

# Surrey Scout & Guide Mountaineering Club



Winter 2015

## Newsletter

### Moors, Maps & Motorcycles

**A small group of club members enjoyed an eventful away meet in North Yorkshire in October; some experiencing a navigational error and all witnessing an international sporting event.**

We gathered at our accommodation, Low Row bunkhouse, just outside Reeth on Friday evening and decided to walk to the local hostelry for some well-earned refreshments after the journey north. Heading for the local pub in Low Row, some 1½ miles, we set out in small groups. It was only when we assembled at the bar that it was noticed some of us hadn't arrived. What could have happened? Being in a mobile phone blackspot and all means of transport back at the base we had no option but to have another pint and wait. About an hour later the door opened and there they were - full of tales of adventure and human kindness. It transpired they had turned in the wrong direction after crossing the bridge and walked 2½ miles into Reeth, where surprisingly they couldn't find us in any of the three pubs. They worked out they were some 4 miles from the rest of the group and after engaging a fellow 'misplaced' traveller - who had a car - he was persuaded to give them a lift so they could join us. They were very grateful to this kind stranger who was intending to go in the opposite direction to his destination but generously assisted our companions.

The next morning we set off in one group onto the hills to the north, climbing up onto Brownsey Moor and across to Melbecks Moor. We became aware we were sharing the moors with riders on the Scott Trial, a British Motorcycle trial competition dating from 1914 run over an off-road course of over 80 miles and considered to be the most challenging trial event in the world. We crossed their course several times; in bogs as well as on steep rocky paths.



Our large group split into two on Melbecks Moor with one group heading towards Rogan's Seat and the other towards Reeth Moor. The Rogan's Seat group were lucky to get very close to an observed section of the Scott Trial where the riders had to negotiate a rocky stream bed to a very muddy and steep climb without 'dabbing' with a foot or stalling, dismounting or going backwards. We saw some very skillful riding and a few minor spills. It was all very entertaining.



After a pleasant lunch in the autumn sunshine we made our way by dead reckoning across the moor and found Rogan's Seat (672m) which comprised a small pile of stones, no more than 18 inches high. A long walk down the tracks to Gunnerside followed by some refreshment in a friendly little pub and it was back to base for tea and cakes. The other group had managed to squeeze in some refreshments on the way to base as well. We all agreed, over a fantastic home cooked supper of Beef Bourguignon, it had been a very good day on the moors.



The next morning we walked as a single group taking a low level walk on the side of the moors towards Reeth. We enjoyed some great views down Swaledale reaching Reeth, crossing the River

Swale and walking back along the river bank before getting into our cars and heading south.

We are very grateful to **Clifford Smith** for organising the weekend. We enjoyed good accommodation, excellent food, fine weather and great company.

### Save the Date!

**January 2015 Meet – Bethesda, North Wales**  
**29<sup>th</sup> January 2016 – 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016.**

I am organising this walk – the January Walk is my favourite – a chance of walking in crisp winter weather with amazing views.

We are staying at The Old Hall (in Welsh: 'Yr Hen Neuadd') which is in the High Street in the village of Bethesda on the northern edge of the Snowdonia National Park.

There is room for limited numbers - the accommodation sleeps 28 comfortably – so reserve your spot!

Contact me on [greta.carpenter@ntlworld.com](mailto:greta.carpenter@ntlworld.com) to reserve your place or for further information.

Looking forward to a fabulous weekend.

Greta



### Reeth Report

Saturday 17th October dawned overcast but dry and following our excellent evening in the pub we were all

very enthusiastic to suggest a route for the day. We eventually set off in one group from Low Row Bunkhouse, near Reeth in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

Unfortunately, the heather was all over but the scenery was stunning nonetheless. Just prior to lunch a few of us decided that the 27k now proposed was slightly daunting and we broke away to complete our loop from a lower level.

This area was obviously used regularly for leisure pursuits including Scrambling, Walking and Grouse Shooting.

We gradually made our way over the moorland and down to the hostelry we had eaten in on Friday evening just to double check on the beer! And just timed it right to get back to base about half an hour before the rest of the group.

Maggie



### Xmas Walk & Lunch

We are meeting at 12 noon Sunday 6th December at The Stepping Stones Pub, Westhumble, Dorking RH5 6BS

- Walk will be roughly 2 hrs
- Table booked for lunch at 3pm.
- Friends & family welcome
- **Spaces still available**



Three course meal is £23.50 (which includes contribution towards exclusive use of dining area) and the pub has a car park but also some spaces at Boxhill and Westhumble station.

There is a good Sunday train service from the station every 30 mins - Waterloo line

Further info contact Claire Cane : [Cbabecane@aol.com](mailto:Cbabecane@aol.com)