

MEETS LIST

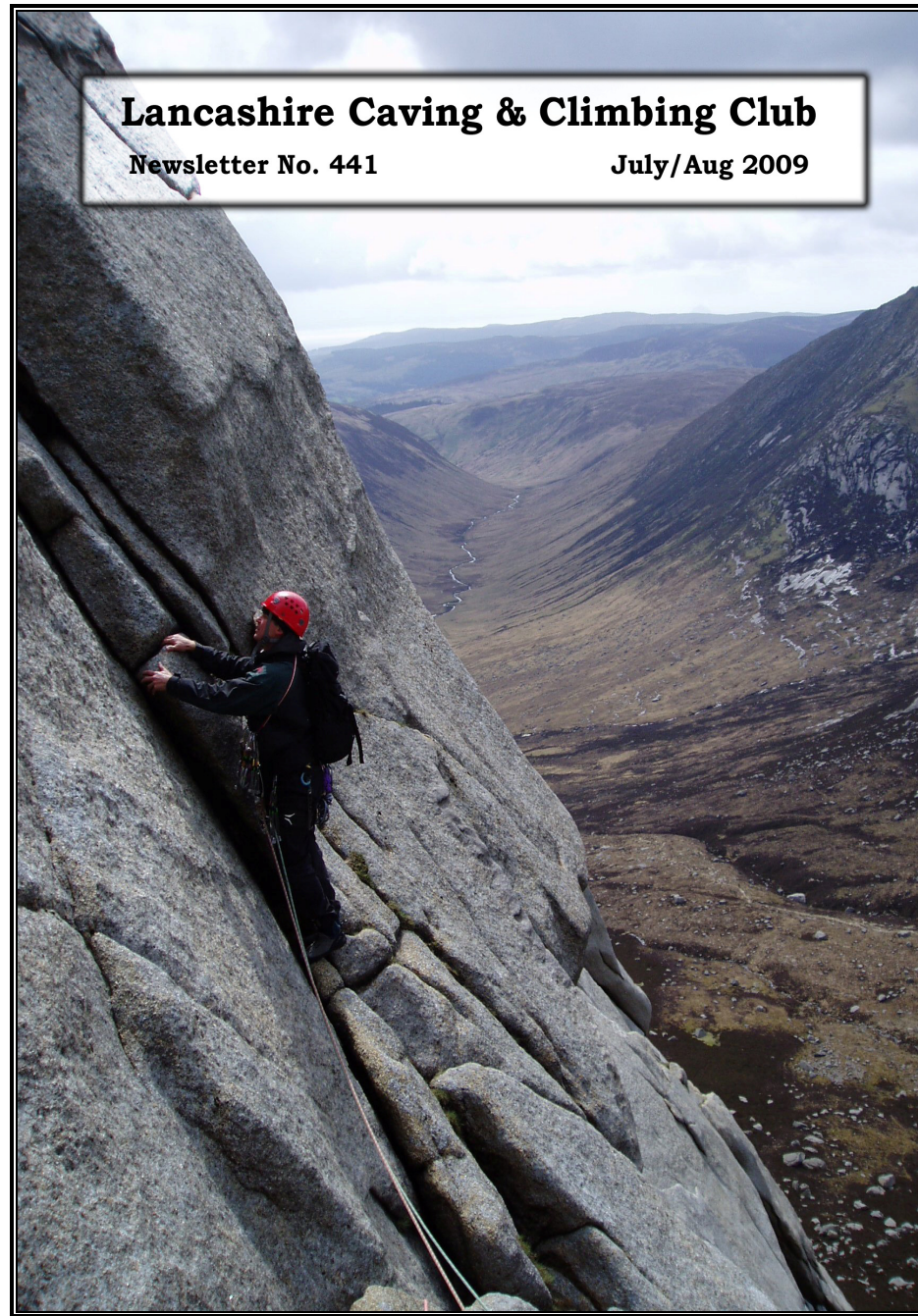
Meet venues may be changed. Please ring meet co-ordinators check the venue and to let them know that you are going or they may not go!

DATE	TITLE/VENUE	Accom	ACTIVITY	MC
July 3-5	Borrowdale	Camp	Climb	Dave Wearing
July 5	Link Pot/Serendipity		Cave	Mike Hale
July 12	Windgather		Climb	Sandra Handcock
July 17-19	Gogarth	Camp	Climb	Tony Madden
July 19	Black Shiver		Cave	Geoff Dawson
July 24-26	Buttermere		Climb	John Banks
July 24-25	Swilden's Hole Mendips	Hut	Cave	Les Mottram
Aug 1/2	Tranearth		Climb	Jane Toothill
Aug 7-9	Llanberis		Climb	John Roberts
Aug 9	Long Drop Cave		Cave	John Stringfellow
Aug 8-22	Cornwall	Camp	Climb	Ken Tebay
Aug 16	Castlenaze		Climb	Phil Tucker
Aug 23	Jackpot		Cave	Tom Towers
Aug 24-28	Families Tranearth	Hut	All sorts	Bernie Jordan
Aug 29-31	Tranearth Joint Meet	Hut	Climb	Dave Wearing
Sept 4-6	Wye Valley	Camp	Climb	Steve Martin
Sept 6	Long Kin East		Cave	Andy Homonnai
Sept 12/13	Joint Meet Deniolen	Hut	Climb	Geoff Haigh
Sept 19-21	Dan-y-Mynydd	Hut	Climb	John Weale
Sept 20	Ireby 2		Cave	Les Mottram
Sept 27	Attermire Scar		Climb	Karl Lunt
Oct 2-4	Dan-y-Mynydd WP	Hut	Climb	Phil Griffiths
Oct 4	Boundary Pot		Cave	Mike Hale
Oct 9-11	Vets Meet Tranearth		walk	
Oct 11	Gardoms		Climb	Matt Gordon
Oct 18	Stanage		Climb	Mike Hall
Oct 18	Gingling Hole		Cave	Geoff Dawson
Oct 25	Dan-y-Mynydd	Hut	Climb	Mark Adams
Nov 1	Marble Steps		Cave	John Stringfellow
Nov 8	Bonfire Tranearth	Hut		

Lancashire Caving & Climbing Club

Newsletter No. 441

July/Aug 2009



Cover photo: Murray Gallagher on Sou'wester Slabs, Arran. (Photo credit P. Blackburne)

EDITORIAL

The 2008 Journal is enclosed. (see Roger's note below). I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. I've been reading it non-stop since Roger fetched it from the printers. As a non-literary person it strikes me as an excellent set of articles, so from 'all of the club' thanks to all those who have contributed, and especially to Roger for the work he put into editing it. The 2010 Journal is now on the drawing board. I know that because I've passed two meet reports to him already. I'm not surprised he wanted them, as both were something more than plain brief meet reports and both had that little something extra in style. I was also very short of space.

From Roger Wilkinson: Journal Editor

As usual, it (*the Journal*) comes with an apology from the editor. When I was just finishing the editing I realised there would be 2 spare pages and I was a photo short for the centrefold. "Ah!", I thought, "I'll put in that article which I wrote for the Climbers' Club Journal a few years back, and include a new photo taken on our most recent trip to Australia." It was only when the Journal was being printed that I suddenly remembered the self-same article had been published in a previous LC&CC Journal before it went into the CC organ. So if you are not a recently-joined member there may be something vaguely familiar in this edition.

Newsletter Editor: Debbie Wilkinson, Mob 07919 021106 e-mail rogeranddeborah@live.co.uk
Articles & letters are welcome on old fashioned paper, too.

NEXT ISSUE DUE OUT end of August, 2009

Please send material for inclusion in good time.

I can add small items until the last minute,

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

All contact details are listed at the end. This is because when the Newsletter goes on our web site I remove such information from the 'public section', but it is available on the club section.

July 12	Windgather	Sandra Handcock
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Meet at the crag at 10.30am. The car park is close by at GR 996784 on the White Peak 1:25,000 map. Let me know beforehand if you're going as I won't be going if no-one has contacted me. If the weather forecast is not so good I'll look at doing a walk or mountain bike ride.

July 17-19	Gogarath	Tony Madden
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The glorious sea cliffs of Gogarath provide an impressive range of exciting and adventurous climbs better than anywhere in Wales. You have climbs on the more serious cliffs of Wen Zawn, Easter Island Gully or the Main Wall itself. All tidal (but we have good tides for this weekend). There are several classics on the upper tier that aren't tidal from VSs and above; easier access routes on the nearby Holyhead

Offers to co-ordinate meets and ideas about future meets are welcome at any time
Caving Meets Secretary: John Stringfellow, Les Mottram mobile 07968 285620

Thursday Evening Outside Climbing

One or more of those shown on contact list (below) should be there if the weather is fine, usually from 5pm to dusk. For unsettled weather definitely ring around 3:30pm on the day to check that someone will be turning out. Grades from V Diff upwards. All welcome. Ring to ensure your favourite local crag is listed in the next newsletter.

Bob Bowdler

Murray Gallagher H 0161 344 1645 M 07886 310389

Simon Holden

John Shaw

July 9	Anglezarke	Aug 13	Cadshaw Castle Rock
July 16	Farleton	Aug 20	Wilton 1/3
July 23	Troy	Aug 27	Stronstey Bank
July 30	Harcles Hill Quarry	Sept 10	Brownstones
Aug 6		Sept 17	Denham

MIDWEEK EVENING CLIMBING PROPOSED CHANGE

From the feed back I have received nearly everyone is in favour of moving the meets to Wednesdays and I don't think access to one crag should stop that.

I propose to change the meets to Wednesday when we go inside at the end of the season. Dates before that are already set.

Please contact Simon if you have wish to comment on this proposed change.

TUESDAY EVENING INDOOR MEETS— Dates to note

Tues Oct 27th

Lyon equipment are sending a rep to discuss gear etc.

Further details in next Newsletter

Tues Nov 24th

Talk by Mick Fowler. Tickets for this meet will be available at from committee members in September. At £5 pp. Please book the date. If there is any space seats will be made available to other clubs after October 1st

The next Wilton Clean up is scheduled for Sun 5th July. Sorry the Newsletter is too late to advertise this.

MLTB/SPA Training Subsidy

Lancashire Club members can get subsidy via University of Cumbria for MLTB/SPA training.

Information from Tom Phillips or at:

<http://www.cumbria.ac.uk/AboutUs/Faculties/FacultyofBSSS/Ourschool/SBE/BusinessServices/Business%20Training/GetQualified.aspx>

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

John Hancock

Pete Nugent has a new mobile

NEW GRADUATE MEMBERS

James Brown

Nicola Brown

Neil Trumper,

Diana Brockbank

NEW FULL MEMBERS

Paul Burgess,

Paul Lewis,

Ged Barlow, 81, Oldfield Cres., Lache, Chester CH4 7PH Tel 01244 659932 Mob 07801 036625

Bernard Cross,

Shaun & Julie Livesey,

Garry Schofield,

TRANEARTH BOOKINGS

Tranearth is often booked at short notice by commercial groups (especially mid-week). Please do not assume Tranearth will be empty. Bookings can easily be checked on the club web site.

July 3-5	Surbiton & Kingston	Aug 4	Impact
July 17-19	Derby MC	Aug 10-11	Blackpool
July 24-26	Prov. P North	Aug 12	Brathay
July 29-30	Impact	Aug 14-16	Prov. Wanneys
July 31-2	LC&CC & J Toothill	Aug 21-31	LC&CC

DAN-Y-MYNYDD BOOKINGS

Dan-y-Mynydd has limited space and no members' room, so the hut is not available for members when there is an outside booking

Aug 8-15	S James	Aug 21-28	TAG
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LC&CC CONTACTS

Chairman : John Shaw

Hut Booking Sec.: Phil Tucker, 49 Fisherfield Drive, Warrington, WA3 6TX Tel 01925 822128

Hon Sec: Alison Athroll

Climbing Meets Secretary: Pete Blackburne,

Mountain to suit most climbers; climbs on Castell Helen which require abseil descents (a good introduction for the first time visitor) and now you have sport bolted climbs at Benllech Crags (never been). We will be camping at the usual, The Valley of The Rocks campsite. No need to book just turn up. It's a good site, with its own bar. You also have easy access to rocky coves and beaches if the climbing gets too much!

<http://www.ukcampsite.co.uk/sites/reviews.asp?revid=1908> is the link. I intend to be at the campsite Friday night. I'll be in the bar. Anyone who wants to share lifts or wants directions ring me on 07813 812316. **Please, Please** ring me if you intend to go, it's a long way to go to find out there is nobody there.

<u>July 19</u>	<u>Black Shiver</u>	<u>Geoff Dawson</u>
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This pot near Chapel-le-Dale, has a series of pitches, the longest being 78 metres. It will be done on SRT. A really good trip having a lot of action in a short distance! Meet at Bernies cafe in Ingleton at 9:00am

<u>July 24-26</u>	<u>Buttermere</u>	<u>John Banks</u>
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Camping at the site behind The Fish (West end of Buttermere). I'll be there Friday night (*John did not specify whether 'there' meant the pub or the camp site!*). His tent should have a club flag. Please contact John to arrange lifts or for other information.

<u>July 24-25</u>	<u>Swildon's Hole:Mendips Weekend</u>	<u>Les Mottram</u>
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I have booked 5 places at a hut near Priddy for July 24/25. I propose we set off early Fri morning arriving Priddy one-ish. Have a beer, do Swildon's Hole. Saturday we could do GB cavern. Anyone interested please phone.

<u>August 1-2</u>	<u>Tranearth</u>	<u>Jane Toothill</u>
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Meet in the Church Inn from 9 onwards and head up to hut at closing time. Barbeque on Saturday night, please bring your own food and booze. I'm expecting several friends to come along for the weekend, so hopefully it will be quite full. The ladies' dorm will be reserved primarily for people with children so space there might be tight as I'm expecting a few families. Therefore please let me know if you have kids and would like to stay this end. Otherwise, please head for the main dorm regardless of gender (at least until we know there is enough family space).

<u>August 9</u>	<u>Long Drop cave</u>	<u>John Stringfellow</u>
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Grade 3 cave on Leck Fell, Yorkshire Dales, with several short pitches. Meet at Bernies cafe in Ingleton at 9:30am

August 7-9	Llanberis	John Roberts
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Keeping fingers crossed for good weather & if it should just happen there's a wealth of great climbing to be had in this location. If the weather is really good then it could turn into a Cloggy meet! And if the weather does not behave then there are the wet weather alternatives of Slate/Tremadoc/Gogarth - so little excuse left for not attending & getting stuff done. The meet leader proposes to camp in the small site of Snowdon House - it's the same site that's been used for the previous couple of Llanberis meets. I'm hoping to reserve the site for LCCC members & so it may be useful if I had an idea of numbers attending in advance. The cost of camping is £5 per person per night. For detailed directions to the site contact the meet leader.

August 8-22	Cornwall	Ken Tebay
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I will be camping for the full fortnight. Lots of people are booked in, but mostly for the second week. Those coming include Bedspring and family, Geoff Haigh & Tanwen., Jordan family, Phil Griff, Ali and Ian, Blacky and Sparky Rick G, Rog & Debbie. Also Tony Madden & Family, & possibly, Robbo & Steph, Banksy & new family & Dave Wearing. *I hope I've got all this correct, ring Ken if you want a full update: Ed.*

If you want to join us it is Trevaylor Caravan and Camping Park, Botallack, St Just, Penzance, Cornwall TR19 7PU. Tel 01736 787016, prices £7.00 per unit plus £3.00 per adult; they will require a 25% deposit and the rest paid a month before the booking. This is quite a good site mid-way between Lands End and Bosigran with some decent pubs nearby. Mention you want to be with LC&CC when booking.

<http://www.cornishcamping.co.uk/touring.html>

August 16	Castle Naze OR?	Phil Tucker
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This is billed as Castle Naze, however as Castle Naze is really more of a short day/evening crag then it'll probably be somewhere else in the Peak, though if the weather is good then I'd prefer a day in N Wales/Lakes. This meet coincides with the trips to Cornwall so several people will be away. Please phone beforehand to let me know you are coming and we can decide on an appropriate venue. Phil

August 23	P8 Jackpot	Tom Towers
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This Derbyshire cave makes a fairly easy and popular trip, with only two short ladder pitches. Meet in The Wanted Inn car park at Sparrowpit, on a sharp bend on the A623 (Grid Ref:SK107817), at 10:00 am.

August 22/28	Tranearth Families	Bernie Jordan
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We (that is Bernie, Lawrence, Peter and Eddie: Ed) always enjoy Tranearth and we're looking forward to seeing our LC&CC friends in the last full week of the summer

PS Les Ainsworth will be chasing those folks who pledged that they would be prepared to make a donation some while ago

Les Ainsworth and John Shaw

LC&CC DINNER

Sat 28th Nov 2009 :Church House Inn (Torver)

Menu and booking form will be included with the September Newsletter.

The Speaker is Ian Tyler, Curator of the Keswick Mining Museum.. He will give a "light hearted talk on the mining & quarrying in Cumbria". And on the Sunday, he will lead a walk in the Coniston area starting at 10.30 and finishing about 16.00. Provisionally, this will either be the Walna Scar Quarries or the Coppermines Valley. Some underground exploration will be involved. Ian can provide about 12 helmets & lamps so members are encouraged to bring their own equipment. The group size will be 12 min/20 max, and the cost for the walk will be £6/head. Unfortunately, children under 16 may not go on the walk.

LC&CC 75th Celebrations (2011)

A steering committee has been considering the options. The current consensus is to hold the Dinner in November in or near Bolton. Three venues are under consideration with the possibility of a live band or a series of presentations on the history of the club.

The production of either a special edition of the Journal or more likely a Year Book is also being considered.

If you would like to discuss these or other ideas please get in touch with John Hopkins (Social Sec.) or Alison Athroll (Hon Sec.).

CLUB BUSINESS

Notes from Committee

Transfer of graduate members to club membership:

The process of transferring graduates to full membership has not been very efficient, the committee have agreed the following improvements to the process. When the Membership Secretary considers that a graduate member has satisfied the requirement of full membership (usually 5 meets within 12 months), he will contact a core of active climbing or caving committee members, in between committee meetings, and gain their consensus for full membership. If there is agreement, the graduate will be invited to become a full member of the club. A list of those graduating will be minuted at the next committee meeting, without further debate.

From President Pete Nugent

At the last LC&CC Committee Meeting, we agreed that the Club should make a small donation to the Wilton Appeal Fund. However, we also felt that individual members should be encouraged to make their own donations. It is planned to install approx 100 new belay stakes at £25 each, so members are encouraged to think about giving individual donations in the range of £25.

Obviously, donations either above or below this suggested figure would also be most welcome. Cheques should be made out to "BMC Wilton Appeal" but I think it is easiest to pick up the phone and make a donation by using a debit/credit card: To:-BMC, 177-179 Burton Road, Manchester, M20 2BB. Tel: 0161 445 6111

The next pitch of 40m was again dry. With our remaining short rope we entered a passage and a low wet crawl into a rift beyond. Following a bit of confusion we found the way on by traversing high in the roof. Beyond a climb down entered a chamber where we rested a while before Bill found hangers for our final descent of 15m. Below we entered a short passage and sump. I remembered a cunningly hidden climb up near the sump, which we found and ascended, then through a gap into a bedding plane crawl. We entered an up-and-over section over a mud bank and descended into a chamber with a stream on our right. Progress was made along a sandy crawl which led to a large passage and standing water. Beyond a natural bridge of rock, wading knee deep, we reached the final large, deep sump.

The journey out was slow and tiring, but on the surface it was a glorious sunny afternoon with a fantastic view of Pen-y-Ghent, and we could look back on a hard trip completed by two 50+ cavers. Thanks to Bill for a brilliant day.

Les Mottram

Wilton

At the end of March we held a very successful clean up meet at Wilton One. Over 50 climbers turned up and we got a lot of work done, including:

Removing litter	Replacing fixed gear
Cleaning routes	Removing rhododendrons
Cleaning Tops	

Route Tops

Since then, there has been some further cleaning on a more ad hoc basis. However, whilst climbers should be encouraged to do all they can to improve Wilton, it is necessary to insert a word of caution. Above one of the routes the top has been cleaned off, but this has exposed a steep bank of soil that is starting to run down over the rock and unfortunately completely ruining the climb by mud run-off. In view of this, could I please ask climbers NOT to clean off any route tops until further notice. Any other work, such as cleaning routes would be welcome, but we are proposing to trial some different approaches to dealing with route tops, so that we can ensure that other tops are cleaned off in ways that do not encourage run off over the rock.

Other on-going costs:

Currently, we are investigating the use of matting, but this will be expensive. Other ongoing work includes the installation of new belay stakes, new fencing, signage, and the replacement of fixed gear. The belay stakes will be excellent, but they are expensive and we need a lot of them to provide sufficient belays for the quarries. It is also likely that we will need to undertake some drainage work.

Wilton Appeal:

All of this work will have to be paid for and so I would like to ask all of you to support the Wilton Appeal fund. With your support we can make the Wilton quarries really great, but currently we really are in danger of running out of cash. To give a donation couldn't be much easier - either send a cheque to the BMC made out to 'BMC Wilton Appeal', or, even easier, phone up the BMC tell them that you want to make a donation and then you can make out a credit card payment over the phone. So don't delay, but act as soon as possible and persuade fellow climbers to do the same. I can assure you that all money raised in this way will be specifically directed towards Wilton and North West climbing.

The other Wilton quarries:

Apart from this, we have negotiated some tree removal at Wilton 4 and treatment for the invasive Japanese knotweed. We are also working on informal arrangements for climbing on the evenings of shooting days providing that there are no shooters in the quarry. I will let you all know how these arrangements develop, but for the time being, please avoid visiting Wilton 2 and 3 on shooting days.

Thanks for your continued support, but if you have not yet made a donation to the Wilton appeal, please think about it. We really do need the money.

holidays. We intend to be there from 22nd-28th. The hut is booked from 21st-31st so there is plenty of time if you can only make a few days. We hope to see you there. Phone us or just turn up.

<u>August 28/31</u>	<u>Tranearth Joint Meet with Lincoln MC</u>	<u>Dave Wearing</u>
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A chance to get know members of Lincoln MC with whom we might set up reciprocal rights. As always lots of places to climb/scamble or walk. I'll be up at the hut or in the pub on Friday evening.

<u>Sept 4-6</u>	<u>Lancashire Grit</u>	<u>Steve Martin</u>
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Saturday night barbecue. Ken has found a nice little campsite 1.5 miles from Edgeworth, not far from his place, it's about 1/4 mile from a decent pub and has toilet and water facilities. £5 per tent. Ring Ken for directions or see Lancs e-mail.

<u>Sept 6</u>	<u>Long Kin East</u>	<u>Goeff Dawson</u>
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A fine grade 4 SRT trip on The Allotment, Ingleborough, with a main pitch of 62 metres. During rainfall the main pitch soon becomes impassable, so a descent will be dependent on the weather. There are other alternatives in the area if conditions are unsuitable. Meet at the Brookhouse café, Clapham at 9-00am.

MEET CONTACT DETAILS

Caving For caving meets ring the organiser or John Stringfellow or Les Mottram mob 07968 285620

FUTURE PLANS / FOREIGN TRIPS

Summer in the Austrian Alps 8th-22nd August MC Allan Hartley

Through the Silvretta & Oetzal. Peaks, Passes and Glaciers. If interested contact

Joint Meet with Gloucester MC Sept 12/13 MC Geoff Haigh

It is some time since we had a joint meet with our friends from GLC so please keep the date in mind. We have reciprocal rights and often use their hut. Also a good time for those who have not visited Deniolen to get to know the hut and the neighbourhood. Details in the next Newsletter

Kalymnos Oct 7-21 or 14-28 MC R&D Wilkinson

Flights are about £250 return from Manchester with Thompsons. We are planning to join our daughter and partner for some of the time but they will most definitely be on hard crags and will have friend to socialise with so we expect to be alone much of the

time & would love some LC&CC company. Please get in contact if you are interested in joining us

Caving in Spain in October MC Les Mottram

Fancy a long weekend caving in Spain? I am hoping to arrange a trip to the Nerja Cave 50km from Malaga. There is a contact in Spain and I'm hoping to go in Oct., as this is part of a show cave and only open to cavers then. Please let me know soon, there are flights from Blackpool which go on a Friday, we could be back Sun or Mon. If interested please contact Les Mottram

Sardinia Oct 2-11 MC Alison Athroll

Some of us have booked a Sardinia trip on the above dates. If anyone else is interested in joining us, I can give flight details, etc. We are staying at Lido Residence - I have asked them if they have any more availability, so Lido might be an option for accommodation.

Those who have already booked have taken one of 2 options:-

Fri 2 Oct - Fri 9 Liverpool - Alghero return

Fri 2 Oct - Sun 11 Oct - Liverpool - Alghero then return Cagliari - Manchester - Tony Madden can provide more details on this option.

Vets Meet at Tranearth Oct 9-11

Tranearth is booked, no meet co-ordinator as yet. This meet is open to all members, but its general purpose is as reunion for longstanding members (and friends). (*I can guarantee any members turning up will be made more than welcome and will have an interesting time Ed*)

MEET REPORTS

Langdale March 21st/22nd

Steve Crossley's report of this meet was in the last Newsletter but sadly I missed this excellent addition that was added at the end of Steve's e-mail. Apologies to Lee, I hope he won't be put off from writing more reports for me. Ed

With very, very, little exper -ience on multi-pitch routes, I was persuaded by Murray and Simon to join them on a trip up *Haste Not* on White Ghyll. At this point I didn't really know what I was getting myself into but "Hey" why not?!

As the sun beamed we geared up for our ascent. I was certain to be the middle man on this high ball route. Pitch one, feeling strong and adrenaline pumping, all the symptoms of the 'casual boulderer', was easy climbing up to the horribly slanted ledge to belay, a good start and still confident.

Then came the awful, awkward, gruelling, 'no grips' traverse. That's what I called it when I reached the next belay anyway! This was the point all my confidence sapped away, legs shaking, fingers tingling and vertigo every time I looked over the edge. You really could say I was terrified after that saga! All I could do was hope this

weather cooled Roger and Debbie arrived, very chilled out and did *Pedestal Route HVD* and *Bachelor's Buttress VS*, routes they had not done for a long time, Roger said. Cath & Sparkie ticked off *Rotunda Buttress VS 4c* and *Bachelor's Buttress*. By this time, I had recovered from my hangover and found some motivation, so Steve, James and I did *Wombat*. Paul Lewis I believe had a very fine stroll along the edges with his family. Sorry I missed you Paul. A final mention to the chief photographer of the day Ken Tebay, who still in rehab is turning out on meets. Keep your chin up, Ken you'll soon be back on the rock. Thanks to all who turned up.

Tony Madden

Birchens June 7th

Weather held off. Had a good climb till about half one then headed home. Didn't see anyone else from, LCCC, but climbed around a few other parties, about 15 at crag.

Sarah Little.

Ogwen June 26th-28th

The Legend says 'Judith has good wind'

Five of us, Judith, Sandra and me, Sparky and The Legend turned up at the campsite Friday evening, with a mixed forecast for the weekend. Rain during the night continuing during the day, though relatively light, saw us shopping in Betws and then a café. With no sign of improvement we opted for a walk up Moel Siabod in the afternoon, the scramble up the ridge was incredibly slippy but we had to keep moving to avoid the midges. As we reached the summit there were signs of the weather clearing, which it did as we walked back down to the campsite.

Sunday dawned bright and sunny, with few midges. The plan was for a mass ascent of *Sub-Cneifion Rib* followed by *Cneifion Arete*. We walked in to the rib, with a slight detour, to find 3 very slow moving ropes spread out on the first pitch. We sat and had a bite but there was little sign of movement so decided to ditch the route and walk round to the Arete, which everyone enjoyed.

Thanks to all for turning up and making it a really enjoyable weekend, despite the weather.

Phil Tucker

Title refers to Judith's comment that she was not out of breath despite still smoking - which provoked some hilarity!

Little Hull Pot June 28

After meeting Bill Osborne in Settle we drove to Horton and began the long sticky walk up Hull Pot Lane.

Because of thunderstorms during the week we expected much water underground, but to our surprise found a mere trickle. Bill rigged and descended the first pitch of 25m and I followed, pleased not to be dampened as on other occasions.

(Ken's slip) and it often pays to get out and make an effort when the weather suggests otherwise. Phil posted my guidebook back - some comments from his enclosed note: "you did not exaggerate the quality of the climbing in Northumberland" (would I lie to you?), "I think the gradings are a bit harsh" (see *Tony/Rock Island Line/sandbag* above), "I definitely would like to go there again" (I may just make my September meet a return match).

Karl Lunt.

Skye May 23rd /25th

The highlight (for the meet leader) of the Skye meet was an ascent of
..... *Ardverikie Wall*! You may ask how this route situated at least 70 miles from the Cuillin should even feature in this report. The simple answer is the Skye weather - while England bathed in sunshine the few meet attendees were subjected to consistently high winds & much - (sometimes torrential) - rain. The few brave souls to attend the meet were restricted to low level walks - or at least that applies to Sandra, Judith & Liz. The other attendees - Ken, Sparky, Stephanie & myself - felt no compunction to venture away from the coffee shops & hostelrys. In fact Ken & Sparky spent only 36 hours on the island before returning home; a long journey to experience only latte & Red Cuillin. A special thank you to them for making the effort. At least the rest of us were there for the week, though Stephanie & myself did "abandon" the meet on the Tuesday morning, gradually making our way to stay with friends near Fort William. Here the sun shone & we were able to snatch *Ardverikie Wall*, a superb must-do route if you've not already done it. Meanwhile the "girls" (as christened by Ken) stayed on Skye for an extra day or two before also giving up the ghost & heading on to the mainland. They made full use of the sunshine with ascents of a few Munros, namely Beinn A'Chaorainn & Beinn Teallach in Glen Spean. The following day a foray in to the Drumochter hills saw Geal Charn & A'Mharconach succumb to their relentless stride.

A big thank you for all those who showed (misguided) faith in my ability to order good weather - at least your good company brought some light to the gloom. But it's possible any trust in me will now have disappeared since this meet was the latest in a series of washouts for me I'll try harder for Llanberis in August!!

John Roberts

Roaches May 31st

A good turn out on a fine day. Sparkie and Steve were first on the crag looking very keen after their long drive, and they soon ticked of the classic *Valkyrie VS 4c*. Others soon followed and no time was wasted as teams John Tebay and Dave Ryder got on the same route and Cath and Geoff, further to the right were climbing on the nearby slabs. Up on the upper tier new member James Brown and his wife Nicky soon got to grips with *Technical Slab HS 4a* and *Right Route VDiff*. Later James led *Saul's Crack HVS 5a* and did a very impressive lead of the *Sloth HVS 5a*. Where was the gear after the cheese block, James? Frightening. Later as the

was the 'cruX' of the route as I didn't want to look daft. Then again, I could just blame it on a lack of experience.

Racing up the final pitch, like a squirrel climbing a tree, I reached the top. Hands held high and glad to be on solid ground again. Emotions raging, I took in the amazing scenic views over the valley, realising that even the most challenging routes won't stop me having fun. There are lots more to be climbed and I will be there.

Lee Tweedale

Stanage - 19th April

Apologies to Murray, I couldn't find a neat way to abbreviate his article, so this is just the bare bones of a meet report. Murray's excellent "stream of consciousness" article will appear in the 2010 Journal - don't miss it.

With pretty good weather, this meet attracted an excellent gathering of LC&CC and friends. Starting from below Inverted V the club spread in all directions. Murray climbed with new grad Lee Tweedale. They appear to have had a good day. Other members included Paul Lewis and Gerard, Sparky (Mark Adams,) Paul (Burgess), Rod Campbell and a friend, Tony and Matt, Ken encouraging Jonathon Dorrington to lead, and Alison & Ian. I hope that I've included everyone, You'll note I've muddled through the perpetual problem of names! Don't want to be cliquey, but full names for everyone seems a bit much. I don't have a list of the climbs people did - but I'm sure there were many routes enjoyed. The day appears to have included several 'brews' and certainly ended in the pub.

Info. taken from Murray Gallagher's meet report.

Debbie (Ed)

Arran May 1st -4th

Apologies to Pete, this article, also a precis, will appear in full in the next Journal.

The weather forecast was dire and a number of people dropped out for this reason. Despite this, Murray Gallagher, Simon Holden and myself drove North on Thursday evening in the Presmobile.

By the time we had docked in Brodick on Friday morning, the heavens had opened. Murray's ideas of a high camp in Glen Rosa were jettisoned in favour of the Sealshore campsite. It was blowing a hoolie. By one o'clock, the car park in Glen Rosa was sunny and the wind had dropped. A plan was hastily hatched! Up Glen Rosa, onto the ridge at Bein Nuis, on to Beinn Tarsuinn, then along the A'Chir Ridge (Mod) to the col and then back down Glen Rosa to the car. I was impressed by the rugged nature of these mountains and not a Munro amongst them! The A'Chir ridge was a delight until the MC balked at a section, which the other two had just soloed down! I want a top rope - the indignity of it all!

On the way back to the Sealshore campsite, we passed Sandra Handcock and Rob Hodgkinson who were pedalling furiously to ensure that they could get a pub meal before the restaurant closed at 9 p.m. They made it back just in time!

The forecast for Sunday was good. It was about 9.00 by the time PN, MG and SH set up the track destined for *South Ridge Direct* on Cir Mhor. We were the second party on the route! As we were climbing as a threesome, we ceded our position to a duo from Harrogate. Murray led the initial 4 pitches; Simon and I followed



"French Style". The route joins

Photo: Pete Nugent on The Y Crack, S Ridge of Cir Mhor.

Sou'wester Slab, and there was a big bottleneck with approximately a dozen people on that route. We elected to avoid the crowds by moving out right and found an easy line to reach the summit of Cir Mhor.

The weather was fine the following day. Simon and I were tired from the exertions of the last 2 days. Murray was keen to do *Sou'wester Slab* and so teamed up with Blackie for an ascent of this fine route. Sandra, Rob and Gerard did some more cycling.

The forecast was dreadful for the Monday; we got an early start so that we could get the first ferry back to the mainland. As we drove south the rain continued to lash down. However, we consoled ourselves with the knowledge that we had "ticked" some classic routes and had enjoyed 3 excellent days despite the ominous forecast for the Bank Holiday weekend. We all agreed that we liked the feel of Arran and I hope to return in the not too distant future.

Pete Nugent

Northumberland May 9th /10th

A very dubious weather forecast had me belatedly trying to cancel this meet early on Friday evening but Phil Griff and John Weale were obviously made of sterner stuff - when I tracked them down they were already crossing the Thelwall Viaduct! Thus another car full (Tony Madden, Ken Tebay, Dave Ryder and myself) joined them bright and early on Peel Crag on Saturday morning. It wasn't actually too bad. Despite the gale and spits of rain the rock was dry and until reaching the top of a route it was reasonably sheltered. The early birds had already opened their account (*Layback Buttress VD*) whilst we huddled behind a tree and looked at the options. Ken and Dave started off on *Grooves S 4b* then, following a recommendation from Phil and John moved on to the crag classic *Sunset MS*. Tony thought that *Tiger's Overhang VS 4c* (what?!) might make a good warm-up (it did) which we followed with *Ace of Spades HVS 5a* (very soft - I kid you not!) and *Rock Island Line E1 5b* (ha! ha! ha! - this is the sound of Tony enjoying the Northumberland grading system as he takes wing off the crux). John and Phil had by now moved on to the nearby Crag Lough where they managed to slot in *Jezebel D* and *Main Wall HS*, both big classic pitches. Then the rain seemed to step up a gear and it looked like it might mean business. A retreat to the car to consider options seemed sensible. Unfortunately, things turned "interesting" at this point. Ken lost his footing on the damp grass and rolled down the slope. It didn't look too bad but his rucksack strap had wrenched his shoulder out and it was clear that Ken's climbing weekend was most definitely over. With Ken unable to move to shelter because of the pain we made him as comfortable as possible and called out the rescue services. It was all most impressive. Within the hour paramedics appeared, the Great North Air Ambulance flew in (they'd only just dropped some tourists off at Carlisle who'd been trampled by a cow!) and Haltwhistle Fire Brigade turned up to help with the carry. Ken was quite stoical even when the air doc sliced open three layers of clothing to feel the damaged shoulder (I'd definitely have been in tears at this point). Don't ever pick a fight with a medic - they all seem to carry massive knives! He was loaded in to the heli and we went back to camp to have dinner and think about the next move. We waved to Ken as he flew over but the miserable git didn't wave back - there's gratitude. Dave probably thought he was heading for A&E as well when he saw what I was cooking for our dinner - home-made chicken curry (frozen in a block), a can of spag bol and a can of ravioli all tastefully arrayed on a platter of penne pasta. Thoughts of propping Ken up all day Sunday while we climbed on were shelved and so we collected him from Carlisle Infirmary later that evening. I knew he was basically OK as he was asking the nurse if he could have a drink that evening. Tony drove us back home but Phil and John stayed on and had the best of it on Sunday. Blue skies and sunshine all round meant another session at Crag Lough to tick more class lines - *Bracket VD*, *Face Route S*, *Tarzan VD* and *Hadrian's Buttress S*. I wish we could have been there but Tony and I headed for the quiet end of Stanage for an appointment with some drastically under-graded grit but that's another story. It just goes to show that danger lurks where you least expect it