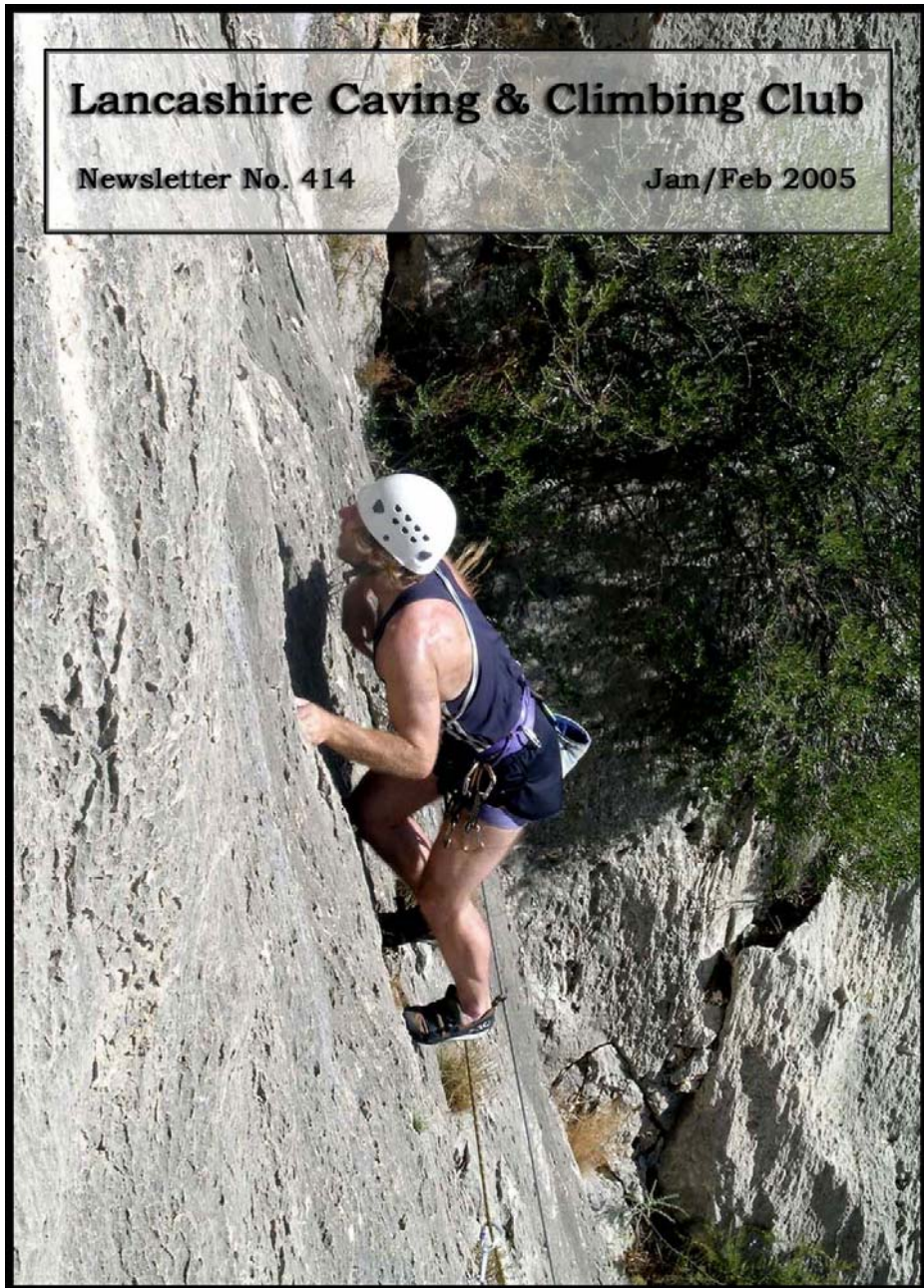


**Lancashire Caving & Climbing Club**

**Newsletter No. 414**

**Jan/Feb 2005**



*Photo: Chris Wheatley at Margheddie, Sector Ninno Nanni, Sardinia. (Credit Brian Evans)*

## EDITORIAL

Happy New Year to you all. This issue was always going to be late as I could not start it until well after Christmas. Even so, it is a slim line version.

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Wilkinson, e-mail [rogeranddeborah@onetel.net.uk](mailto:rogeranddeborah@onetel.net.uk) Articles & letters are welcome on old fashioned paper or by e-mail. Photos, prints or digital, latter reduced to about 250kb if possible

## CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE 22 Feb 2005

It is editorial policy to correct obvious errors in submitted material but in case of doubt articles are copied as they are received. Errors of spelling and grammar which often occur in e-mails and hastily written articles will be corrected if noticed. If you do not wish this to be done, please add "no editing please" to your contribution.

## MEET DETAILS

Contact details are listed at the end of the meet list. I know you should have these details to hand in your handbook! But it is convenient to have them available here. However, for ease of transferring the Newsletter to the public section of the club web site without such private information I am experimenting with this new layout. Feedback would be welcome.

Jan 9 Peak / Dales Bernie & Lawrence Jordan

Weather permitting, we will climb in the Peak District or Yorkshire Dales, whichever looks like being driest. Ring us on Saturday to find out where we are going.

Jan 16 Peak/Dales John Banks

I plan to climb at Birchen Edge. Meet at Outside café (Hathersage) at 9.30. Please give me a ring to co-ordinate lifts etc.

Jan 16 Swinsto Hole Les Mottram

This system needs no introduction. Nine pitches (two very wet) lead into the West Kingsdale Master. We will be doing a thro' abseil trip, exiting at Valley entrance via a 25ft ladder pitch. Meet at Bernies, Ingleton 9.30am

Jan 22/23 Deniolen Pete Cosgrove

I will be in the pub (The Bull) sometime after 9.00pm. Please give me a ring to let me know you are coming.

Jan 30 Scotland Ice Climbing Wall Pete Blackburne

Scottish meet:-I apologise to all those looking forward to my Scottish meet 12/13 but unfortunately I was so spoilt in Gressoney climbing on pure ice 5 days out of 6 that I'm

going to Norway. I've contacted the Castleford Ice climbing wall 01977 516774 [www.vertical-chill.com](http://www.vertical-chill.com) about a group booking for those going to Norway and anyone else who is interested. If you are interested please let me know. The following have already said yes KT GP CW PM. Recommend anybody a bit rusty on steep ice to try this out. I'll try to contact the others & book 3 groups of 4 (2 pairs) for 1 hour each at a cost of £20 each - steep prices to match steep ice, compared to Kinlochleven! Hopefully get group discount.

Starting at 1300hrs until 1500hrs that's 3 times 1hr sessions for groups of 4 (can squeeze in 6) at £20 pound each, they may be able to do a deal of a group booking maybe an extra 10 - 20 mins (WOW!). If we could meet maybe half an hour before so we can prove we are all competent ice climbers!

Does anybody hold a certificate of competence? They said that form can be blagged.

**Feb 6 Peak/Dales Bernie & Lawrence Jordan**

Weather permitting, we will climb in the Peak District or Yorkshire Dales, whichever looks like being driest. Ring us on Saturday to find out where we are going

**Feb 6 Pikedaw Caverns Matt Walker**

Situated alongside the track to Settle. This is a mine shaft 70ft deep, which leads to an extensive series of natural passages and chambers partially mined. Suitable for novices. Meet at Naked Man café (Settle) 9am. Phone Les Mottram for further information.

**Feb 12-19 ICE CLIMBING IN NORWAY Chris Wheatley**

We will be based in Rjukan, Norway where there is an abundance of routes mainly on water ice in the gorge made famous by the heros of Telemark. At the last count we have 12 definites and 2 probables with limited scope for extras. Contact Chris Wheatley for details.

**Feb 12/13 Lawrence Jordan**

Several active climbers will be away in Norway but give me a ring if you fancy climbing on Saturday or Sunday and we can go wherever the weather is likely to be best.

**Feb 20 Deniolen Tony Mercer**

I will be in the pub (The Bull) around 9.00pm. Please give me a ring to let me know you are coming.

**Feb 20 Heron Pot Alan Wright**

A long cave with two short pitches and a wet exit to daylight. Suitable for novices. Meet at Bernies Café (Ingleton) at 9am. Phone Les Mottram or Alan for details

Feb 27

Peak/Dales

Gillian Tuddenham

No information on this meet. Phone Gillian for details.

Mar 5/6

Wales

Ken Tebay

No information on this meet. Phone Ken for details.

Mar 5

Cavers' Booze-Up

Les Mottram

This year's get together will be at The New Inn, Clapham, starting 7pm. Accommodation can be found at the Brookhouse B&B and Café and also at The New Inn. All are welcome. See you there.

Mar 6

Long Kin West Pot

Andy Hommonai

This is a superb pot for doing S.R.T. two long pitches lead to an extended bit, making the depth over 500ft. This is not suitable for inexperienced cavers. Meet at Bernies Café (Ingleton) 9am. Phone Les Mottram or Andy for further information.

## FUTURE PLANS

KALYMNOS MAY. From Brian Evans

Aileen and I have booked with Kosmar for first 2 weeks in May, staying at Hotel Filoxenia at Massouri (SC). As Kosmar is one of the few remaining holiday operators most of their other places are booked up, so get in quick if you want to join us. Flight and accommodation can be booked separately of course at a later date.

CLIMBING MEET, MINGULAY, WHITSUN WEEK, MC CHRIS WHEATLEY.

Saturday 28 May to Saturday 4 June.

Mingulay is the largest of the islands at the southern end of the Outer Hebrides. It is uninhabited and has an abundance of immaculate Lewisian gneiss which has seen regular visits from SMC rock hacks in recent years. To date there are 18 developed crags with in excess of 150 routes of all grades (VDiff and up). There is no ferry service and a fishing boat must be chartered from Castle Bay on Barra. Cars are best left at Oban. We will need about a dozen participants to share the cost of chartering the vessel.

**Early expressions of interest are welcomed to guarantee the meet will be on (places may be limited).** The usual landing place is on the rocks on either side of the wonderfully sandy Bagh Mhiughlaigh (Mingulay Bay) in the centre of the east coast, close to an excellent camping spot. For those that may be dubious of the weather, Mingulay is not big enough to create its own weather system and it usually enjoys excellent weather in May and June. Let me know if you would like a peek at an early draft of the guide. Chris Wheatley

*I've also had the following information from Bill Stephenson who planned a similar trip but has now amalgamated with Chris*

**CLIMBING TRIP TO MINGULAY IN MAY 05**

*I will be organising a climbing trip to Mingulay in May next year if there is sufficient interest. The wildlife on these islands is unspoilt with an abundance of corncrake, snipe and orchids. The island has many good quality cliffs of Lewisian Gneiss and the climbing is being developed. Currently there are 40 routes of HS and below, 83 in the VS to E1 range, and 79 harder. Route lengths vary from 10m to 130m in length and the majority are only accessible by abseil. This year I spent a total of 12 days on Mingulay and the adjacent Pabbay and was rained off on only two days, so in a week's visit there is a good chance of climbing every day, and it is extremely unlikely that weather would stop climbing all week. Mingulay is reached by ferry from Oban to Barra (~£40 return) and from there a fishing vessel has to be chartered (~£50 per head return if we have at least 10 passengers). The fishing vessel lands visitors at a bay on the east coast adjacent to good camping areas with running water, so the week's food and belongings have to be transported only a few hundred metres to a good campsite. External communication from the island is only possible via marine band radios which may be hired. If you are interested and would like some more information (I have a few photos from this year's trips) please contact me.*

**BBQ AND SOCIAL MEET AT TRANEARTH 24/25 JUNE.**

Members of the Oread and Gloucestershire MCs will be invited (the LCCC has reciprocal hut arrangements with these clubs). MC Chris Wheatley

# MEET REPORTS

TRANEARTH 23-25 October  
JOINT MEET WITH BOLTON  
UNIVERSITY (nee institute)  
S. U. CLIMBING CLUB.

Considering the weather the meet was reasonably successful. On Friday it rained all day. Alan Hartley, Martin Hall with son Chris and two friends, John Kennedy (instructor) and 11 students (including one grad.) arrived during the evening. Phil. Tucker and I arrived together on Saturday morning in time for breakfast. Debbie & Roger Wilkinson arrived shortly afterwards. The weather being dry, we split up into three groups. Alan tutored a small group of students on navigation. Martin & Co., Debbie & Roger and several students went to Wallowbarrow to be met by Sandra. The rock was very wet so Debbie, Roger and Sandra went for a walk. Martin etc. and the Students conquered Thomas. Phil, John (Chris's friend) and I went for a scramble intending to do Low Water Beck but there was too much water coming down so we diverted to a scramble further west and returned to the hut via Goat's Water. A pleasant Saturday evening was spent in the Church House which was extremely busy. Sandra, Debbie and Roger departed on Sunday morning. Everywhere still being very wet, despite fair weather, the students Phil, John and I went to Kendal climbing wall. Everybody seemed to enjoy the weekend and the members and students gelled together from the

start. Special thanks to Alan, Martin, Phil and John for their help.

Dave Holmes.

HOWGILLS Nov 14th

Travelling up the M6 it was an unpleasant shock to see the tops of the Howgills in cloud. It was looking as though some navigation would be required.

We met in Sedbergh before going to the north end of the hills. Any ideas of an easy alternative had to be rejected as I had arranged to meet Geoff and Julie at Brow Foot.

As we ascended Green Bell we soon reached the damp mist level and had lunch after Randygill top, sheltering from the wind in some convenient peat hags. We then had a brief surprise view of Kensgriff. The hard ascent of Yarlside followed and we were in the mist again and it was getting wetter. After the descent to Bowderdale head we took a direct route from Cautley to the Calf. It was good to follow the Motorway descent back to Sedbergh with all navigation worries behind us and we emerged from the mist in time for our best view of the day before the darkness arrived.

Thanks to Sandra, Jack, Barry and Peter for risking my route finding and to Geoff, Julie and Archie for making sure we started the walk.

p.s. If you come across a well restored sheepfold with a very unusual pointed

corner you are at G.R.677972, a useful feature in an area lacking landmarks.

Brian Carlyle

RHYD DDU, NORTH WALES,  
NOVEMBER 21/22

Snow-shrouded tops shone through the darkness as Sandra and I approached Tan yr Wyddfa, the Oread MC hut at Rhyd Ddu, Friday evening. Mike Hendrick, Dave Savage, Neil Wolstencroft and friend Simon, Blacky and Griff arrived soon after and we relaxed in front of an open fire drinking beer and Scotch, but not before I had tested the fire alarm klaxon as a result of frying chips. The hut warden later admitted that the sensor was exceptionally sensitive. The news of the evening was the successful granting of planning permission for the rebuild at the back of Dan-y- Mynydd. Griff was keen to see work start before winter took its toll, but there were other hurdles yet; the building regulations being one. We transferred to the pub and were horrified to find the landlord had a mission: to fleece his visitors by charging £2.60 a pint for the beer.

Blacky had a mission too, one he had begun over ten years before, which was to complete the Welsh 2500ers. We did not understand his desire to ascend Yr Wyddfa from the sea despite the logic of knocking off Moel Eilio on the way. He left the hut early, alone, and was rewarded with splendid views a few hours later. Sandra, Mike, Dave and I took the Rhyd Ddu path to the summit, not wishing to miss the unexpected

opportunity to relish the first snow of the season and to test our winter systems. We gained height quickly and topped out after 2½ hours, despite a brief halt to consume pork pies. It was perhaps unwise to stop on the summit for lunch for we cooled quickly and I was glad to move off again to rewarm my frozen hands. The wind picked up and the air temperature fell. The descent was exposed and a touch icy in places, but of no great concern for we were well equipped. That could not be said of some we saw, still climbing ponderously rather too late. We took a detour via Clogwyn Du to add interest, but that meant we missed Blacky. He arrived on the summit ½ hour after we had left and took the direct line to the hut to find no one there to offer him a lift to retrieve his van, so he left a note and took the bus to Caernarfon.

Neil and Simon preferred to spend the day mountain biking in the forests around Machynlleth and returned wet and splattered in mud. Griff had a late start and took a low level walk to Beddgelert. The open fire was roaring again when Cath, Geoff and Gerard arrived, having spent the afternoon at the Llanberis climbing wall. We had another convivial evening and I showed a selection of slides from a recent expedition to the Kumaon Himalaya.

Sunday was the Wales of old: so wet there was no hope of climbing, nor even of being able to see anything beyond the roof tops. Griff, Blacky, Mike and Dave drove to Blaenau Ffestiniog to check out Dan-y-Mynydd and a possible builder. Neil and Simon

went biking again, and Geoff, Cath and Gerard went to the Warrington wall (with a bit of mooching in Llanberis on the way). Only Sandra and I though it worth venturing onto the hills. The view of Yr Wyddfa from Mynydd Mawr can be good, but it wasn't. We descended steeply and somewhat treacherously to the foot of Cwm Planwydd and walked back by Llyn Cwellyn, noting that the wealthy landlord of the Rhyd Ddu pub owned the fishing rights on the Afon Gwyrfai too.

To sum up, we had a worthwhile weekend for the time of year, with pleasant company in the comfortable Oread MC hut. Finally, thanks to all for tidying the hut afterwards and congratulations, Blacky, for completing your mission.

Chris Wheatley

#### ANNUAL DINNER Nov 27

Moving the club dinner to November was a great success. Approximately 50 people attended and it was good to see a lot of new faces. The new venue 'The Crown' in Coniston added spice after using The Church for so many years.

Thanks very much to Phil for organising it.

Sandra Handcock

#### LANGSTROTH POT Dec 5

The meet should have been Langstroth Pot but owing to lack of support it was decided to do other

caves. Andy Hommonai was keen to investigate a hole near there, while Andy Clegg and myself went in search of Hagg Gill Pot. We removed the lid and a concrete and scaffold shaft was revealed. 50ft was rigged and a static line put in place. On descending we passed a short narrow section into a wide cavern. We explored downstream via a large chamber. Many pretties adorn this system. After surfacing we hunted for Langstroth Cave This cave ends in a sump upstream and becomes tortuous down stream. A good day was had by all.

Les Mottram

#### DENIOLEN Dec 11/12

I would like to apologise to Pete & Judith, Phil McCool, John Adamthwaite & Geoff Haigh, who turned up on Friday night for my meet in N Wales. The beer was flowing well & we were all impressed by Judith ordering a round at 0130hrs in WELSH! The apologies are for me returning home Saturday - family commitments, father Xmas on his way.

I believe they all went walking up Elidir Fawr Saturday & probably straight to the pub for some more fluent Welsh speaking. Sunday Phil went home, Mike Hendrick turned up to go climbing in the Pass, while Pete & Judith went mountain biking.

Blackie (Pete Blackburne)

## **CONGRATULATIONS: Douglas Pilling MBE**

Older members in particular will be interested to know that Douglas was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours List "for services to the British community in Guatemala" where he has lived for many years.

He maintains a keen interest in club affairs with newsletters reaching him via a courier service from a mail box address in Miami

Joyce Taylor



*Douglas on his visit to England in Aug 2004, with Joyce and Alan & Aida Sutton. (Photo supplied by Joyce Taylor)*

## Blizzard Protection Systems

## Letter from Chris Wheatley

Debbie

I met a member of the Oban Mountain Rescue team when in Scotland over the new year who highly recommended the Blizzard Survival Blanket. More info at [www.blizzardprotectionsystems.com](http://www.blizzardprotectionsystems.com) and below. Might be timely to put something about this in the current newsletter. Stocked by Outside, Cotswold Outdoor and Nevisport.

"Blizzard Protection Systems

The story of Blizzard's development is simple. The founding directors are all active mountaineers and outdoor sports enthusiasts, so we have a passionate interest in creating the best equipment to keep ourselves and fellow enthusiasts alive, and enabling them to perform at their best.

The idea of Reflexcell\* was born 15 years ago - a super-lightweight material which would provide unprecedented thermal performance in the most demanding conditions. The rest is history: years of development, prototyping and testing until we were sure we had the material absolutely right.

The company is based in Bethesda, North Wales, in the Snowdonia National Park. Not the biggest mountains in the world, but an excellent proving ground offering some truly challenging weather conditions.

All of our development work and manufacturing is carried out in house. Not only do we make our own products - we rely on them for our personal survival."

### Web Site of the Month

FROM John Llewellyn

As ever, I was very pleased to get the last Newsletter. The Web Site of the Month is a fine idea. I've much enjoyed the one you gave, very helpful. You might like to try these sites. [www.fhc.co.uk/weather](http://www.fhc.co.uk/weather) This gives weather around Snowdon, with up to the minute or thereabouts a view of Snowdon itself. [www.powergenitalia.com](http://www.powergenitalia.com) is not quite what you might think, (unfortunately?), so don't get excited. (It's the result of the firm Powergen joining with its Italian equivalent). One does why these firms haven't been a little more wise. The Vauxhall Nova never sold well in Spain, I heard. Apparently, in Spanish nova means no go.

*(Ed: please send in your suggestions for this slot in time for next issue)*

# CLUB BUSINESS

This is your last Newsletter if you have not renewed

## **JOURNAL 2004 or 2005 or 2006?**

Any more offerings? Don't delay, write it today. Photos wanted too.

Roger Wilkinson

## **DISCOUNTS**

The club still has an arrangement with Cotswold for 15% reduction. You need to quote the reference number L2033

## **TRANEARTH BOOKINGS 2005**

Jan 12	Impact	Feb 25-27	Andrew Batterley
Jan 28-30	Duddon Scouts	Mar 16	Brathay
Feb 4-5	Dale Heaton	Mar 18-20	LC&CC Working party
Feb 18-20	E Yorks MC	Mar 25-28	Easter: Available for LC&CC

*Tranearth is often booked at short notice by commercial groups (especially mid-week) so do not assume it is empty*

## **INDOOR EVENING MEETS**

### **Tues Feb 1st 2005 Black Dog (Belmont) 8pm**

The British Chiring We expedition 2004.

Chris Wheatley, Geoff Dawson and Phil Tucker will give a slide show describing the second ascent and the first British ascent of Chiring We (6556m) in the Kumaon region of the Himalayas. Come and see what it was like to explore a rarely visited part of the Indian Himalayas and the difficulties we had to overcome to get to the top of the mountain.

### **Tues Mar 5 2005 Black Dog (Belmont) 8pm**

I hope we will be able to arrange for pictures from club members' recent travels. Possibilities are the planned trip to Norway, Rog & Debbie (Australia & New Zealand) Bob Bowdler in Sardinia, Pete Nugent in New Zealand. PLEASE get in touch with Debbie if you have some pictures. We still don't have regular access to projection for pictures from digital cameras. Anyone who can help please get in touch.

# MEETS LIST

Meet venues may be changed in the event of bad weather. Please ring meet co-ordinators to let them know that you are going on a meet. This list may differ from, but supersedes, the Handbook programme.

DATE	TITLE/VENUE	AC	ACTIVITY	MC
Jan 1-3	Scotland	Hut	Climb/walk	Chris Wheatley
Jan 2	Notts Pot II		Cave	Geoff Dawson
Jan 9	Peak / Dales		Climb/walk	Bernie & Lawrence Jordan
Jan 16	Peak / Dales		Climb/walk	John Banks
Jan 16	Swinsto Hole		Cave	Les Mottram
Jan 30	Ice Climbing wall	YH	Ice Sport	Pete Blackburne
Jan 22/23	N Wales Deniolen	Hut	Climb/walk	Pete Cosgrove
Jan 30	Peak / Dales		Climb/walk	Phil McCool
Feb 6	Peak / Dales		Climb/walk	Bernie & Lawrence Jordan
Feb 6	Pikedaw Caverns		Cave	Matt Walker
Feb 12-13	Peak or elsewhere			Lawrence Jordan
Feb 12/19	Norway	Villa	Ice Climbing	Chris Wheatley
Feb 20	N Wales Deniolen		Climb/walk	Tony Mercer
Feb 20	Heron Pot		Cave	Alan Wright
Feb 27	Peak/Dales		Climb/walk	Gillian Tuddenham
Mar 5/6	N Wales	Hut	Climb/walk	Ken Tebay
Mar 5	Cavers' Booze-up			Les Mottram
Mar 6	Long Kin West Pot		Cave	Andy Hommonai
Mar 13	Peak/Dales		Climb/walk	Geoff Dawson
Mar 19/20	Tranearth Working Party	Hut	Climb/walk	Roger Wilkinson
Mar 20	Birks Fell Cave		Cave	Bill Osborne
Mar 25/28	Easter Meet Pembroke/Gower	Camp	Climb/walk	Ken Tebay
April 2/3	N Wales Deiniolen	Hut	Climb/walk	John Banks
April 3	Stump Cross Caverns		Cave	Les Mottram
April 10	Hen Cloud		Climb	John Roberts
April 16/17	Tranearth	Hut	Climb/walk	Carol Wrigley
April 17	Rift Pot/Long Kin East Pot		Cave	Geoff Dawson
April 24	Peak District		Climb	Tony Madden
May 1	Outsleets Beck Pot		Cave	Graham Phillips
May 28 - June 4	Mingulay, Outer Hebrides	Camp	Climb	Chris Wheatley
June 24/25	Tranearth BBQ & social with Oread MC & GMC	Hut	Climb/walk	Chris Wheatley