

FIRST LADY



Club President **Julia Bradbury** looks forward to a new year full of possibility and reveals her top five UK destinations for memorable walks

Over the years, I've visited the length and breadth of the country, filming, walking and above all, making the most of the outdoors.

I've met a wealth of fabulous people, visited some stunning locations and taken part in some hugely enjoyable activities along the way.

Now, as 2019 begins (and your all-new magazine hits your doormat for the very first time), we have the impetus of the new year again as a means to enhance our lives by exploring more, and experiencing new adventures.

To help lift the spirits and provide a little inspiration, I was asked very simply to choose a handful of places that I have most enjoyed visiting in the UK and list them here. So here you are, my definitive top five - I hope it gives you the taste for exploration. You'll find the walks I filmed near all of these places on www.theoutdoorguide.co.uk.

01 Last year I headed for Norfolk's fabulous coastline to film some scenes for ITV's Britain's Favourite Walks: Top 100, where we followed an action-packed route featuring a bustling harbour, golden sand dunes and thick pine woodlands, before finishing back at the chippy!

Wells is famous for its beach huts but exploring the picturesque area showed there's much more to it. I love this part of the world, there's so much to see and the regional climate is officially among the driest in the UK. There are Club Sites at West Runton, Sandringham and Norwich if you fancy a visit in 2019.

02 An idyllic spot I fell in love with on my travels is near Lynton in Devon, pretty close to where the Club Site of the same name is located.

It's a hidden treasure nestled among the tree-green canopy overhanging the East Lyn River and Hoar Oak River where they converge at the National Trust's Watersmeet tea rooms. What a fabulous spot it is, and worth any long journey to the South West to appreciate it. Be sure to catch the Valley of the Rocks near Lynton too when you go!

03 The Peak District is one of my fave places on Earth. I've got fond memories of walking with my dad around the likes of Winnats Pass and more recently for the Club on the Great Ridge near Mam Tor to kick start National Camping and Caravanning Week 2018.

But a truly special spot in this national park is Dovedale. I filmed another of the routes here for



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Britain's Favourite Walks: Top 100 and it was a beautiful short stroll along the River Dove, reaching the famous stepping stones across the water, less than half a mile from the main car park. One million visitors head there every year and it's not hard to see why. It's a recommended highlight of any Peak District stay.

04 In gorgeous Pembrokeshire, the Marloes Peninsula is a stunning and dramatic place to visit. There's a lovely five-mile family walk along the coast taking in the cliffs, heathland and big ocean views including across to the wildlife haven island of Skomer. The area has been lauded by the likes of National Geographic for its sheer beauty.

I can't wait to return to this place. A little further around the coastline is St David's Club Site, close to Britain's smallest city. The whole area is a wonder and if you've not yet been, what are you waiting for?

05 What top five would be complete without a mention of the Scottish Highlands?

Some years ago now I filmed an episode of the BBC's Canal Walks based on the Caledonian Canal, and the majesty of the area has stayed with me ever since.

Starting from Fort William, a short hop from the Club's Glencoe site, we followed an eight-mile route along the canal, from Corpach sea loch to the shores of the first freshwater loch at Gairloch. Big views, big mountains and absolutely awe-inspiring scenery at every turn - this had to be on my list, and it should be on yours too.

Clockwise: Stacking stones near Lynton in Devon; beach huts in Norfolk; the rugged Marloes Peninsula in Pembrokeshire

