

Outdoor Focus

OF



Spring 2015

The Editor Writes *There's more to this edition than we've crammed into most 16-pagers of late. But it's a bit of a cheat, really - though a good one: promoting what's going on outside of the magazine over the next four months.*

The long weekend in Kielder, and a training day at Manchester.

If you can't fit either around your work schedule, then there's some skills advice within.

Take the chance to promote what you're doing, or what you've recently achieved, either via the new **Letter's Page** (to be introduced over the summer) or by you sending your book for review to Roly Smith (his address is on the OWPG website under profiles).

Otherwise have a go at answering the questions on page 16, and send some photos that can be used as a backdrop, to **OFeditor@owpg.org.uk**

p8-11 The OWPG's annual Awards Dinner and Activity Weekend has been booked for September 18-21. Hosted at Kielder Water and Forest Park, Northumberland, make sure you book your place soon.



WILD: Northumberland OWPG-AGM, 2008

Photo Chiz Dakin

p12 The future of outdoor publishing, as described by **Jon**

Sparks, offers both opportunities and challenges. The OWPG's latest training day will be held at Manchester's National Cycling Centre on Wednesday June 24.



Editor Stephen Neale
OFeditor@owpg.org.uk
Design Stephen Neale



p5 **Andrew White** provides an insight into how to make great films and videos, without spending thousands of pounds on expensive gear.



p7 The art of speaking is examined and explained by **Kev Reynolds**. This new quarterly feature aims to help members market their work to a wider audience.

The **Outdoor Writers and Photographers Guild** (OWPG) is the only UK based association of media professionals working largely or entirely on outdoor subjects. Our membership covers every field of activity and all corners of the globe. We include writers, journalists, photographers, publishers and editors, all with a passionate interest in the outdoors. For information on who we are, what we do and where we've been, visit ww.owpg.org.uk or join us on Facebook.

COVER Cyclists looking over Kielder

Step off footpath to ‘demolish’ concept of trespass in England

A GROUNDBREAKING SPIRIT OF KINDER DAY AT EDALE

THE RADICAL idea that English ramblers should be encouraged to start ‘a steady erosion of the concept of trespass’ in the countryside was made at the third annual Spirit of Kinder Day at Edale on April 25.

Dave Morris, former director of Ramblers Scotland, suggested that if walkers wanted to see the benefits of Scottish access legislation in the English countryside, they should start stepping off rights of way.

“It applies whether you are walking, cycling, horseriding, skiing, birdwatching, botanising, star-gazing or doing whatever non-motorised activity appears to be appropriate,” said Dave.

“As long as you take responsibility for your own actions, respect the interests of other people, and care for the environment, you will eventually demolish the concept of trespass.

“We currently have the absurd situation where in Scotland, I can walk down the edge of a field, along a tramline made by a tractor, or along the bare ground between vegetable crops, and know that I am complying with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and have the statutory right to do so.

“Suppose, however, that halfway across the field I cross the border into England. Suddenly many will claim that the landowner can accuse me of being a ‘trespasser’, order me to leave the field and use so-called ‘reasonable force’ to compel me to do so.

“How is it,” asked Dave, “that I am appar-



HISTORIC: GHB Ward (centre in white jumper) trespassing on Kinder in 1924 (From Ann Beedham’s book *Days of Sunshine and Rain*)

ently doing no damage to the crop north of the border but appear to be creating havoc with the same crop in the same field when I step into England?”

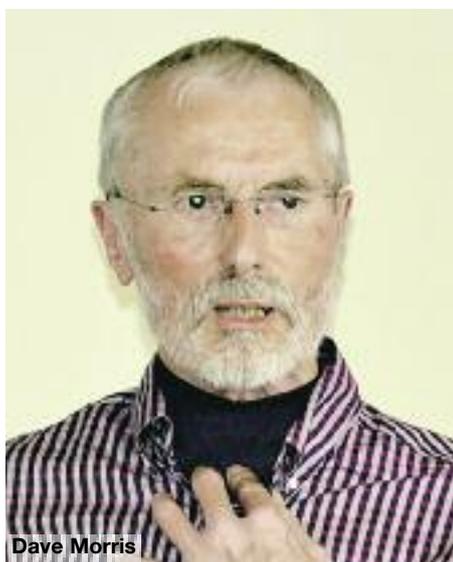
The second action which Dave proposed was the production of an English version of the proven Scottish Outdoor Access Code, which had been in effect since the passing of the Scottish Land Reform Act in 2003.

“I believe an English version could be produced quite easily, with only minor modifications to take account of the differ-

ence between, for example, rights of way north and south of the border... as well as the differences in range of local authority responsibilities and duties.

“In theory,” added Dave, “goodwill and tolerance will carry the day, and the opportunities to enjoy England’s countryside would gradually move closer to what we have in Scotland.”

The Spirit of Kinder event, organised by the Kinder & High Peak Advisory Committee, at Edale Village Hall, also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the open-



Dave Morris



Chris Townsend



Chris Sainty
Photos Keith Warrender



TALK TEAM: (L to R front) Ann Beedham and Chris Townsend; (back) Dave Morris and Chris Sainty

Photo Keith Warrender

ing of the Pennine Way, which starts its 268-mile journey north from Edale.

Other keynote speakers were the Guild's own Chris Townsend, long distance walker extraordinary and the British Mountaineering Council's first-ever hill-walking ambassador. Chris reflected that the Pennine Way was the first long distance walk he undertook in 1976, 'when the Pennine Way was still a youngster... well, I suppose, so was I'.

"It was the first time I'd been out for longer than a weekend," he said, "and I thought I really like doing this and I'd like to do even longer walks."

Chris explained that as a student living in Manchester, Kinder Scout and Bleaklow were the obvious places to come. Kinder Scout occupied a

key place in the access movement, and the Kinder trespass of 1932 was one of the major events that led to the opening up of the hills, and the creation of National Parks and long distance footpaths.

"It is part of our history, and it is very important that it's not forgotten by the next generation of walkers," said Chris.

"They should realise and understand that what they take for granted now is not something that has always been there for everybody, that there was a struggle to get it, and that vigilance is needed to ensure that it will still be there in the future."

Chris Sainty, chairman of the Pennine Way Association (who has walked the Way no less than 10 times), reflected on the trail from its origins to its inception. He paid a warm trib-

ute to its founder, Tom Stephenson, who took 30 years of patient negotiation and lobbying to achieve his ambition of a 'long green trail' up the backbone of England. Chris related the story of how Tom had once been trespassing on the summit of Great Whernside in the Yorkshire Dales when he was approached by a gun-wielding gamekeeper.

"Dost tha know thou'art trespassing, lad?" said the gamekeeper.

"Aye," said Tom. "What are you going to do about it? Prosecute or shoot?"

"Nay lad," responded the keeper. "As long as tha knows."

Sheffield author and illustrator Ann Beedham gave an illustrated talk on walking in the Peak in the 1920s, based on the words and photographs of George Willis Marshall, a mem-

ber of the Sheffield Clarion Ramblers Club. Among the images Ann had were a couple showing G H B Ward, the legendary 'King of the Clarions', evidently trespassing on Kinder Scout in 1924, at a time when he was subject to an injunction barring him from the mountain by a Kinder landowner. A lively open forum on future access provision and the Scottish model was led by Chris Townsend, Dave Morris and Chris Sainty, before young members of Sheffield's Woodcraft Folk, led by Kat Budd, closed proceedings with the traditional singing of Ewan MacColl's anthem The Manchester Rambler. Plans are already being formulated for next year's event to be held in Hayfield, the starting point of the Mass Trespass in 1932.

So YOU want to be in the movies...?

ANDREW WHITE ON FILM AND VIDEO IN THE OUTDOORS

PART 1 of 8: EQUIPMENT

How to avoid spending thousands of pounds, while still making a professional job.

A basic kit for video comprises of a camera, a tripod and better method of recording sound.

The camera could either be a DSLR

with video recording function, or a specific camcorder.

You may find that you already have a DSLR which records video - in which case that's a big part already done. If not, and you're not looking to replace your DSLR anytime soon, then a camcorder is the best option.

Something like the Sony HDR-PJ620 at around £449 or the Canon HF-G25 at £599 at great choices.

Both record HD onto SD cards and will help you create video in far better quality than a smartphone.

If you are replacing a DSLR, then the choice between the various cam-

era makes and models are mostly a personal thing – but just ensure the video recording mode is at least full HD – ie 1920x1080.

A fixed image

Next, you'll need a tripod to keep the images steady. No problem, I hear many photographers cry... I have several.

However, most photographers tripods aren't up to the job of video.

Video demands a tripod with a smooth action on the pan and tilts. Most standard photographic tripods don't offer that.

A great semi-professional tripod is the Manfrotto MVK500AM system at around £299. This has a lovely fluid video head for the price and will enable you to get smooth pan and tilts. Of course, if you're not too bother about moving the camera, your old standard tripod will do the job.

Sound

From an audio point of view, the bad news is most DSLRs' audio is pretty rubbish, so, an external microphone is a must too. If you are buying a DSLR new with video in mind, then check to see whether the model has an external microphone socket - this means the external mic will plug into the DSLR and the sound from the mic will be recorded onto the

SD card along with the video, cutting out time-consuming matching of the sound and pictures later. The same goes for camcorders. Both the models I mentioned above have microphone sockets.

A decent basic mic would be the Audio Technica ATR6550 shotgun mic which comes in around £60. This will help you get sounds from a distance you wouldn't get just with a on-board mic.

Where to buy gear

I've bought stuff in the past from CVP (cvp.com) and they are very good with price and advice – but others are available.

Second hand versus new

Second hand video stuff is a lot safer option these days than say 10 years ago – and that's mainly because we've moved away from tap-based media to card-based media.

That means you no longer have problems like worn video heads or a tape mechanism which ruins your tapes.

Now things to look out for would be scratches or marks on the lens, checking a SD card clicks into the reader slot - and that you can record video onto a card – and checking the camera records sound too.

Again, not as much of a problem these days, but check to make sure you are buying a

European version of a camera, not an American one, as the TV systems are different – although now we're doing everything on computers this isn't as critical.

Make sure also the camera you are buying records video in a file format you can already play and edit.

Not much point in saving money with second-hand kit only to find you need to spend money on different editing software in order to use the footage you've recorded.

Oh... and make sure the camera is HD. Nothing else is worth it these days.

Avoid basic mistakes

When I started out it was a whole different ball game... My first video camera was an Amstrad VMC100 – which was a fixed-focus, fixed-lens camera.

So when I wanted to make sports programmes of my games lessons at school in order to see what was happening I had to take the camera on the pitch... not even Sky has replicated that yet.

Good decisions

My best decision was to buy an HD camera at a time when I could have spent less buying a standard definition one... HD is now the standard and anything less is only suitable for archive footage.

If my camera broke today (god forbid - I hope it's got another year or so!) I'd go for a 4K camera - which is Ultra HD.

The single piece of advice Andrew White the film maker in 2015, would have liked to have left his 18-year-old self regards equipment.

It would have to be don't be to hung up on kit.

Having loads of kit isn't the best way of going about it all.

Get a basic level of kit that you will need for most of your filming gigs.

Camera, tripod, mics for decent audio and possibly some lights if you are doing some indoor stuff.

Anything else, you can always hire in if you've got a budget.

Or try to borrow from another guild member if not.

When cash is tight, the piece of equipment – camera, microphone, tri-pod, editing software etc. – that requires most investment is...

The tripod. It's a tough one, but this is really the most important.

The ability to produce steady shots is one of the most pronounced differences between professionals and amateurs and so a good, light-weight tripod with a great fluid head is well worth a significant investment.



The Gobster

Kev Reynolds
speaks his mind
on how to reach
a wider audience



Market yourself as a local linguist

IN A BBC radio interview shortly before his recent death, RMT Union leader, Bob Crow, admitted to being 'a bit gobby' - which he used to his advantage.

Now I reckon a number of OWPG members could be a bit gobby as an adjunct to their career as writer or illustrator, promoting their work and adding to their income. For thirty years I've been doing just that.

Before I took the plunge as a self-(un)employed writer, I was a youth hostel warden; a job I'd taken up as a means of promoting the countryside - a passion for

which motivates practically everything I do. To entice more YHA members to our hostel in the winter months, Min and I organised weekend 'specials' which often involved a slide show by a member with a specialist subject.

Two or three times each winter I'd also give an illustrated talk - about treks and climbs in the Pyrenees, or the wonders of the British countryside - and as winter succeeded winter, these evenings grew in popularity so we'd often have full house. Some of our neighbours would join us too, squashed into the common room to

create a fug of warmth and camaraderie.

I loved those evenings; sharing a passion with like-minded people.

We left YHA after seventeen years so I could try my hand at writing. We knew there'd be no real money coming in, but having raised our family on very low charity wages, we reckoned we could live well on next to nothing.

But we needed money to pay the rent, and the only way I could imagine earning instant cash - as opposed to delayed payment for magazine articles, and book royalties that could take years to arrive - was to get on the lecture circuit.

Well, perhaps the word lecture was a bit grand. I thought in terms of slide show with commentary. After all, I'd been doing that free of charge at the hostel. Perhaps - just perhaps - someone might pay me a

fee. Making a list of topics I could speak on, I had a few leaflets printed and deposited them in libraries in nearby towns and villages.

We left YHA in the April. The following winter I had no less than forty speaking engagements!

In the three decades since I took the plunge, I've given a minimum of forty talks every winter (late October to mid-May), and as many as sixty in some years. And since publication of that first leaflet all those years ago, I've not spent a penny on

promotion; each booking being a result of word-of-mouth recommendation, so every penny earned (with travel expenses extra) is profit. Being gobby for money has not made me rich, but it's eased the pressure, and (more importantly so far as I'm concerned) it's given - and continues to give - an opportunity to share that passion for the countryside in general, and mountains in particular, that is one of life's real gifts. It could also work for you.

In the next issue we'll look at the whys and wherefores of getting onto the lecture circuit.

The OWP

2015 Awards dinner and activities
Forest Park, Northumberland, Sep

£70 per person for all three
nights (Friday to Monday),
including activities and park
passes meals extra

presents...

weekend at Kielder Water and
September 18-21



...23 reasons to go

- 1)** Awards dinner at Tower Knowe
- 2)** Kielder Water is the UK's biggest man-made lake
- 3)** inside 250 square miles of England's largest working forest
- 4)** part of Europe's biggest International Dark Sky Park
- 5)** everyone gets a free welcome pack on arrival
- 6)** accommodation in the Calvert Trusts 4* chalets
- 7)** free maps, entry passes to NT and EH properties
- 8)** network with outdoor professionals in an informal, active setting.
- 9)** buffet supper at Kielder Castle on the Friday evening

Book now to avoid disappointment by emailing dennis.kelsall@gmail.com
or call 01257 793062

go mad in Kielder

- 10)** stargazing session with Richard Darn to reveal Kielder's renowned skies
- 11)** guided bike ride along part of the newly opened 120-mile Sandstone Way
- 12)** cycle the forest's technical mountain bike trails
- 13)** explore the art and architecture of the forest with Curator Peter Sharpe
- 14)** professional development sessions on Saturday
- 15)** sunset cruise aboard the Osprey Ferry around the headland to Tower Knowe
- 16)** Join the 'Hawk Walk' to the Birds of Prey Centre
- 17)** free passes for the Osprey Ferry all weekend
- 18)** free Sunday night accommodation.
- 19)** tour Kielder Observatory
- 20)** informal meal on Sunday night
- 21)** Forestry Commission tours
- 22)** canoeing on the lake
- 23)** hill walking



The future of outdoor publishing at Manchester's National Cycling Centre on Wednesday June 24

A day no one can afford to miss

MAGAZINES and publishers continue to disappear or morph into online-only offerings. Yet new platforms surely bring new opportunities too. New print magazines are being launched too.

It's a perplexing and sometimes contradictory picture, but one thing seems certain; few of us can carry on exactly as we were doing five or ten years ago.

This one-day symposium will map out the changing landscape and aims to identify new business opportunities. The aim is to share ideas, concerns, inspiration and encourage constructive dialogue between writers, photographers, editors, publishers – in fact anyone with an interest in communicating information about the outdoors in return for revenue.

We'll recognise the challenges that we face but more importantly will share ideas and strategies that will help us thrive in the new environments. The speakers are all experienced outdoor professionals who are working successfully in new publishing environments. There will also be plenty of chances for attendees to add their own voice to the discussion.

The day's discussions will take place under four main headings.

Magazines

The development of online magazines and mag-apps is rapid and ongoing. Will hard copy continue to co-exist alongside them?

Mark Alker is publisher of Singletrack magazine and Grit.cx online magazine. Singletrack has earned many plaudits for its strong commitment to high-quality print, backed up by a vigorous online presence. Mark will explain how this strategy evolved, and what it means for contributors.

Carey Davies is former deputy editor of TGO magazine. He is now hillwalking officer at the British Mountaineering Council and a regular contributor to the Guardian's famous Country Diary. Carey has some trenchant views about how many magazines are responding to today's publishing environment.

Guides

Is there still a place, or a need, for traditional printed guidebooks and magazine routes? We are in a world of GPS routes, apps, ViewRanger and TripAdvisor. Does turn-by-turn guidance have a future in print? We have two speakers who might seem to sit on opposite sides of the fence – but what they actually have to say may surprise you.

Craig Wareham, CEO of ViewRanger, the 'App for Adventure'. Craig leads one of the premier companies in the new approaches to route guidance. Jonathan Williams, Cicerone Press. Cicerone remain overwhelmingly a publisher of 'traditional' guidebooks, and are UK leaders in many sectors of that market.

Books

Travellers' tales, biographies, history, novels and more... can readers get inspiration, enlightenment or just a darn good read from new platforms? Or will print always have a place? Will books always be books or is long-form writing going to morph into something new?

Jon Barton, co-founder of Vertebrate Publishing, is well-placed to address these questions. Vertebrate made its name as an innovative publisher of guidebooks, especially for mountain-bikers, but has broadened its approach to encompass narrative, biography and other genres. With the acquisition of the Baton Wicks imprint they are also now cus-

todians of many historic titles

Opportunities

After discussing the future of traditional platforms, we move on to consider the plethora of new ones: eBooks, apps, blogging, social media – and others we may not even have heard of yet.

So many of these appear to be all about 'free content', so it's instructive to hear from two people who make their

living in these areas.

Fiona Russell, Sunday Mail columnist and award-winning blogger (among others, she's the winner of Best Walking Blog in the 2014 Trespass Blog Awards) Dave Mycroft, founder and Editor of MyOutdoors.co.uk. Having worked previously at Descent, Outdoors Magic and Webtogs, Dave has extensive contacts built up over nearly three decades in the outdoor industry.

Places still available... so book NOW and do not lose out

Cost (inclusive of lunch)
OWPG Members: £35; Non-members: £65
Contact Jon Sparks: jon-sparks@mac.com

Special offer: Attendance at the day plus OWPG membership until October 1 2015: £75 (you must be professionally involved in outdoors).



The venue
The National Cycling Centre staged the track events of the 2002 Commonwealth Games and the Track World Championships have been hosted here three times to date. We'll take refreshment

breaks and lunch overlooking the historic track, with the chance to see elite riders in training.

Excellent transport links (just a few stops on the Metrolink from Manchester Piccadilly) and free parking.

Into the evening
The day concludes around 5pm. If you're in need of some fresh air after a day indoors, nearby Clayton Vale has some enjoyable mountain bike trails for all abilities. For

non-cyclists there are interesting walking opportunities too. And after that all those who wish can reconvene in a suitable hostelry for a welcome pint or two, and a bar meal.

The Main Man

Summer nights are for dreaming, says the OWPG's druid master

SUMMER is here. If you don't sleep under the stars in a tent now, when will you?

Such close proximity to nature is essential if you really wish to relate to her. Take the opportunity.

Go for a backpacking trip into wilderness and, after asking permission of the spiritual guardian, sleep out at a sacred site. Be open to the spirit of the place and you may find all the old stories, the archetypes, are true. Take courage!

I have stirring memories of Carn Ingli. A goddess there is not only incarnate (living flesh and blood) but exists in the rocks. Walk across the plateau to the west-north-west of Carn Ingli, turn around and you'll see her as a landscape goddess in profile.

June leads to July and August and hopefully, blue skies and sunshine all the way. So it was in 2003. It was Sunday August 17.

The previous evening three men from Yorkshire had arrived after dusk to dream with me on Carn Ingli. One Yorkshireman in particular had an amazing dream shortly



DREAMS: (top) Laurence Main with Mike Peters as featured on BBC2; (middle) the dreamers' tent on Carn Ingli; bottom the 'sleeping goddess' rocks on Carn Ingli



before dawn. It concluded with an angel planting its hand on a rock to leave the impression of a handprint, then saying whoever was in distress should put his or her hand on it and make their wish.

Much of Carn Ingli's folklore has come to the fore in the decades I've dreamt there, but this was new.

Before departing, this Yorkshireman - who had never been to Pembrokeshire before - looked for the rock with the angel's handprint, and we found it.

That evening, BBC2 Wales came up to film pop star Mike Peters, of Alarm, dreaming in my tent.

Surprisingly he was accompanied by his wife. A willowy figure she looked just 17. I took her aside and asked why she was there. Mrs Peters wept on my shoulder as she told me she was 37 and desperate to have a baby.

I took her to the angel's handprint and she as the first person to make her wish there as instructed by the angel in the Yorkshireman's dream. Nine months later, in the May, she gave birth. There's nothing more real than holding your own baby in your arms. Step out this summer into reality.

The Yorkshireman's dream, in his own words, from the tape recording made by Laurence Main, on August 16 2003:

"I went into a deep sleep and I found myself with two stars in my hands. By

doing certain movements a third star came. And I felt that I should take the star and put it in the stone of the hand; the stone that the angel recorded.

I was given to understand that anyone

that was torn in spirit, or that was deeply hurt in life could come there and put their hand on that stone and receive the blessing of strength to rebuild their lives from that."

Wild Camping

Stephen Neale

Adlard Coles Nautical/Bloomsbury £14.99

(pb)

Despite its sudden apparent surge in popularity, there's nothing new about wild camping. Robert Louis Stevenson lyrically described, "A Night Among the Pines," in one of his earliest published works, *Travels with a Donkey in the Cévennes*, in 1879; and John Muir, the Scots-born father of the American National Parks, often slept out in his beloved Sierra Nevada without a coat or blanket.

But the gentle limestone hills of south-central France and the sun-kissed granite of the Californian Sierra are a far cry from the cold, misty hills of Britain and Ireland, where Stephen Neale likes to lay his hat. For, quoting Paul Young and Marvin Gaye, wherever Stephen lays his hat (and his bivvy), that's his home.

In his new book, which follows his *Camping by the Waterside* published two years ago, Stephen rightly feels we have the natural right "to dream at night on hill-tops."

"Wild camping in any unenclosed space... is one of the most precious things a person can experience," he claims, and his book is a passionate, if at times somewhat staccato, *cri de coeur* that this basic human right is being increasingly threatened by misguided authorities and agencies.

Above all, *Wild Camping* is a practical if idiosyncratic guide to what Stephen somewhat controversially calls the four "bed-zones" of where to go wild camping in Britain. They are Wild (Scotland); Foreshore (coasts mainly in south and east England); Middle Earth (central England and Ireland), and Mountains (Wales and north-east England).

The design is marred for me by the obtrusive use of a garish paintbrush typeface for most of the headings. But if you want to avoid what Stevenson called: "...a dead monotonous period under a roof" and instead hear "Nature breathing deeply and freely" in the open air, then this is the book for you.

Landmarks

Robert Macfarlane

Hamish Hamilton £20 (hb)

Uncommon Ground

Dominick Tyler

Guardian/Faber & Faber £16.99 (pb)

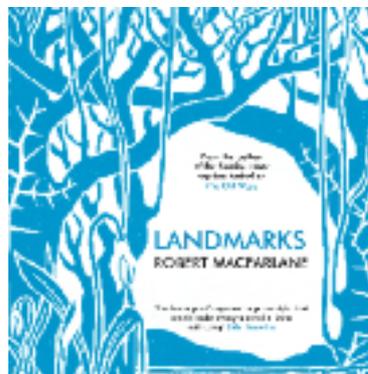
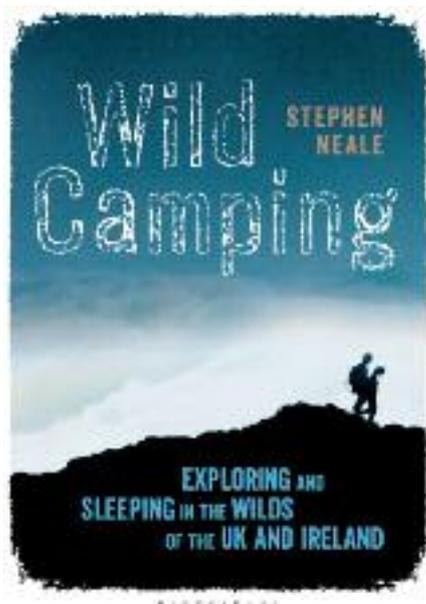
Two books with, on the face of it, very similar themes, but with sharply contrasting approaches. The subtitle of Tyler's well-illustrated book: "A word-lover's guide to the British landscape," could just as easily apply to Macfarlane's.

While Macfarlane approaches the subject of vernacular words for British landscape features from a predictably academic viewpoint, Tyler spent a year in his ancient camper van exploring the countryside and recording local vivid local colloquialisms first hand.

I loved some of the expressions he found, like the Irish words for scraps of plastic snagged in hedges: "witches' knickers", and the West Country expression for days of sunshine and rain: "a monkey's birthday." It's a shame that most of Tyler's photographs which illustrate each term are not identified, other than by a grid reference.

Macfarlane links his "word hoard" search with the works of the nature writers he most admires, from John Muir to Nan Shepherd by way of Roger Deakin and Barry Lopez. He also includes a glossary of terms at the end of each chapter, leaving the last one blank for readers' contributions.

For me, the most shocking thing in Macfarlane's book was the fact that he discovered the new edition of the Oxford Junior Dictionary had omitted words like acorn, buttercup and conker, in favour of ones like attachment, blog and cut-and-paste. As he succinctly observes: "For blackberry read BlackBerry." The most important common theme of both books is that many of these often ancient words are in danger of being lost, and with them, a unique and irreplaceable part of our rural heritage.



Walking the Cumbria Way
John Gillham
Cicerone £12.95

The 73-mile Cumbria Way was the invention of local Ramblers groups over 40 years ago, and has been rather melodramatically described as “an arrow through the heart of the Lake District.”

In this beautifully-illustrated new guide, John Gillham takes even more diversions from the already anything but arrow-straight route, which wriggles north through the Lakes from Ulverston to Carlisle.

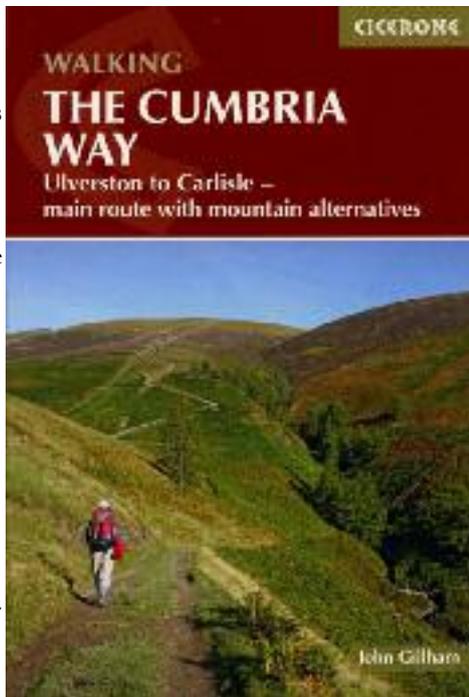
He makes a series of significant mountainous deviations

from the original route, taking in the tempting Lakeland giants of Skiddaw, Walla Crag, Glaramara, Swirl How and Conistone Old Man, which should satisfy even the most frustrated peak-bagger.

For in truth, the Cumbria Way is for the most part a low-level route, threading the valleys of Elterwater, Langdale, Langstrath, Borrowdale, Glenderaterra and finally the Caldew Valley to enter the cathedral city of Carlisle. Despite that, according to the author, “It takes in all that is best in the Lake District – views of the majestic fells, lakeshore promenades and strolls through woodland, past waterfalls, picturesque cottages and fine inns.”

Perhaps the author’s favourite stretch is coming off the original route’s high point of High Pike, Back o’ Skiddaw. Here “...a 360 deg. panorama includes Skiddaw, Blencathra, the pale hills of Dumfries and Galloway beyond the Solway Firth, and the North Pennines.” A gentle “easing” down the grassy ridge takes you into Caldbeck, and a welcoming pint at the Oddfellows Arms.

I really can’t think of a more pleasant or satisfying way to say goodbye to the Lakeland hills, or to wish for a more enthusiastic and comprehensive guide to take me there. Highly recommended.



Lake District High Level and Fell Walks
Vivienne Crow
Cicerone £9.99

There’s a box-out about ravens in Viv Crow’s latest offering from Cicerone – companion to her Lake District Low Level and

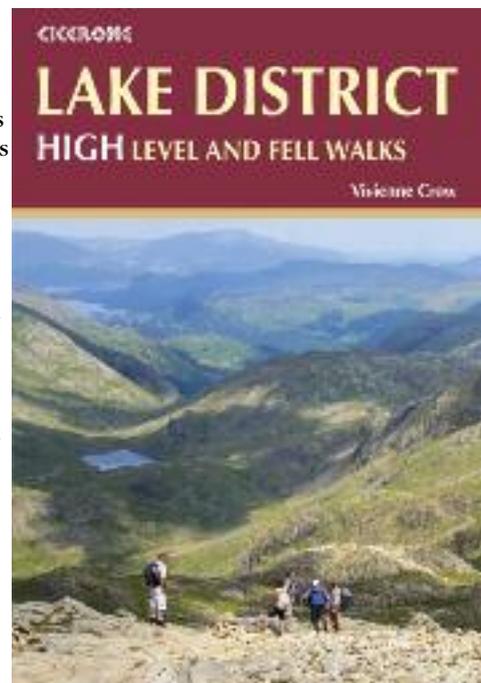
Lake Walks of last year – which is headed: “Not just ‘another crow’”.

Well, let me assure readers, this is also most definitely not just “another Crow.” The prolific Carlisle-based author is fast becoming the go-to writer on all things Lakeland, and this latest book reflects her deep love and knowledge of the higher Lake District fells.

Her choice of routes cannot be faulted. They range from the easy Fairfield, Kentmere and Coledale Horseshoes, to the tougher Newlands and little-visited Deepdale Rounds. Perhaps the most challenging walk is the 14½-mile Helvellyn range from end to end – Clough Head to Dollywagon Pike – described as “probably one of the best and longest stretches of sustained high-level walking in the entire Lake District.”

I like the way Viv has avoided the well-trodden routes to many of the Lakes highest and most popular peaks. Scafell Pike cannot be avoided, of course, but she takes the reader on a northern approach, from Seathwaite in Borrowdale to Esk Hause via Grains Gill, returning via the Corridor Route. And she rightly includes Scafell – “standing head and shoulders above its neighbour” – as a separate peak, in a route from Dalegarth in Lonely Eskdale.

So, like the raven, this is not just another Crow, but a worthy addition to any Lakeland fellwanderer’s library.



PEAKS: Fishing boats, off Isle of Skye, on Loch Scavaig

Photo Gary Richardson



Gary Richardson, Darlington
www.garyrichardson.me

Outdoor skills:

ML qualified, mountain skills/navigation instructor, photographer.

Something that makes your work easier?

My two dogs. Going out taking photos and researching walks sounds a perfect job, and it is, but it can also be a lonely one, and having the dogs with me when I'm out is great. They love being out on the mountains. On

the rare occasions that I don't take them with me, it's difficult trying to get out of the house without them.

What makes your work in the outdoors difficult?

It has to be the wonderful British weather. It never seems to do what I want it to. Not complaining, love the changeability of our weather, just wished sometimes it was a little more predictable, especially when it comes down to sunrises and sunsets. I've lost count of

the number of times I've sat on a mountain top waiting for that perfect moment for it not to happen.

Something you have achieved in the last five years?

Working for myself, a decision I wished I'd taken a few years before, but hindsight is a wonderful thing.

Something you plan to do in the next year? Spend more time exploring the west coast/islands of Scotland, just

love it up there, but never seem to get enough time to get up there as much as I would like.

An outdoors book that has inspired you the most?

It has to be *The Backpackers Handbook* by Derrick Booth. I still have it today. Bought it back in the late 1970s when I was doing my DofE awards with the school. It opened my eyes to backpacking/wild camping. Spent hours reading through it, a lot of the information in it is still relevant today.



GREEN: Afon Artro, Llanbedr

Photo Andrew Galloway



Andrew Galloway, Manchester
www.goromgorom.co.uk

Outdoor skills

Geology, physical geography, psychogeography, mythology, local history, literature.

Something that makes your work easier?

A good pair of boots to keep my feet dry.

What makes your work in the outdoors difficult?

Not having enough time

and/or money to do it.

An outdoor person who inspires you?

Jim Perrin because of his unconventionality and his identification with place.

Something you hope or plan to do in the next year?

Write a book.

Something you have achieved in the last five years?

Getting my first twenty articles

published.

If you could spend a day anywhere in the British Isles where would it be?

The Rhinogs, Southern Snowdonia. I can think of no better occupation on a balmy summer afternoon, than climbing the Roman Steps towards Bwlch Tyddiad, then following the sinuous path that picks its way through the deep purple heather to Llyn Du, from where ice fractured boulders form a

giant's stairway to the summit. Although diminutive in stature compared to the mighty ridges to be found further north in the Snowdonia National Park, the Rhinogs have a biodiversity rarely found even in North Wales, bringing colour and life to the cyclopean terraces of Cambrian greywacke sandstones from which this truly wild landscape is formed. Chasing wild mountain goats around its butresses is a favourite pastime.