

# FIRST LADY



Club President **Julia Bradbury** encourages us to think differently about adventure and what it means for our camping

**When we talk** about the likes of Ernest Shackleton, Edmund Hillary, Amelia Earhart or perhaps former Club President Robert Falcon Scott, one word springs to mind - adventurer.

These revered folk all undertook world-changing expeditions. They altered the way we view the world - crucially they also helped shape the very definition of the word 'adventure'.

In this issue, one that welcomes 2020 in with more than a nod and a wink to the incredible experiences you can open yourself up to as a camper, I'm asking whether we are all adventurers in our own way.

I see 'adventure' as a convenient catch-all term to nicely summarise what we do here in the Club. We expand our horizons, try out new experiences, sample new foods, learn new languages, meet new people, embrace different cultures, travel through rain and shine, work together to make our holidays a success, endure a few hardships along the way and contribute everywhere we go.

Adventure is no longer simply the preserve of the super-rich, the well-funded, or those with the right connections.

The barriers that once prevented 'normal' people from embarking on such eye-catching journeys have been broken down. There are very few 'never-done-before's' waiting to be ticked off. Travel has become much easier, it's more affordable and sharing our experiences only requires us to reach into our pocket and pull out our mobile phone.

Technology is certainly playing a part in making adventure more accessible. We can get up-to-the-minute information about the next place we're planning to visit, find out exactly how to get there and access a wealth of photos and video showing us precisely what to expect.

This may have slightly eroded the meaning of having an adventure - being able to see a place in full 4K high definition technicolour and even move through it virtually from the comfort of your front room might dampen a little of the magic. But that still falls well short of actually experiencing it. The smells in the air, the sounds all around, the crunch of the ground underfoot, the feel of the place.

These days, I think having an adventure is as simple as stepping out of your front door and doing something outside your regular routine.



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Julia, pictured in Greece during filming for her latest series



It might be something that takes you out of your comfort zone for a while, but a break from the norm is the important defining feature.

Camping is a real enabler for this kind of lifestyle. Our 'ready-to-go' attitude as campers means we can be spontaneous, making last-minute decisions whether to head for the hills to stretch our legs, or make a beeline for the coast and a sea breeze. Or just go wherever the sun's shining that weekend. It's a great feeling.

There's also a bucketload of companies and outdoor organisations waiting to help us enjoy our pastime even more - it's no wonder adventure-tourism is such big business. In this magazine alone, you can find suggestions for some pretty awe-inspiring experiences, from dog-sledding in the UK, to touring China by motorhome.

The message is that we shouldn't regard adventure as some vast, unobtainable treasure or lifestyle that few will ever truly get to realise. It's something we already do routinely, it's part of our camping DNA.

We are proper adventurers, we just need to think of ourselves that way.

## MY YEAR AHEAD

What does 2020 hold in store for me? Well, throughout 2019 I have been busy filming new TV adventures of my own. One of these will be coming to screens shortly - it's all about my Greek heritage, and I visit the places where my family lived and worked before coming to the UK. It'll be on ITV in January, so do please tune in when you see it advertised.

I'm also continuing my support for our ongoing Litter Heroes campaign with Keep Britain Tidy. Don't forget you can pick up a litter collection bag from our website [theoutdoorguide.co.uk](http://theoutdoorguide.co.uk) so you can do your good deed of helping to clean up the countryside while you're out and about this year.

And you'll also be able to find me on the front of a new Ordnance Survey map too. This special edition map shows both Pen y Ghent and Malham Cove in the Yorkshire Dales, where there's a fabulous walk - one that the magazine team has also picked out in our feature starting on page 36. You can pick up a copy soon by heading to The Outdoor Guide website - and get out on your next walking adventure! 🏕️