

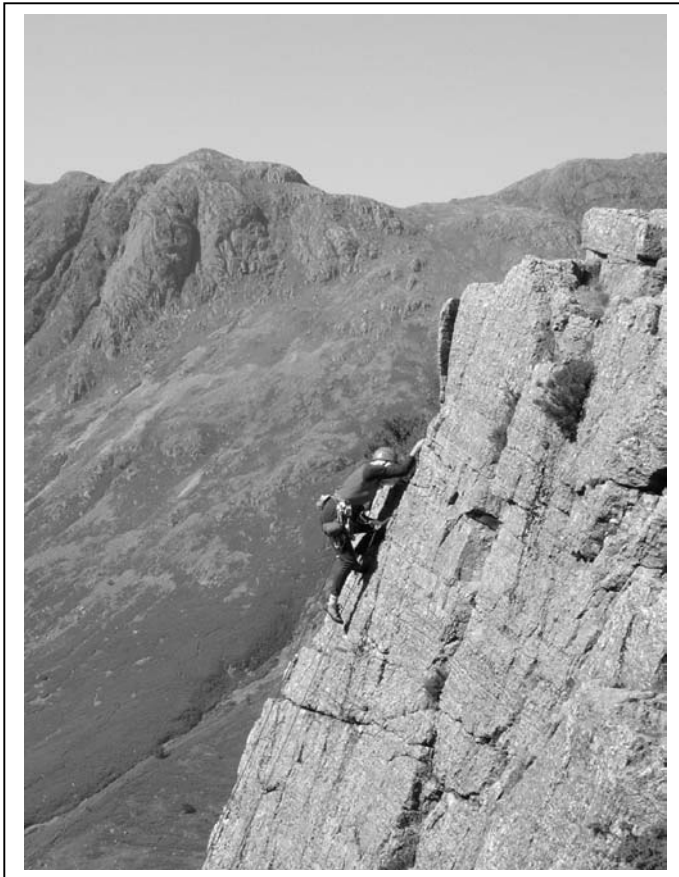


LANCASHIRE CAVING  
& CLIMBING CLUB

Sept/Oct  
2003

# NEWSLETTER

Number  
406



*Photo: The Editor on an early repeat of Serendipity (Severe \*\*\*), Kettle Crag, Langdale.*

## EDITORIAL

Apologies if you found more than the usual errors in the last issue. Roger was upset to find his careful proof reading corrections had not been transferred into print.

We have to go to press before the imminent committee meeting, but I am aware that at least a couple of committee members would like to stand down at the AGM. If you would like to be involved with club management please make your interest known.

The end of August is not a good time to collect meet information. There are quite a lot of gaps. I must remember to start earlier next year.

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Wilkinson, e-mail [rogeranddeborah@onetel.net.uk](mailto:rogeranddeborah@onetel.net.uk)

Articles are welcome on old fashioned paper or by e-mail

## CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE 24 Oct 2003

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.

## FORTHCOMING MEETS

### Sept 7

### Possibly Twisleton

### Graham Phillips

Ring Graham to find out what is planned.

### Sept 13/14

### Gogarth

### Chris Wheatley

Seacliff climbing from VS upwards on the main cliff off Gogarth and Rhoscolyn, and plenty of routes from V Diff upwards on the less intimidating Holyhead Mountain. Usual camp site (The Valley of the Rocks GR 238807 also know as the Anglesey school of sea canoeing). Please, ring me if you intend to go because I may not go if the weather is doubtful unless I know other people will be there.

### Sept 14

### Pegleg Pot

### Mark Lavender

No info on this meet. Ring Mark or Les Mottram for details. (Ring Les on his mobile 07968 285620, leave a message if he is not available. He will get back to you).

### Sept 20/21

### Tranearth-Wasdale Walk

### Ken Jackson

I have booked 12 beds (8 male and 4 female) at Brackenclose, the Fell & Rock Hut in Wasdale, for the night of Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2003. I have to confirm the number of beds actually required two weeks prior to the date of the walk. **So you must let me know if you intend to come by 4<sup>th</sup> September.** I can get one more male bed and three more female beds if required. The cost is £5.00 per night.

The plan is to set off from Tranearth no later than 9am on Saturday morning so I plan to sleep there on Friday night.

Walkers are free to choose their own route but I propose to go via Goat's Water, Grey Friar, Cockley Beck, Mosedale, upper Eskdale, Mickledore and down Brown Tongue. The return should be a little easier via Burnmoor Tarn, Woolpack Inn, round Harter Fell, Duddon Valley and over Walna Scar Road.

Brackenclose is equipped with pillows and lots of blankets so there is no real need to take anything but a sheet sleeping bag. The Wasdale Head Hotel serves food and drink but that will involve extra walking. I plan to cook at the hut.

Joyce Taylor has volunteered to drive round to Wasdale and to transport food, drink, spare clothes etc. I am not sure how we will get the stuff to Joyce but I will most certainly be taking advantage of this very generous offer.

### Sept 20/21

### Northumberland

Karl Lunt

The "noble county" used to be a regular club venue back in the eighties. An out-of-print guide and a reputation for harsh grades may account for the recent lack of club interest but to ignore Northumberland is to leave a large hole in your climbing CV - this is one of the major outcrop venues on a par with Peak Grit and Yorkshire Limestone. The character of the climbing is as varied as those two areas. There are sandstone crags such as Great Wanney and Callerhues with class routes of all grades where an outcrop attitude is a definite asset: sort the gear then "gan for it"! Totally different are the dolerite crags of Crag Lough and Peel Crag on Hadrian's Wall. Again there are classics of all grades but the routes are longer (up to 100 feet) and have almost a mountain feel to them. For this weekend I plan to be based in the south which will cut considerably the driving - it's a lot closer than you think, hardly further than the Lakes, a lot less crowded and usually better weather. The campsite is at Winshields Farm (01434 344243), a small, basic site close to the pub,YH and Park Centre at Once Brewed: leave the M6 at the second Carlisle Jct 43 and head east on the A69 - follow the signs for Hadrian's Wall. Keep on past Brampton and at Greenhead turn left onto the B6318 ("Military Road"). The campsite is on the left after about 5 miles. I have two editions of the guide, the earlier of which is great fun in the pub afterwards when you can check the undergradings. The crags are not that long so lack of a guidebook is not an excuse. Here's a chance to flex those pecs built up over the long, hot summer. Ring me if you are going. I may have to jib out if work gets in the way but hope to be travelling on Friday evening.

Karl Lunt

### Sept 28

### Little Hull Hole

Chris Wheatley

Chris is not available. Ring Les Mottram (see above) to find out what is planned.

### Oct 4/5

### Veteran's Meet Tranearth

Jack Wood

Slightly long in the tooth? Not been on a meet for a while? Then why not come and join us? A warm welcome awaits. Details:- Meet Saturday in Newby Bridge at 10.30am for a walk to be led by Alan Sutton (from A590 in Newby Bridge take Hawkshead road over

river. Park on minor road off to left). Dine at Tranearth, arrange your own clusters for eats but Jacob's Join booze has been suggested!

Sunday:- Climbing or walking. I will co-ordinate the latter. I can be contacted after 21 Sept

**Oct 12** **Brownhill Hole** **Geoff Dawson**  
No info on this meet. Ring Geoff or Les Mottram (see above) to sort out plans

**Oct 12** **South Lakes** **John Banks**  
Plans will depend on the weather. Ring me the week before to finalise arrangements.

**Oct 4-18** **Kalymnos** **Carol Wrigley**  
There are quite a lot of club members going to Kalymnos around this time. Make your own arrangements and meet others on the crags. Ring Carol for more information.

**Oct 19** **Peak** **Ken Tebay**  
Ken has taken over this meet as Tony Mercer is not able to go. Ring Ken for information

**Oct 25/26** **Dan y Mynydd** **Phil Griffiths**  
I will be at the hut on Friday evening and off to The Kings Head about 9pm. Work on Saturday and fun on Sunday or vice versa as weather dictates. Give me a ring if you want further details or to arrange shared transport..

**Oct 26** **Robinson's Pot** **Bill Osborne**  
Ring Bill or Les Mottram (see above) to find out what is planned.

**Nov 1/2** **Bonfire Tranearth** **Harold Newman/Ted Fry**  
Bonfire on Saturday night: please arrive in time to help build it. Fireworks and Barbeque in the evening. Great family entertainment. Barbeque fire and food will be provided.

**Nov 9** **Troutbeck** **Bryan Carlyle**  
I hope to park at G.R. 413026 which is just over the bridge on the left and before the church when travelling in the Kirkstone direction.

The route will go to Thornthwaite Crag via Garburn Pass and then on to Stony Cove Pike and back over the Tongue.

Early arrival is advised as we will leave at 9-30am and parking is limited.

## **FORWARD PLANNING**

### **Projects in 2004**

I am considering a number of adventures for 2004.

**Option 1.** Two weeks in SW Colorado climbing and skiing over the New Year period.

**Option 2.** Four weeks trekking and climbing in the Himalaya, either late spring or post-monsoon. The aim would be to avoid the trade routes (forget Everest base camp etc.).

Option 3. Four weeks trekking and climbing in the Vilcabamba (near to Cuzco in Peru) during June. The aim would be to climb Nevado Pumacilla and possibly Nevado Salcantay.

Please let me know your thoughts and we'll discuss over a pint to crystallize the thinking.

Chris Wheatley

## MEET REPORTS

### Browgill Cave July 6

Members assembled at High Birkwith on a dry but overcast day. Mike Hale (Slugs) who was getting over a serious illness came along for a natter (he only lives 5 mins away at Selside). Brian, Allan and myself abseiled into Calf Holes (35ft) and did the through trip into Browgill cave. Feeling rather energetic we travelled back through the system and prussiked out at Calf Holes.

Following a short break we walked over to Birkwith cave and explored as far as the lake. There used to be a rowing boat tied up on the edge for cave diving purposes but this has gone, probably sunk with all hands.

Les Mottram

### Climbing and BBQ meet, Tranearth, July 12/13

Despite the usual session in the Church House Friday evening, several teams got away before 9:00 in the morning for a day on Dow Crag. My team (myself and John Hopkins, a guest) were first on *Murray's Route* and so I was able to savour its delights for the very first time. Am I the only one to think that pitches 2-4 were an anticlimax after the delightful rigours of the first? Ken Tebay and John Banks had to wait for *Leopard's Crawl*

and then they held up others while they crept across. Mike Arnold and John Stringfellow drove up for the day, but we only saw them the once because, as they said, "We're here for the climbing, not the socialising." Several others climbed on Dow too but I didn't keep tabs on their movements. The combination of cool breeze and sun required cunning in clothing and stationing. My team moved to A buttress to catch the last rays of the sun before it moved round to the west. Dow is renowned for being cold in the late afternoon so I returned early to the hut for tea and to prepare for the BBQ.

Six members climbed on Dick Baker and Roger Wilkinson's Crag X in Langdale, no longer a secret having been worked out and their conquests broadcast on the FRCC web site for others to savour. Roger was clearly chuffed as he had prepared nicely printed mini-guides. How long, though, will the rock remain immaculate once the crowds get to it with their greasy fingers and over-laden chalk bags? Four others climbed on Wallowbarrow where Wyn did a winger on the crux of *Digitation* and bruised her ribs.

The BBQ was a huge success with balanced representation from recent

and long-standing members, youth and forlorn youth alike. Was it the prospect of dawn to dusk sun that drew such a large crowd? Ian Nuttall and fiancée, Catherine, flew from Northern Ireland. Liz Beswick drove from Gloucestershire. Shad and Louise showed with supplementary charcoal. And finally, Sandra Handcock and Bernie Jordan forsook the conclusion of the Colbenson birthday party to arrive at midnight to bring the grand total of participants to 28 members, 5 guests, 1 child (Ken's grandson) and 1 dog. The car park was overwhelmed and Phil McCool got top marks for finding the most imaginative spot to park, leaving room for others to retreat from the upper level by a mere hair's breadth. Les's stainless steel BBQ frame was retrieved from the weeds and did good service once more. Extraordinary cuts of meat landed with gruesome rapidity on the grill, the veggies having to guard their quarter to prevent infringement. All the baked potatoes bar one were consumed and some realised with relish that I had snuck in a few sweet ones. Pete Nugent generously proffered pink champagne as an aperitif. His evening's mission was to consume a magnum of pinotage unaided. Jane Toothill's was to get Becky (a guest) drunk on neat gin. Both succeeded. A few ran dry and retired to the Church House for supplementary libation. The jollity lasted well into the night, to the regret of Ken. He crawled out of his tent at 2:00 in the morning for a discreet pee in the darkness only to be greeted by a line of glowing faces

peering forth from Bill Sherborne's bench enjoying the dying embers of the BBQ. He retreated to wait till morning. The BBQ had consumed 18kg of charcoal and was still hot enough to cook a breakfast by the morning.

Sunday started slowly. Throughout the morning teams assembled and trekked up to Dow for a day's engagement. Ken's dog was treated to a hot sausage, not quite believing that it really was for her, and then puked it up on the pillow slips drying on the boundary fence in the afternoon. I lingered with a hard core of diligent workers to ensure that the hut was returned to good order and fees paid. Thanks to Harold Newman for the unusual, a succulent kipper for my second breakfast.

By the time I got to the foot of B buttress with John, Cath Brannighan and Graham Phillips were grappling with *Eliminator*. Phil McCool and Phil Tucker eventually got their chance at *Murray's Route*, yet, after leaving Abraham's Cave they mistakenly turned right onto the last pitch of *Murray's Direct*, thinking that that was the only way. Neither of them could get up it (the logic never dawned) and they waited for Cath and Graham to finish and haul them off with a top rope. John and I headed for *Eliminate C*. Passing by the left flank of C buttress we saw Pete Cosgrove and Judith Cressey about to start climbing. "What route are you doing?" I called. I thought Judith cheekily replied "Serious." "I can see that," I said, looking up at the blank

wall, "but what is it called?" "Sirius," she shouted back. Pete later reckoned that it really should have been called "Serious" having been forced to retreat from the top of the first pitch due to the shortage of gear. John and I started too low on *Eliminate C* and picked up the line of *Charmer*. I dithered on the second pitch, unconvinced that it was the VS and struggled to find reasonable gear. After that we retreated onto *C Ordinary*, totally puzzled by the line. Back at the foot of *C* buttress we looked up to see Ken and John climbing above. "What route are you on?" I called. "Eliminate C," Ken replied. "No way," I thought as they seemed to be on *Charmer* too. Ken led through on steep and gearless ground high on the lip of Intermediate Gully and later claimed to have voided (not the word used by Ken) into the abyss. Clearly, the *C* in *C* buttress stands for "compact rock," a euphemism for gearless ground. Bert and Norma climbed on Dow too but I didn't find out what route they did. It had been Phil McCool's first time to Dow, and trailing on the way back due to a recent ankle injury, he missed the turning for Tranearth off the Walna Scar road and continued down to Coniston. The nearer he got to Coniston, the greater the impression grew that he was off-track. He eventually returned by the disused railway track.

Some did not feel well enough to climb that day. Roger was one, yet he could

not idle and so he decided to clean the UV water sterilisation unit. Although the Tranearth plumbing system has been recently simplified it remains complex and unconventional. Like the sorcerer's apprentice, he turned-off a stopcock (the wrong one) to isolate the unit from the storage tank and proceeded to dismantle it. He thus conjured up a flood of water which washed down the stairway into the lobby in a streaming torrent. There were shouts for plumbers but to no avail and the whole of the 70-gallon tank (*Ed: well, about 6 bucketsful*) in the barn loft was drained before the flood abated. Mops and buckets were brought to bear and water was cast out of the front door, inadvertently casting out a vital washer from the UV unit which was recovered only after a detailed search. The Tranearth plumbing system saga continues.

The meet ended with tea drinking and lounging in the late afternoon sun in front of Tranearth. An amusing conversation started with an innocent remark that I hadn't fancied the drive to climb on Esk Buttress due to the heat. That was reposted by recalling that in former years members would walk from Tranearth to Esk Buttress to climb, and then walk back again. Thus began the lifestyle theme which roamed over back-to-back terraces, outdoor privvies, tin baths and gas lighting. It ended with (I'll not mention names and apologies for the slight embellishment), "When I was a toddler my mother would push me down to the

coal merchants in my pram, lift me out and put a cwt sack of coal in and push it back home." To which came the reply "We couldn't afford to buy coal when I was a nipper so we collected it from the railway track and carried it home in us pockets."

Many thanks to all those who participated and particularly to those who gave a helping hand by carrying the charcoal up to the hut, washing up, wiping down, sweeping out, carrying rubbish down the lane and a dozen other chores. Sharing the load made it a pleasant occasion for me and I hope everyone else who attended enjoyed the meet too.

Chris Wheatley

### Meregill Hole July 20

The weather was hot and sticky, although it was overcast. Six of us assembled at Meregill Hole in Chapel-le-Dale near Ingleton. The cave entrance in the mere was under water so it was decided to descend the Little Meregill entry. This is a short constricted passage leading to a 14 metre pitch. Three of us decided this wasn't for us and retired gracefully.

A Team consisting of Geoff Dawson, Andy Hommonai and Fay Hartley made the descent. The rest of us the B Team Alan Wright, Matt Walker and myself explored Sunset Hole and did the through trip from Great Douk Cave to the Middlewashfold Cave. On surfacing the latter we were summoned by a pair of hikers to rescue a sheep which had fallen down a fissure in the rocks. In a short while we had the poor animal safely on the surface but the silly sod

decided to fall down another hole close by. Again we rescued it but this time directed it to a safe patch of moorland. Following all this excitement a brew at Bernies café was most welcome.

Thanks to all those who attended.

Les Mottram

### Ennerdale, July 26/27

I was surprised that the day-long torrential rain in the north west on Friday had not put off those who had enquired about the meet. Sandra and I drove up from Warrington via Penrith and Cockermouth in two and a quarter hours. We retired to The Shepherds Arms in Ennerdale Bridge where we began the tasting of the five excellent real ales on offer. Phil Tucker joined us an hour later after pitching his tent in twilight, keenly observed by an owl. Graham Phillips arrived at the campsite just as we returned to our tents at 11:30. He had avoided Cockermouth via Whinlatter Pass adding nearly an hour to his journey. Although longer, there is no doubt that it was quicker to stick to the faster roads. His was a cold night having forgotten his sleeping bag.

The campsite was unusual. The fast running river (the Ehen) on the left margin of the small, neatly mown field was obvious as you entered. Steps ran down to the river, possibly for canoeing. On Saturday morning I noticed that the river abruptly turned right at the bottom of the field and followed its bottom margin (this wasn't obvious as the margins were shrouded by trees). On Sunday morning I noticed that the river abruptly turned right

again and followed the third margin! The owner, a 76 year-old farmer (now retired), said that sea trout and eels could be caught in the river. His property was a little run-down (defunct tractors and caravans nestle in the weeds) but it has character. You are instructed to keep the doors of the toilet block shut to prevent his hens from messing the floors.

Saturday morning was wet so Graham did one of Wainwright's out-lying fells and the remainder biked up Ennerdale to reconnoitre the approach to Pillar Rock. The damp fell side beneath Pillar repelled us and feeling that we had not done enough we carried on biking over Scarth gap and into Buttermere. Phil and I returned arduously via Scale Beck and Floutern Tarn but Sandra had had enough of pushing her bike over rough ground and returned by Loweswater and Lamplugh. Continuing our tasting session at The Shepherds Arms we gazed at the sun-bathed west flank of Pillar Rock and wondered whether we should have bided our time and climbed instead. Cath Brannighan and Geoff Duxberry arrived about then having failed to find parking in Borrowdale for Shepherds Crag. The tasting session was concluded that evening, voting Timothy Taylor's Landlord the best of the ales, closely followed by Archer's Merry-go-round and Coniston's Bluebird.

Sunday was drier and the prospect of climbing on sun-drenched sandstone at St Bees Head beckoned more strongly than the slog up to Pillar and its

dampness or the abundance of lesser crags in the vicinity. We had a thoroughly pleasant afternoon climbing the easier routes (hard enough though) in a cooling westerly breeze while the cloud hung heavily over the bulk of the Lake District.

To sum up, Ennerdale is not so hard to get to and it has enough attractions to warrant a return visit on another occasion.

Chris Wheatley

### Sell Gill Holes Aug 2

Three of us assembled at Horton-in-Ribblesdale, on a gorgeous Saturday morning. We knew of an extension to the hole, discovered by the 'Craven Pothole Club'; this was our goal. Following a sweaty walk, Matt and Alan took turns in rigging with ropes, 3 pitches: 9m, 10m, 12m into the main chamber. This was soon passed and we continued down the familiar passage to where the sump pool used to be. This has been dug out and instead a low crawl leads to a chamber with a pool and beyond a short section of roomy rift passage.

Further on we came to a comfortable crawl which ended at the top of a 14m pitch. We uncoiled the Electron ladder and secured it to a bolt hanger in the right hand wall. I descended followed by the others. We entered a cavern, unfortunately the rifts encountered were too tight for us. We investigated a climb up through large boulders into the ante chamber, but there was no way on. We were pleased with our trip and returned through the extension break before returning uneventfully to

the surface. The day was rounded off with a few pints at the Crown Hotel. Thanks to those who turned up.

Les Motttram

### Borrowdale Aug 9/10

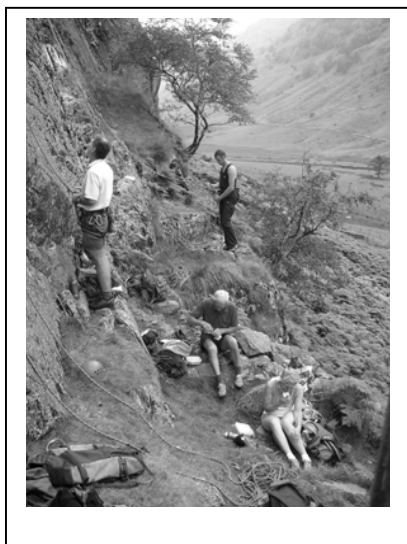
Would the good weather hold out for the Borrowdale meet? Well, it turned out to be the week-end when all-time temperature records were broken in the SE. History doesn't relate whether records in Borrowdale were broken, but it would be no surprise. As we sat about in the Stonethwaite camp site at breakfast time with sweat dripping off our sedentary bodies, the attractions of the high crags seemed to become less pronounced, and for many the aim was to find a shady crag close to the road. So while two hardy types (Chris W. and Phil T.), who were not deterred by excessive sun and heat, set off to walk up to Doves Nest crag in Combe Ghyll, the rest of us set our sights on Quayfoot Buttress. While

Sandra, Debbie and Fiona enjoyed the classic V. Diff, Graham P. teamed up with Cath B; Ken T. with John Banks; and Roger W. with Lawrence J for a mass assault on the classic HVS routes of the crag. Some elementary miscalculations resulted in four members being on the same stance of *Irony* in the blazing sun in mid afternoon, but apart from that the sun was successfully avoided most of the day and more-or-less stylish ascents of *Irony*, *Mandrake*, and *Crypt* were made. Cath made an attempt on *The Creep* (HVS 5b, but probably harder), and found herself above the crux but, anticipating failure, having neglected to take any more gear with her!

Returning to the campsite we found Val S. who had been for a slow, slow walk in the heat, and Chris and Phil looking a touch dehydrated. We also found some ferocious midges which, sadly, could only be avoided by going to the pub.



Lawrence & Ken on Fat Charlie's Buttress



And the scene below

Later, we were made aware of the abilities of some of our fellow campers to stay up all night making a horrific racket, and we, at least, vowed never to use the Stonethwaite site again at a weekend. The squalid facilities make it poor value in any case, though the position makes it a good base for walking to some excellent crags, which is what we had in mind for Sunday. The weather, though, had forgotten the forecast, and we had a dampish breakfast and early half of the morning. When it cleared, a group of us set off for Bleak How Crag, with a smaller party going higher, to Lining Crag, where a classic diff. *Ullscarf Arete* was enjoyed by Chris, Phil, Sandra and sometime member Penny Webb, who now has job at Stonethwaite. Bleak How, however, turned out to be greasy and lichenous, much more so, we thought, than it used to be. Unhappily, we returned to the valley bottom where the day was redeemed by several pleasant hours spent on a recently developed small buttress, Fat Charlie's. Here we were joined by Bert & Norma P. *Après grimpe* included a free Jacuzzi in a little gorge of Langstrath Beck, where the water was genuinely warm. All in all, a Lakeland meet, but not as we know it.

Roger & Debbie Wilkinson

#### Tranearth Families Meet Aug 22-28

We got to Tranearth on Friday in time for lunch, then spent the afternoon by Lake Coniston where we hired a rowing boat.

On Saturday the weather was drizzly

and dull so we headed for Grizedale Forest. The Jackson family went for a cycle around the lake. Lawrence and Chris managed to get back in time to do a wet route on Dow. Phil McCool and Pete Nugent did *Hiatus* on Gimmer. New grad, Gillian and John Banks did some routes on Raven while Ken tried to recover from his lurgy. In the evening we were joined by Sophy who came with granddad Tony Makin and proved an expert Jenga player. On Sunday, the weather looked more promising but the rock was still wet. The lurgy seems to have spread and turned to lethargy but some climbing was done on Raven's lower end. The routes proved steep and fingery. The Selby family arrived at the hut and then went to explore the slate caverns. The Jackson and Jordan children played by Lake Coniston, paddling, fishing and getting thoroughly wet. On Monday, Bernie and Gillian did 2 routes on Dow while Pete and Phil went to Bright Beck Crag near Pavey and found some tricky little routes. Ian went for a run while Helen and Lawrence had a peaceful time watching the boys build dams and 'Bond boats' in the stream.

The achievement of the week for Peter and Edward was to climb to the top of Scafell Pike from Langdale. This was inspired by Edward's ambition to climb the highest mountain in England. They chatted all the way and made it back in time for a bar meal.

Thanks to all who came. Hope to see you all on the next families meet.

Bernie and Lawrence Jordan

## *Walking off*

*Chris Wheatley*

When is the most dangerous part of a climb? Perhaps when it's over and you have untied because, from that moment on, you have no system to protect a slip or fall and the outcome can be very serious as the two examples below illustrate.

A college friend of mine frequently climbed in the Avon Gorge at the weekends. He had successfully completed his route and was walking down in the dark in his climbing boots. Those of you who have climbed at the gorge will know that some of the descent paths are very steep, finding lines between the faces. He might have lost his way. Anyway, he slipped, tried to grab a tree to control his fall, failed and fell nearly the whole height of the gorge. He landed amongst boulders and survived, but broke his femur in one leg, the knee of the other and an arm. He was in traction for weeks and had a massive blood clot in his thigh which was removed with warfarin. He joked it was a good way of meeting attractive nurses, but that was hardly justification for his carelessness. The experience was salutary because he never regained his zeal for climbing, retrained to become a doctor and is now a radiologist!

A 21 year-old colleague of mine (a metallurgist with the beautiful name, *Georgina*) had climbed Bidean nam Bian in winter. On reaching the summit she untied from the rope, stepped back to take a photograph and caught her crampons in her gaiters. She tripped, fell off the summit and died due to the severity of the fall.

What can you do to minimise the risk? Well, a little planning and care can save a lot of tears. Here are a few suggestions.

### **Preparation**

- Study the guide book description of the recommended way down. Bring the description and a map with you if you are in doubt.
- Plan and visualise your descent route. There's not much planning required when you are on home ground but suppose you are on a large, unfamiliar crag? Sometimes a large detour may be needed to gain safe ground and a safe means of descent. **Watch point** *Try and spot your descent route from below before you start climbing.*
- Consider carrying trainers or walking boots on the climb to reduce the risk of slipping on mud or wet grass on the descent.
- Bring a head torch on the climb if there is any possibility of finishing in the dark.
- In Alpine situations, take emergency gear in a sac.
- If the top of the crag is steep broken ground, grass or heather and is accessible before you start climbing (e.g. Anglezarke), then consider preplacing a rope draped to the top of the route to protect the walk-off.

### **At the top**

- Don't untie if there is no safe ground at the top, and place runners or use belays when you move.
- Don't untie at the lip of the crag. The leader should belay the second to safe ground (where a slip can be controlled) and then the second would belay the leader to him or her. The belay needn't be sophisticated; a direct belay with a loop of rope over a block or spike should be adequate to protect a slip in most cases. Make your own judgement on that one.

- Unless you set-up a proper belay to bring-up your partner to safe ground, untie and put your partner on belay before your partner unclips. Untying protects the possibility that your partner slips, your belay was ineffective and both of you are dragged to oblivion.
- Take great care not to dislodge loose rock, especially at the lip of the crag. Always shout a warning should you dislodge a rock, even if you think no one is there - there just might be. **Watch point** *Rocks, once dislodged, can travel long distances even on grassy slopes.*
- Don't take your helmet off until you are safely down. This protects against rock fall or slipping and hitting your head on a rock.

#### On the descent

- Scan the terrain for signs of a descent path or a safe line. **Watch point** *Don't be a lemming; not all tracks are paths and not all paths are safe.*
- Move at a controlled speed with both hands free to provide balance and support.
- Take care not to dislodge loose rock (*see At the top*).
- Don't hesitate to protect yourselves with a rope (with proper belays), or retrace your steps to find a better way down should you need to.
- Don't resort to rappelling unless you are sure it will lead you to safe ground and there is no other option. **Watch point** *Heights and the nature of the ground can be difficult to judge from above.*
- Don't separate. **Watch point** *Move with your slowest.*
- If it is dark and you are not sure of the way, then consider a bivvy.

**Motto** *Walk-off safely and don't just walk-off.*

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Debbie

Am reading the LC&CC Newsletter (405) with much enjoyment - congratulations, and congratulations to the Old Man of Hoy team as well as the Transnowdonia Six. Good stuff for the next Journal.

As an old-fashioned pedant I have to rebuke Joyce Taylor for presuming to claim "leadership" of her Baugh Fell meet: as Meet Co-ordinator she very successfully dealt with the maverick elements to achieve co-ordination of a high order and shepherded us through an enjoyable day over, for some of us, more new ground. I won't be on Chris 's W's meet (July 26/27) but if I was would find myself reluctant to plunge into a stream wearing only a "cosy" - something to keep the tea warm in your teapot, usually with strategic holes? The mind boggles, well mine does. (I wish we had a cartoon drawer in the club Ed)

Oh! My phone nos: 01750 725216 is the alternative - I look forward to receiving duplicated calls. (Ed: Mea culpa yet another of the errors we omitted to correct last issue, I hope the duplicated calls were not too boring.)

All best wishes

Dennis Gower

# CLUB BUSINESS

## AGM

The AGM will be held at the Black Dog on Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec

Peter Stone will be standing down as Chairman and Ken Tebay (Meets Secretary) has indicated he would like to hand over to someone with more time. If you are interested or know someone in the club who would like to be involved in committee work please get in touch with a member of the committee.

## DISCOUNT AT COTSWOLD CAMPING

Ken Tebay has arranged for club members to have 15% discount at any Cotswold Camping shop. To claim the discount show a current club membership card and quote the reference L2033

## NEW ROUTES IN LANGDALE

Dick Baker and I have been doing some new routes in Langdale at Kettle Crag.(see cover picture). We'd be interested in any comments or feedback. Some members have already repeated some of the new lines. Anyone wanting details can either download from the "Recent Developments" page of the Fell & Rock website ([www.frcc.co.uk](http://www.frcc.co.uk)) or if you don't have Internet access I will send on request descriptions and a crag diagram. Comments are welcome, and can be placed direct on the New Routes board of the F&RCC web site or sent to me.

Roger Wilkinson.

## CONTACTS

Tranearth Hut Booking: Judith Cressey  
Dan y Mynydd Hut Booking: Steve Davies,  
Hon Secretary: Carol Wrigley,  
Climbing Meets Secretary: Ken Tebay  
Caving Meets Secretary: Les Mottram,

## GRADUATE MEMBERS

Joshna Patel,  
Paul Hardman,  
John Hopkins,

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Pete Blackburne,

## TRANEARTH BOOKINGS

I have been unable to update the booking list as the booking secretary is on holiday. If you want to use Tranearth please contact Judith to find when it is available.

Sept 19-21	LC&CC		Oct 4/5	LC&CC (Vets)
Nov 1/2	LC&CC (Bonfire)			

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

# INDOOR MEETS

Indoor meets start in October. The new Social Secretary has put a lot of effort into planning an interesting series of evenings. We hope these evenings will attract members for a good 'get-together'.

**Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Oct at Black Dog (Belmont) 8pm:** Rescue from the Death Zone: an Everest Experience by Conran Harrod Admission £2. Guests welcome.

**Tues 4<sup>th</sup> Nov at Black Dog (Belmont) 8pm:** The Old Man of Hoy A photographic account of the ascent in May by 6 LC&CC members presented by Chris Wheatley. Admission 50p (Guests £1) to cover booking costs.

**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec at Black Dog (Belmont) 8pm:** LC&CC Annual General Meeting

## MEETS LIST

DATE	TITLE/VENUE	ACCOM <sup>N</sup>	ACTIVITY	MC
Sept 7	Possibly Twisleton		Climb	Graham Phillips
Sept 13/14	Gogarth	Camp	Climb	Chris Wheatley
Sept 14	Pegleg Pot		Cave	Mark Lavender
Sept 20/21	Tranearth - Wasdale**	Hut	Walk	Ken Jackson
Sept 27/28	Northumberland	Camp	Climb	Karl Lunt
Sept 28	Little Hull Hole		Cave	Les Mottram
Oct 4/5	Tranearth Vets	Hut	Walk +	Jack Wood
Oct 4-18	Kalymnos	Villa	Climb	Carol Wrigley
Oct 12	Brownhill Hole		Cave	Geoff Dawson
Oct 12	South Lakes		Climb	John Banks
Oct 19	Peak		Climb	Ken Tebay
Oct 25/26	Dan-y-Mynydd	Hut	Work/climb	Phil Griffiths
Oct 26	Robinson's Pot		Cave	Bill Osborne
Nov 9	Troutbeck		Walk	Bryan Carlyle
Nov 9	Ribblehead Area		Cave	Liz Lavender
Nov 16	Trowbarrow/Silverdale		Climb/Walk	Karl Lunt/Ali Sharman
Nov 22/23	Deniolen	Hut	Climb/walk	Pete Blackburne
Nov 23	Catamite Hole		Cave	Andy Hommonai
Nov 30	Fell Run			Pete Nugent
Dec 7	Yorkshire		Walk	Sandra Handcock
Dec 7	Tatham Wife Hole		Cave	Les Mottram
Dec 14	Peak District		Climb	John Banks
Dec 21	Lancashire/Yorkshire Christmas Supper Walk		Walk	Barry Walton
Dec 21	Maskhill Mine		Cave	Bill Osborne
Dec 28-31	Tranearth			
Jan 4	Peak			Adrian Perkin
Jan 4	Frustration Pot			Graham Phillips

\*\* Booking date 4 September.