

NEW LOW

# COUNTRY WALKING



Britain's Best-Selling Walking Magazine

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## >> INNOVATIONS

Our pick of the most inventive and useful new gear for walkers.



### ■ SPIKY PLUS

Worried about slipping on icy paths this winter? Then cast your eye over the Spiky Plus, an anti-slip protector that stretches on to the sole of your boot. The spikes are no longer than a couple of millimetres and embedded in tough rubber. They are clearly not a substitute for crampons for high-level snow and ice, but they could offer extra traction on low-level paths. Beware, however, that the Spiky does cover some of the cleats in your soles, otherwise your grip through mud may be hampered.

The Spiky Plus comes in two sizes and costs £8.95. Call Algeos on 0151 448 1228 or visit [www.algeos.com](http://www.algeos.com)

### ■ UNI POWER TANK

The Americans apparently spent millions of dollars developing a pen for outer space that would write at any angle in a zero-gravity environment. The Russians, meanwhile, relied on pencils! The Uni Power Tank pen follows the American approach, but for lower cost. It employs compressed air technology that enables writing at any angle, and will write on wet paper, and in temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees Celsius. It's also easily gripped in wet conditions.

Uni Power Tank pen £1.99, [www.uniball.co.uk](http://www.uniball.co.uk)



### ■ A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF THE LANGDALE VALLEYS

The Lake District's Great and Little Langdale valleys are home to some of the country's finest walks. Their appearance changes enormously through the seasons, changes captured beautifully in more than 100 images in this new book by Bill Birkett. Enjoy snowscapes and moody sunrises, spring blossoms and midsummer blue skies.

By Bill Birkett, ISBN 0-7122-449-8, £14.99.

### ■ SKOODY

Is it a scarf, a fleece or a waterproof? Well, the ingenious Skoody serves all three purposes, rolling out from being a warm, fleecy scarf to a hooded fleece when the weather turns cooler. Then, if raindrops appear, simply turn the Skoody inside out so its shower-proof surface faces the elements.

Its appeal lies in its convenience, rather than its function as either fleece or showerproof jacket, neither of which would compare favourably with specially designed walking clothing. But it is neat thinking, nonetheless.

The Skoody comes in three adult and two children's sizes, and nine colours. It retails for £30 for adults and £25 for children. Log on to [www.skoody.co.uk](http://www.skoody.co.uk) for more details.



## Short cuts

### >> YORKSHIRE KITES

Walkers in Yorkshire stand a better chance of seeing a red kite in the wild, after four healthy kite chicks fledged last year for the first time. It's the first brood since red kites were re-introduced to the region back in 1999.



### >> THE LONG WAIT

Ah, the joys of public transport – and the pleasures of a long walk home when the bus fails to arrive. At least this sign warns walkers in the Lake District that they really should not rely on the bus service to get them back to base. Thanks very much to Mrs Bryton from North Walsham, in Norfolk, for sending us this image. And if you see any strange or amusing sights while you are out walking, send them to Country Walking, Bretton Court, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DZ or e-mail good-quality digital images to [jane.ward@emap.com](mailto:jane.ward@emap.com)

### >> OH VALENTINE

Looking for somewhere to walk with your beloved that will make your intentions perfectly clear on St Valentine's Day? Then start planning a trip to our top 10 romantically named destinations:

- Lovington, Somerset.
- The Kist, Orkney.
- Lover, Wiltshire.
- Hug Gill, Co Durham.
- Love's Hill, Peterborough.
- Cud Hill, Gloucestershire (say it quickly).
- Lover's Leap, Derbyshire.
- Gretna Green, Dumfries and Galloway.
- Weddington, Kent.
- Beddingham, East Sussex.

