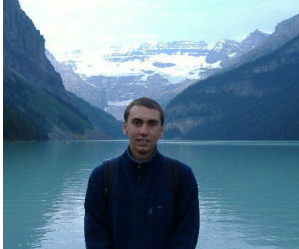




ALUMNI NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2015

Welcome!



My name is Simon Lewis, your OUWC Alumni Secretary. My job is to keep you updated on all the exciting events which the club runs throughout the academic year. It is always a pleasure to hear from our alumni. If you would like to have your name added to our alumni email list, you can register online via www.ouwc.org/alumni or, alternatively, email me at alumni@ouwc.org.



Some strong winds in the Lakes! (Photo: Linxin Li)

Presidents' Report for 2014/15



James Neuhaus
MT 2014



Josh
O'Shaughnessy
HT 2015



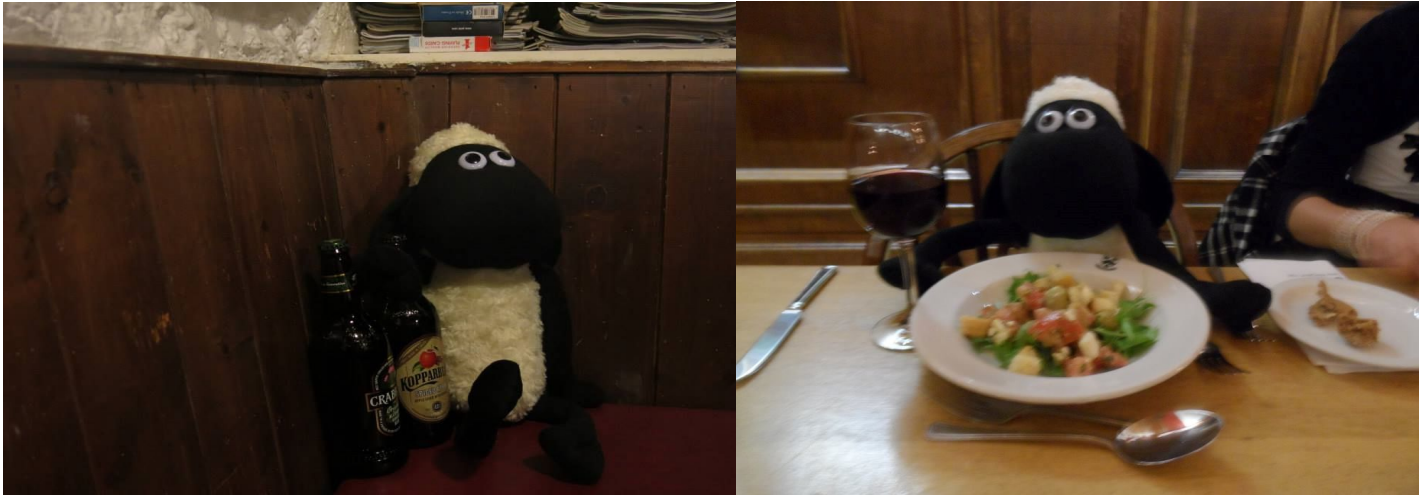
Christian
Weinzettl
TT 2015

2014-15 has been another busy and fun year for the club. Our weekend trips have included journeys to such stunning locations as the Peak District (MT), the Lake District (all terms), Snowdonia (HT), Gower (TT) and Cornwall (TT). Hilary Term's trip to the Lake District was especially notable, as this was organised jointly with the Cambridge University Hillwalking Club (CUHWC). Minibus day trips have included such old favourites as the Wye Valley (MT), Cheddar Gorge (HT) and the Forest of Dean (TT), along some new locations, such as the Jurassic Coast (HT). In addition, Theo and Will, our Archivists, have maintained a weekly series of local walks throughout term time. Local walks have continued into the summer vacation and are proving to be as popular as ever!

This year has also seen some fantastic socials. On 29th November, around 80 people flocked to Lady Margaret Hall and danced the night away at what was our most well attended ceilidh in recent years! Following the success of last year's Annual Dinner, we returned to Al-Shami in Jericho on 7th February for an enjoyable evening of fine food. Finally, Trinity would not have been the same without our Punt Party (which was slightly wet this year!).

Meet Shaun!

As some of you will know, Cambridge University Rambling Club has had Dylan the Sheep as their mascot for a number of years. Unfortunately, the OUWC constitution is rather woolly when it comes to the topic of mascots. However, after intense deliberations amongst the committee, we welcomed Shaun into the club in Michaelmas 2014. Since then, there have been plenty of Shaun sightings on walks and socials!



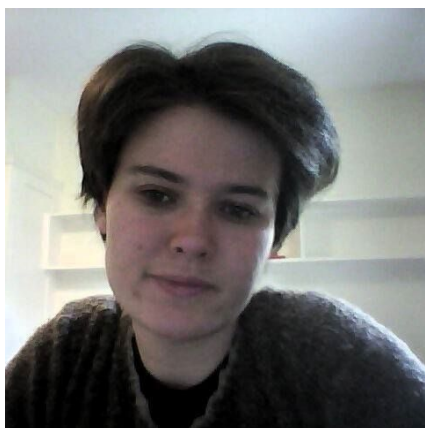
Left: In November 2014, Shaun accompanied our intrepid walkers to the Peak District. It was there that the committee were alerted to his weakness for fine ales. **Right:** At the Christmas formal, he also proved to be something of a wine connoisseur. (Photos: L - Geoff Stanley. R – Ping Shen)

Testimonials

One of the joys of being part of the club is meeting so many new people. In Michaelmas, we welcomed Jonathan Katz into the club. Jonathan, who is from New York, was just starting out on his MSc in Migration Studies at the time. When asked what drew him to the OUWC



at Freshers' Fair, Jonathan replied: "I love walking and I wanted to do some in England! A friend of mine, Marshall Steinbaum, had been the club president a number of years ago, and I had really enjoyed his stories." For Jonathan, it has been the local walks, especially around South Oxfordshire, which have stood out. "Not only are they beautiful walks, but the camaraderie and bonding of the groups definitely made them an enjoyable social and physical experience!" However, if there was one thing which Jonathan was not prepared for, it was "the stickiness of the mud" in England! We wish Jonathan all the best as he embarks on his new job as a writer and content developer for the New York City government.



This year, we have also welcomed Grainne Baker, a second year BA Classics student. During a year out from her studies, Grainne, who is from Derry, did a lot of hiking in Northern Ireland and Donegal. “Hiking did me a lot of good on my year out. It helped me to deal with stress and made me a lot fitter and more active. I loved getting the chance to spend time outdoors and getting a break from the city. So when I returned to Oxford it was only natural that I would look for a walking club.” Like Jonathan, Grainne has also enjoyed the social side of OUWC walks. “I have met a lot of interesting people

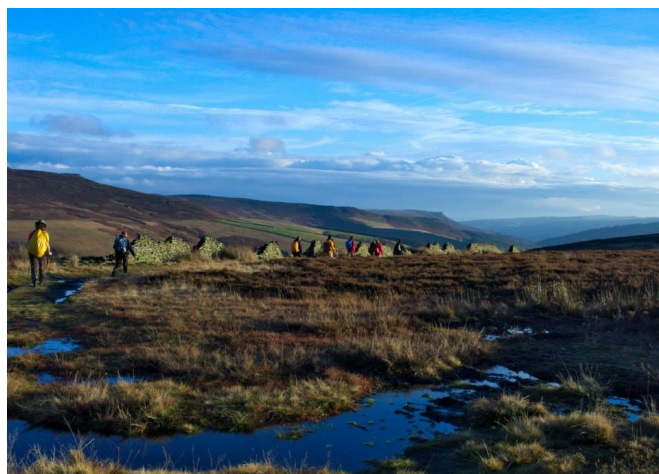
through walking: the social aspect is definitely one of the major benefits. This term I went on a minibus trip to the Roaches in the Peak District – definitely the best place I've been with OUWC.”

Out and About 2014/15

A selection of photographs from some of our walks/trips during this academic year.



Lake District – November 2014 (Photo: Linxin Li)



Peak District – November 2014 (Photo: Geoff Stanley)



Stonehenge – February 2015 (Photo: Natasha Ng)



Jurassic Coast - March 2015 (Photo: Ping Shen)



Brecon Beacons – May 2015 (Photos: Christian Weinzel)



Cornwall – June 2015 (Photos: Qiaojian Chen)



Yorkshire Dales – July 2015 (Photos: Ping Shen)



Two recent Cotswolds walks. Kingham Circular (May) + Broadway Tower (July)
(Photos: L - Ping Shen, R - Sanne Peters)

Alumni Memories – Scotland 2006



Milan Ilnyckji has kindly shared his memories and photographs of several trips from 2006 and 2007. This included a trip to the Scottish Highlands between Thursday 27th and Monday 31st July 2006. The trip commenced with the gruelling ‘Five Sisters of Kintail’ hike in Glen Shiel. Milan recalls: “When we first got out of the minibus, I joked that we were about to climb the steep rise in front of us.

We then went on to do

exactly that: through the fog, with one backpack dropped and recovered from at least 100m below before we reached the first ridge. When the fog did clear a bit, we got a close up view of the legacy of glaciers upon the Scottish Highlands. The Weather in Scotland changes rapidly and dramatically, especially at altitude. I was literally holding on to my hat on a lot of these peaks and ridgelines.” Were you there? Do any of these photographs look familiar?



How 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. First, 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. To lead trips in mountainous terrain, 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!

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.campaign.ox.ac.uk/page.aspx?pid=2996>

Another way you can help us (and for free!) is through Easyfundraising.

- 1) Before you go shopping online, you first log in to:
<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ouwc/?t=Easyfundraising-lo&v=a>
- 2) You then visit retailers from the links they have (e.g. Amazon, Argos etc.)
- 3) 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.

THANK YOU!!!



Facilities for Hire

Last summer, Bolton School bought Patterdale Hall at the end of Ullswater, in the shadow of Helvelyn. Groups of adults are welcome to book the residential facilities for their own use, or take on some instruction and it may be that some walking alumni would find one of the self-catering units or the Hall itself a useful base. For more information please do look on our website www.patterdalehall.org.uk or give Tim Taylor or Sean Duffy a call on 017684 82233.

Philip Britton (1987-1990)
Headmaster,
Bolton School