to climb hills! In fact there are probably dozens of potential members who are put off by the name. Perhaps you should change the name so it reflects what we actually do?

*Mathew:* Yes we could call it the Walking club.

*Geoff:* I think that could be open to ridicule with initials WC.

*Richard:* Or what about the Rambling and Hillwalking club.

*Phil:* That's rather a mouthful isn't it?

*Keith:* Yes and that could be misinterpreted as the Rolf Harris Club.

*Ceri:* Possible, but unlikely - you can make up any name from a set of initials.

*Richard:* Well, I think we should vote on it and see what other people think.

At the TGM. A vigorous debate ensues.

*A.Bagger:* We need to change the name so that hillwalkers won't be put off joining the club - Rambling sounds boring like the sort of thing my grandparents used to do. We want a more macho name that better describes the exciting and adventurous activities of the club.

*JustARambler:* The name Rambling Club has worked perfectly well for the past 20 years and I don't see why we need to change it. I don't want some hot-headed thrill seekers tarnishing the proud reputation of rambling in Oxford.

And so we go to a vote:

All those in favour of keeping the name Rambling Club - Phil and Geoff vote yes.

All those in favour of changing the name to Rambling and Hillwalking club - Mathew, Richard, Ceri vote yes.

And so the proposal to change the name to Oxford University Rambling and Hillwalking Club is passed.

*Phil:* Well at least the word Rambling comes before Hillwalking - which is as it should be.

*Mystery locations. Where are they?  
 Find out on the last page...*



*The Cotswold Rambler*

*(As performed at the OURC/OURHC/OUWC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, St Hugh's College, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013, by members spanning the ~1985-1992 era). Based on and to the tune of 'The Manchester Rambler' by Ewan McColl*

When I first came to Oxford at the age of nineteen  
 I was a fresher as fresh as can be  
 I looked in my pigeonhole and there I found  
 An invitation from OURC  
 The president's speech was inspiring  
 I signed for a trip to North Wales  
 The start of a lifelong obsession  
 And a source of innumerable tales

*Chorus: I'm a rambler, I'm a rambler from Oxfordshire way,  
 I find my enjoyment the high mountain way,  
 I may be a worker on Monday,  
 But I am a hiker on Sunday.*

The ridge of Crib Goch was a terrible shock  
 'Twas the first mountain I'd ever seen  
 I've climbed up on Tryfan 'til my knees they did stiffen  
 And many more places I've been  
 The pinnacles of Aonach Eagach  
 The dark jagged Cuillin of Skye  
 The waterfalls of Ystradfellte  
 Such beauty no money can buy

*Chorus*

I've climbed over Snowden, I've slept upon Crowdon  
 I've camped in the Moelwyns as well  
 I've sunbathed on Kinder, been burned to a cinder  
 And many more tales I can tell  
 My rucksack has oft been my pillow  
 The heather has oft been my bed  
 And soon than part from the mountains  
 I think I would rather be dead

*Chorus*

I've climbed up Boars Hill, on a day clear and still  
 And I've walked in the Chilterns as well  
 I've followed the Thames to that great river's end  
 And many more things I could tell  
 I've seen the white horse on the Ridgeway  
 The skylark fly high overhead  
 But sooner than part from the Cotswolds  
 I think I would rather be dead

*Chorus: I'm a rambler, I'm a rambler from Oxfordshire way,  
 I like to go walking the fine Cotswold way,  
 I may be a student on Monday,  
 But I am a hiker on Sunday.*

## OUWC COMMITTEE MT13

President  
Marta Sarzynska

Secretary  
James Neuhaus

Treasurer  
Wing Hei Cheung

Trip and Safety  
Kathryn Newton

Alumni Secretary  
Carina Brehony

Archivist  
Matej Bajar

Membership  
Secretary  
Tom Waksman

Quartermaster  
Juan Jose Mendoza  
Arenas  
Joshua O'Shaughnessy

Social Rep  
Natasha Reynolds

Training Officer  
Jaya John John

Webmaster  
Andrew Elliot

## OURC in Bavaria-the first foreign ramble by Bill Manville

In the late 1960s when I was a member of OURC our term-time walks were limited by the University authorities to being Saturday afternoon or Sunday rambles in the Oxford area. During the vacations we would have youth hostelling trips of about a week in one of the national parks – Peak District and Yorkshire Dales being particular favourites.

In 1968 we decided to undertake the club's first foreign "vac ramble". We chose to go for three weeks to Bavaria and Austria and 12 people signed up for the trip. My passport reveals that I obtained £50 in travellers cheques to cover the cost of the trip (the Exchange Control Act 1947 required all foreign currency to be recorded); no plastic cards in those days! I guess I must have taken some sterling as well, but I think the entire trip probably cost less than £100.

I decided to hitch-hike out to Salzburg – a common mode of travel for students in those days, but this was my first attempt. My first lift, from the M1 slip-road in Sheffield, was with my father who happened to drive by! My second lift ran out of petrol somewhere near Watford Gap, but eventually I reached Dover and met a couple in a pub who gave me a free trip across the channel to Zeebrugge (their ticket covered a car + four passengers). I spent three days travelling through Belgium and two through Alsace, including a free eight course Sunday lunch in the Vosges mountains thanks to a kind motorist whose son also hitch-hiked. Then four days to cross Germany and arrive in Salzburg where the others arrived, mostly by train. Vicki Lloyd arrived from Czechoslovakia where she had been on a work camp near the Russian border when the Russians invaded. She was pleased to have got out safely.

Our trip took us from Salzburg to the salt mines at Hallein, the notorious Berchtesgaden where the warden explained the significance of the word Fussende on the blankets and announced "it is good to get up early and wash in cold water" and then to the most delightful hostel on an Alpine meadow at Nattersberg Alm. Russell Hafter and Bernadine McCreesh unexpectedly left the group at this point and headed for Slovenia leaving us to explain to the remaining wardens why we had two fewer people than we had booked for.

We travelled by local buses and trains, staying one night in some hostels and two in others. We were somewhat alarmed when boarding the bus in Walchensee to go to Mittenwald when the bus driver told us the youth hostel there had burned down the previous night, but were relieved on arrival to discover that it was a neighbouring farmhouse and not the hostel. Our westward journey ended at Fussen from where we visited mad King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein castle. We then headed north to Munich for a final night and a visit to the Oktoberfest. Andrew Gorsuch (who was in the University rifle shooting team) shot a plastic edelweiss at a fairground stall and presented it to Vicki in view of her well-known love of *The Sound of Music*.

Return to England was by overnight train to Ostend and ferry to Dover. I remember it as a happy trip. Plenty of litres of beer, bread, sausages and sauerkraut were consumed. I guess we did some walking, though I don't remember much about the walks except for the one at Nattersberg Alm. The trip was sufficiently successful that we made a similar trip to the Schwarzwald the following year and a number of us continued organising such trips to other parts of Germany, Austria, Luxembourg and Switzerland in the following summers, even after we had left Oxford.



OURC 1<sup>st</sup> Foreign Vac Ramble, Bavaria/ Austria  
Outside Mittenwald Youth Hostel, 20<sup>th</sup> Sept 1968  
Standing, left to right: Andrew Gorsuch (Pembroke), Helen Lewis (St Anne's), John Woollard (New), Roland Tebbenham (Lincoln), Vicki Lloyd (Somerville – 21 today!), Bill Tromans (Wadham), Malcolm Naylor (Balliol), Bill Manville (Wadham). Seated: Mike Mumford (New), Greg Yates (New)



## OUWC Social events



Photo credit: Carlijn Bogaardt

*We are on Facebook!  
Check us out at the Group  
'Oxford University Walking  
Club'*

Of course the major social event of the 2012/2013 was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend, but we still had plenty of other social happenings during the year. We have fixtures during the

**Oxford University WALKING Club**

Take off your walking boots and put on your dancing shoes!  
It's time for our annual

**CÉILIDH**

7.30pm-10.30pm  
Saturday 17th November 2012  
Mordan Hall, St. Hugh's College

- Live folk band the **Mouse and Trousers**
- Drinks and snacks included
- Cost: £12

Please send a cheque for £12 made out to "OU Walking Club" to Robert Siddaway, The Queen's College. Tickets are also available at the door.

Visit [www.ouwc.org/social](http://www.ouwc.org/social) for more details

year such as the Free Tea at the beginning of each term, the Ceilidh in Michaelmas, the Annual dinner in Hilary and the Punt party in Trinity. Michaelmas events included a pub quiz, boardgames night, and Christmas meal! Plans are afoot for the annual dinner and a pancake night amongst other events in Hilary. If you are in the area and want to join us then please get in touch. We would love to see you!

*Above Left: Punt Party, May 2013  
Left: Ceilidh Poster, November 2012*

## You can Support Us!

Like many clubs in the Sports Federation, we run on a tight budget and we are very careful that every penny goes to help fund our fantastic trips, buy and replace equipment and subsidise training for members. At the moment there are a few things that we really need your help with. Firstly, replacement of maps and equipment is always important. We also urgently need new leaders and drivers. Although we've been successful recently in gaining some new drivers, we need more leaders, as a number have recently departed Oxford, so we'll need to encourage and recruit more shortly. To lead trips in mountainous areas, leaders are required to have attended Mountain Leader training or an agreed equivalent. The costs of training have risen quickly in the last few years, well above inflation. The least expensive ML training courses are now £300 per person, while most centres charge £350 and up. In recognition of this, the club subsidises members attending ML courses to a greater extent than before. Your kind donations would be very gratefully received and would help to ensure the health of the club! We had some very kind and generous donations towards the Anniversary dinner, which allowed us to subsidise tickets for current members. We were very grateful for this. To make a regular or one-off donation to the club you can go to this page on the University Development Office website: <https://www.giving.ox.ac.uk/page.aspx?pid=2996>

Another way you can help us...and for free...is through Easyfundraising. Before you go shopping online (be it for Christmas or afterwards), then you first log in to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ouwc](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ouwc), then visit retailers from the links they have, for example, Amazon, eBay, Argos, Tesco, Debenhams, M&S, Staples, energy and other utilities, many outdoors shops too. When you go through Easyfundraising's links, then make a purchase, the club is donated a percentage of your purchase total, typically 1 - 3%, even up to 5% depending on the shop.



Mystery locations: 1. Moel Eilio, Snowdonia. 2. Pike of Blisco looking over Pike O'Stickle. Lake District. 3. Halifax bomber crash site, Great Carrs, Lake District. 4. Dunsanburgh Castle, Northumberland. Photos: Josh O'Shaughnessy and Carina Brehony