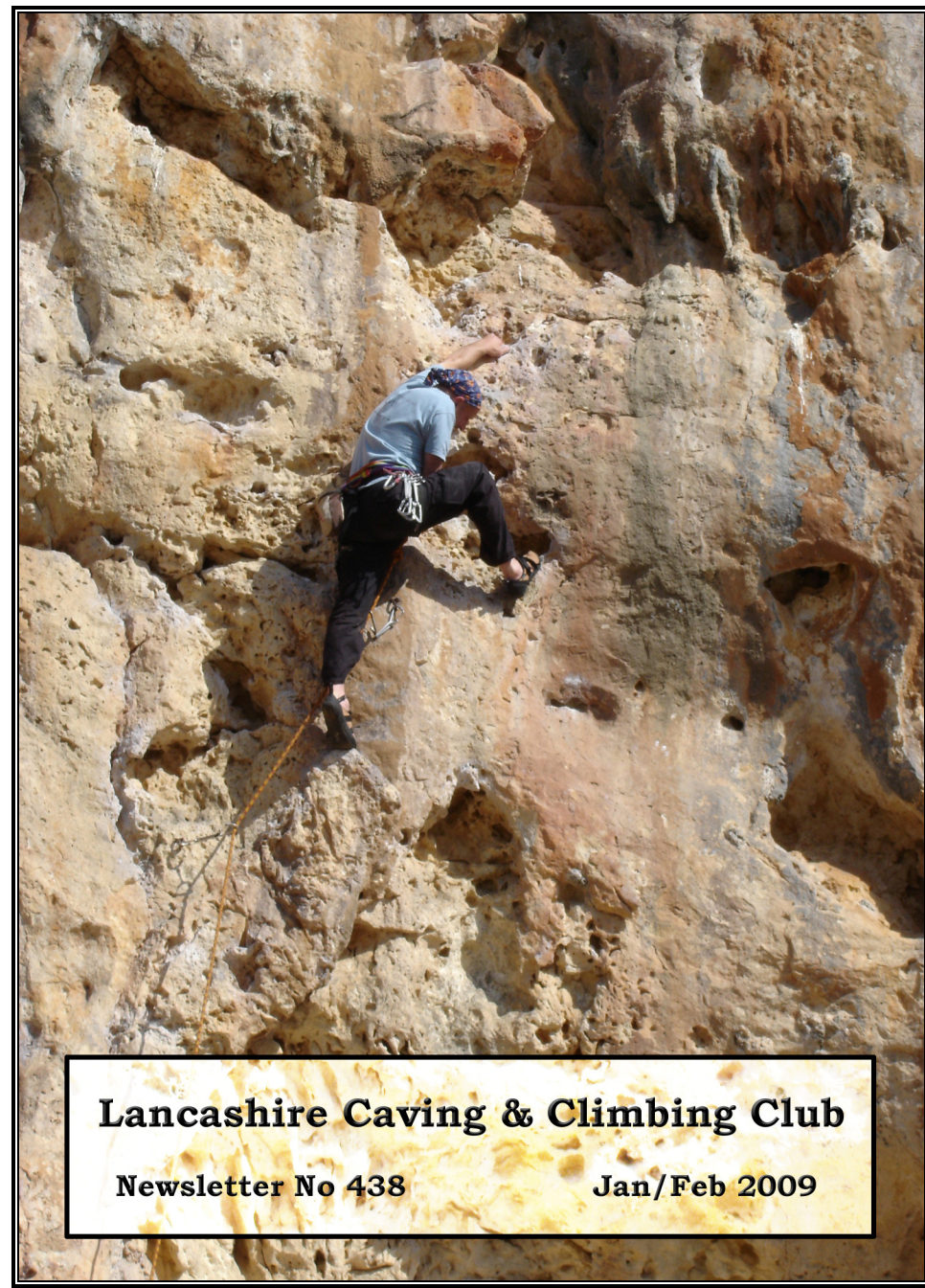


# MEETS LIST

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.

DATE	TITLE/VENUE	Accom	ACTIVITY	MC
Jan 4	Peak Grit		Climb	Lawrence Jordan
Jan 4	Notts 2		Cave	Les Mottram
Jan 11	Stanage		Climb	John Banks
Jan 18	Dales ?		Climb	Alison Athroll
Jan 18	Ibbeth Peril Caves		Cave	Nick Bennett
Jan 25	Silverdale		Climb/walk	Roger Wilkinson
Feb 1	Burbage North		Climb	Ken Tebay
Feb 1	Top Sink		Cave	Mike Hale
Feb 8	Wildcat		Climb	Phil Tucker
Feb 13/15	Deniolen	Hut	Climb	Geoff Haigh
Feb 15	Giant's Pot		Cave	Tom Towers
Feb 22	Beeston		Climb	Pete Nugent
Feb 28	Cavers' Dinner		Cave	Les Mottram
Mar 1	Roaches		Climb	Rick Ginns
Mar 8				
Mar 15-22	Scotland		Climb	Simon Holden
Mar 15	Jean Pot		Cave	Geoff Dawson
Mar 13/15	Tranearth WP	Hut	Climb	Roger Wilkinson
Mar 21/22	Borrowdale	Camp	Climb	Steve Crossley
Mar 28??	Deaths/Big Meanie		Cave	John Stringfellow
Mar 29	Dovedale		Climb	Pete Blackburne
April 5	Millstone		Climb	Pete Nugent
April 10-13	Easter Pembroke Or Cornwall ?	Camp	Climb	Ken Tebay
April 12	Little Hull Pot		Cave	Mike Hale
April 19	Curbar		Climb	Murray Gallagher
April 26	Willersley/Cratcliffe		Climb	Mark Adams
May 2-4/10	Isle of Arran (B Hol)	Camp	Climb	Pete Nugent
May 9/10	Northumberland		Climb	Karl Lunt
May 17	Wallowbarrow	Camp	Climb	Simon Fife
May 23-25	Skye/Neist (B Hol)	Camp	Climb	Roger Brown
May 31	Wye Valley		Climb	Steve Martin
June 7	Peak		Climb	Sarah Little



**Lancashire Caving & Climbing Club**

**Newsletter No 438**

**Jan/Feb 2009**

## EDITORIAL

Happy New Year to you all. I hope 2009 is a good year for you all and for the club. I feel that 2008 was pretty good for the club with lots of successful meets (despite some rather poor weather) new ventures, and new members. New members - we hope you enjoy 2009 with the club and that the club lives up to your expectations. If you or any other (new or old) members have any ideas for activities or organisation within the club please don't hold back. We want to be a forward-thinking club and welcome input from everyone.

The club e-mailing group continues to be an important form of communication especially for last minute climbing partners. Details for joining on **page 11**.

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 ABOUT March 1st, 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.

<u>Jan 4</u>	<u>Peak Grit</u>	<u>Lawrence Jordan</u>
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Start the year's campaign on sun kissed (hopefully) gritstone. Ring me on Saturday evening after the weather forecast for venue.

<u>Jan 4</u>	<u>Notts 2</u>	<u>Les Mottram</u>
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A very good cave in which to start the New Year. An entrance shaft which can be free climbed leads to an extensive stream passage with some good formations. Meet at Bernies café in Ingleton at 9.30am.

<u>Jan 10-15</u>	<u>Ecrins Ice</u>	<u>Phil Tucker</u>
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A group of ~9 are booked onto this trip. There may be a possibility of late bookings. (see last Newsletter or contact Phil if you are interested).

<u>Jan 11</u>	<u>Stanage</u>	<u>John Banks</u>
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I'll be inside Outside for 9.30. Please ring beforehand to sort out lifts etc and bring your bouldering mats just in case.

<u>Jan 18</u>	<u>Dales?</u>	<u>Alison Athroll</u>
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## LC&CC CONTACTS

Chairman : John Shaw 145, Albert Rd, West, Bolton. BL1 5EB Tel 01204 847404

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

Hon Sec.: Alison Athroll 9, Kendal Ave, Barrowford, BB9 6EY Tel 01282 693673

Climbing Meets Secretary: Pete Blackburne, 199 Westfaling St. Whitecross, Hereford HR4 OJG Tel 01432 358571 Mob 07801 435027 e-mail blackymounts@yahoo.co.uk

Offers to co-ordinate meets and ideas about future meets are welcome at any time

Caving Meets Secretary: John Stringfellow, 31, Manor Road, Clayton-le-Woods, Chorley. PR6 7J Tel: 01772 337343 or Les Mottram mobile 07968 285620 or 01254 851047

## THURSDAY EVENING CLIMBING WALL

Simon Holden has sent this list of venues for club members to socialise as well as climb. There was a good turn out during the last winter and we picked up some new members

Jan 8 <sup>th</sup>	Preston West View	Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	Awesome Walls Stockport
Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	Awesome Walls Stockport	Feb 19 <sup>th</sup>	
Jan 22 <sup>nd</sup>	North West Face Warrington	Feb 26 <sup>th</sup>	North west Face Warrington
Jan 29 <sup>th</sup>	Manchester Climb Centre	Mar 5 <sup>th</sup>	Preston West View
Feb 5 <sup>th</sup>	Preston West View	Mar 12 <sup>th</sup>	Awesome walls Stockport

## TUESDAY EVENING INDOOR MEETS

Please Note We have moved to the END of each month.

**PLEASE NOTE NEW START TIME 7.30.**

*For full details of these meets please see the enclosed sheet*

Tues 27th Jan Black Dog (Belmont) 7.30pm

**Dave Turnbull**: BMC chief exec will give a presentation **Climbing in Mali, Mozambique and South Africa**

Tues 24th Feb Black Dog (Belmont) 7.30pm

**Pete Nugent** and **Geoff Dawson** will give us illustrated talks on **Granite and Gneiss** and **Daren Cilau** respectively.

Tues March 24<sup>th</sup> Black Dog (Belmont) 7.30pm

**Geoff Hibbert** will give a presentation on **Climbing in Patagonia**

- President: Pete Nugent
- Auditor: Tracy Miller
- Social Secretary: Jon Hopkins
- Indoor Meets Organiser: Steve Crossley

## Tranearth

If you've been up to the hut recently you will no doubt have been impressed with a range of improvements. For these we have to thank the Telford branch of the club (Dave Pritchard and Dale Heaton) and their band of willing volunteers from the TAG. They held a working party for 4 days in October. The members' room has been improved with a new washbowl and its roof has been insulated. The women's washroom has had a good makeover with a new toilet bowl and greatly improved shower and more. Insulation in the roof of the barn should improve heat retention and the area under the stairs has been reorganised and tidied. The post supporting the porch outside the front door has been replaced (just before the old one collapsed, I suspect) with a nicely worked green oak post. Please note, this must not be treated in any way, so please don't take it into your head to "improve" it.

Fortunately, (as the installation of fire safety equipment this year emptied the Tranearth reserves) Dave and Dale were successful in obtaining financial sponsorship from Travis Perkins and some other organisations, which covered all the cost of these improvements. I'm sure I speak on behalf of all LC&CC members when I thank Dave, Dale and the TAG most warmly for their efforts.

Roger Wilkinson.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Tony Madden has a new e-mail address  
 Tracy Miller has a new e-mail and no longer has a landline.  
 Rod Campbell has a new e-mail.  
 Geoff Graham has a new mobile number

## NEW GRADUATE MEMBERS

Keith Upton  
 Steve Littlewood,

## 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.*

-Jan 4	For LC&CC use	Jan 30-1 <sup>st</sup>	Uni of East Anglia
Jan 5-7	Humphrey Head	Feb 6-8	Duddon Scouts
Jan 8-11	Tunbridge Wells MC	Feb 11-15	TAG
Jan 16-18	Kinder MR	Feb 20-22	Nottingham Uni
Jan 23-25	Kirkintilloch MC	Mar 6-8	Rugby MC

## 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*

Feb 13-15	Chris Wheatley		
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I will choose a venue and activity near to the time, depending upon the weather. I'll post something on the email forum. If you don't have access to this, please give me a call to let me know you intend coming.

<b>Jan 18</b>	<b>Ibbeth Peril Caves</b>	<b>Nick Bennett</b>
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These two caves are situated in Dentdale, close to the river Dee. They are grade 3 and have no pitches. However, both are flood prone, so will not be descended if the weather is unstable. Meet at Bernie's café, Ingleton at 9.30 am.

<b>Jan 25</b>	<b>Silverdale</b>	<b>Rog &amp; Debbie Wilkinson</b>
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Meet in the café at Leighton Moss Bird Reserve at 10am. Rog will hope to do some climbing, but Deb is bit nesh so will lead a walk around the maze of footpaths which can be found in the Silverdale area. The area is very varied, with coastal paths, woodland, and several nice warm cafes, which will no doubt be patronised. Let us know if you're planning to come.

<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>Burbage North</b>	<b>Ken Tebay</b>
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Meet in outside 10 am but ring first if weather is dodgy.

<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>Top Sink</b>	<b>Mike Hale</b>
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This is the uppermost entrance to the Easegill system. The objective will be to do a through trip, to either Wretched Rabbit or maybe Lancaster Hole, and will be an SRT trip. Meet at Bernies café in Ingleton at 9.30am.

<b>Feb 8</b>	<b>Wildcat</b>	<b>Phil Tucker</b>
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This is scheduled for a Sunday meet in the Peak, however this will be weather dependent so please phone during the week to let me know if you are coming and arrange a meeting point. If winter conditions look OK then I will change this to a weekend meet in Wales/Lakes/Scotland.

<b>Feb 13-15</b>	<b>Deniolen</b>	<b>Geoff Haigh</b>
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What better location for a romantic Valentine's weekend? Based at the Gloucester Mountaineering Club Hut, you could enjoy a candlelit dinner, a stroll by the Llyn. Hope to see you there on the Friday night. I will be in the Bull for a small sherbet around 9.00pm. .... Snow, slate or seaside, whatever takes your fancy.

To find the hut drive through the village, past the church and look for a large tree & telegraph pole on the left half way up the hill. A narrow steep track leads to the small car park. (GR 684454, post code LL41 3ST)

<b>Feb 15</b>	<b>Giants Pot</b>	<b>Tom Towers</b>
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This is one of the classic caves of Derbyshire. The plan will be to descend Geology pot to the deepest part of the system. This trip will be dependant on the weather as Giants is an active stream cave, which should not be entered in flood, or if the weather is doubtful. Meet in The

Wanted Inn car park at Sparrowpit, on a sharp bend on the A623 (Grid Ref:SK107817), at 10:00 am.

<b>Feb 22</b>	<b>Beeston</b>	<b>Pete Nugent</b>
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The classic winter venue on South Peak limestone with a range of brilliant routes such as Central Wall (VS, 4b), Beeston Eliminate (HVS,5a), The Thorn (HVS, 5a), Pocket Symphony (soft touch E1, 5b), Black Grub (E3, 5c), The Beast (E3, 6a). The cliff (OS 106541) is approached from Wetton or Grindon and there is free parking by the bridge over the river, adjacent to the cycle track. Meet at this Car park at 10.00

The approach to the crag/routes is tricky and there have been one or two serious accidents with people slithering into the river! Consequently, this venue is not suited to beginners/families. However, the Manifold Cycle Track would be a suitable "family friendly" alternative. Cycles can be hired from Waterhouses (on the A52) and the track runs along the valley beneath the cliff on a disused railway line. Seasoned cyclists may wish to extend their route to make a circuit involving the Tissington Trail. If the weather is fine, I may want to climb on Saturday as well, details to be posted on the yahoo network...or you can always pick up the telephone!

<b>Feb 28</b>	<b>(Caving trip &amp;) Covers' Dinner</b>	<b>Les Mottram</b>
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The Covers' Booze-Up will be held at 'The Marton Arms', near Ingleton, 7pm onwards. There is a good selection of beer and excellent food. Accommodation at the pub is £40 pppn, including breakfast. Phone 01524 41251 for bookings.

Anyone wanting a caving trip on Saturday, before the booze-up, please contact me.

<b>Mar 1</b>	<b>Roaches</b>	<b>Rick Ginns</b>
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Meet at Upper Tier boulders at 11am. Please ring in the week in case of inclement weather. The idea is either to boulder if the weather is crisp and cold, and if it is mild, to climb (roped) on the Upper Tier.

<b>Mar 6/8</b>	<b>Tranearth Working Party</b>	<b>Roger Wilkinson</b>
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The hut is looking a bit worse for the wear at the present time, so we could do with a good turn out for this meet so that lots of painting can be done. I don't have a lot of major or technical jobs on the wish list this time as so much has been done by the Telford AG (see elsewhere in this issue), but there will be plenty of semi-skilled tasks so why not turn up and help out? We'll be in the Church House after about 9.30pm Friday. Lunch will be provided at the hut on Saturday. Sunday will be given over to unbridled pleasure on the hill or crag. Please let us know a day or so before if you're coming so we can cater for lunch.

<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Jean Pot</b>	<b>Geoff Dawson</b>
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This pot, located not far from Gaping Gill, is described in Northern Caves volume 2 as "An awkward hole, full of character". It also receives a fuller account in the recent guidebook. Not for the faint-hearted. So everything bodes well for an interesting trip! There are about seven short pitches. Meet at the Brookhouse café, Clapham at 9-00am.

### AWESOME WALLS (Liverpool and Stockport)

Following the successful club promotion last year concessionary rates have been arranged for all LC&CC Members.

#### THURS NIGHT 50P DISCOUNT

Just show your membership card. Any problems please contact John Shaw

### WILTON 1

Great news for those that have not already heard, the BMC became the proud owner of Wilton 1 this week, and the existing arrangements to climb in Wiltons 2, 3 and 4 are being enshrined in the legal documentation, and therefore those arrangements quarries will be permanent. I've been asked to Chair what will be known as the Wilton Management Group whose purpose is to liaise with the BMC to represent the views and needs of the local climbers, hopefully over a period of time we will restore it to its former glory. Other group members are Hank Pasquill, Geoff Mann, Dave Cronshaw, Pete Nugent, John Stringfellow and Guy Keating the BMC Access and Conservation Officer. We will be liaising with Les Ainsworth and Jon Dittman of the NW area to arrange clean-ups etc. Les is also arranging an appeal for some working funds so your contributions and attendance at working meets in due course will be welcome. There are plans to chop the trees, and possibly dig out various areas to improve top-outs, reveal new routes etc. Any views on what needs doing now and on an ongoing basis to any of the above.

John Shaw 21/12/08

## CLUB BUSINESS

### Notes from Committee Meeting Nov 11<sup>th</sup> 2008

- The new web page is making good progress, committee members are looking at a trial version. It should be up and running early in 2009
- The flue liner has been fitted at Dan-y-Mynydd and the wood stove is working well. The new windows have been ordered.
- A steering committee to organise the dinner and other events in the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year (2011) is to be established. *A request was made for volunteers at the AGM but anyone interested in helping please get in touch with the secretary.*
- Possible actions with regard to the club library were discussed.
- There was some discussion about ways the club could recognise the significant contributions made to the club by some long standing members
- Following a request for a 'Profile of the club' from the Editor of 'Climber', Roger Wilkinson wrote a short article which is in a recent edition (December?) of Climber.

### Notes from the AGM Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008

A very snowy night saw a rather low (but quorate) attendance at the AGM. There was some discussion on Tranearth expenses and the possibility of reviewing the 'No Dogs' rule. The officers of the club were re-elected 'en bloc', apart from President and Auditor. Ted Fry and Peter Jordan were both stepping down. The chairman thanked them both for their many years of service to the club. The following were elected



Scenes from the first aid course organised by Steve Crossley on Nov 8/9. About a dozen members attended and were instructed by a MRT member and a para-med.



## MEET CONTACT DETAILS

Caving For caving meets ring the organiser or John Stringfellow

## FUTURE PLANS / FOREIGN TRIPS

### February: Ice climbing in Norway MC Chris Wheatley

Is anyone interested in a winter trip to Hemsedal, Norway round about end of February? Could coincide with 1/2 term if you like.

There's good ice climbing there, we've not been there on a club trip before, and there's the option of really good skiing and winter mountaineering too.

### Scotland Mar 14- 24 MC Simon Holden

I am planning to go up for the week, but that doesn't mean everyone has to book a week off. I'm going to stop at the Alex Macintyre Memorial Hut at Ballachulish, ideal for the Glencoe, Mamores, Aonach Mor and the Ben; also Kinlochleven is nearby with the Ice Factor if the weather is really bad.

> I know people don't like to make firm arrangements so early on, for Scotland, and I usually leave things to see what the weather is going to do. I'm going to chance it and make a definite commitment to the week commencing 15/03/09.

If people can let me know if they are coming by mid January I will have a rough idea of numbers to book the hut.

### Arran /Scotland MC Pete Nugent May 2<sup>nd</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>

Arran is Part 2 of my "Granite Island Medley" concept (Jersey was Part 1). Other candidates for the future could include: Lundy, Corsica, Lofoten Islands, Baffin Island, Madagascar etc., etc.

As this is the Bank Holiday weekend we may need to book ferries/accommodation in advance. Originally, I was thinking of spending the week on Arran but may now decide to spend 3-4 days on Arran with the rest of the week elsewhere in Scotland (Etive, Glencoe, Ardnamurchan, Glen Nevis) or head south if the weather is poor. Hopefully, we will be able to get a few Classic/Hard/Extreme Rock routes ticked off.

With this in mind camping at Glen Rosa will be the cheapest & most flexible option at £3.50/person/night ([www.glenrosa.com](http://www.glenrosa.com)). The same website also gives details of luxury cottages which are adjacent to the campsite (2 x double at £725/week!). Bunkhouses are available but need a min 12 people for 3 nights @ £15/head (i.e.£540 total see [www.arranland.net/cottages](http://www.arranland.net/cottages)). Forestry lodges are also an option for groups of 4 (1 x double bedroom plus 1 x twin at £320/week - see [www.dyemill.co.uk](http://www.dyemill.co.uk)).

At this stage, please let me know if you may be interested. We can firm up on the details later.

### Skills Courses MC Steve Crossley

I recently ran an outdoor first aid course suitable for SPA, ML and most outdoor organisations at Tranearth which was oversubscribed and a few people have shown interest in another course, I need circa 12 people to run a course so if you would be interested please contact me, and if enough interest is shown I will arrange one.

Also I am rubbish at navigating so have been thinking of arranging a Navigation Course so if anyone would be interested in this please give me a shout and I will see what I can sort out.

### LC&CC :75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2011



#### PROPOSALS FOR SPECIAL TRIPS

1. John Shaw has proposed a summer trip to Dolomites
2. Roger & Debbie Wilkinson propose an Easter trip to Mt. Arapiles and The Grampians (Australia). Arapiles is recognised as one of the world's finest climbing venues. The selected guide has well over 1000 routes, of ALL grades. There are many stunning low grade multipitch routes as well as prime E grade ones. At current prices a group of 4 sharing a car and camping below the crag (using hired tents etc.: could expect to spend ~ £1000 each on transport and camping. Food costs much as in England. Trips would need to be 2 or 3 weeks , (involving ~ 4 lost days: 24 hr flight and further 24hr stopover in Melbourne, 4 hour journey to Arapiles and

jet-lag. Ditto on return). Easter (March/early April) their Autumn! is generally the best climbing weather . (Photo: Rog on *Hot Flap* (VS) Watchtower Face, Mt Arapiles.)

Please get in touch if you are interested in these proposals or have any other ideas.

### JOURNAL 2008

I have already started the editing of the Journal so this is really your very last reminder if you wish to be a contributor.  
Roger Wilkinson

Goyt Valley. We went north to Taxal, dropping down to the valley bottom and up the other side to do a loop round Ladder Hill and then south to White Hall Outdoor Pursuits Centre, from where we decided it was time to think about the pub and abandon the southern end of the valley. Stephanie however managed to complete this bit for us, as we had arranged to meet her at White Hall but we were running late, due among other things to ice and snow en route, so we never caught her up. Everyone enjoyed watching Ken's attempts at bicycle skating: he was the only one brave enough to try using cleats. The greatest challenge of the day however turned out to be trying to drive out of the valley up an icy narrow road that had had no sun on it all day. We thought we were going to have to spend the night down there after our convoy skidded slowly uphill, then gave up and reversed all the way back down. Fortunately we managed to escape by a different route, and then most, although not all, of us joined the runners at the pub for a good meal. Thanks also to Judith, Chris, Phil, Rob (Sparky) Hodgkinson, and Paul Lewis for an enjoyable day.

Sandra Handcock

#### Christmas Supper Walk Dec 14<sup>th</sup>

The day dawned fine and stayed so all day.19 members/family members and 3 canines attended. Route took the usual ascent path for Whernside by the viaduct

but continued along the Craven Way towards Dent. There was seasonal snow soon after starting and we were into low cloud not much later which stayed with us most of the way. A cold lunch break when we reached the first walled fields on the descent to Dent then up towards Whernside Tarns then the summit. Snow was about 3 inches most of the way but some deeper drifts. We would have made better time if the leader hadn't led from the rear and he is grateful to some members who know the area better than he does. On the plus side Sandra got to wear her crampons! Down in daylight and back at the Station Inn, Ribbleshead about 4:15 for refreshments. Thanks to all who supported me (almost literally). Steve C. & family, the 2 Kens, J & T, J. Hill, B. Carlyle, Rob, Bert & Norma P. Ian & Jane Derbyshire, Dave H. Sandra & Liz, Bernie J. Joyce T.

Barry Walton.

#### Dan-y-Mynydd Dec 20/21

A big thank you to Blackie for the effort he put into the Welsh meet. The time and trouble Blackie went to were unbelievable, every small detail was covered, decorations, seating, games, turkey, a special device which detonated when the turkey was ready, 28 different vegetables, 4 flavours of butter, the list goes on. So well done Blackie and I am positive everyone enjoyed it. Now just get the weather sorted and you'll get straight As.

Cheers Bedspring (Aka Steve Crossley)

**LC&CC website**  
**[www.lccc.org.uk](http://www.lccc.org.uk)**

**LC&CC E-MAILING GROUP**  
**lancsccc**

Keep up to date with club activities.  
To sign up  
contact Ali Sharman at  
[a.sharman@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:a.sharman@lancaster.ac.uk),

coordinated outfits, Blackie with his single colour co-ordination) - there was never really any contest in the end. Always a leader in these stakes, this person has led the way for many years - as evidenced by a veritable walk-in wardrobe of climbing clothes, etc. (Rumour has it that a bigger house had to be purchased to fit it all in). I guess that you've all got a pretty good idea as to the identity of the recipient but the



award goes to him for pushing the boundaries of fashion even further than before - and the evidence is here. Note the chest area - you think that's padded! So! **The award for Fashion Icon of the Year goes to the suave and debonair Ken Tebay.**

Debbie Wilkinson & John Roberts

#### Windgather Dec 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>

The forecast was excellent for Saturday and so, in conjunction with John Shaw and Tony Madden, I arranged an impromptu meet at Hobson Moor. The venue was in the shade when we arrived at 11.00 am and so was cold and greasy. We pointed Tony (the "Madron Collider") up *Gideonite* (VS, 5a) which was dry on one

side of the arête but slimy on the other! Conditions improved as the day progressed and we ticked off the following additional routes: *Crews Route* (VS, 4c), *Peak Arête* (HVS, 5a), *The Harp* (VS, 4c), I (HVS, 5a). Quite a tally for a short December day!

Sunday again dawned cold, clear and crisp. The road down to Errwood reservoir was icy but this did not deter a group of 11 intrepid cyclists: Sandra Handcock, a quartet of Jordans, Judith Cressey, Paul Lewis, Rob (Sparky) Hodgkinson, Phil Tucker, Ken Tebay & Chris Wheatley. Steph Connor elected to do an alternative circuit on her own - she should have got out of bed earlier!

Paul Burgess led a couple of routes at Windgather before a "summit attempt" on Shining Tor. Rod & Sue Campbell, set off on the Fell Run at 10.30 whereas the "elite" runners (Dave Ryder, Sparky +2, Alison Athroll) and the "duffers" (John Shaw, a guest - Alison and PN) set out at 12.20. Dave Ryder brought home the elite group, with John Shaw bringing home the duffers. Yours truly came a very creditable third in the duffers group!

Everyone enjoyed the day. The weather was fantastic and cycling/running over rock-hard never was a unique experience. The icy conditions meant that some of the cyclists could not get up the hill from Errwood car park and had to make a detour via the Goyt Valley. Nevertheless, the majority made it for Sunday Lunch at the Stanley Arms. We had a room to ourselves which was decked out like Santa's Grotto. Thanks to Robbo for his marshalling services and apologies to anyone I have forgotten to mention. Perhaps, we should make this an annual fixture?

Pete Nugent

AND Snow and ice did not put off a dozen intrepid mountain bikers. Eleven of us set off from the car park down by the Errwood Reservoir to do a circuit of the

## MEET REPORTS

### 15 have fun in Kalymnos Oct 4-12<sup>th</sup>

14 of us arrived in Kos on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> Oct for a week's cragging. After a minor incident, where a Mrs Applegarth decided to collect Shaun's sack full of sparkly new climbing gear and leave hers (full of knickers and perfume), we set off for Kalymnos with a surprisingly calm Shaun and Julie making alternative plans. Fortunately, Mrs Applegarth was an honest lady and returned the sack and fortunately (again) Steve Crossley was able to save the day and bring Shaun's sack over on the ferry early next morning.

The posse consisted of Darryl & Heather House, Shaun & Julie Livesey, Ken Tebay, Mark (Sparky) Adams, John Tebay, Dave Ryder, John Shaw, John Hopkins, Steve Crossley, Sandra Handcock and Judith Cressey, Ian and myself.

Afternoon was the first port of call on Sunday, where we made a fine start to the week with climbs from 4a to 6a+.

We chose *Odyssey* the next day as it has a wide variety of grades with steep jug pulling to delicate slab climbing. Unfortunately, it seemed that most of the visiting climbers chose this area too. "Like Warrington Wall on a Tuesday evening", I think this is how John Shaw described it. Still, with a bit of queuing we all managed to get a fair bit done here. Shaun didn't take long before he tried his first 5c, *Nessuno*. Straightforward enough until the end where it steepens significantly and needs some belief that good holds will reveal themselves just at the right time and in the right place. Darryl did his first 6a+, embracing the European style. Steve made a decent attempt at a teetering and technical 30m, 6a+ slab/face climb in the blistering heat. John Hopkins did a gymnastic 6b+, again in European style.

On Tuesday most of the group went to an area called Belgian Chocolate, full on in the

sun. No other climbers there (surprisingly?). Shade was at a premium that day and tales were told of huddling behind rocks to get some respite. Not that anyone was complaining, I believe it was raining back in England (again).

John Shaw, John Hopkins, Ian and I went to Poets and got some musical notes ticked (even better than the 3 star routes) up to 6a+. I also attempted a 30m 6b full on layback (*Great North Road* - pah!) Okay, I did hangdog twice and got shredded arms and legs in the fight up it, but it was sort of fun.

Kastelli was the next day - many routes ticked off, including *Pillar of the Sea*, oh, and Shaun's first 6a (clean on sight). This inspired others in the team to their first 6a ascent of the same route.

We headed to Telendos on Thursday to a newish area. Took a boat there and, when we arrived, could almost hear the sighs of disappointment from the 2 boat loads who had already been delivered to the same idyllic spot. Still, we spread out and didn't seem to get in each other's way. A good days climbing was had by all up to 6b+. Dave Ryder led the very technical *Magic Circle*, 6a+, as did Ken and several others. John Hopkins and John Shaw gave *Magma*, 6b+ a strenuous and sterling attempt. This is an amazing looking tufa climb that looks awesome.

I do believe that Sparky led his first 6a here too, a route called *White Rose*. Friday, the last day of climbing - John Shaw had designs on an 11 pitch route back on Telendos and headed off there bright and early with John Hopkins. Their plans were thwarted when the captain of the boat refused to take them round to the start of the climb. Not to be put off, they set about bushwhacking, in the baking hot sun, to the start. 6 hours later, after several wrong turns/ascents and battles

with the vegetation, they arrived at the foot of the climb, no water left, scratched and tired legs. They persisted for 2 pitches, when John Hopkins (sensibly) refused to go any further and they abbed off. 10/10 for effort I say. Sandra and Judith took a trip to Arhi and enjoyed a near deserted crag and quite a few routes (did I mention that I would have liked to go there at some point in the week, but didn't?!). The rest of us mooched up to Afternoon and Spartacus and dabbled with a few routes, all feeling a little 'jaded' after our week of non-stop climbing (perhaps we should have had a day off like all the good climbers do?). The multiple ascents up giant tufa formations (by others, not in our party) gave me food for thought for the next visit anyway.....

Alison Athroll

#### Ravensdale Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>

This meet had an end-of-season feel to it. On the way there we saw several flocks of geese flying overhead and several club members were recovering from flying from Kalymnos. The weather was windy but the rock was dry. I led *Ash Crack* HS 4c and *Gymnic* HVS 5a. Gerard led *Tria* HS 4c. None went without a fight so we decided to watch the boulderers fight the overhangs at Rubicon Wall. Thanks to Gerard for making this a meet.

Bernie Jordan

#### Spiral Stairs/Top Sink Nov 9th

After a couple of weeks of reasonably fine weather, heavy rain on Saturday night, forced us to abandon Simpson's Pot in favour of something safer. Our resident Easegill tour guide (Slug), offered to show us the way from Wretched Rabbit entrance, via Spiral Stairs passage to Top Sink. Six of us changed and left Bull Pot farm, to cross the wind swept moor, battered by hailstones, to find the entrance, located in the bed of Ease Gill

itself. Soon after entering, two decided to retreat, leaving four hardy stalwarts to descend further into the watery depths. At the entrance to Spiral Stairs passage, a quick duck through a shower of water was required, and we continued on to meet the main drain at Holbeck Junction. Here we judged it to be just about safe to enter the main stream, though progress was tiring against the strong current. On reaching a large chamber called the Assembly Room, we left the Main Drain and ascended a couple of greasy rope climbs to gain a higher level passage. We traversed this for a way, crossing some scary holes in the floor, before descending again to the stream way. This was at a point we had reached previously from Top Sink, but on that occasion were unable to find the way on, and so from here we decided to retrace our steps. On the way back we stopped off to marvel at the formations in Easter Grotto. Finding it easier walking back down stream, we covered ground quickly and were soon enjoying the shower again at the exit of Spiral Stairs, and the final rope climbs back to the surface. An excellent trip. Thanks to those who turned up, Andy, Slug, John Adamthwaite, Hazel and Mike.

John Stringfellow

#### Llanberis Slate Nov 22/23

Once again a meet led by yours truly was blessed with atrocious weather. The only consolation was that it was the same throughout the country. Bearing this in mind, thanks to Geoff, Sparky, Steve (Littlewood) & Darryl for making the effort to travel to the Gloucester hut in Deniolen. Geoff had arrived on Friday night & done the decent thing by lighting the fire, consequently the hut was warm & cosy throughout the weekend. We weren't entirely idle - a good session at The Beacon wall made a few muscles ache. This was followed by an equally good session at The Bull whilst watching the rugby

international(s). Back at the hut the reluctance to leave any wine bottle with any of its contents in situ led to a couple of the group swapping tales 'til 4:30 in the morning. Sunday dawned just as miserable as the Saturday but at least the rain held off long enough for us to enjoy a "sight-seeing" tour of the quarries before we went our separate ways. John Roberts

#### Annual Dinner Nov 29th

Another successful Club Dinner, thanks as ever to Ted who has organised more Dinners than I like to think. The following awards were made, thanks to John (and Steph?) for organising this

#### KEENEST NEW MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Keeness - what does it involve? Actually getting out and climbing, etc? Straying indoors regularly to maintain fitness & hone technique? Organizing various Club events? Talking incessantly about all issues relating to climbing? If those are the criteria then this person meets all of them - though many say that he still needs a lot more work on the technique side of things. Such is this person's enthusiasm that it sometimes leads to their downfall - if you get my meaning. So! If we can keep him still & quiet for a minute, the award for **Keenest New Member of the Year goes to Steve Crossley aka Bedspring.**

On the subject of organizing Club events, I'm sure those who attended the First Aid course would like to thank him for his efforts. It was a great success.

#### BEST LOB OF THE YEAR

The enthusiasm with which this guy attacks his climbing is bound to lead to the odd plummet - and he certainly don't disappoint in that respect. Fortunately none of these seemingly ever-more-frequent plunges has led to even the slightest injury. On the contrary, it is the people in the vicinity who should be most aware - ask Alison. So! For falling off at the climbing wall & being so fat as to lift Alison towards the ceiling,

meeting her on the way down & kicking her in the face, thereby giving her a black eye - **the award for Best Lob of the Year also goes to Bedspring.**

#### MC OF BEST MEET OF THE YEAR

It is a sign of a great year for the Club that there were several candidates for this award and that all meets were well attended, that is, until the autumn deluge. Honourable mention must go to Blackie for his Glencoe meet. Also Gerard for the Millstone meet and his buying of cakes at a subsequent meet. However the accolade goes to a person who not only managed to provide probably the hottest day of this rain-soaked year but - either through their popularity or through fear of retribution - managed to assemble what must be a record number for the Club at an outdoor meet. A total of 47 members attended the meet at Froggatt and so the award for **Best Meet of the Year goes to Alison.**

#### KEENEST OLDER MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Is being keen defined by one who attends many of the meets, overcoming various obstacles to actually get there, and then climbing/walking or whatever from dusk 'til dawn. Certainly that seems a good definition. But in a club such as ours, being keen can apply to someone who has limited opportunities to be active - (though this person still is) - but contributes so much to the club in other ways. In this case they go about their ways in a quiet, unobtrusive fashion, such that many of us are unaware of the good deeds done on behalf of the club. So for many years of making unannounced trips to the hut for maintenance purposes, for still attending meets when unable to participate because of the demands of keeping a grandson entertained and for still climbing better than me at his age, the **Keenest Old Member of the Year goes to Bert Peace.**

#### FASHION ICON OF THE YEAR

Although there could have been a few contenders - (e.g. Alison with her colour