

A new year often means a new start. Club President JULIA BRADBURY shares a few ideas for trying something different in 2015

First lady



WELCOME to 2015 everyone! It's been a full-on 12 months since my first column in the magazine and I can't quite believe how quickly it has flown by.

As I've been working with the Club for a good few years now I don't really think of it as Year One but I can now claim to have my first National Feast of Lanterns tucked under my belt and I've completed my inaugural year as Lady President!

The New Year gives us all the opportunity to refresh, take stock and decide what we want to do with ourselves. If you need some inspiration, this issue of the magazine will help. It's full of ideas and the focus is on trying something new.

Not long ago I was giving a talk at the Royal Geographical Society in London where I met an adventurer called Alastair Humphreys. A few years ago he decided to cycle around the world, which was naturally a huge adventure – it took four years. Since then he's been inspired to create the concept of microadventures – smaller ideas that give you things to do over the weekend or during the week, whether it's a river adventure, a walk, camping or a cycle ride.

These ideas are designed to encourage you to break routine and do something slightly different. They give you a mini sense of adventure, and I quite like that whole ethos – it's what keeps us camping.

One of the great assets of our Club is the Special Interest Sections. These sections zone in on a particular hobby or type of camping and are a great way to try an activity you might never have done.

For example, the Canoe-Camping Club and the Boating Group are great for people who want to get out on the water. I've done kayaking, which I absolutely love, and canoeing and camping sounds like a

dream to me. I was also out boating on Bewl Water in Kent recently, for one of the last sequences in my new ITV series *The Wonder of Britain*.

It was an absolutely stunning day, one of those that started out being miserably damp and foggy and then turned into a glorious Wednesday – perfect for sailing. Now I'm no skipper so I thoroughly recommend getting an experienced captain on board if you don't know your tacks from your gybes – so it's worth checking in with the Boating Group for help and advice.

There's nothing quite like a crisp winter's walk to get the brain and the body going for a new year ahead and in Britain we're blessed with some of the best hill walking locations in the world. One of my highlights over the autumn was walking and filming in Derbyshire with my dad, Michael. We took a hike down memory lane and walked Winnats Pass, where I was

in search of the treasure of Blue John, a rare mineral only found in these hills. At the very end of the day the whole crew trekked up to the top of the pass to a spot that Dad and I hadn't seen before. The view was simply jaw-dropping and I

can't wait to see it when my new series is broadcast on ITV1 in January. It's another day in the hills together that I'll never forget. Find your way to the Mountain Activity Section to search for that essential quest you can try with a loved one.

2015 is all about taking the opportunity to try something different. Think about how the Club and camping can help you achieve it. Take a look at www.myccc.co.uk/specialinterestsections for more inspiration.

Here's to a good year and some great camping adventures.



Get yourself a Skye high

Another feature in this issue encourages you to visit parts of the UK you've not been to before (see page 28). If you've never made it to the remote parts of Scotland then have a go at volcano-hunting on Skye. The Isle of Skye is the largest and most northerly island in the Inner Hebrides. Sixty million years ago, the landmasses of Britain and North America were actually joined together. Repeated volcanic eruptions saw Britain tear away. This beautiful place was at the heart of the activity and is where you can find evidence of how our country was born. The formidable jagged peaks attract walkers and climbers all year round looking to tackle the jagged Cuillin mountains, pictured below. There's a Club Site on the island, so what better reason do you need to visit?

