

Loughborough Students Union
Hiking Club



Newsletter

December 10

Committee

Chair	Rob Higham
Vice Chair & Secretary	Matt Dent
Treasurer	Jack Harris
Trip Secs	James Jenning Dave Girling
Social Sec	Felicity Brown
Publicity Sec	Hayley Faulkner
Kit Sec	Mike Monkey
Webmaster	Fred Morris

Welcome to the Winter 2010 Newsletter Chair's Corner

Were coming up to the end of the first term, which seems to have gone so quick! It has been great welcoming all the new members to the club, along with all our returning members.

We've had a good start to the year with a weekend trip to the Lake District and many visits to the Peak District, including the second weekend trip which was particularly wintry! We've also had a few socials which took us Ice Skating in Nottingham and round town on a pub crawl, which for most of us was rather drunkenly!

I hope you all enjoyed them as much as I did and your reading this comfortably having (or about to) eat a wonderful Christmas dinner at the Old Bulls Head, followed of course by a night out at Hey Ewe! I'm sure next year's newsletter may feature any banter or embarrassing moments to follow, captured by one of our many photographers!

On a final note keep an eye on the website over Christmas and checking your emails, we'll get it updated soon with next terms trips and when the booking evening will be.

Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year!

Rob Higham

If you want to write in the next newsletter please email

publicity@lsuhc.org.uk

If you have questions about anything don't hesitate to email:

committee@lsuhc.org.uk



Freshers Trip

This was my second Freshers Trip with the hiking club so I had prepared myself for it being cold and wet and cloudy but luckily we only got one out of the three.

Meeting at the union bright and early at 8.15 was a bit of a shock to the system especially when I left my room; it was freezing! It was one of those days where it looks sunny outside so you think it's going to be warm but it wasn't!

Despite this we had a good turnout, about 40 people. Once we were all loaded on the coach we headed off to the Peak District. After a bit of a hairy ride along some narrow roads we arrived safely at Lady Bower. We split into two groups, Denty and Jack took one group to Stanage Edge while Rob and I went up and around the reservoir.

Once we got walking the sun warmed us up and we started to get some good views of the reservoir and surrounding area. I was glad that we could actually see views as on my Freshers walk I didn't actually see anything because of the low clouds.

For a hiking club walk it was quite uneventful, which was good as I don't think we actually scared any of the new members off. As usual I had my fall of the day; the new members will soon learn that I tend to fall over at least once every trip. This time it was on the way back down towards the Lady Bower Dam, the path was fairly steep down and quite wet and slippery; well that's my excuse anyway.

Once we got back to the coach and taken our muddy boots off we went to the Lady Bower Inn for a nice warm hot chocolate and had a chance to have a proper chat with the new members.

Hayley Faulkner (Pubcity Sec)



Dovedale

The Hiking Club enjoyed a really good turnout for this walk with around 30 members deciding to come and see what the Dovedale area of the Peak District had to offer. Bobby and Denty decided to split the group into two and unsurprisingly Bobby chose to take the group where he was one of the few males (Perhaps he had some hot chocolate stashed in his pack).

For the group I was in we started the walk going through the Dovedale valley where there were many great opportunities for photos. From then we walked around the local villages, fortunately we were lucky with the weather so the photo opportunities kept on occurring. During this walk we were lucky enough to encounter very memorable events, we came past a spectacular cave which had to be explored as far as our head-torches would let us, and we had the somewhat legendary encounter with a former miner.

This encounter was probably the strangest conversation I have ever had with a stranger when I have been on a walk. As the miner saw that we had maps he wanted to know where the disused mine was as he wanted to climb down into that bat infested place (Seeing that he had pick-axes in his car we all thought that he was being deadly serious). His appearance was also unique, missing his front teeth and his boots had mould on them and also had holes in them.

Overall the day of walking proved to be a great day out, with there being many great photo chances and also having a really good laugh. A great day enjoyed by all.

Jake Smart



Dunmail Raise - Lake District

Dunmail Raise is my favourite hut that the Hiking Club go to, decent size, a great location and I also have very fond memories of it from last time we were there. It was also the first weekend trip that the club has run 'post minibus', meaning that 15 members went by train to Windermere which proved to be a great success (despite the confusion at Preston station).

The usual variety of walks were offered on Saturday, I accompanied a group upto Helvellyn, from there the plan was to head south going via Nethermost Pike, Dollywaggon Pike and then onto Fairfield. After successfully getting the top Helvellyn, which unfortunately didn't offer much in the way of views, we headed south then got a little disorientated in the fog, then successfully conquered Nethermost Pike and Dollywaggon Pike. By this stage the rain and hail was coming down heavily and decided to change the route, we skipped out Fairfield and decided to take in Seat Sandal instead, however it might have been wise not to take the steepest route up, as we were climbing Georgina Perkins gave me a look as if she was about to kill me, luckily we got to the top and I am alive to tell the tale. Seat Sandal is the fell just behind the hut so the route was fairly easy to get back.

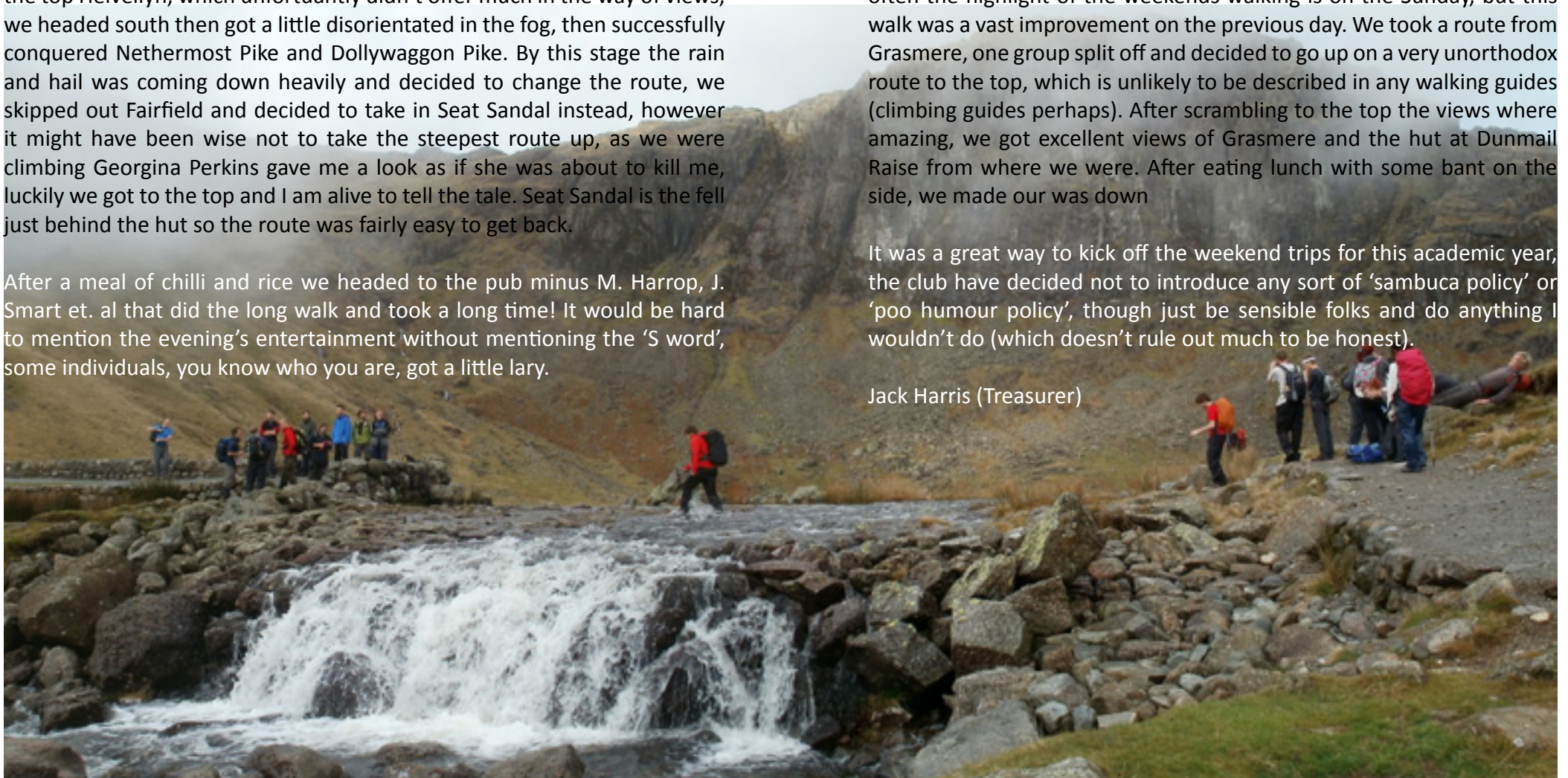
After a meal of chilli and rice we headed to the pub minus M. Harrop, J. Smart et. al that did the long walk and took a long time! It would be hard to mention the evening's entertainment without mentioning the 'S word', some individuals, you know who you are, got a little lary.

The kit sec, Mike Monky, is still going to psychotherapy sessions to recover from the trauma he experienced that evening, I am pleased to report he is making a good recovery and is looking forward to coming on trips in the New Year.

Sunday we there were two walks, another walk up Helvellyn the other up Helm Crag and the usual trip to town (Grasmere) for lazy people. Helm Crag is known locally as the 'the Lion and the Lamb', which is something to do with the way the top looks as seen from the road below. It's not often the highlight of the weekends walking is on the Sunday, but this walk was a vast improvement on the previous day. We took a route from Grasmere, one group split off and decided to go up on a very unorthodox route to the top, which is unlikely to be described in any walking guides (climbing guides perhaps). After scrambling to the top the views were amazing, we got excellent views of Grasmere and the hut at Dunmail Raise from where we were. After eating lunch with some bant on the side, we made our way down

It was a great way to kick off the weekend trips for this academic year, the club have decided not to introduce any sort of 'sambuca policy' or 'poo humour policy', though just be sensible folks and do anything I wouldn't do (which doesn't rule out much to be honest).

Jack Harris (Treasurer)



SOCIALS!

Pub Crawl

The party hard members of LSU Hiking Club embarked on a night of pubbing, crawling and tasting the rainbow! The theme of the Pub Crawl was 'Taste the Rainbow' as it proved so popular at the last Pub Crawl.

We began at The Griffin for a red drink such as wine, although there were many 'coloured pints' as food colouring was passed around to ensure every member took part (whether they wanted a red drink or not)! We then moved on to Varsity for an orange drink, and we then went to The Orange Tree for yellow and green as I seem to remember something being closed (this is how much of a lightweight I am.) This was enjoyed by all as many 'Squashed Frogs' were purchased, which was definitely the favourite drink of the night! We then went to Newhouse for blue drinks and The Moon & Bell for purple drinks.

The members that successfully tasted the rainbow and did not get completely legless followed up the Crawl with Rain, although our numbers were definitely down by the end of the night! It was a great night - well done to all who tasted them Rainbow!

Felicity Brown (Social Sec)



SocFed Night

We arrived bright and early to this SocFed Stupid Tuesday, unfortunately we seemed to be the keen ones! We made the most of it by getting a few drinks, Jammy Dodgers and a free t-shirt or two (and some balloons from somewhere!?). And then the pen came out! ...

Bobby had bought a marker pen along with him so we could write on the SocFed t-shirts like we did last year, however the night soon turned into a grafite battle (mostly between Rob and Helena - I think Helena won!)

The night did eventually get going and by the end of the night we were all covered in marker pen and a bit merry from the Sambucca shots, some more than others ...

Hayley Faulkner (Publicity Sec)



Ice Skating

Now, I'm a fresher at Loughborough, so for me 'new' is good. I'm always doing new stuff – learning new things in lectures, meeting new people, drinking new drinks... the list goes on. So when I found out that the Hiking Club were holding an ice skating social in Nottingham, I thought, "Great! This is a cool new thing I can try, should be fun! What could possibly go wrong?..."

Fast forwarding a few weeks, I was looking around at the seven other members on the train (Bobby, Hayley, Jack, Flic, Dave, Jake and Lexi). At this stage I was naive enough to hope that, even if I wasn't going to be Will Ferrell from 'Blades of Glory', I could still make it through the evening without embarrassing myself too much. I was still confident as we wandered through Nottingham, with Jack pointing out the important sights of the city (such as the pub at the back of the cave near the castle!!). I didn't even feel too bad as we paid and got our boots on.

Like an idiot, I decided to go out on the ice first – let's just say it took the committee members about 10 minutes to prise my hands away from the sides of the rink! It was a good 10 more minutes before they convinced me I could get a rhythm going and actually move! So, painstakingly slowly, I started to move round the rink, to much encouragement from the other hikers. "Have you fallen over yet?" "No... I'm barely moving!" "Have you fallen over yet?" "N- OUCH!"

If Lexi's skating was like Torvill and Dean, mine was more like Mr Bean with my comedy arm and leg movements to try and keep my balance. I kept it up for 90 odd minutes – during which time I'd been chatted up by some 12 year old girls ("My mate thinks you're well fit!") and managed to completely take Dave out by trying to lean on him as I was skating past (sorry Dave!). Then the blood loss got too much for me, so I decided to call it a day.

We worked out that I'd easily got the most falls out of everyone – my tally didn't quite make it into double figures, which I was immensely proud of! So after a few drinks to take the pain away, we headed back to the station to catch the last train back to Loughborough. I had a great time, I'm glad I had a new experience, but I really can't ice skate to save my life!

Jack 'Bambi' Tabart



BMC Lectures

Held in Leicester on the 25th November were the annual Winter Lectures, this year given by Tamsin Gay and Tim Blakemore, supported by the British Mountaineering Club (BMC). The venue was the meeting place for the Leicester Mountaineering Club and on arrival we were greeted by the club Chair and a representative of Alpine Lowe who let us look at a variety of new season winter hiking gear that was yet to be released to general sale. It was enough to make any hiker wish they had a bit more money and certainly the pair of winter hiking boots I had my eyes on would set you back a pretty penny.

The lectures were very interactive and well presented with links to websites and quizzes with the chance to win Alpine Lowe products. The lecture started with what equipment and clothing you should take when hiking in the snow and ice, which included lots of spare clothes and gloves, crampons, hats and energy food. Tim then went on to talk about navigation and the benefits of learning how to read maps very accurately and how to plan your route using weather mapping websites and avalanche warning systems. The big lesson here was to assess the risk and be prepared to turn back if the weather turns bad or it starts to feel unsafe. Reaching the summit is not as important as climbing safely and while the mountain will always be around you may not if you push on in adverse conditions.



Tamsin then demonstrated how best to walk in the snow, crampon techniques are vastly different to normal walking techniques and require always having your foot flat against the slope and rolling your ankles to engage the crampon spikes. For hiking in snow without crampons the method is similar to ones used on muddy and unstable ground, kick a shelf to put your foot in and create a series of steps up the slope. They then talked through all the areas in Britain where ice climbing can be done from Scotland to the Lakes and Wales explaining the positives for each of them and when the best times are to visit them.

Finally the lecture ended with a quiz, prize draw and a short photo presentation of climbers out on the slopes. It was a very informative and enjoyable evening and one that inspired me to find out more about mountaineering. Well worth the going to and I'm sure the advice will come in every useful in the coming months, especially if the winter continues as it has started!



Lexi Pares

Night Hike

It was a cold and overcast afternoon when the hiking club met for its first night hike of the term. The destination was Castleton, a picturesque town nestled in the Peaks. While the weather was bleak spirits were high as everyone changed into suitable gear. It became apparent that there was, as usual, one member who was slightly less prepared than the others and stood around in jeans hoping it wouldn't rain (that was me!).

The group was split into two teams, one to do the route forwards and the other to do it in reverse, the aim, of course, to be the first group back to the bus and the first into the pub. Our group was being led by Jack who assured us he'd done this walk several times and we would have little trouble. The other group, led by Bobby, set off while we waited for all our members to be ready and then we too headed out of Castleton and into the hills.

As we clambered up the steep and muddy side of the first hill all was going well, there was banter and chatter and the walking pace was fast but not difficult. Having made only one slight de-tour we were making good time. We reached the top of Mam Tor easily by about 5pm at which time darkness had already fallen and a cold piercing wind had set in. As we walked along the ridge the lights of Castleton glimmered to our right. The path was flat and fairly even and we turned our head torches off in the hope of surprising the other group, which we did rather successfully by hiding commando style behind some knolls next to the path.

At the top of the next peak we sheltered just below the ridge to eat, (there was an interesting variety of packed sandwiches, cookies and sushi). All was going smoothly until it came to the descent which was across several muddy fields. In the light it would have been an easy case of following the map and searching out the styles in the fences opposite, in the dark it was a much harder task as fences could only be seen from a few feet away and many of the landmarks on the map had disappeared into the darkness. In the end we decided to put the map aside and take the most direct route towards the lights of Castleton.

When we reached the bus again, to our dismay the driver told us that Bobby's group had already returned, although they did do the hardest part of the walk in daylight! Once we got to the pub there was plenty of banter and hot chocolate going around. A very pleasant end to a very enjoyable evening!



Lexi Pares

Peak District

We set off on Friday night to Hathersage with a rather cold and snowy forecast ahead of us. We soon arrived at the Hut after I had had a quick detour around the main sites of Matlock, one of the bunkhouses, the Hay Barn had a very distinctive smell of cow s**t to it. A few of us who hadn't eaten went down to the local shop, and sampled some of their culinary delights, with Peter Gribbin going for a fish and chip ready meal, which had about 3 chips in it, something that was supposed to resemble Cod and some green liquid with lumps, that we decided must have been the mushy peas. After that we headed down to the Little John pub for a few drinks, and on our return to the hut the snow had begun to fall, giving us a good covering of snow by the Saturday morning.



We were up bright and early after breakfast chef, Ridley had cooked up some bacon sandwiches. We all got ourselves ready and set off in three groups for a day's hiking in the snow. Bobby's and Hayley's groups set off with a trip on the train up to Edale for a walk around the Mam Tor area, which I was told involved a fierce snowball fight with the locals from either side of the platform at Hathersage train station.



Our group set off in the direction of Stanage Edge, we had some great views over towards Castleton and Mam Tor, the weather was great if a bit cold with the icy winds. We managed to fit a cheeky stop in at the Ladybower Inn for a plate of chips for lunch before continuing on around Ladybower reservoir and up onto Win Hill, before descending back down to Hathersage as the winter sun set behind us.

Saturday evening saw us enjoy sausage pasta, which Bobby didn't help to make (even though it's his recipe) instead he spent most of his time washing his hair in the shower with his Herbal Essences shampoo. Dinner was soon served, and we (*aka Denty*) may have slightly overdone it with the Cayenne pepper, but it did warm everyone up after a cold day out in the snow. We soon made it down to Hathersage for a second night in the pub, some of the old gits had also been up in the Peaks that weekend and joined us for a pint.

Stefan and Richard soon got into the evening's drinking, Stefan seemed to enjoy buying 'special drinks' for himself and Richard, both were sufficiently gazebo-ed by the time we started our walk back to the hut, an eventful one at that. The two drunkards decided they knew the best way back to the bunkhouse and continued further down the country lane, they eventually turned up in the adjacent field to the hut, and proceeded to climb over some wobbly dustbins before stumbling back into the bunkhouse, where everyone had already gone to bed.



The next morning we were all ready to go, at a slightly later time than Saturday after a rather longer lie in than usual, the two groups set off on their walks after a fresh covering of snow overnight. One went up on to Stanage Edge while the other went for a 'bimble' along the river through Hathersage. Our 'bimbling' group soon found a suitable hill to make use of our survival bags and had some great fun sledging (*Don't tell Dave!*). We then continued on our short walk and made it to a warm pub for a filling Sunday Lunch, we then wandered back to the hut and after a quick tidy up we went home after a great, snowy weekend in the Peak District!

Matt Dent (Vice Chair & Secretary)
[& Webmaster & Kit Sec on the side]





Sophia's new friend



... well it's an upgrade from the PC World bag



Rob definitely "covers all positions!"



Straight

Jack's gay scale

Guess where he is ...

Gay

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Trips Next Term include:

Malham - Yorkshire Dales
Yr Hafod - Snowdonia
and more day trips to the Peaks

And don't forget:

EASTER TRIP - Grey Corries - Scotland

Keep an eye on your emails over the holiday
for more information.



Don't Forget the Committee Elections Next Term!



Visit our website www.lsuhc.org.uk for news, photos and information about upcoming trips and socials