

1930  
2020



# The Journey

90th anniversary special edition



CELEBRATING  
**90**  
years  
TOGETHER  
Thank you for your support



# Hello

...and welcome to this 90th anniversary issue of The Journey. In 1930, the collective will of a group of far-sighted men and women brought YHA to life. At the heart of their plans was an organisation that would bring adventure and opportunity into the lives of those who needed it most. It's an ethos we still stand by - and today more than ever. We're incredibly proud of everything we've achieved over the past nine decades, and we're doubly determined to make the next chapter of our story a powerful force for good. In these pages you'll find memories, hope, inspiration and a positive outline for the future. Happy reading!

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## Walking side by side

Seventy-five years on, their smiles are still contagious. This hale and hearty group of YHA members are pictured in around 1945, engaged in the simple act of enjoying the outdoors. The support of our members has always been integral to everything we stand for as a charity, and we feel privileged to count so many of you as our partners. Your membership not only helps us to provide the best possible experiences and adventures for those who need it most, but to ensure our hostels remain truly special places. Just as importantly, it helps us work together for a bright future. And that's got to be worth a smile. [yha.org.uk/membership](https://yha.org.uk/membership)

# Your memories

From our longest-serving members to our youngest school groups, we always love receiving your letters and emails. Over the next four pages, we've included a recent selection.



Juliet Harle and husband

Dear YHA,

Seventy years ago, in September 1949, my mother and godmother set off on a cycling adventure of Cornwall. They were 17 and 18 years of age.



Juliet's mother and godmother

They stayed in YHAs which included Plymouth, Boswinger, Kennack, Lands End, Phillack, Treyarnon Bay and Otterham, before returning to Plymouth.

They caught the night train from London, where they both worked, and set off with their bikes, panniers and food including lemonade, hard boiled eggs, apples, cakes and chocolate.

Last September my husband and I tried to recreate their adventure by cycling from

our home and staying in the same hostels where possible. There aren't any night trains anymore, and sadly YHA Plymouth has closed, so we had to change the journey slightly but managed to do some of the things they did. We stayed at YHA Eden Project, YHA Boswinger, YHA Coverack, YHA Penzance, YHA Land's End, YHA Portreath and YHA Treyarnon Bay, so managed to stay at three of the hostels they did.

We even took the same food as them, but turned the hard boiled eggs into sandwiches!

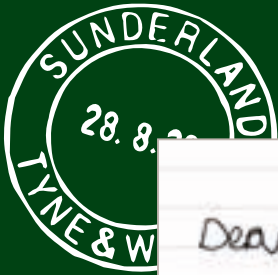
We cycled about 200 miles and walked up many of the unforgiving hills.

The train journey for us was difficult, as guards' vans don't exist anymore, but we were determined to copy their journey as much as possible.

Staying at YHAs certainly made this trip achievable as we looked forward to a good meal and great company each evening, and a hearty breakfast in the morning. Quite a difference from my mother and godmother having to do chores each evening - though we wouldn't have minded if we did!

Juliet Harle

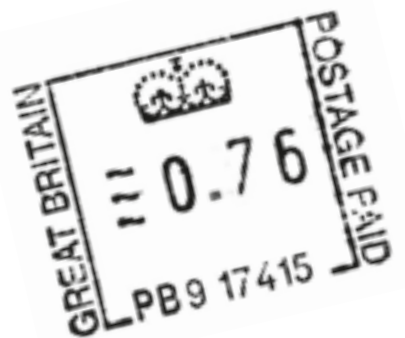
“...the view is great, it’s one of the best YHAs I’ve been to, I loved the food, Connect 4 and the climbing frame. I would rate it 10/10.” Leighton



Dear everybody,  
I am writing to you  
to say thank you for an epic  
visit to your youth Hostel. Tim thank you  
for the 3 three rocks work. I never  
remember any thing I have done  
do you want to her to sand, stone, slate and  
lime soaker. And as the py I liked was you  
figed out making an more easy way to  
climb stand the lego w. hand.

Yore sensey  
Paige

“...it was one of the best experiences I have ever had and I learned so many things whilst I was there. I thought the walk on the beach would just be an ordinary walk but it was one of the most fascinating walks I’ve ever been on...” Rohan





**“...once again a fantastic experience for staff and children alike. Thank you for a wonderful school visit...”**  
**Mrs Jenkins**

**“...I am writing to thank you for the wonderful time I had. I loved the team challenge, especially the stepping stone one. I look forward to seeing you again...”** Kara

Dear YHA,

I am a Railway Child and travelled on trains from a young age, often to see members of my family in Leicester, Dublin and Lennoxton in Stirlingshire. When I left home at 18, I no longer had train tickets but still loved to travel. I was a student nurse so didn't have much money. I had already hitch-hiked round Europe with my schoolfriends Patti and Ann-Marie in the summer holidays, and stayed in youth hostels then.

From Hammersmith Hospital, near the A40, we hitch-hiked to Oxford and stayed in the youth hostel there, exploring the city. Later, we were working eight nights on and six nights off, so we went to South Wales and The Gower Peninsula and stayed in the youth hostel on the beach there. It used to be a boat rescue house. We also hitched to Stratford and Coventry to stay in youth hostels. We saw the beautiful stained-glass windows and the Shakespeare connections.

We hitch-hiked to Greece twice, and the first time, in 1967, went through Italy. We stayed in youth hostels in Munich, Venice, Milan, Florence, Rome and Naples. There was a curfew at Naples and we were locked out, so we had to climb in the window. We saw Pompeii, which was mind-blowing.

We crossed Italy to get the Corfu ferry, but we two girls were asked by two

desperate and defeated boys to split up to get to the port, because they had been trying to hitch a lift for three days and drivers didn't want to pick up boys. We felt sorry for them and agreed, and both couples arrived at the ferry within five minutes of each other.

We stayed in the youth hostel in Athens, and two in Crete. We returned to England via Yugoslavia, then I went to Plymouth to be a pupil midwife.

In 1968 a midwife friend and I returned to Athens via Yugoslavia and had a great lift from Salzburg to Thessaloniki with a German returning home in a lovely Mercedes Benz car. We slept in the car the first night, and on the beach the second. We went to Istanbul, staying in youth hostels where we could.

Later, we took our daughters to youth hostels in North Wales, including castles, and a simple one too where a bat fell down the chimney. We cycled around the Isle of Wight on our 1935 Rudge Junior Back tandem and a solo bike, finding support, comfort, safety and fun in the youth hostel there. When I turned 70 I took a trip to Australia and stayed in hostels in Perth, Alice Springs, Melbourne and Tasmania. I love to travel and meet interesting and multicultural people.

Val Fieth




“...brill stay! Staff are really kind and helpful, lovely view as well. Breakfast and dinner are really nice! It’s like a five-star hotel...” Harriet

Monday 10th June 2019  
Dear friends at Loxhill  
I am writing to thank you for the wonderful time and effort put into our stay.  
I especially enjoyed the gem panning and the archery because in the gem panning we were finding gems from the bottom of an river in Consettton and the archery because it was challenging, fun and best of all I recently hit bullseye! The fields were large so we could run around in large areas and the trees were also good for climbing. The wood animals were entertaining for example I could give salt and pepper a scratch and with the larkie drink milk from them their music. I also liked the silk horton most hearts a who! I really enjoyed all of my delicious meals my dinner and breakfasts. I also liked dressing up as a Roman and holding a shield! My dorm was large and comfy. I can't wait to come again!

I don't know how you could have made it any better! A big thank you!

From,  
Evelyn  
XXX



“...we loved the castle, and we enjoyed seeing the seagulls, and looking at the boats in the harbour. We saw wagtails, and from YHA Conwy we could hear owls hooting in the forest...” Shayne

# A letter to YHA supporters

**Our 90th anniversary year has been very different to the year we imagined, writes Chief Executive James Blake. The challenges are more significant than ever, but our mission has never been more important.**



YHA is a national charity determined to stay at the forefront of efforts to improve health, wellbeing and life chances in England and Wales. We provide inclusive adventures in inspiring places, tackling inequality of opportunity, contributing to social cohesion and raising ambitions in young people.

We have a network of more than 150 hostels in England and Wales, and last year we welcomed over 1 million people to stay with us, 40% of whom were under 26. We are a major provider of school residentials. A significant proportion of staff are young people, and we're supported by more than 1,000 young volunteers.

A third of our guests visit National Parks through us. Others stay in towns and the hearts of major cities, meeting hostellers from around the world (and around the corner), and experiencing culture and exploring heritage.

April 2020 marked 90 years since YHA was founded, and the pandemic is the most severe crisis we have ever experienced. It led to us temporarily closing the entire network of hostels for the very first time, and has significantly affected our finances. This year, because of the effect on YHA

alone, more than a quarter of a million young people will miss out on the chance of a life-changing stay. For many of them, this would have been their first break and a rare positive childhood experience.

Much about the future remains uncertain. Yet this period has reinforced our view that we must use history to inform our future. Coronavirus is far from the only crisis YHA has faced. And - just as it was for our founders - in adversity, we see most clearly the value and vitality of our purpose.

Founded in April 1930, YHA emerged from a nation in crisis. The 1929 stock market crash resulted in the Great Slump. The economy crumbled. Unemployment soared. In the words of our first chairman, Barclay Baron, "we could not have chosen a more difficult time for the start of a movement." But start, it did.

In the Second World War, only 10 years after being established, a third of YHA's hostels were requisitioned to accommodate soldiers on leave, ambulance training camps, makeshift schools, emergency meeting and feeding stations. They became refuges for the sick, the vulnerable, refugees and those made homeless by air raids. Half



a century later, we had to close most of our hostels for a summer as the countryside battled against Foot and Mouth disease.

In both crises, leaders faced a level of upheaval that brought into question our long-term future. But in both cases, we emerged stronger: the need for our mission enhanced, the case for organisational reform more urgent. We have a deep conviction that – after this is over – we can play a critical role in helping the country get back on its feet. What we do will be even more important as society recovers, especially for those young people who already struggle to access the very real benefits that travel and adventure bring.

At the start of the crisis, a number of hostels distributed food to communities. We also donated retired bed linen for the manufacture of scrubs, masks and wash bags. Nearly 20 of our hostels were repurposed to accommodate key workers and the most vulnerable. But now, as we always have done, we must look forward. On pages 50 and 51, we outline our long-term strategy: Adventure. For the first time and a lifetime. Our approach draws on 90 years' experience in overcoming

adversity and managing change. As we emerge from the ravages of COVID-19, we will have an important role to play in the national effort to rebuild society. And inspired by our history, we will continue to connect people to each other, to nature, culture and the world around them, and to the unique health and wellbeing benefits that come with travel and adventure.

Our strategy and our vision - that every child can access the benefits of adventure, for the first time and a lifetime - will be even more urgent. Your support, through staying at our hostels, through membership, by donating or volunteering with us, is vital. We thank you for that ongoing support, and look forward to seeing you at a hostel soon.

**Chief Executive,  
YHA (England & Wales)**



# Carry on stamping

Guests have been collecting stamps at YHA hostels for more than 80 years - and the tradition continues.



Everyone loves the chance to reflect on where they've been. It was back in 1939 when the first YHA hostel stamps were issued, and they quickly became a point of interest. The stamps were designed as a way of giving guests a passport-style memento of their travels around the country, and were initially plain in design, before becoming more detailed and characterful in the 1960s and 1970s. A fresh stamp in your collection was a way of marking a new journey, and a new experience.

An updated stamp book has now been released to commemorate our 90th anniversary, meaning hostellers of all ages can begin their collections afresh. And as you'll see from the assortment shown here, the stamps themselves come in various shapes and sizes, each reflecting something of their hostel's personality. The YHA Helvellyn stamp shows an outline of



St Briabel's Castle



LEOMINSTER  
Youth Hostel yha



The Leominster Lion.



the Lakeland peak it's named after. The YHA Manchester stamp shows an interpretation of the city's iconic modern logo. And the YHA Helmsley stamp, for reasons that may have been clear at the time of its design, shows a hedgehog on a penny farthing. Some mysteries are perhaps best left unsolved.

In truth, not knowing what image you're going to be presented with when the ink-stamp hits your book is half the joy. The simple pleasure of collecting hostel stamps has always been a satisfying, no-frills way of recording adventures and keeping hold of travel memories. Long may it continue.



To find out more about our commemorative stamp book, please visit [yha.org.uk/give/stamp-book](http://yha.org.uk/give/stamp-book)



# Grand designs

## Our hostels span several centuries of different design trends

The 150-plus hostels in our network are united in terms of their values, their purpose and their spirit of welcome. But they differ from each other in countless ways. From Swiss-style chalets and former schools to restored manor houses and one-time lifeboat stations, they collectively cover almost every architectural period of the past few centuries.

The most contemporary of our hostels are purpose-built. The building that houses YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall, for example, earned the Selwyn Goldsmith Award for Universal Design. Many of our other properties, however, are defined by their historical character, with castles, shooting lodges and country piles all featuring in our network.

In short, they're places with stories to tell. And the best part? By staying with us, you'll have your own stories to tell, too.







YHA Pwll Deri



YHA Jordans



YHA Holmbury St Mary



YHA Wilderhope Manor



YHA Castleton Losehill Hall



YHA Tanners Hatch



YHA Street



YHA Eyam



# Founding figures



The official opening of Maeshafn youth hostel on 4th July 1931. Tom Fairclough, Rev HH Symonds and Berta Gough are all present.

**From the beginning, YHA has always been a grassroots organisation. Its formation came about thanks to people all over the country - of all ages and from all walks of life - who helped urge, propel and strengthen the youth hostels movement. Among them, however, a handful of founding figures had particular impact.**

## Tom Fairclough

When seven young friends from Liverpool sailed to Germany on a hostelling trip in the summer of 1929, they came back impressed. One of them, office clerk Tom Fairclough, was determined to act on his enthusiasm, and became instrumental in gathering early support for a youth hostels movement in the UK.

## Connie Alexander

Connie Alexander, one of Fairclough's travelling companions, was also an integral part of the early story. In December 1930 she was asked to preside over the opening of Britain's first youth hostel, Pennant Hall in Denbighshire, then later spent nine years as warden at Idwal Cottage in Snowdonia.



## Jack Catchpool

A social reformist, and passionate believer in the power of youth hostels to change young lives, Jack Catchpool was perhaps the single biggest force behind the development of UK hostels. He was deeply influential as YHA's first secretary, a position he took up after years as an aid worker in Russia and the Caucasus.

## Rev HH Symonds

Rev Symonds was a Liverpool headmaster, a fell-walker, and a keen advocate of the fact that young people learn best by gaining experience of the world around them. His credentials and enthusiasm meant he was asked to become YHA chairman - he turned down the role, but remained a strong supporter of the cause.



## Berta Gough

A great friend of Connie Alexander's and a part-time secretary for the Holiday Fellowship - which shared many of YHA's values - Berta Gough helped the fledgling hostel organisation develop an emphasis on sociability and low cost. Her diary records of early meetings remain invaluable.

## TA Leonard

As the founder of the Holiday Fellowship - which aimed to bring "holidays within reach of poorer folk" - Thomas Arthur Leonard was one of those who helped YHA establish itself as an organisation, and is today remembered as a pivotal figure in the British outdoor movement. He was also involved with the Ramblers.



## GM Trevelyan

The organisation's first president was historian and author GM Trevelyan. He brought with him valuable connections to the National Trust and a firm (if now rather dated) belief in the benefits of spartan youth hostels. A keen walker, he later became master of Trinity College at Cambridge University.

## Barclay Baron

YHA's inaugural chairman was a religious man, previously heavily involved in the famous WWI-era soldiers' refuge Talbot House, close to the Western Front in Belgium. His dream was to see YHA at the vanguard of things that were "lovely and of good report in the life of our nation".



# They've done the work, now we'll do the rest

In the wake of crisis, carers, key workers and struggling families need a break from the strain.

Project90 aims to provide brilliant adventures and respite breaks for young people and families who need them most.

Please support our special anniversary appeal.

With your help, we can restore health and hope to those hit hardest by the pandemic.

[yha.org.uk/give/project90](https://yha.org.uk/give/project90)

## £15

could help towards the cost of a full-board break for a young carer, giving them two precious days away from their worries and responsibilities

## £40

could pay for a night's stay for a key worker and their partner, after months putting themselves at risk just to do their job

## £90

could help a low-income family create happy memories on a break away, after so long without access to green space

YHA (England & Wales), Trevelyan House, Dimple Road, Matlock, Derbyshire DE4 3YH

Company No. 282555 Reg. Charity No. 306122



# WIN!

# New Jack Catchpool book

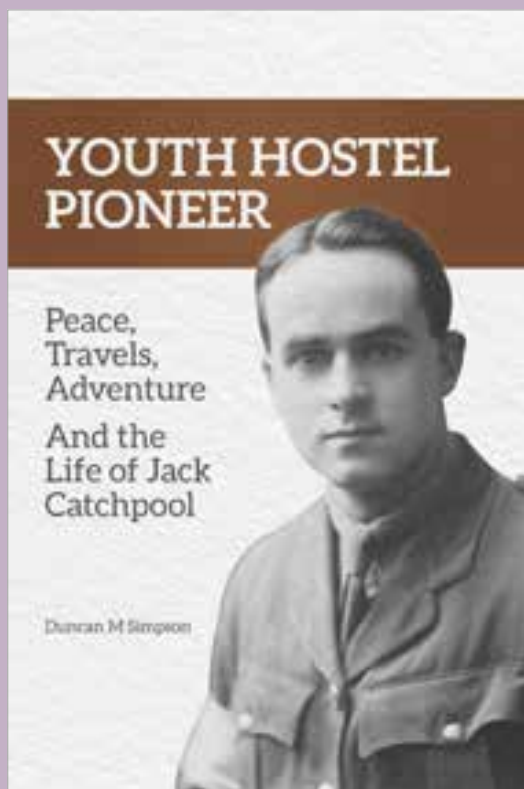
We're giving away five copies of Duncan M Simpson's comprehensive new book about Jack Catchpool, a pivotal figure in the early days of YHA. **Youth Hostel Pioneer: Peace, Travels, Adventure and the Life of Jack Catchpool** looks at the international influence of a man who left a remarkable impact on the world of youth hostelling. The book also includes a foreword from YHA Chief Executive James Blake.

To be in with a chance of winning a copy, simply answer the following question.

Jack Catchpool was YHA's first national secretary. His appointment, and YHA's formation, came about after seven friends from Liverpool made a hostelling trip to which European country? (The feature on pages 16 and 17 might provide a helping hand.)

- A Italy
- B Switzerland
- C Germany

Answers to [magazine@yha.org.uk](mailto:magazine@yha.org.uk)  
by 1st March 2021



# The history of YHA

This year marks our 90th anniversary as an organisation, but YHA's story stretches back even further - and it's seen more twists and turns than a switchback mountain trail. Here's the full timeline of our evolution, from the first years of the 20th century to the present day.

## 1909

German schoolteacher Richard Schirrmann comes up with the concept of Jugendherbergen, or youth hostels, after being caught in a thunderstorm while on a walking tour with his pupils.



## 1912

After initially accommodating guests in a converted classroom, Schirrmann opens his first permanent youth hostel in an old castle in Altena, a rural town close to Dortmund.

## 1919

In March, after being left a legacy of £1,000 by a philanthropist who died at the Battle of the Somme, the National Council of Social Service (NCSS) is formed in the UK. The organisation (these days known as the National Council of Voluntary Organisations) provides a focal point for like-minded non-profit groups. It goes on to become instrumental in YHA's formation in 1930.

## 1920s

Germany now has more than 2,000 youth hostels. Meanwhile, several UK organisations begin turning their attention to the lack of affordable accommodation for young people on their travels in the countryside.

## 1928

Following the suffrage movement of the early 20th century, the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act is passed, giving the vote to all British women over the age of 21. From its birth as an organisation, YHA will be founded on the equality of opportunity for both sexes.





## 1929

Young Liverpool office clerk Tom Fairclough, having heard rumours of the warm welcome to be had at Germany's hostels, travels out to the Rhineland for a summer walking holiday with six Merseyside friends. Among the group is shipping line worker Connie Alexander. By the time they return from Germany, Fairclough, Alexander and their friends resolve to set up a network of youth hostels in Britain.



## 1930

Connie Alexander persuades a group of her friends to try out the concept by spending Christmas at Pennant Hall, a large empty house on the River Conwy in North Wales. In the process, she becomes the warden of the first British youth hostel. Thirty people turn up, enjoying stuffed goose, winter walks, log fires and singsongs.



## 1930

Fairclough helps to generate wider interest in the idea. After a number of constructive meet-ups between different parties, a landmark meeting is held on 10th April, at the NCSS offices in Bedford Square, London. Thanks to the reach of the NCSS, those present include representatives from youth hostel groups in Liverpool and Manchester as well as more than two dozen other organisations, including the National Trust, the Wayfarers' Hostels Association, the National Union of Teachers, the Boy Scouts, the YWCA, the National Union of Students, the Federation of Rambling Clubs and the Cyclists' Touring Club. By the meeting's end, a national association for youth hostels - albeit one "without funds, without buildings, and without resources" - has been established.

## 1931

The first YHA president is historian and author GM Trevelyan, who has visions of youth hostels spaced 15 miles apart, linking regions together to encourage walking tours. The organisation's stated objective is "to help all, but especially young people to a greater knowledge, use and love of the countryside, particularly by providing hostels or other simple accommodation for them on their travels". Under Trevelyan's leadership, considerable progress is made. Some 31 hostels are open by the end of April, including two that are still welcoming guests today: YHA Street in Somerset, and YHA Idwal Cottage in North Wales.

## 1932

Having initially called itself the Youth Hostels Association of Great Britain, the organisation is renamed as the Youth Hostels Association (England and Wales), soon known simply as YHA. By March, 100 hostels are open in England and Wales, and the first YHA magazine, Rucksack, is published as a quarterly publication to cater for the already 20,000-strong membership base. Labour Prime Minister Ramsay Macdonald is a contributor to the first issue.

## 1932

On 24 April, a large group of ramblers and activists wilfully trespass on the moorland plateau of Kinder Scout, in the Peak District. The event, now known as the Mass Trespass, is a pivotal moment in opening up access to the countryside for ordinary people.

## 1935

The Ramblers' Association is officially created, in Liverpool. It goes on to have a long and rich history of working with YHA.

## 1938

The introduction of the Holidays With Pay Act enshrines in law the concept of paid leave, meaning workers across the country now have more freedom to travel and explore the UK. YHA, meanwhile, retains its longstanding rule that only those travelling under their own steam (initially just on foot or by bike, and later by canoe or on pony) can stay at its hostels.



## 1939-1945

By 1939 there are some 300 hostels in operation, but the Second World War years usher in a new chapter in YHA's history. Around a third of all its properties are requisitioned to accommodate soldiers on leave, or repurposed as ambulance training camps, makeshift schools or emergency feeding stations. They become places of safety for refugees, the sick, and those made homeless by air raids. Many hostels, however, remain open in some capacity, and by 1945 membership has reached a high of 153,751.

## 1959

YHA's new patron, a 33-year-old Queen Elizabeth II, opens the King George VI Memorial Hostel at Holland Park, London. "Here in the middle of the capital, the young of all nations can meet," she says, before unveiling a plaque in the hostel's dining room. "Here they may learn that mutual understanding and trust, for the lack of which their elders have so often and so bitterly suffered." The hostel goes on to remain part of the YHA family for more than 55 years.

## 1950

Buoyed by support from the Ministry of Education - which recognises how much hostels could contribute to the nation's health and welfare - YHA continues to assert itself as a socially vital organisation in the post-war years. By 1950, membership numbers have topped 200,000, with overnight stays numbering more than a million.



## 1951

The Peak District becomes the first officially designated National Park in the country. By the end of the 1950s, it has been joined by the Lake District, Snowdonia, Dartmoor, the Pembrokeshire Coast, North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales, Exmoor, Northumberland and the Brecon Beacons. Three further regions - the Broads, the New Forest and the South Downs - later become National Parks. Today, 12 of the 13 areas are bases for YHA hostels.

## 1971

A study by consumer organisation Which concludes that, other than camping or caravanning, hostels offer the only available accommodation for young people. At this time, a stay in a hostel for guests over 18 costs between 30p and 60p a night.



## 1973

The 'under your own steam' rule is discontinued. For the first time, those touring by private car are officially allowed to stay at YHA hostels. The YHA Handbook does, however, state that at busy times, motorists might be asked to move on.



## 1975

The organisation continues to fulfil its remit to change young lives. Over the course of the year, it records half a million bed-nights for school groups, amounting to around 29% of all hostel stays.

## 1979

The year's YHA Handbook still includes the instruction that "Each member is required to carry out hostel duties as directed by the warden". Over the course of the 1980s, however, chores and cleaning tasks are phased out, bringing to an end a period of some five decades during which guests spend part of each day sweeping, polishing, mopping or performing other jobs.



## 1987/88

YHA spends £1.2 million updating and renovating 24 of its key hostels as part of a new marketing push. Private rooms and modernised facilities are among the improvements.

## 1998

The first YHA website is launched. It takes the form of a basic guide where web users can browse accommodation by geographic region and facilities - but doesn't yet stretch to online booking, which arrives for the first time in 2004.

## 2001

The Foot and Mouth outbreak has a devastating impact on the UK countryside, forcing most hostels to close for the summer. For YHA, it represents the worst crisis since the Second World War.

## 2005

The organisation begins a programme of summer camps for under-18s. Thanks to assistance from the Big Lottery Fund, children from families on income support are able to pay just £25 for a four-night stay with activities. It is reaffirmation of one of YHA's original aims, to provide all young people with opportunity and adventure.

## 2014/15

YHA Eden Project, YHA Brighton and YHA Cardiff Central all open their doors for the first time, garnering rave reviews and cementing YHA's reputation for high-quality budget accommodation. The portfolio now includes everything from shepherd's huts and beachside hideaways to camping pods and state-of-the-art city hostels.

## 2020

The coronavirus pandemic forces a complete closure of the network for recreational use, for the first time in the organisation's history. Hostels and facilities are offered to help assist the NHS, key workers and vulnerable members of society. To mark YHA's 90th anniversary year, meanwhile, a new 10-year strategy is launched. Titled "Adventure. For the first time and a lifetime", its focus is to reach more people, change more lives and strengthen YHA's position as a trailblazing national charity and social enterprise.



## 2013

In October, YHA patron Queen Elizabeth II - now a great-grandmother - visits Sussex to unveil the brand new YHA South Downs.

## 2019

An impact review shows that, over the course of the previous 12 months, YHA has welcomed almost 940,000 overnight guests. More than 400,000 of them are young people staying with their families, schools or other groups, and more than 100,000 take part in YHA-led activities.

# Turning the page

Much like our hostels, the YHA magazines like the one you're reading now have gone through various iterations over the decades. They've always aimed to inspire and inform. Here's a selection.





# “Breakfasted, Booted and ON THE MARCH”

By Professor G.M. Trevelyan

The Youth Hostels movement has been successfully launched in this country, owing to the devotion and wisdom of its leaders in the centre and in the localities, and owing to the fact that it has arisen to meet a great demand produced by the circumstances of the age. Nor should foreign example be omitted from the catalogue of chief causes at our coming into existence here. One great difficulty had to be faced, the difficulty of raising money owing to the unprecedented financial stresses that unfortunately coincided with the period of our birth. Yet that too, has been to a large extent, though not completely overcome, partly owing to the generous aid of the Carnegie Trust, partly to the enthusiasm and self sacrifice of many men and women.

## HOSTELS, BEDS, AND MEMBERS.

Here at least we are in existence, with some 20,000 members, a record of some 100,000 overnight receptions of guests in various hostels, which together number some 150, large and small, very fairly scattered over England and Wales. And now we are to have our own magazine – sure sign that we are breakfasted, booted and on the march. All accounts that I have heard from many different sources in different parts of the country go to show that we are actually catering for the type of young men and women, that we set out to serve, hard-walking (or hard bicycling)

folk, who take their holidays strenuously and joyously, without slacking or rioting. We have started well. And in these cases it is the first step that counts most, though there are plenty of steps still ahead to be taken.

## OUR PLAN. YOUTH AND ITS COUNTRY.

What is the ultimate purpose and need of Youth Hostels? It is to bring together two sets of phenomena that our modern manner of life has tragically divided:

1. scores of thousands of young men and women, full of energy of body, mind and soul, but cramped all year long in the sordid surroundings of the modern city, largely for want of cheap accommodation for holiday tours.
2. the incomparable mountains, rivers, woods, meadows, paths and hedgerows of the land with the greatest variety of loveliness in all of Europe, the land best fitted for the walker under the blue, the cloudy, or the starry sky.

That these two phenomena, these splendid human beings and this splendid countryside should be kept apart – so near and yet so far – is a fault that cries to heaven. Here we have helped to supply a practical remedy. It is begun – a beginning absurdly small compared with what is wanted, but yet a beginning and on the right lines.

This call-to-arms appeared in the first issue of our first ever magazine, YHA Rucksack, in winter 1932. It was written by GM Trevelyan, our inaugural president.

For the past five years, our magazines have featured exclusive interviews with some truly inspirational characters. Here's a selection of the messages they've shared with us.



Chris Packham, presenter & naturalist

**“To stimulate interest in the natural environment you’ve got to meet it, you’ve got to touch it and feel it. Direct contact with wildlife stays with you and shapes and fuels your future interest. It’s so important that young people have that opportunity. You don’t have to go to the Serengeti, or Antarctica. You can sit and watch a caterpillar turn into a butterfly and that’s going to make the difference.”**



Sarah Outen, athlete & adventurer

**“What keeps me going in the hardest moments? When things are really tough, or scary, you know they’re not going to last forever, so if you can keep holding on for the better times, that’s really powerful. You have to celebrate small successes and the fact that you’re still going.”**



Simon Reeve, author & presenter

**“The whole ethos of YHA is very much to be there in nature, with your brothers and sisters on this planet, experiencing the best Earth has to offer. That’s a bloody wonderful thing! We live in a country where there are staggering sights to be seen and experienced.”**



Cerys Matthews, DJ & musician

**“For children, the biggest brains on the planet are making games and programmes that are addictive, so it’s our responsibility to shoehorn them out to where the real miracles of life are, which is in nature.”**



Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill, Olympic champion

**“Always love what you do. If you enjoy and are passionate about what you do, you’ll have success - and you’ll also take a lot from it.”**



Levison Wood, explorer & author

“I’d encourage anyone who wants to go and explore, to do it. You don’t need to be a full-time adventurer – anyone can undertake mini-expeditions or go on their own journey.”



Stuart Maconie, DJ & author

“Being outdoors encourages us to abandon the self-absorption and entitlement that technological culture has created. You’re not really that bothered about a Twitter spat when you’re on Sharp Edge or getting a face full of spray on Lizard Point.”



Ellie Simmonds, Paralympic champion

“If you’re experiencing something new, take it all in and try your best to have fun while doing it. If you wake up and don’t enjoy what you do, then what’s the point in doing it? Do something which makes you excited to wake up in the morning more days than not.”



Dwayne Fields, presenter & explorer

“If you can look at someone from a completely different world to you, someone who looks completely different, and think ‘actually, we can have a shared experience’, it’s a great leveller. I’m always saying that nature doesn’t care who you are, what you look like or where you come from. The moment you’re out there, it rains on you just as much as it rains on the next person, and if it’s cold for you it’s damn sure cold for the next person as well.”



Julia Bradbury, presenter

“In this digital age, it’s vital to connect with the real world. All those beautiful pictures on Instagram of amazing nature and wildlife – they’re real, and they need to be seen and experienced to be appreciated. Nature and the outdoors can help put your own problems in perspective.”



# All together now...

The YHA Songbook was first published in 1952, and it remains a fondly remembered part of our past.



Picture the scene. It's the 1950s, and you've arrived one autumn evening at a YHA hostel in the Lakes. The welcome is a warm one. The warden takes your details, someone wanders past with a pot of tea, while drifting from the common room comes the sound of thirty voices chorusing the words to... hang on... is that 'Green Grow The Rushes-Ho'?

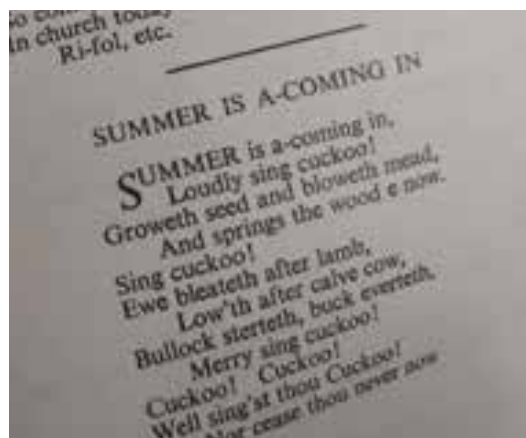
The first YHA Songbook was published back in 1952. Many of the songs it contains might now have passed from popular culture, but the communal sentiment behind the idea continues to be an uplifting one. This is how the book was prefaced:

"Many a common room sing-song has been marred because few of the hostellers know more than the first verses of the songs, and all too frequently the item that begins as a rousing chorus ends as a faltering solo. A few keen singers find a place in their rucksack or saddle-bag for a song book, but if as a result some half-dozen song books are available, it is usually found that they are all different and even the songs that are in common to several appear in differing versions.

To overcome these hindrances to hostel harmony, this YHA Song Book is published."

It was an era when common room sing-songs were by no means unusual. To give some idea of how popular the book became, its initial print run of 10,000 copies had to be repeated in full seven times during the following 12 years, before a further run of 20,000 copies in 1966.

Looking through a copy of the 1966 edition today ('Price One Shilling'), it's notable how much variety there is among

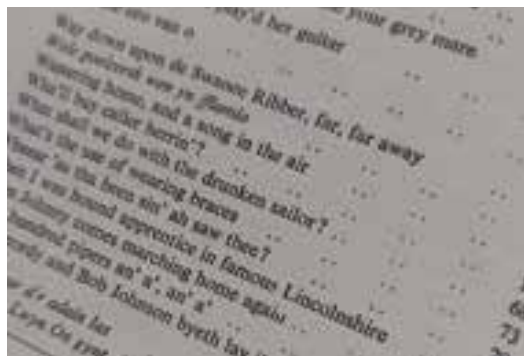




the 94 songs in its pages. As well as ageless examples such as God Save The Queen, Auld Lang Syne and - well why not? - Old MacDonald Had A Farm, there's also space for French tunes ('Alouette, gentille alouette'), Australian folk songs ('Waltzing Matilda') and an eyebrow-raising assortment of now obscure shanties, ballads and campfire singalongs. The Saucy Sailor, anyone? The final 10 pages are given over to Welsh-language songs.

Only the lyrics were included, the thinking presumably being that there would always be someone on hand who knew the tunes. Copies of the songbooks are now coveted online (expect to pay more than a shilling!) and it's entertaining to imagine the role they played in hostel life up and down the country. How many friendships and romances might have been formed over a rousing version of The Lincolnshire Poacher?

It's also fun to speculate what sort of songs might be included in a modern version of the book. Certainly, some of the lyrics in the original editions are rooted in a different time, although if there's a common theme throughout, it's a celebration of nature, the



countryside, the seasons and the outdoors - as seen in this excerpt from a song called The Oak & The Ash. Amen to that.

**Where lads and young lasses  
are making the hay  
The merry bells ring  
And the birds sweetly sing  
And the maidens and meadows  
are pleasant and gay.  
Oh! The oak and the ash  
And the bonny ivy tree  
They flourish at home  
In my own country.**

# Let's go!

**Welcome to our special section for our youngest hostellers.** The next five pages of this bumper issue are packed with fun features and activities for our most important guests - that's you!

YHA began all the way back in 1930 (the same year that Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, was born!), and children have been staying in our hostels ever since. In a normal year, around 400,000 young people visit our hostels across England and Wales. That's a lot of buttered toast and pillow fights!

Some of you might even be reading this in a hostel right now. Take a look around you and imagine how it might have looked 90 years ago. How do you think it might have been different? And - if you're feeling really imaginative - what sort of things do you think children will find when they come and stay at our hostels in 90 years' time?

*Happy reading!*



# Amazing animal journeys

This magazine is called *The Journey*. We gave it that name because staying with YHA is all about discovering new places and having new experiences. But we humans aren't the only ones to make special journeys. Here are four extraordinary animals who make incredible journeys of their own...



## Arctic Tern

Arctic terns aren't big birds - they weigh less than a bar of soap - but twice a year they fly from one end of the world to the other. Every spring, they fly 44,000 miles from Antarctica to Greenland. Then, every autumn, they fly back!



## Wildebeest

The Great Migration takes place every year on the plains of Africa, when more than a million wildebeest walk for 1,000 miles to find fresh grasslands to graze on. They have to deal with all sorts of dangers along the way - including crocodiles!

## Leatherback sea turtles

When these enormous turtles arrive in the Caribbean each year to lay their eggs, they've made an epic journey across the Atlantic Ocean to get there. Year after year, the same turtles come back to the same beaches - their memories are excellent!



## Red Admiral butterfly

Have you ever seen a Red Admiral butterfly? These handsome insects can be seen across the UK in the summer, but although they're only tiny, many of them have fluttered over the sea to get here, all the way from Europe or North Africa!



# 90 fun ideas

On our 90th anniversary, we thought it would be the perfect time to list 90 of our favourite things to do.

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1. Climbing a tree
2. Baking a cake
3. Listening for woodpeckers
4. Playing an instrument
5. Learning a new language
6. Eating something you've cooked yourself
7. Sleeping in a tent
8. Walking through the woods
9. Searching for owls at dusk
10. Watching the stars at night
11. Playing Poohsticks
12. Laughing so hard your tummy hurts
13. Keeping the beach clean
14. Making new friends at a hostel
15. Reading a book in one go
16. Wrapping up warm on a cold day
17. Having an early morning swim
18. Toasting marshmallows on a fire
19. Building a den

20. Skimming stones
21. Hunting for fossils
22. Sharing snacks with people you love
23. Walking to the top of a hill
24. Making a snowman
25. Cycling through the countryside
26. Rock-pooling
27. Building a sandcastle
28. Exploring a cave



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29. Climbing a tall building
30. Spotting butterflies
31. Making a home for wildlife
32. Dancing in bare feet
33. Visiting a castle
34. Having a picnic on the beach
35. Exploring Roman ruins
36. Singing in the rain
37. Planting fruit and veg
38. Collecting conkers
39. Smelling flowers
40. Going on a cool train ride
41. Keeping a nature diary

42. Staying up past your bedtime
43. Having breakfast with friends
44. Watching wildlife through binoculars
45. Splashing in puddles
46. Telling jokes
47. Watching the sunrise
48. Watching the sunset
49. Playing I-Spy
50. Being kind
51. Running as fast as you can
52. Hearing thunder
53. Dreaming about future adventures
54. Being tickled
55. Learning a new song
56. Giving someone a surprise present
57. Learning about other countries
58. Helping the environment
59. Playing a new sport
60. Making a paper aeroplane
61. Doing a treasure hunt
62. Spending ages on a trampoline
63. Writing a story
64. Doing a charity challenge
65. Going on a bug hunt
66. Taking a dog for a long walk
67. Making up a funny poem
68. Going kayaking
69. Making a sculpture out of recycling



18



75

- 70. Meeting people who live on other continents
- 71. **Making popcorn**
- 72. Smelling the earth after it's been raining
- 73. **Being really quiet**
- 74. Being really noisy
- 75. Finding something amazing in a museum
- 76. Lending a great book to a friend
- 77. Playing hide and seek
- 78. Looking at the sea from a clifftop
- 79. **Watching the snow come down**
- 80. Finding shapes in the clouds
- 81. Staring at the moon through a telescope
- 82. **Flying a kite**
- 83. Watching fish in a river
- 84. **Spotting a seal**
- 85. Breathing mountain air
- 86. Sailing to an island
- 87. Listening to brilliant old music
- 88. Listening to brilliant new music
- 89. **Trying to juggle**
- 90. Making up brand new words

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## City, coast or countryside

We have hostels all across England and Wales, from the biggest cities to the most beautiful beaches and mountains. Take this quiz to find out which type of hostel you're best suited to!



**You have a free afternoon. What would you most like to do?**

- a Go rock-pooling and swimming in the sea
- b Visit a really cool museum and explore a market
- c Climb an amazing mountain and feel the wind in your hair

**What do you like wearing best?**

- a Swimming costume (and ice cream on your chin)
- b Jeans and a t-shirt
- c Hiking boots and a comfy fleece



**What's your favourite view when you're having a packed lunch?**

- a The sun over the ocean
- b A park full of interesting people
- c Valleys full of rivers and woods



**Who's your favourite celebrity?**

- a Sarah Outen, who rowed across the Atlantic
- b Michael Palin, who has visited cities around the world
- c Bear Grylls, who explores the great outdoors

**Mainly a**

You love the coast!

**Mainly b**

You're a fan of cities!

**Mainly c**

You're a countryside champ!

**Mixed answers:**

Perfect - you enjoy everywhere!

Why not take a look at the map on page 54 and plan your next adventure?





# My hostel file

My dream hostel would have...

I would name it...

I would stay there with...

My favourite outdoor activities are...

My favourite bedtime book is...

My ideal hostel breakfast is...

I love visiting new places because...

I love making new friends because...

My motto for life is...

# Where is...?

Match these English and Welsh landmarks to their locations on the map

- The Shard
- Mount Snowdon
- Anfield Football Stadium
- Lake Windermere
- The Eden Project
- Hadrian's Wall
- Canterbury Cathedral
- Dartmoor National Park
- Royal Shakespeare Theatre



## Wordsearch



Can you find these hostel-themed words in the grid?

- Adventure
- Outdoors
- Pillow
- Breakfast
- Discovery
- Toothbrush
- Activity
- Duvet

# 21 adventures for 2021

## 1 Find the county's highest point

Wherever you find yourself in 2021, turn it into a little treasure hunt by reaching the highest point of the county you're in. If you're in Cumbria, that means climbing Scafell Pike, at 978 metres; if you're in Derbyshire, it means navigating the 636-metre Kinder Scout. And if you're not in such lofty counties, the chances are you'll be given an excuse to visit somewhere not usually on the agenda. In Buckinghamshire, the county top (as they're known) is Haddington Hill in the Chilterns; in Norfolk, it's Beacon Hill. And the lowest ceremonial county top? High Holborn in London. Still worth a visit... but do make sure you're not in someone's backyard!

## 2 Plunge into wild swimming

Or as it used to be known... swimming. Whether it's Hampstead Waters on Hampstead Heath, a dip in the Thames near Oxford, or a hidden cove on Anglesey, the options for wild swimming are endless. And once you take that first plunge, chances are you'll be hooked, obsessing over Ordnance Survey maps for little splodges of blue, linking up walks and persuading friends that actually, once you take the first dip it's a doddle. Wild swimmers become evangelists and with good reason: this is a soulful pursuit. The Wild Swimming book series by Wild Things Publishing is a fantastic place to start. You'll find a spot near almost all of our hostels!





### 3 Join a pilgrimage

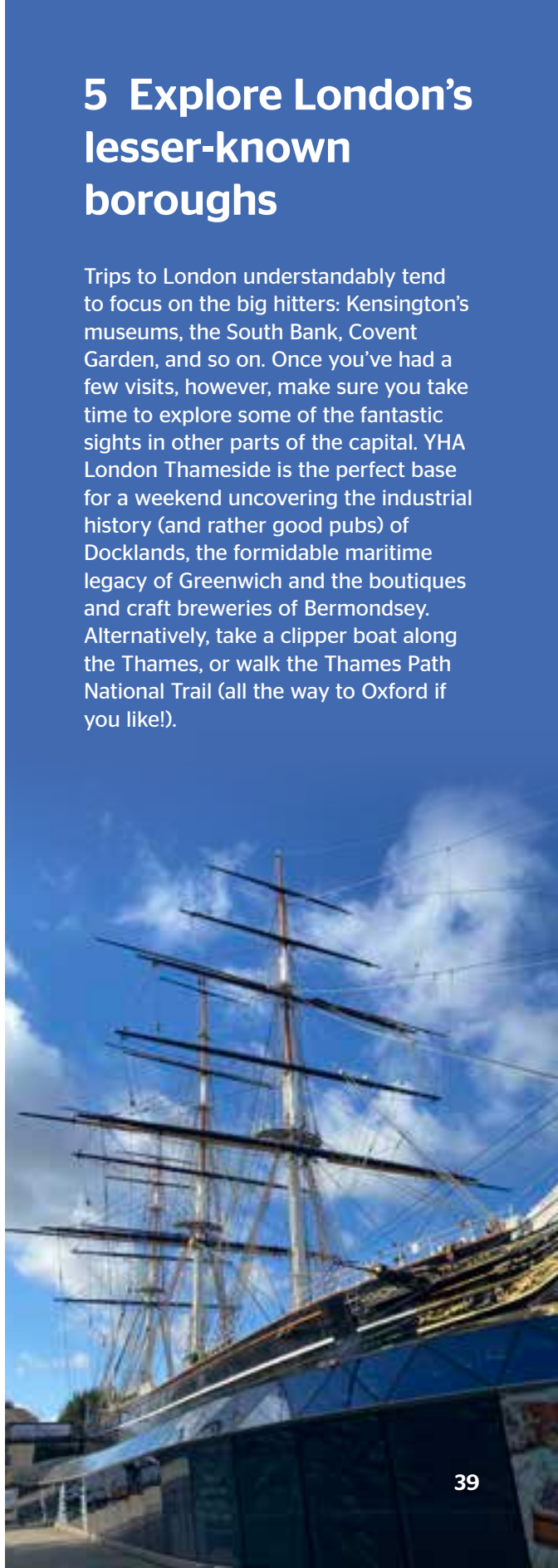
Eh? Join a what? Even if you put your religion down as Jedi Knight in the last census, delving into the remarkable history of pilgrim routes across England and Wales leads you to new places. You'll be following ancient footpaths across the country. The Saint's Way in Cornwall follows a route from north to south, thought to have been where pilgrims from Ireland and Wales trod before crossing to France. Elsewhere, thousands of pilgrims a year used to hike to Bardsey Island, known as the Island of 20,000 Saints, off the Llŷn Peninsula, while the classic Pilgrim's Way covers a saintly 119 miles between Canterbury and Winchester.

### 4 Brush up on your map reading skills

There's never an excuse not to keep practising your map and compass skills, whether you're navigating the centre of a town, plotting bearings across the local parks or exploring some of the wildest places in the UK. They're skills that need to be exercised, and should become second nature (especially if you find yourself in the middle of remote moorland!). The website of the Ordnance Survey is a great place to start, explaining the basics simply and practically. Better still, why not join one of the friendly events run by British Orienteering, or perhaps take a map and compass reading course at the National Mountain Centre at Plas y Brenin, in Snowdonia?

### 5 Explore London's lesser-known boroughs

Trips to London understandably tend to focus on the big hitters: Kensington's museums, the South Bank, Covent Garden, and so on. Once you've had a few visits, however, make sure you take time to explore some of the fantastic sights in other parts of the capital. YHA London Thameside is the perfect base for a weekend uncovering the industrial history (and rather good pubs) of Docklands, the formidable maritime legacy of Greenwich and the boutiques and craft breweries of Bermondsey. Alternatively, take a clipper boat along the Thames, or walk the Thames Path National Trail (all the way to Oxford if you like!).



## 6 Make a hostel-to-hostel walk

There are dozens of hostels across the network that can be linked together by day-walks. Hostels in the Lake District and Peak District, as well as those along the Pennine Way and the South West Coast Path, are all well suited to these handy walks. Among the many advantages of hostel-to-hostel walking are that you can travel light, not to mention the fact that there'll always be a friendly face and a slice of cake waiting for you when you arrive. You could also try linking up hostels along running routes, or even rivers. See the network map at [yha.org.uk](http://yha.org.uk) and plan your own route, or see [livemore.yha.org.uk/](http://livemore.yha.org.uk/) for inspiration.



## 7 Charge up the e-bike

The popularity of electric bikes is exploding, and with good reason: it's an egalitarian sport that opens up vast swathes of the countryside to mere mortals. No longer do you need to be clad in Lycra and the owner of a carbon seat post to head up some of Yorkshire's highest passes; instead a safety helmet and a little touch of technology is all you need to enjoy the freedom of cycling. Most places that hire bikes will have electric options, and our staff in hostels will be able to point you to the most reputable places. Many of our hostels have safe places and maintenance stations for bikes, too.

## 8 Fundraise for a better future

One in four children in England and Wales live in poverty, 800,000 young people live with a disability or a life-threatening illness, 178,000 young children are carers, and 100,000 children don't have their own homes to live in. YHA exists to improve the health and wellbeing of all we serve - but especially young people with challenging lives. Now, more than ever, we need your help. As there are more people that need ours. You can actively fundraise at challenge events, donate directly, or raise money in your own way to help the lives of these young people. Visit [yha.org.uk/give](https://yha.org.uk/give) to find out how you can help today.

## 10 Take on a new 220-mile bicycle route

A brand new cycling route has been launched by Cycling UK. The off-road route follows the King Alfred's Way, a circular route that connects the North Downs Way, the South Downs Way, Ridgeway and Thames Path National Trails. The Cycling UK charity has spent three years bringing it together and launched in August 2020. Sophie Gordon, the Cycling UK campaigns officer behind the creation of King Alfred's Way, said: "There's no need to fly or, for many, even travel far for a challenging trip. King Alfred's Way is 220 miles of literal ups and downs looping through a quintessential southern England made up of thatched cottages, Iron Age hill forts and stone circles."

## 9 Read up on nature writing

We can't always be outside, so when a cup of tea and a good book is called for, why not pick up some of the best nature writing around? We've asked around, to share a few team recommendations to add to your reading list. *Waterlog* by Roger Deakin is one of the all-time classic nature books. It's a memoir of sorts based around Deakin's love of swimming in wild places. His *Wildwood* book about trees is similarly spectacular. Jessica J Lee is an environmental historian and nature writer whose books *Turning: A Swimming Memoir* and *Two Trees Make a Forest: On Memory, Migration and Taiwan* offer an unexpected twist on the genre. Meanwhile, Robert Macfarlane's near-peerless books take you on literary journeys through the countryside - or even, with his book *Underland: A Deep Time Journey*, underneath it. And one of his favourite authors will also become yours: Nan Shepherd. Her book *The Living Mountain* is one of the most outstanding books about mountains ever written.





## 11 Take over a whole hostel

Do you fancy being the king or queen of your own castle? YHA St Briavels Castle, an 800-year-old castle, is just one of many of our hostels available for YHA Exclusive Hire. It has eight bedrooms, with space for up to 50 guests. Ghosts stay for free. But it's not just castles. We also have barns and farmhouses, cabins and lodges, cottages and mansions, a former army base, a converted mill and a shooting lodge. Some are teeny with just a few bedrooms and some are, well, significantly bigger. Whether it's in the Lake District or Snowdonia, Dartmoor or Sussex, you'll find somewhere wherever you want to explore. Many properties have amenities for babies and children, and most accept dogs too. To find the full list of properties, visit [exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk](https://exclusive-hire.yha.org.uk)



## 12 Bikepack Britain

Bikepacking is one of the fastest-growing activities in the UK. And no wonder. Imagine the liberation of packing what you need into a pannier and setting out to explore the country. It's complete freedom. Staying in youth hostels along the way also means there's no need to pack a tent, sleeping bags, sleeping mats... we could go on. The National Cycle Network is a great way to plan safe routes around Britain, and many pass close to our hostels. With a good bike and a judiciously packed bit of luggage, you can freewheel somewhere completely new.



## 13 Take a slow journey

Slowing down. It's something most of us have been forced to do recently. So why not take that outlook into your holidays? A slow journey is one that allows you to focus on your trip in a deeper way. Pick a hostel and use that as a base to discover every inch of the nearby area. It encourages a focus on the minutiae: the birdlife that swoops into view on a gentle stroll, the passing glimpse of a vole or stoat, the subtle rhythms of the changing seasons, the chance to stop and chat to another walker or cyclist, the wet afternoon lingering in the pub playing Trivial Pursuit. In short, the English and Welsh countryside could have been designed for slow travel.



## 14 Bag some new peaks

You've heard of the Scottish Munros and the Lake District's 214 Wainwrights - as described in Alfred Wainwright's Pictorial Guide to the Lakeland Fells - but how about the Birketts, some 514 hills in the Lake District National Park over 100 feet? Or the HuMPs (Hundred and upwards Metre Prominence), the Simms (mountains on the British Isles over 600 metres), the Hewitts (hills in England, Wales and Ireland over two thousand feet, or the Nuttalls (mountains in England and Wales that are over 2,000 feet with a relative height of at least 49 feet)? Oh, and then there's the Deweys, the Dodds and the Hardys. See them as frameworks to explore the countryside... or perhaps make up your own. How about the YHAs - the mountains you can reach within five miles of our hostels!?

## 15 Visit a rewilding project

Ennerdale, with YHA Black Sail at its heart, is currently undergoing a significant rewilding project. No, we're not seeing the reintroduction of wolves and black bears to the Lake District fells, but instead the balance of nature taking its own course through the valley. For more than a decade, Ennerdale has mainly been left alone, with only minimal intervention, and it has resulted in a more diverse landscape. Native broadleaved trees are extending, for example. In mid-Wales, Cambrian Wildwood ([cambrianwildwood.org](http://cambrianwildwood.org)) is restoring natural habitats and overseeing the return of native animals, including the pine marten and red squirrel. It's hoped the beaver and wild boar will also be reintroduced. Elsewhere, the Knepp Castle Estate in West Sussex has been intensively farmed since the Second World War, but rewilding has seen excellent results in biodiversity.





## 16 Discover our cabins...

... and our camping pods and tipis, our safari tents and shepherd's huts, our chalets, bell tents and land pods. What's a land pod, you say? This is camping for people who don't like roughing it. Each pod sleeps four, on double mattresses and futons. They're wonderfully cosy and protected against the elements - and you can still use the hostel facilities. You'll find them at our hostels in the Lake District, South Downs, Cornwall, among other places. Our deluxe cabins, meanwhile, offer well-insulated cosy stays with en-suite bathrooms at YHA Hawkshead and YHA Canterbury. You'll also find a luxury African-inspired safari tent at YHA Tanners Hatch, tipis at our properties in the Lake District, and bell tents across the network. They're perfect for family escapes.

## 17 Take to the river

After years spent poring over Ordnance Survey maps plotting routes along footpaths and bridleways, maybe it's time to start following the blue lines. Whether it's by kayak, canoe or stand-up paddleboard, exploring the rivers and canals of England and Wales offers a whole new angle to the countryside, as well as its towns and villages. The superb Canal and River Trust has a wealth of information on the best places to go, how to start on the river, and even where to go for riverside walks.

## 18 Fall for a tree

We're only just discovering the secret life of trees. Recent research into the 'wood wide web' has revealed more about the underground network of roots, fungi and bacteria that helps trees to help one another. Mycorrhizal fungi has a symbiotic relationship with plants, including trees: if one is ill, other trees are able to share sugars and even warn of danger. The National Trust's book *Britain's Tree Story: The history and legends of Britain's ancient trees* showcases some of the country's most famous and remarkable trees, all free to visit. The Druid's Grove near Dorking, Surrey, has trees dating back 3,000 years which were almost certainly used for pagan ritual, while the Poem Tree in Oxfordshire still bears the inscription by Joseph Tubb from 1844 or 1845. It starts: "As up the hill with labr' ing steps we tread/Where the twin Clumps their sheltering branches spread".





## 19 Scramble a mountain

Scrambling is an activity that falls somewhere between hillwalking and climbing. It is often an imposing pastime for the uninitiated, but with a little guidance from an expert, it's an exhilarating way to explore the uplands of England and Wales. In The Lake District (Jack's Rake is pictured), Peak District and Snowdonia, there are dozens of scrambling routes, all graded one to three. One is the easiest, with the use of a rope unlikely, but that doesn't take into account exposure. Snowdon's knife-edge Crib Goch ridge is a Grade 1 scramble, though it's not for the faint-hearted. There are plenty of guides in these areas who will safely take you into the mountains to learn the ropes (or not) of scrambling.

## 20 Learn your outdoor first aid

Now's the time! There are dozens of outdoor first aid courses on offer across the country, and often at a great price. The outdoor first aid course covers all sorts of issues that people can encounter in remote areas. By the end of it, you'll be confident dealing with bites and stings, dressing wounds and improvising a sling, and you'll learn what to do when an incident's particularly serious, to assist the rescue teams. And believe it or not, a first aid course can also be a pretty fun day or two out.

## 21 Plot a pub walk

There is little more satisfying than a well-earned pint at the end of an arduous walk. In the winter, with a fire's blaze flickering in your glass, it's one of life's great pleasures. Our countryside is filled with old pubs and coaching inns, some dating back centuries. Others have formed part of our mountain culture, becoming a focal point for climbers and explorers over the years. YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass, a former pub and hotel, even saw George Mallory and other mountaineering heroes grace its rooms. In the Lake District, try the Old Dungeon Ghyll in Langdale, or the Wasdale Head Inn. The latter is a pub with the convincing claim of being the birthplace of English climbing.



# The biggest issues

Lord John Bird MBE is a campaigner, social entrepreneur and life peer. He is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of The Big Issue, and a lifelong advocate of YHA. He spoke to The Journey while at a critical point in helping to push through the Ride Out Recession Alliance, which aims to develop practical steps and solutions to prevent families losing their homes.

## **Q** When was the first time you stepped foot inside a hostel?

I was around 15 and at a boys' reformatory school. The headmaster was keen on the outdoors and he took us to YHA Edale. Where I lived in London there were no trees, no hills. We had Kensington Gardens nearby, but there was no nature. All the trees were in people's gardens. Going to Edale was just absolutely phenomenal, and I've been returning there now for 58 years, as well as going to other places such as YHA Blaxhall in Suffolk, YHA Ilam Hall and YHA Ironbridge Coalport, as well as dozens of others, some in the cities and some in the countryside.

## **Q** YHA exists to enrich the lives of all people, but especially the young. How important is it that young people experience the outdoors?

It's really, really important that young people get the chance to experience nature, that they get the chance to be wet and cold, walking over hills and doing all those sorts of things. It's so essential because every one of the people I was with at Edale - there were about 12 or 14 of us by the time we got back to our institution - we were all talking about how we wanted to go back. We then started going for

long walks at the weekend, going camping, and going to other youth hostels in Kent and Surrey. It started a process, and it carried on through my life. Then I became a father and I started to bring my children, and they'd stay in youth hostels, and now I have another family and I take them and we go caving and raft-building, stuff like that. It's important for me, and virtually everybody I know from a disenfranchised background has greatly enjoyed the experience of being in Mother Nature.

## **Q** You've mentioned a stay at a boys' reformatory school. How did you end up there?

Well, I got caught! I started from behind really. I was born into a London-Irish slum. My family were from Ireland, there was no money, there were shared toilets with seven other families. We didn't have a bathroom, there were rats, mice, lice, everything. I loved the place because it was where I was born into, but then my parents couldn't pay the rent, so we were made homeless. We then lived in a void in my grandmother's cottage, round the corner. It sounds very nice, but it wasn't. Then we were in a condemned house, and then in a Catholic orphanage. I started to get into trouble when we left the orphanage and moved into a council flat in another part of London. I was getting caught for shoplifting, stealing bikes and even stealing cars at a very young age. I was breaking into



THE BIG ISSUE

£3

**WE'RE  
BACK!**

**GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN**

And thanks a million for sticking with us through it all





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offices, vandalism, arson, running away from school and running away from home. I was in a constant seesaw relationship with the police, with teachers and everybody. I hated authority, I hated schools and I left school at the age of 15 with virtually no skills, certainly none that any employer would be interested in. I was hardly able to read because I was dyslexic. The Approved School, as they called them then, the reformatory, was an attempt at turning me into more of a citizen. They gave you the chance to do things, so I learnt a bit of printing there, I learnt brickwork, I learnt about gardens and about nature, I learnt other things that were very useful. They encouraged you to go out and sleep in the countryside, go to hostels, go climbing.

I was an incredibly disturbed post-war child, and there was a lot of us like me. Youth hostels were just home from home. I go to

youth hostels and I can see that there are people that are like me, who, many years later, are trying to find their way in a different relationship with the world. Youth hostels offer an opportunity of water, hills and outdoor pursuits. It's all incredibly important for young people who are looking for a way out of the grief that they are in.

**Q YHA was able to give help to homeless people during lockdown. How do you see their fortunes faring in the future, and how can social enterprises help?**

Right now, there's the homeless and there's the soon to be homeless. The homeless who the government put their arms around were the rough sleepers, they brought most of

them into hotels and hostels. I was really, pleasantly surprised that YHA was doing that because it was a very very necessary thing to do; I was glad the YHA that I greatly admire was doing it.

So then that ended and some people had been housed and some people hadn't been housed. Street homelessness is not out of our system yet and in order to get it out of our system we would have to face up to some very serious pieces of understanding. One of them is that virtually all of the people, including those on the street, come from the same kind of social background and have had failures in their lives, like me, almost from the moment that they're born. They've had problems from parenting, problems with sociability, problems with poverty. You have to do something really, really serious and I don't see the serious thinking. I see a lot of stopgaps. It is a major problem and has been going on virtually all of my life.

Since I started The Big Issue 29 years ago, I've been advocating to the Government that they should not leave people on the streets. It invited abuse and accepted the fact that the streets are often an extension of the A & E department, or an extension of the mental health wing of the asylums that they got rid of in the eighties.

I was campaigning in the eighties, before The Big Issue, with lots of other people, saying if you close down the mental health facilities, then the streets, the prisons and the hospitals will all fill up, which is exactly what's happened. Most of the people I know of are people who need mental and physical health issues to be sorted out, and I don't see anybody rushing to that area.

The other big issue is that probably in the region of about half a million families will be evicted because of COVID-19 induced poverty; you're going to have hundreds of thousands of people slipping into homelessness. That won't be the usual people who would have come from poverty, they'll be ordinary Joes and Marys who worked all their lives and lost their jobs

through no fault of their own and are out on the streets. For that reason I've been converting The Big Issue into a big campaign, around the Ride Out Recession Alliance, that is to get everybody, including YHA, interested in working with us, and selling the idea that if a family falls into homelessness it might cost two or three times what it would cost if you kept them in their homes, paid their rent or mortgage, and trained them up for new jobs, by creating new jobs and by getting them back into the workforce so they can support themselves. We are in a delicate place.

## **Q** Alongside the Ride Out Recession Alliance, what else is big on your agenda?

I've got a bill going through both houses called The Wellbeing of Future Generations. This is because there are so many laws and legislations going through, and that have gone through over the years, which echo the laws of unintended consequences. You can create a law in one decade and 10 years later, 20 years later, you find things have gone wrong. The Wellbeing of Future Generations is trying to pass everything through the prism of 'Is this good for children yet born? Is it good for 50 years' time? Is it good for 10 years' time?'. And having gone through Covid-19, it's blatantly obvious that one of the big things that we should have been doing before the pandemic was getting rid of as much poverty as possible. The hospitals were already full up, at 85% capacity, and it was full of old people, people in need, people who had suffered because of their lack of ability, due to the food that they ate or jobs that they did. Hospitals were a kind of social sponge that soaked up and hid all of these problems around poverty. What we're trying to work for, and on behalf of future generations, is to work for today and tomorrow immediately by keeping people in their homes, not allowing them to slip into homelessness, because that would destroy them.

[bigissue.com](http://bigissue.com)

# An exciting decade

**At YHA, our work has always been about connecting people and places. About granting access to nature and the outdoors for the people who need it most. About providing the opportunity for adventure. About unlocking potential. About changing lives.**

When we sat down in 2019 to develop a new 10-year strategy - one which would build on our achievements to date and set in place an ambitious future - none of us could have guessed at what 2020 had in store. The challenges, not just to ourselves as an organisation but to society as a whole, have been like nothing else before. For the first time in our 90-year history, our entire network of hostels was closed.

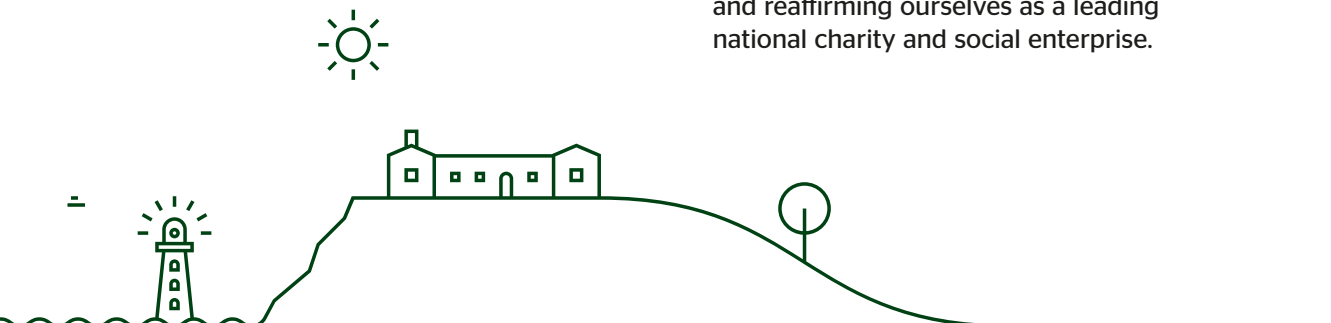
It's still too early to predict how the next few years will take shape, but our commitment to our core values remains immovable. And the same drive, hope and determination that helped our founders to overcome adversity in the past will continue to be the force behind everything we do.

As we look to the future, therefore, equity of access to the outdoors remains firmly at the heart of what we stand for. For too long, where our National Parks and green spaces are concerned, there have been uncomfortable truths around race, class, and people with health barriers. We aim to help change the story.

**“YHA will play a key part in society’s recovery. Helping both our existing users and those new to YHA to access the restorative power of nature, heritage and travel. At a time when we have learned to value human interaction more than ever, YHA will find safe ways for people to come together and share places, spaces and experiences. Because that is the joy of being human.”**

**Anita Kerwin-Nye, Director of Strategy & Engagement**

We want to reach more people than ever, enriching as many lives as possible and reaffirming ourselves as a leading national charity and social enterprise.







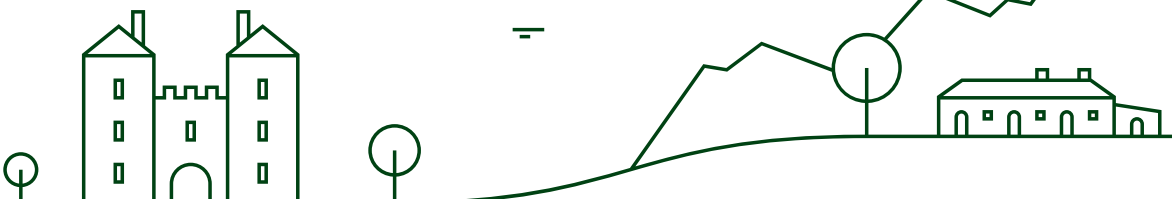


# Our 10 strategic priorities:

- 1.** To ensure that all means all, increasing the scale and breadth of our reach and ensuring that YHA is for everyone.
- 2.** To increase access to stays away from home and improve connections to nature, outdoors, heritage and culture - recognising that we provide unique opportunities for the many not just the few.
- 3.** To improve physical and mental wellbeing by providing activities and programmes and by supporting people to take their own action using our hostels as a base.
- 4.** To develop life skills and employability for our staff, volunteers and the young people that we work with.
- 5.** To contribute to social cohesion, encouraging different sectors of the community who visit us to learn from and with each other.
- 6.** To maintain a viable network of quality hostels that matches our strategic ambitions.
- 7.** To draw on the best quality models across charity, social enterprise, hospitality and work with young people.
- 8.** To support growth by continuing to generate an annual cash surplus that supports our strategic intent, based on social enterprise principles.
- 9.** To connect people to nature, recognising that the risks to the environment and to the world and its population are a real and immediate threat.
- 10.** To build support for the hostelling cause - drawing on our 90-year history to establish the importance of hostelling for all today.

## Our five-year targets:

-  For 5 million people of all ages to stay with YHA
-  To be certain that access for all means all
-  To ensure at least 2.5 million children and young people have an overnight stay with YHA
-  To ensure at least 250,000 of these children and young people are those with the most challenging lives



# Q&A: **Ray Mears**

We speak to Ray Mears - TV presenter, author and Fjallraven's bushcraft ambassador - on why now is the perfect time to be focussing on the small details of nature, and what we can learn from other cultures and their relationship with the land.

## **Q** How did you get your outdoor fix through lockdown?

I'm lucky to have a garden with some woodland, and I enjoy that very much. I've been looking at the small things in life. I'm very lucky because I live in the countryside, so even if I just look out of my window, I've got wildlife passing by which is important to me. I've been watching the flowers as they come and go, photographing some of those and just paying more attention to the insects associated with them.

## **Q** What kind of outdoor skills can people learn on a small scale?

One of the things I find when I teach people is that not enough time is spent on mastering fundamental skills, particularly, for example, knot-tying - that's important. And not enough time is spent rehearsing: practising and practising so that things become second nature. Swotting up on your birds, for example, so that when you go out, you're



paying more attention to the small details. The devil is in the detail; it's all the small things that make up an environment that are important.

## **Q** What advice would you give to parents for getting their children into the outdoors?

It depends on their ages, of course, but preparing kids for the outdoors is important. How to get their gear ready, and if you're teaching children knots, for example, make a competition out of it. See who can tie it fastest or with a blindfold on. Can they tie the knot in a bucket of water when their hands are cold? There are lots of things like that you can do which are games, but actually games with a much more serious purpose later in life. Games in First Nation cultures often have a more significant meaning.

## **Q** What attracted you as a kid to get out?

It was tracking. I think I was eight and I was given a book on animal tracks and signs, and I went up onto the local common - in those days there were snowy winters, and I found animal tracks, fox tracks, that I



identified from the book and I was hooked. And I kept following them, and then the snow turned to mud, and I kept going, and that still keeps me going now. I still feel that same excitement when I see the track of an animal I want to see that I've never seen before in the wild. A track conveys the spirit of the animal that passed.

**Q How did that develop later?**

Bushcraft is something I have an interest in. Like most people, I came into it from the survival end, wanting to know how to take care of myself, which is a very important part of the subject. It's often forgotten today, but it's really important that you start off by learning to take care of yourself, to understand about hypothermia, heat exhaustion, how to behave around threatening game, how to navigate - an essential skill - and first aid. They're all vitally important skills. What bushcraft does is to fill in the gaps, giving you much more detail. It's the pursuit of a lifetime, you never stop learning, and that's the magic of it.

**Q In all of your travels, meeting local people in some of the most extreme environments on earth, what has been the key lesson?**

The thing I think has been most valuable to me has been their perspective, their outlook on being a human in what we would call wild places but they just call home, and the responsibility that comes with that.

So amongst the Kalahari bushman, for example, they don't believe that they can just help themselves to anything in the wild; nothing is for free, there's always a cost. They show a cognisance of that by leaving something in return: if they collect an item, they might cut some hairs from their head and put it down as a gift in receipt of the goods that they've taken from the wild, and this concept of looking after the land is something I found very widely. It's very often that you hear people talk about the earth as their mother. This is a very profound outlook on the world, and something that we could all massively benefit from.

**Ray's latest book, *Wilderness Chef: The Ultimate Guide to Cooking*, published by Conway, is out now.**





<b>YHA All Stretton</b>	<b>Meadow Green, Batch Valley, All Stretton, Shropshire, SY6 6JW</b>
YHA Alnwick	34 to 38 Green Batt, Alnwick, Northumberland, NE66 1TU
<b>YHA Alston</b>	<b>The Firs, Alston, Cumbria, CA9 3RW</b>
YHA Alstonefield	Gypsy Lane, Alstonefield, nr Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2FZ
<b>YHA Ambleside</b>	<b>Waterhead, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0EU</b>
YHA Bath	Bathwick Hill, Bath, BA2 6JZ
<b>YHA Beer</b>	<b>Bovey Combe, Beer, Seaton, Devon, EX12 3LL</b>
YHA Bellingham	Demesne Farm, Bellingham, Hexham, Northum, NE48 2BS
<b>YHA Berwick</b>	<b>Dewars Lane, Berwick Upon Tweed, Northumberland, TD15 1HJ</b>
YHA Betws y Coed	Swallow Falls Hotel, nr Betws-y-Coed, Conwy, LL24 0DW
<b>YHA Beverley Friary</b>	<b>Friar's Lane, Beverley, East Yorkshire, HU17 0DF</b>
YHA Black Sail	Black Sail Hut, Ennerdale, Cleator, Cumbria, CA23 3AX
<b>YHA Blaxhall</b>	<b>The Old School House, Blaxhall, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2EA</b>
YHA Boggle Hole	Mill Beck, Fylingthorpe, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 4UQ
<b>YHA Borrowdale</b>	<b>Longthwaite, Borrowdale, Keswick, Cumbria, Lakes, CA12 5XE</b>
YHA Borth	Morlais, Borth, Ceredigion, SY24 5JS
<b>YHA Boscastle Harbour</b>	<b>Palace Stables, Boscastle, Cornwall, PL35 0HD</b>
YHA Boswinger	Boswinger, Gorran, St Austell, Cornwall, PL26 6LL
<b>YHA Brecon Beacons</b>	<b>Libanus, Brecon, Powys, LD3 8NH</b>
YHA Brecon Beacons Danywenallt	National Park Study Centre, Talybont-on-Usk, Brecon, LD3 7YS
<b>YHA Bridges</b>	<b>Ratlinghope, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY5 0SP</b>
YHA Brighton	Old Steine, Brighton, BN1 1NH
<b>YHA Bristol</b>	<b>14 Narrow Quay, Bristol, BS1 4QA</b>
YHA Broad Haven	Broad Haven, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 3JH
<b>YHA Buttermere</b>	<b>Buttermere, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA13 9XA</b>
YHA Cambridge	97 Tenison Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB1 2DN
<b>YHA Canterbury</b>	<b>54 New Dover Road, Canterbury, CT1 3DT</b>
YHA Cardiff Central	East Tyndall Street, Cardiff, CF10 4BB
<b>YHA Castleton Losehill Hall</b>	<b>Castleton, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 8WB</b>
YHA Cheddar	Hillfield, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3HN
<b>YHA Cholderton Stonehenge</b>	<b>Beacon House, Amesbury Road, Cholderton, Wiltshire, SP4 0EW</b>
YHA Clun Mill	The Mill, Clun, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 8NY
<b>YHA Coniston Coppermines</b>	<b>Coppermines House, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8HP</b>
YHA Coniston Holly How	Holly How, Far End, Coniston, Cumbria, LA21 8DD
<b>YHA Conwy</b>	<b>Larkhill, Sychnant Pass Road, Conwy, LL32 8AJ</b>
YHA Cotswolds	New Brewery Arts, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1JH
<b>YHA Coverack</b>	<b>Parc Behan, School Hill, Coverack, Helston, Cornwall, TR12 6SA</b>
YHA Dalby Forest	Old School, Lockton, Pickering, North Yorkshire, YO18 7PY
<b>YHA Dartmoor</b>	<b>Bellever, Postbridge, Devon, PL20 6TU</b>
YHA Dufton	Dufton, Appleby, Cumbria, CA16 6DB
<b>YHA Eastbourne</b>	<b>1 East Dean Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex, BN20 8ES</b>
YHA Edale	Rowland Cote, Nether Booth, Edale, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 7ZH
<b>YHA Eden Project</b>	<b>Eden Project, Bodelva, Cornwall, PL24 2SG</b>
YHA Edmundbyers	Low House, Edmundbyers, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 9NL
<b>YHA Elmscott</b>	<b>Elmscott, Hartland, Bideford, Devon, EX39 6ES</b>
YHA Ennerdale	Cat Crag, Ennerdale, Cleator, Cumbria, Lakes, CA23 3AX
<b>YHA Eskdale</b>	<b>Boot, Holmrook, Cumbria, CA19 1TH</b>
YHA Exford	Exe Mead, Exford, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 7PU
<b>YHA Eyam</b>	<b>Hawkhill Road, Eyam, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 5QP</b>
YHA Gower	Port Eynon, Swansea, SA3 1NN

**YHA Grasmere Butharlyp Howe**

YHA Grinton Lodge

**YHA Hartington Hall**

YHA Hathersage

**YHA Hawes**

YHA Hawkshead

**YHA Haworth**

YHA Hawse End

**YHA Helmsley**

YHA Helvellyn

**YHA Holmbury**

YHA Honister Hause

**YHA Hunstanton**

YHA Idwal Cottage

**YHA Ilam Hall**

YHA Ingleton

**YHA Ironbridge Coalbrookdale**

YHA Ironbridge Coalport

**Isle of Wight Brighstone**

YHA Jordans

**YHA Keswick**

YHA Kettlewell

**YHA Kings**

YHA Kington

**YHA Lands End**

YHA Langdale

**YHA Langdon Beck**

YHA Leominster

**YHA Littlehampton**

YHA Litton Cheney

**YHA Liverpool Albert Dock**

YHA Liverpool Central

**YHA Lizard**

YHA Llanddeusant

**YHA Llangattock**

YHA London Central

**YHA London Earls Court**

YHA London Lee Valley

**YHA London Oxford Street**

YHA London St Pancras

**YHA London St Pauls**

YHA London Thameside

**YHA Lulworth Cove**

YHA Malham

**YHA Manchester**

YHA Mankinholes

**YHA Manorbier**

YHA Medway

**YHA Milton Keynes**

YHA Minehead

**YHA National Forest**

YHA New Forest

**YHA Newcastle Central****Easedale Road, Grasmere, Cumbria, LA22 9QG**

Grinton, Richmond, North Yorkshire, DL11 6HS

**Hall Bank, Hartington, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 OAT**

Castleton Road, Hathersage, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S32 1EH

**Lancaster Terrace, Hawes, North Yorkshire, DL8 3LQ**

Hawkshead, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0QD

**Longlands Drive, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire, BD22 8RT**

Hawse End Cottage, Portinscale, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5UE

**Carlton Lane, Helmsley, North Yorkshire, YO62 5HB**

Greenside, Glenridding, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0QR

**Radnor Lane, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6NW**

Seatoller, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5XN

**15 Avenue Road, Hunstanton, Norfolk, PE36 5BW**

Nant Ffrancon, Bethesda, Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 3LZ

**Ilam Hall, Ilam, Ashbourne, Derbyshire, DE6 2AZ**

Greta Tower, Sammy Lane, Ingleton, North Yorkshire, LA6 3EG

**1 Paradise, Coalbrookdale, Telford, Shropshire, TF8 7NR**

John Rose Building, High Street, Coalport, Shropshire, TF8 7HT

**North Street, Brighstone, Newport, PO30 4AX**

Welders Lane, Jordans, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, HP9 2SN

**Station Road, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 5LH**

Kettlewell, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 5QU

**Kings, Penmaenpool, Dolgellau Gwynedd, Wales, LL40 1TB**

Victoria Road, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3BX

**Letcha Vean, St Just-in-Penwith, Penzance, Cornwall, TR19 7NT**

High Close, Loughrigg, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9HJ

**Forest-in-Teesdale, Barnard Castle, Co Durham, DL12 0XN**

The Old Priory, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8EQ

**63 Surrey Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5AW**

Litton Cheney, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9AT

**25 Tabley Street, off Wapping, Liverpool, Mersyside, L1 8EE**

Kansas Building, Mathew Street, Liverpool L2 6RE

**The Polbreen, Lizard Point, Cornwall, TR12 7NT**

The Old Red Lion, Llanddeusant, Camarthenshire, SA19 9UL

**Wern Watkin, Hillside, Llangattock, Crickhowell, NP8 1LG**

104 Bolsover Street, London, W1W 5NU

**38 Bolton Gardens, Earl's Court, London, SW5 0AQ**

Windmill Lane, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, EN8 9AJ

**14 Noel Street, London, W1F 8GJ**

79-81 Euston Road, London, NW1 2QE

**36 Carter Lane, London, EC4V 5AB**

20 Salter Road, Rotherhithe, London, SE16 5PR

**School Lane, West Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 5SA**

Malham, Skipton, North Yorkshire, BD23 4DB

**Potato Wharf, Castlefield, Manchester, M3 4NB**

Mankinholes, Todmorden, Lancashire, OL14 6HR

**Manorbier, nr Tenby, Pembrokeshire, SA70 7TT**

351 Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 3JE

**Vicarage Road, Bradwell Village, Milton Keynes, MK13 9AG**

Alcombe Combe, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 6EW

**48 Bath Lane, Moira, Swadlincote, Derbyshire, DE12 6BD**

Cott Lane, Burley Ringwood, Hampshire, BH24 4BB

**17 Carliol Square, Newcastle Upon Tyne, Northumberland NE1 6UQ**



YHA Newport Pembrokeshire	Lower St Mary Street, Newport, Pembrokeshire, SA42 OTS
<b>YHA Ninebanks</b>	<b>Orchard House, Mohope, Ninebanks, Hexham, NE47 8DQ</b>
YHA Okehampton	Klondyke Road, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1EW
<b>YHA Okehampton Bracken Tor</b>	<b>Bracken Tor, Saxongate, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 1QW</b>
YHA Osmotherley	Cote Ghyll, Osmotherley, Notherallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 3AH
<b>YHA Oxford</b>	<b>2a Botley Road, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX2 0AB</b>
YHA Patterdale	Patterdale, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 ONW
<b>YHA Penzance</b>	<b>Castle Horneck, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 8TF</b>
YHA Perranporth	Droskyn Point, Perranporth, Cornwall, TR6 OGS
<b>YHA Poppit Sands</b>	<b>Sea View, Poppit, Cardigan, Pembroke, SA43 3LP</b>
YHA Port Eynon	Old Lifeboat House, Port Eynon, Swansea, SA3 1NN
<b>YHA Portland</b>	<b>Hardy House, Castle Road, Castle Town, Portland, DT5 1AU</b>
YHA Portreath	Nance Farm, Illogen, Redruth, Cornwall, TR16 4QX
<b>YHA Pwll Deri</b>	<b>Castell Mawr, Trefasser, Goodwick, Pembrokeshire, SA64 OLR</b>
YHA Ravenstor	Millers Dale, Buxton, Derbyshire, SK17 8SS
<b>YHA Rhossili</b>	<b>Rhossili Middleton, Rhossili, Swansea, SA3 1PJ</b>
YHA Rowen	Rhiw Farm, Rowen, Conwy, LL32 8YW
<b>YHA Scarborough</b>	<b>Burniston Rd, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO13 ODA</b>
YHA Sheen Bunkhouse	Peakstones, Sheen, Derbyshire, SK17 OES
<b>YHA Sheringham</b>	<b>1 Cremer's Drift, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8HX</b>
YHA Sherwood Forest	Forest Corner, Edwinstowe, Nottinghamshire, NG21 9RN
<b>YHA Skiddaw House</b>	<b>Bassenthwaite, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4QX</b>
YHA Slaidburn	King's House, Slaidburn, Clitheroe, Lancashire, BB7 3ER
<b>YHA Snowdon Bryn Gwynant</b>	<b>Nantgwynant, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4NP</b>
YHA Snowdon Llanberis	Llwyn Celyn, Llanberis, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4SR
<b>YHA Snowdon Pen-y-Pass</b>	<b>Pen-y-Pass, Nantgwynant, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 4NY</b>
YHA Snowdon Ranger	Rhyd Ddu, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL54 7YS
<b>YHA South Downs</b>	<b>Itford Farm, Beddingham, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 6JS</b>
YHA St Briavels Castle	St Briavels, Lydney, Gloucestershire, GL15 6RG
<b>YHA St Davids</b>	<b>Llaethdy, Whitesands, St David's, Pembrokeshire, SA62 6PR</b>
YHA Stratford	Hemmingford House, Alveston, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 7RG
<b>YHA Streatley</b>	<b>Reading Road, Streatley, Berkshire, RG8 9JJ</b>
YHA Street	The Chalet, Ivythorn Hill, Street, Somerset, BA16 0TZ
<b>YHA Swanage</b>	<b>Cluny, Cluny Crescent, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2BS</b>
YHA The Sill at Hadrian's Wall	Military Road, Bardonia Mill, Northumberland, NE47 7AN
<b>YHA Tanners Hatch</b>	<b>Off Ranmore Common Road, Dorking, Surrey, RH5 6BE</b>
YHA Thurlby	16 High Street, Thurlby, Bourne, Lincolnshire, PE10 OEE
<b>YHA Tintagel</b>	<b>Dunderhole Point, Tintagel, Cornwall, PL34 ODW</b>
YHA Totland Bay	Hurst Hill, Totland Bay, Isle Of Wight, PO39 OHD
<b>YHA Treyarnon Bay</b>	<b>Tregonnan, Treyarnon, Padstow, Cornwall, PL28 8JR</b>
YHA Truleigh Hill	Tottington Barn, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, BN43 5FB
<b>YHA Wasdale Hall</b>	<b>Wasdale Hall, Wasdale, Seascale, Cumbria, CA20 1ET</b>
YHA Wells Next The Sea	Church Plain, Wells, Norfolk, NR23 1EQ
<b>YHA Whitby</b>	<b>Abbey House, East Cliff, Whitby, North Yorkshire, YO22 4JT</b>
YHA Wilderhope Manor	Manor, Longville in the Dale, Shropshire, TF13 6EG
<b>YHA Windermere</b>	<b>Bridge Lane, Troutbeck, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 1LA</b>
YHA Wooler	30 Cheviot Street, Wooler, Northumberland, NE71 6LW
<b>YHA Wye Valley</b>	<b>Near Goodrich, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 6JJ</b>
YHA York	Water End, Clifton, York, North Yorkshire, YO30 6LP
<b>YHA Youlgrave</b>	<b>Fountain Square, Youlgrave, nr Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE45 1UR</b>



# Then and now

## 1930

### Price of a pint of beer

Approximately 5p

### Take in the view

Blackpool Tower (158 metres/ 518 feet)

### UK population

Estimated at around 45 million

### Monarch

George V

### League champions

Sheffield Wednesday FC

### Technology

John Logie Baird installs a TV receiver at 10 Downing Street

### Film

Anti-war epic All Quiet On The Western Front wins Best Picture at the Oscars

### Music

Bing Crosby makes his first recording as a solo vocalist

### Kids

The Mickey Mouse comic strip makes its first appearance

### The outdoors

The Kinder Mass Trespass, asserting walkers' 'right to roam', is just two years away

### In the news

On April 18 1930, the BBC announces "There is no news", then fills its 15-minute bulletin with piano music

### Trailblazer

Amy Johnson lands in Australia, becoming the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia

### Nobel Peace Prize

Nominees include British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald

### Protest

Mahatma Gandhi begins a 200-mile march to protest against British rule in India

### Books

Arthur Ransome's Swallows & Amazons is published, showcasing the wonders of the Lake District

## And so it begins

YHA is founded, with the stated aim "to help all, but especially young people, to a greater knowledge, use and love of the countryside, particularly by providing hostels or other simple accommodation for them on their travels".



# 2020

## Price of a pint of beer

Approximately £3.70

## Take in the view

The Shard (310 metres/ 1017 feet)

## UK population

Estimated at around 65 million

## Monarch

Queen Elizabeth II

## League champions

Liverpool FC

## Technology

Apple becomes Wall Street's first \$2 trillion company

## Film

Korean black comedy thriller Parasite wins Best Picture at the Oscars

## Music

Taylor Swift's new album streamed more than 80 million times on its first day

## Kids

The Disney Plus channel reaches 60 million subscribers, nine months after its launch

## The outdoors

The 2,795-mile England Coast Path nears its completion, becoming our 16th National Trail

## In the news

On April 18 2020, at the height of the Covid outbreak, veteran Captain Tom Moore breaks the £20m barrier in his NHS fundraising

## Trailblazer

Runner Liz Warner completes her 30th marathon in 30 different countries to raise money for local, woman-empowered communities

## Nobel Peace Prize

Nominees include 17-year-old Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg

## Protest

A statue of slave trader Edward Colston is torn down in Bristol

## Books

Sales surge in March as readers stock up on books over lockdown

## And so it continues

YHA marks its 90th anniversary, releasing a 10-year strategy that "will see us reaching more people and growing our impact, with a particular focus on those who could benefit the most, in an era that needs us more than ever."



We are YHA.

We transform young lives forever through travel and real adventure.

**Because where you go changes who you become.**

stay | join | give | volunteer      [yha.org.uk](https://yha.org.uk)

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