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A view seen by everyone on the way out of the site at Beckford during the AGM weekend.



Issue 116 Spring 2019

TrevMASters' Voice, May 2019.

There is so much to report and comment on that it's difficult to know where to start. Except, that I wouldn't even be writing this if Toni hadn't offered to take up the reins again as editor of ACTIVITY! So, welcome back, Toni, and a huge thank-you from us all.

The Festival of Walking and Cycling seems to have been very enjoyable this year, with lots of positive and appreciative comments having been made. So, many thanks to all those from Wessex Area who put so much into making it a success.

The AGM itself proved to be momentous, even historic. We in MAS were after all the first club members ever to use the newly granted proxy voting for a motion at our AGM! And good use was made of this facility by members not able to attend, adequately demonstrating that it was right to introduce this more inclusive, more democratic measure.

The motion to change our name to the Walking and Cycling Section was agreed by more than 83%. This decision will now proceed to Coventry where it will have to go through a few steps before, I hope, being ratified. (It is known that a member of another Special Interest Section has raised an objection to our choice of name; on the grounds that their section, once upon a time, used the word cycling in their title. We can just hope that our efforts to ensure we survive and thrive are perceived by the Club as more relevant and worthy than according nostalgic respect to another group's past history!) The council meeting following the AGM, however, did not altogether end well. We failed to appoint a secretary! A failure that left the whole Section facing disbandment.

With an hour to go before the Festival itself was due to end, it was as if an angel appeared to me.... Christine Mason offered to stand as our secretary! A quickly arranged vote of council members rapidly and unanimously elected her!! Thank you, Chris and welcome aboard..... At this point I wish to pay tribute to her predecessor, Colin Wild. Colin has not only served three terms as secretary but done so with commendable efficiency and enthusiasm. As I said at the AGM Colin would in one sense be a hard act to follow, but as he was leaving everything in immaculate order his would actually be an easy act to follow. Many thanks, Colin. It has been a joy to have worked alongside you.

It was also made clear at the AGM that Jenny Williams, another stalwart who has given invaluable service as our treasurer, will be standing down when she completes her present term later this year. We now have someone offering to be nominated. Phew! When seeing so many members at the recent festival and at so many of our meets it's not exactly easy to reconcile that with the fact that all three of our Areas, and indeed the Section itself, have struggled to fill essential committee and council posts. One of the most obvious causes is, I think, that many of us have already served as officers and are ageing: and so many of the newer members still have very demanding family commitments. More new faces are needed. And this, I imagine, is why so many of us have voted to change our name in the hope that the tin will now clearly spell out what we do. And when the change of name is ratified we are assured that there will be significant coverage in the Club's Camping and Caravanning. Attracting new members is, however, only half of the battle. It is equally important that we keep them. Which, I feel, means more than just giving a warm welcome; it means ensuring that we have walks and cycle rides to offer them. A persistent challenge has, I know, been to find enough people willing and able to lead walks, but it is essential we persevere and support and encourage those who have yet to bite the bullet.

To end on a lighter note. With the impending name change (I hope), should future editions of Trev**MAS**ters'Voice be changed to something **WAC**kier? Regards to all,

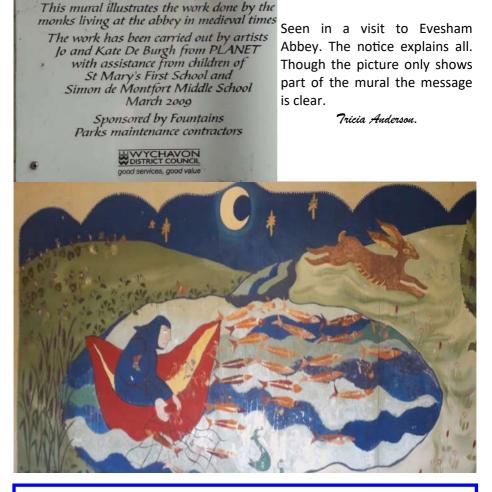
Trev.

When is a phone box not a phone box?



We came across a seemingly quaint telephone box in the pretty village of Grafton, near to Beckford and on the route of several walks. It's a library in disguise, but with the addition of a defibrillator.... Perhaps there's a few racy titles in there! Dave Hall

Be careful what you wish for! *From Jackie Cooper* When God gave us brains, I thought he said trains and I missed mine. When God gave out looks, I thought he said books and I said I didn't want one. When God gave out noses, I thought he said roses so I asked for a big one. When God gave out chins, I thought he said gins so I asked for a double. When God gave out legs, I thought he said kegs so I asked for 2 fat ones. When God gave out heads, I thought he said beds so I asked for a soft one. I'm in a terrible mess !



It's a Monks life

This was sent to me recently—it seems particularly apt considering the problems we have had populating our committees.

"This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it. But Nobody realised that Everybody would not do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody, when Nobody did what Everybody could have done."

The Beckford Meeting

As Trevor mentions in his Voice, the AGM Meet at Beckford seemed to go rather well. The advance party rolled up the day before to start the marking out of the field and sorting of the services available, and members began to arrive very soon after 12 noon on Thursday. The field



soon began to fill up, but the rain kept on coming which meant that the marshals had a fairly wet time of it during the afternoon. There was lots of renewing acquaintances and chat going on as the day and evening went on, all good to see.

John had sorted four walks for each day and leaders had volunteered for each of them, and cycle rides were being organised by those who had brought their bikes. The local bus went through the village to both Tewkesbury and Evesham, where several people took the opportunity to visit historical sites and museums or just go shopping and visit the cafes. The Beckford Arms pub at the far end of the village gave the opportunity for drinks and meals out and was reportedly guite good on both counts. The committee had also sorted the Bring and Share supper for after the AGM on Saturday evening, and on Sunday and Monday evenings there



were mini arranged in the village hall. Unfortunately the Beckford Social Club had been unable to form a committee. otherwise we would have had drinks,



skittles and social evenings right on site.

The walks varied in length from 5 to 13 miles, and departed from site at different times to enable picnic lunches to be enjoyed off site, and most groups returned within a short time of each other. The area was great, with beautiful scenery to be enjoyed and walks of all levels, covering flat gentle wanderings with visits to the silk mill and local nature reserve and more lengthy hill climbing treks, from well used farm tracks and roads to footpaths through bluebell woods, fields of sheep and lambs and oil seed rape in full flower. The views from the hills were many and varied, and even included deer at one stage. The cyclists found plenty of quiet roads and covered a good few miles over the four days. The AGM went through a slightly rocky patch as far as getting committee members went, but the supper afterwards was very enjoyable, with the leftovers being put to good use as free additions to walking lunches and the afternoon tea and

cakes events! The Quiz and Raffle on Sunday evening was enjoyed by many, though parts of the quiz were a bit left of centre – I promise to tailor it a bit better in future!!



Overall, the meeting was a success, and as a result we will still be walking and cycling in good company for at least another year. *7*oni Reynaud

As you know, I am Advisory Officer to the National Council for the section and also a member of the Sites Committee. In the next couple of weeks I will be visiting several of our club sites as part of the role this job undertakes. We talk to the staff and walk around the site to see if there any problems or anything that can be improved. Over two days we will have visited the Keswick complex, Derwentwater Holiday Homes, Braithwaite Fold, Ravenglass, Windermere, Kendal Lakeside Lodges and the two new ones that have recently been purchased, Scotgate and Braithwaite Bridges. I suppose you could call it a working holiday! Well, somebody has to do it!!

Les Morton





Wessex had a meet at the old favourite, Sixpenny Handley. The walks were good, and there were spotted and butterfly orchids to be found.

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Follow-on meet

The AGM follow-on meet took place at Mount Farm, Ratley. The weather was not totally kind as shown by the gathering in the event shelter—lots of rain and not very warm, but with some really nice sunsets! A few walks



were undertaken which included visits to a couple of National Trust properties at Charlecote Park and Upton House. As always, the gardens were well worth the visit and the buildings provided wonderful backdrops.

Photos Tricia Anderson





'Out of the Mouths of Babes'

Our grandson Harry who is 4, came along to stay with us with Peakland at Easter for one night at his first MAS Meet. Uncle Les gave him permission to ring the bell and ask folk to come along for tea and cakes after the walks. A few weeks later he stayed with us for two nights at a DA THS at Filey. After returning from the beach he asked if he should go around all the units and ask them to come for tea and cakes - bearing in mind there were 60+ units most of whom we did not know. Although we like to be sociable, our stock of cake did not run to that number and sadly, we had to decline.

At the Easter Meet, he joined with a few members in the event shelter for an early evening get together. Harry instructed everyone to follow his keep fit routine, I informed him that we were all tired after a day walking in the warm weather, to which he replied 'I'll just have to think of something to 'untire' you' - is this a new word in the Oxford dictionary? Perhaps other members have snippets of chil-



dren on Meets who have come up with some witty remarks. Saudra



Wessex at Bracelands

For some reason we decided to take on stewardship of the Bracelands meet at fairly short notice. Well, we've been stewards before, how hard can it be, especially as it was a booked meet on a CCC Forest Holidays site and all the money and booking would be done in advance by "someone else" (always my favourite person). As one of the jobs of the stewards is to co-ordinate walks, I took a look at the OS map for the area and was amazed at the number and closeness of the contour lines – hilly or what! However, I mapped out three walks just in case.

On the Wednesday before the meet we travelled up to the Forest of Dean and arrived at Bracelands Campsite. I identified myself as the Steward for the MAS meet, proffered the cheque that the treasurer had prepared for me, and was met with "Sorry, but we can't take cheques." After some chatting and phone calls to Head Office, this was confirmed – the system is not set up to take payment by cheque, so an alternative payment method was employed and we were directed to the rally field. This was quite large and looked able to take the 15 expected units quite easily. Later in the evening we consulted the map and found our way to the New Inn, the closest pub, just to sample the beer – it was good enough! The menu also looked good, and the food we saw being served did too.

Book Corner

Just finished reading "The Devil Rides Out", the autobiography of the first part of Paul O'Grady's life. To someone who had a fairly structured and easy life, to see the upheaval he went through as he was growing up and the jobs he did to get enough money to survive and develop his life and character is very interesting, and at times borders on the unbelievable.

I also managed to squeeze in "Horses Don't Fly", the story of

Captain Frederic Libby, a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps in WW1. From breaking wild horses in Colorado to fighting the Red Baron's squadrons in the skies over France, here in his own words is the true story of a forgotten American hero: the cowboy who became our first ace and the first pilot to fly the American colours over enemy lines. This is also well worth a read. **7**aut



On Thursday the first units arrived about 1.30, and one of the later ones brought the event shelter. I had three ladies teaching me how to put it together – never too old to learn something new. Friday was not good – it rained fairly heavily until

about 2.30, but soon after that everyone seemed to come out of their units and gather in the shelter for a bit of fresh air, tea, cake and chat for a couple of hours. One of the decisions made was to go for a communal meal in the New Inn on Monday evening, something to look forward to. The clouds yielded a very pretty sunset to make up for the earlier rainfall.



Saturday was cool and a bit damp, but we decided on a walk to Symonds Yat Rock. This was well signposted on good tracks through the forest and gave us no trouble at all. The picnic area near the rock is home to a log built café serving the usual tea or coffee in cardboard cups and a wonderful selection of most excellent cakes. The lookout point itself is reached by a walkway over the nearby road and afforded



good views over the Wye valley below on three sides, and included an information point about a peregrine falcon's nesting place complete with a lady ranger giving out information and letting us look through a spotting scope to see the birds. We were lucky enough to be there at the same time

as a group on a

birdwatching trip, and they were continually giving instruction on how to see buzzards, a kite, the peregrine and a goshawk, so some of us had a quite entertaining few minutes there. From the viewpoint area we descended about 400 feet to the river and followed that for a mile or two to the suspension bridge at the southern end of the river's loop. We had lunch in that area, marvelled





at the wire and wood bridge, then retraced our steps a couple of hundred yards and worked our way up along steady incline to the area of the campsite. The last hundred yards or so was a bit steep, but we all got up there and back to the units in one piece, and rested until tea and cakes time. The rain started again soon after and continued through the night.

Sunday we decided on a country walk, map-reading as we went. The rain started about 10 minutes into the walk, but only lasted about 20 minutes so that was OK in the end. Though the paths were all there, they were not well marked on the ground, and in one area it was a bit of a swamp because builders had been erecting a fence alongside the route and churned up the path completely. We diverted through the woods for a few yards to bypass the mess, but getting back down onto the path was interesting!! Later on we got lost crossing a field full of waist high grass and weeds, but managed to recover the situation, and got back onto the outward route to complete the 7 miles (ish) back to the site.



The sun had come out by this time and all was sweetness and light. The views were outstanding, and at one stage I saw a 4 inch long dragonfly coursing over the crops



next to the path, then take a fly mid-flight nature in the raw in miniature. The two Alans went out on their bikes for the day and had a good ride around on some of the many tracks and routes in the forest, so a good day was had by all.

Monday people did their own thing – some of the ladies wandered to the town and had a look around the church, taking a few

photos as they went (who remembers The Singing Detective?), more bike rides were undertaken, the dog was walked, and coffee was drunk in the nearest café.

We took the shelter down in the afternoon because of the forecast of more rain, which duly arrived later on. It was still raining a bit as we made our way to the pub, but it was well worth it. We had pre-ordered, and the food appeared on the table all at once at the appointed time, and everyone was well satisfied with their meals. Several also sampled the puddings and found them to be good too, so with the conversation and warmth, a good time was had by all. The rain stopped for the walk back to site, but started again continued through the night. A bit like sleeping inside a drum! On Tuesday morning everyone departed with no fuss at all, considering the amount of rain and the slope on the field, ending what turned out to be thoroughly good weekend.

7oni B-Reynaud

(Photos Toni B-Reynaud and Tricia Anderson)



Mountain Activity Section Officers 2019/20

(Further contact details may be found on the website)

Chairperson MAS Executive Member (2020)	Trevor Masters (07400703731)
Vice Chairperson MAS Executive Member (2020)	Barry Cowlard (07770 287434)
President	Andrew Wood (07852040724)
Vice Presidents	Carole Booth (07788197649) Christine Stevenson Terry Bishop Diane Goodyear (07761949896)
Secretary MAS Executive Member (2019)	Christine Mason (07751312330)
Treasurer MAS Executive Member	Jenny Williams (07984003348)
PRO/Website Co-ordinator Elected Member (2019)	John Gerner (077348852656)
Youth Officers	
Membership Secretary Elected Member (2017)	Les Morton (07967900225)
Minutes Secretary	Sandra Wain (07503000568)
Regalia Officer	
Newsletter Editor Elected Member (2019)	Toni Busuttil-Reynaud (07762326340)
Webmaster	Adrian Rose
Other elected Members to Section Council (2019) (2019) (2019) (2019) (2019) Also MAS Executive Member (2019)	Yvonne Plevey (07413293198) John Allen (07505906849) Barry Cowlard (07770 287434)
Advisory Officer to National Council	Les Morton
Deputy Advisory Officer (2018)	Barry Cowlard
Representatives to Section Council Northern Area	Vacancy
Peakland Area	Jean Morton
Wessex Area	Deb Masters (07765 040211)
Area Secretaries Northern Area	Jean Richards (07964902612)
Peakland Area	Sandra Wain (07503000568)
Wessex Area	John Gerner (077348852656)
National Council Rep. to MAS	Steve Harris (07567183893)

MAS are members of The Walking Partnership operated by Rambler's Holidays. The Partnership provides direct financial support for organisations that encourage walking and organise group walks. If any MAS member books a holiday with Rambler's Holidays they can nominate MAS for a donation. If you are considering a break with Rambler's Holidays please remember to say that you are a member of MAS when you make your booking, otherwise we will miss out on the donation.





IMPORTANT NOTICE

The EGM of the Mountain Activity Section Northern Area will be held at 11.00am on Sunday 20 October 2019 in the club house at the Rolls Royce Sports and Social Club, Skipton Road, Barnoldswick, Lancashire, BB18 6HL, map ref 103/881471.

This meeting is to form a new committee, otherwise our area will fold. If you are interested but require more details please contact Jean Richards, via jeanatlees@yahoo.co.uk or 07964902612





www.mountainactivitysection.org.uk

MAS WESSEX 2019 Meets List

Please check the MAS Website: <u>www.mountainactivitysection.org.uk</u> or the current month's Out and About, or by contacting site officers or stewards 2 days before travelling. There is also extra information about each meet on the website. Meets start at noon unless stated otherwise. Own sanitation essential. Wessex Area levy, £1 per adult per meet.

From: 4 July To: 9 July Start: 12:00	Venue: Kilima Farm, Naish Hill, Lacock, Chip- penham, Wiltshire, SN15 2QH Map Ref: 173/939692 Join Wessex and visit Lacock Abbey, Fox Talbot Museum and village. £7.00 pupn. DO NOT AP- PROACH SITE FROM A350. Follow directions in Out & About	
From: 18 July To: 23 July Start: 12:00	Venue: Cwrt-Isaf Farm, Crickhowell, Powys, NP8 1PH Map Ref: 161/211182 Walk and cycle with Wessex in the beautiful Usk Valley. £9.90 pupn. Site close to the Monmouth- shire & Brecon Canal, useful for linking paths and cycling routes, and offers opportunities to access the wild terrain beyond Table Mountain.	Rod & Chris 01267 232301 07979 304620
From: 1 Aug To: 6 Aug Start: 12:00	Venue: Overton Primary School, 2 Court Drove, Overton, Basingstoke RG25 3ES Map Ref: 185/512502 Walking and cycling with Wessex in the Test Valley with its attractive villages. £6.00 pupn.	Sandra 07944 837386
From: 22 Aug To: 27 Aug Start: 14:00	Venue: Hollington End Farm, Narlow Lane, Thorpe, Derbyshire DE6 2AU Map Ref: 119/166514 Good walking & cycling.	Invite From: Peakland Com- mittee. Contact Yvonne for de- tails 07413 293198
From: 5 Sept To: 10 Sept Start: 12:00	Venue: Kingsettle Campsite, Kingsettle Hill, Bruton, Somerset, BA10 0LB. Map Ref: 183/730347 A new venue for Wessex near to King Alfred's Tower on the National Trust's Stourhead Estate. £9.00 pupn	Sheila & Richard 07808 517647
From: 19 Sept To: 24 Sept Start: 12:00	Venue: Westfield Farm, Henley Rd, Med- menham, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 2TA Map Ref: 175/796839 Join Wessex for walking and cycling around the River Thames. £11.40 pupn	Lindie & Mick 01865 872363 07811 883552

	Venue: Devizes Club Site, Spout Ln, Nr Seend,	
From: 3 October	Melksham, Wilts, SN12 6RN	
To: 8 October	BOOKED MEET. To enquire about pitch availa- Polly & John	
Start: 13:00	bility and booking procedure send an email to 07734 852656	
Map Ref:	wessexbookings@mountainactivitysection.org.uk	
173/951619	Last date for bookings Monday 16th September.	
	£5.00 plus £5.55 ehu pupn.	
	Venue: Crowborough Club Site, Goldsmith Rec-	
From: 17 Octo-	reation Ground, Eridge Rd, Crowborough, East	
ber	Sussex, TN6 2TN	
To: 22 October	BOOKED MEET. To enquire about pitch availa- 01892 671294	
Start: 13:00	bility and booking procedure send an email to 01892 071294 07753 613180	
Map Ref:	wessexbookings@mountainactivitysection.org.uk	
199/520316	Last date for bookings Monday 30th September.	
	£10.55 GWE or £11.55 HWE pitches pupn.	

MAS NORTHERN AREA 2019 Meets List

Please check the MAS Website: <u>www.mountainactivitysection.org.uk</u> or the current month's Out and About, or by contacting site officers or stewards 2 days before travelling. There is also extra information about each meet on the website. Meets start at 4.00pm. Own sanitation is essential. Advance booking not required unless otherwise stated.

To: 21 July Start: 16:00	Venue: Pateley Bridge, Nidderdale Map Ref: 99/157655	Invite from Leeds DA,
From: 19 July To: 24 July	Venue: Langholm, Dumfries Map Ref: 79/364855	Invite from NW Region to their THS.
From: 8 August To: 13 August Start: 14:00	Venue: South View Farm, Great Busby, Mid- dlesbrough, TS9 7AX Map Ref: 93/519057	Dave & Gill 07443939245
From: 22 August To: 27 August Start: 14:00	Venue: Bedale Caravan & Camping site, Burrill Rd, Bedale, DL8 1RF Map Ref: 99/256877	Chris & Sue Rogers 07910963344
From: 12 Septem- ber To: 17 September Start: 14:00	Venue: Gibraltar Farm, Silverdale, LA5 0AU Map Ref: 97/461737	Tad & Margaret 01274547502
From: 27 September To: 30 September Start: 14:00	Venue: Moor Farm Bungalow CS, Moor Lane Bishopthorpe, York, YO23 2UF Map Ref: 105/586470	Dave & Viv 01132860413
From: 18 October To: 21 October Start: 14:00	Venue: Rolls Royce Sports & Social Club, Skipton Rd, Barnoldswick, BB18 6HL Map Ref: 103/881471	John & Kathryn 01943462921

MAS Peakland 2019 Meets List

Please check the MAS Website: <u>www.mountainactivitysection.org.uk</u> or the current month's Out and About, or by contacting site officers or stewards 2 days before travelling. There is also extra information about each meet on the website. Meets start at 2pm unless stated otherwise. Own sanitation essential, advance booking not necessary.

From: 4 July To: 9 July Start: 12:00	Venue: Kilima Farm, Naish Hill, Lacock, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 2QH Map Ref: 173/939692 Join Wessex and visit Lacock Abbey, Fox Talbot Museum and village. £7.00 pupn. DO NOT APPROACH SITE FROM A350. Fol- low directions in Out & About.	Hilary & Mike 07745 566694 01425 620321 Invite From: Wessex
From: 25 July To: 30 July Start: 14:00	Venue: Winster Moor Farm, B5056 South of Winster, Derbyshire DE4 2FE Map Ref: 119/242594 Pub walking distance.	Graham & Christine 07840 267102
From: 9 August To: 12 August Start: 14:00	Venue: Darley Farm, Parsley Hay Derby- shire SK17 0DF Map Ref: 119/143636 Good walking & cycling. Adjacent High Peak/Tissington Trails.	Graham & Christine 07840 267102
From: 22 August To: 27 August Start: 14:00	Venue: Hollington End Farm, Narlow Lane, Thorpe, Derbyshire DE6 2AU Map Ref: 119/166514	Peakland Committee. Contact Yvonne for details 07413 293198
From: 13 Sep To: 16 Sep Start: 14:00	Venue: Thurlmoor Farm, Brookhill Lane, Carlcotes, Dunford Bridge, S. Yorks S36 4TD Map Ref: 110/177031	Awaiting Steward
From: 4 Oct To: 7 Oct Start: 14:00	Venue: Marsden Cricket Club, Mount Road, Hemplow, Marsden HD7 6NN Map Ref: 110/044105	Colin & Yvonne 07413 293198
From: 11 Oct To: 13 Oct Start: 14:00	Venue: Hobsons Farm, Rock House, Main Road, Flagg, Derbyshire SK17 9QR Map Ref: 119/139685	Amanda & Mark 07772 364835
From: 25 Oct To: 27 Oct Start: 14:00	Venue: Sterndale Green Farm, King Stern- dale SK17 9SF Map Ref: 119/093720	Roger & Sandra 07503 000568

Morty's Musings

Peakland has got off to a flying start this year, firstly we have elected a committee of nine which bodes well for the future of our area and also had excellent turnouts for our meets so far. There were 17 at Fenny Bentley, Ashbourne, 25 at Biggin, an amazing 49 for our Easter meet at Ashford-in-the-Water (22 MAS and 27 visitors) and 16 units last weekend at 4 Acres, Bamford. The other good news is the fact that we are getting more visitors than ever before and I know that two couples have recently joined the section.

On the subject of membership, we have approximately 1240 individuals in the Section at the moment, the number bobbles up and down as new ones join and others leave but the overall figure remains around that figure. We have to hope that some of them actually come out and camp with us. *Les Morton*

Peaklands Easter Meet

Les provided the aerial view from a drone which gives a good idea of how the site was laid out (Not necessarily his drone!!).



Editor's bit

Hello All,

It's nice to be back—lets hope that I can maintain the standard set by Melanie! My thanks to all those who sent in items for this edition. For those who

wish to contribute to future editions, my email address is <u>tonibr@btinternet.com</u>please feel free to send anything there.





AND FINALLY.....

Remember there are other ways to get a copy of Activity. It's on the Web at <u>www.mountainactivitysection.org.uk</u>/Activity, from where you can read it directly, or better still download it, print it off (follow the simple instructions given at the top of the web page) and share the copy around between family and friends. If you don't have a computer, you can register with me to get a paper copy. Send your name, address and membership number to the new editor, and you will be added to the list. Also, if you let your area secretary have your email address, you will get a reminder when the latest edition has arrived on the website.