

Ben Nevis

At ten o'clock on the morning of Saturday, 29th May, fifteen assorted walkers met, underneath a cloudy sky, opposite the Glen Nevis Youth Hostel on the edge of Fort William and wondered whether a pleasant sit down in a tea shop might not be a better idea. We divided in to two groups: the leisurely strollers (or slow) and the not-so-slow, the former being given a thirty-minute head-start. Aply led by Mr. Tony Whitman, who had brought a map and compass, we set off just behind a couple of optimistic girls, wearing sandals. The cloud turned to drizzle.



The first part of the walk was, indeed, leisurely but within a hundred yards the terrain veered upwards and walking poles were readied for the adventure ahead. I started on my emergency rations (six cereal bars, eight Dairy Milks, three bottles of Lucozade and an apple). The drizzle turned to rain.

A stone path led us slowly up towards a plateau as the faster group overtook us and the rain disappeared in to the mist. Donning my fur hat, I noticed that we were now two hours in to our expedition and wondered whether the worst of the climb was now over. Some friendly soul informed me that, as we were 500m above sea level and, therefore had another 844 to go, it probably wasn't. Some consolation was found by the chink of blue sky that enabled the taking of photographs. The mist was turning to sleet.

Around one o'clock some of us regrouped for dinner, before beginning the serious climb up increasingly rocky zigzags. The mist returned, restricting visibility to less than a hundred metres, as Tony and I passed some north-facing patches of snow and ice. I passed a couple of girls, without rucksacks but wearing sandals. The last of the vegetation faded away to reveal something akin to a moonscape, but foggier. Following the path became a question of cairn spotting for some distance as the rocks gave way to snow and ice. Reaching another cairn, I realized that I could not see the next one. Nor indeed could I see anything further than a couple of yards. As a small group emerged from the fog up ahead, it occurred to me that the summit was only a short distance away, so long as I avoided the sheer drop. Indeed it was.



Having taken a few photographs, built a small snowman and smiled with relief, we decided that it really was too cold to hang about so we began the descent. To my surprise, two pairs of occupied sandals were making their way up. Before too long the weather started to improve. About halfway down we found ourselves in glorious sunny conditions and noticed that the summit was now clear.

I arrived back at the starting point at 1845 hrs. As our ETA was 1837 hrs, do I get the prize for most on-schedule?

Luke Bosman

More photographs?

<http://www.fulwood.org.uk/bennevis>

Help!

As some of you know, I am in the process of moving my dad, Cyril, to Preston. At the moment we're not sure what sort of accommodation will suit him best. I wondered if anyone has first hand knowledge of types of sheltered housing— both owned or rented— in Fulwood, ideally within walking distance of Broadway. I would be interested to know of their suitability for an active 82-year old, who enjoys company, arts, music and football. Our other option is to buy a bungalow or flat in the same area. Anyone moving soon?

Veronica Frost Tel: 717415

Hot news from our calendar girl

Chris Hoban is doing well with sponsorship from business and church members, but could do with more support to help defray the huge printer's bill. She has found that a lot of people missed out on news and know nothing about the calendar despite the pleas from the pulpit and the article the next week from **N/P**.

£20 will secure a two-line entry in the calendar. Already Chris and Phil, Edna and Ray Armstrong have sponsored their Ruby Wedding anniversaries as have Peter and Christine for their silver wedding. The lives of husbands are to be celebrated and some families are celebrating happy years belonging to the church. Chris and Phil's daughter has a 40th birthday at the end of 2005 and an entry will be made for that: she will find out when she receives the calendar! The most touching entry so far is from a proud grandma, wishing to celebrate the fact that her grandson has been chosen for the Special Olympics— he is obviously a whiz at horse riding. This is what this calendar is all about: a one-off Family Event calendar.

Every page will feature photographs of the activities this church is involved in. Chris is hoping to be inundated with many fun photographs taken by her and her husband Phil (so that they are of a standard to keep the printers happy). A small committee will decide on the final photographs and they will be looking for the overall balance of the calendar. There will be an exhibition of the photos not selected, so no one will be left out in the cold and neglected.

If you know of a business that would enjoy the benefits of cheap advertising, please let Chris know. Adverts will cost between £30 and £60. It is hoped the calendar will be in print at the end of August. We will be having 500 copies. Please support Chris by buying as early as possible and above all remember to pray for her and the project, which of course is going towards the Building Together Fund. She is really concentrating on building together spiritually not financially but doesn't want financial worries to cloud the issue.

Children's competition

A competition for all the children connected with the church from 5 to 17 has been launched. This will give the children a chance to draw out fun ideas for photographs of their own group. Three disposable cameras are the prizes for the three age groups involved. The results will be announced on 20th June.

If you know of anyone who has moved away and still is in contact with the church, tell them about the calendar. If they bought one, they would see how people look today!

Chris Hoban

Building Together News

The plant sale raised £513.87 after all expenses had been paid. Thank you, once again, to all who helped and supported it.

Forthcoming Events

Garden Visit

On Sunday, 13th June (this afternoon!) we are invited to the Whittall's (45, Queens Drive) and the Gregory's (18, Cromwell Road) to view their gardens from 2 to 6 pm. £2, paid at the first garden you visit, will get you in to both gardens.

Jigsaw Puzzle Sale / Coffee Morning

We shall be holding this on the morning of Saturday, 19th June. We shall also be running a **cake stall**. If you wish to donate any puzzles or if you could bake a cake, please contact Barbara Hothersall ☎01772 716203.

The next Book Sale will probably be held on Saturday, 31st July.

Church music

If you are interested in the future of our church music then please put this date in your diary. The next meeting takes place on Tuesday, 29th June at 7.30 pm and *you* are invited to attend.