

## **Organisers Comments**

Hosting the YHOA winter night event is always going to provide an organiser with extra risk assessment challenges. In particular recruiting enough helpers who are willing to endure whatever weather is thrown at them on the day. A warm base was first on my list to make sure everyone had somewhere warm, to work in or retreat to. EPOC is lucky to have the good will of Calderdale's Countryside officer who was very generous in offering us the outdoor classroom to hire, with all its facilities enabling us to provide hot drinks and some socialising. The message about toilet facilities was my fault in assuming the opening hours from summer continued into winter, but in the end we did have a creative solution on the night.

When the yellow weather warning was issued on Thursday and we were on the eastern edge, I had some anxious moments that it would widen. In fact the forecast didn't alter at all, and in the end, the wind blew over the top of most of the area. In fact I think the windiest spot was leaving the classroom and crossing the dam wall. The EPOC teamwork was fantastic, everyone doing their jobs on time and with good humour. Special mentions to Jackie on IT and both Arabella and Graham for helping; despite their stitches. This allowed me to enjoy a few moments watching the dancing headlights around the edge of the reservoir before heading back towards the "disco ball" finish. Kudos to Alasdair who braved the weather three times: control hanging and collecting; and shadowing our youngest competitor.

Helen Pedley