

YRC JOURNAL

THE YORKSHIRE RAMBLERS CLUB

MOUNTAINEERING, CAVING ETC.

SERIES 13 - ISSUE 6 WINTER 2008

ARTICLES

Southern Iran

Fengshan, China

History of Caving
in the North

Pennines

Gliding

Images of Bhutan

Lhakang
Expedition



**PENNINE ALPS FROM THE FLANK OF
ARGUILLE DU CHARDONNET**

PHOTO - RICHARD GOWING



The Yorkshire Ramblers Club

Established 1892

The mountaineering and caving club

The Club's aim;
to organise caving, mountaineering,
walking and skiing excursions and expeditions,
to encourage the exploration of caves, potholes
and the more remote parts of the world
and
to gather and promote knowledge of natural history,
archaeology, folklore and kindred subjects

Club properties



Low Hall Garth
Little Langdale
Cumbria

Lowstern
Clapham
North Yorkshire



CONTENTS

| | | |
|----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4 | Southern Iran | John & Valerie Middleton |
| 9 | Glan Dena | Photos by John W Jaggard |
| 10 | To fly like a bird | Gliding |
| 11 | The Haggis | |
| 11 | Skye - in verse | |
| 12 | Images of Bhutan | From recent meet |
| 14 | Caves & Karst of Fengshan, China | Ged Campion |
| 20 | History of caving in the N Pennines | Steve Craven |
| 29 | Mountain Spirit (poem) | C Parmer |
| 30 | Chippings | |
| 35 | Natural History Snippets | |
| 39 | Lhakang Expedition | Mick Borroff |
| 46 | A Parallel View | Adrian Bridge |
| 48 | Meets Report | |
| 57 | Competition | |
| 58 | Where shall we go | |
| 59 | Obituary John Barton | |
| 61 | Club Proceedings | |

SALT, DIAPIRS, KARST, CAVES & MORE IN SOUTHERN IRAN

John and Valerie Middleton

Iran has arguably the finest salt karst scenery to be found on the planet and includes many caves one of which is the longest and most beautiful so far recorded. The authors visited the area in early 2008 and recount below their observations and experiences.

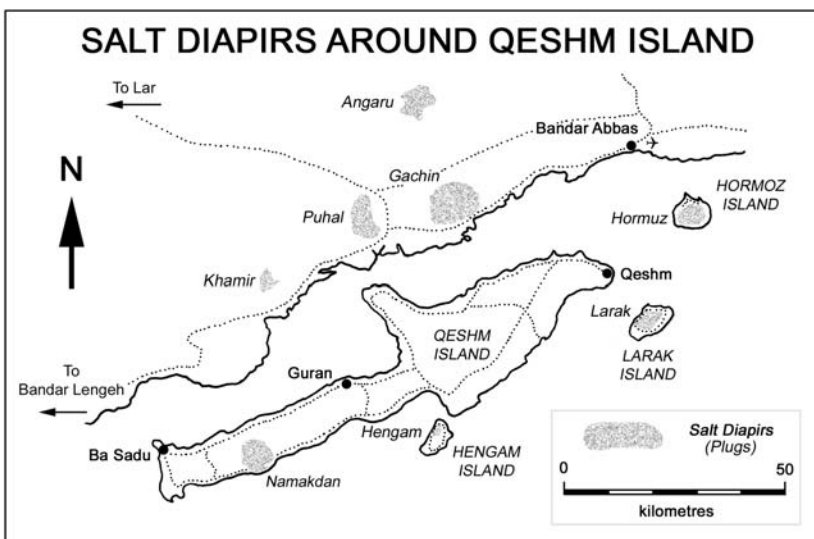
Salt Domes.... “Under high pressure, salt behaves plastically like an intrusive magma, deforming and piercing the overlying sediments. Occasionally this action will reach the surface and can produce domes and even moving glaciers upon which karst phenomena including caves may develop. The mechanism for this process is termed diapirism, hence the term diapir as a more accurate name for dome. Halite is the correct name for salt (NaCl) found within the earth, this being an evaporate mineral”.

INTRODUCTION.. The salt diapirs of Southern Iran have been known and investigated for many years by geologists as such formations are important indicators of oil deposits or traps. However it was not until a combined research project by the Charles University of Prague, the Czech Academy of Sciences and the Shiraz University that any serious studies were made into the karst of these particular domes. Between 1998 and 2006 almost yearly visits were made and quite amazing speleological results were amassed. Amongst these were the discovery and exploration of 3N Cave (6,580m long) at the Namakdan Diapir on Qeshm Island, Danesju Cave (1,909m long) at the Hormuz Diapir on Hormuz Island and 19 other salt caves totalling 14,100m. In almost all these systems spectacular halite formations were to be found. Additionally 3N Cave became the longest salt cave so far recorded beating Malham Cave on Mount Sedom, Israel by almost 900m. Typical surface karst such as dolines, blind valleys, shafts, poljes and karren were also extensively noted. Karst development in salt is almost exactly the same as for limestone except that the process is faster and only happens during the short periods of precipitation. The amount and type of karst formed seems to be influenced by the thickness of impermeable caprock (usually gypcrete). Bruthans et al (2000), shows these differences in varying degrees from no cover, 0.5m-2m caprock, 5-30m and greater than 30m. The overall results of these visits on Qeshm Island gave added momentum to the creation of a “UNESCO International Geopark” in 2006.



Apart from caves the island is renowned for various other aspects of its geology, an extensive white mangrove forest (*Avicennia marina*) and various archaeological sites. This is the only “Geopark” within the borders of Iran. With such outstanding features southern Iran quickly rose to the top of our “must see” places and in early 2008 this ambition was achieved.

Facts....”There are in excess of 200 salt diapirs that occur within the Persian Gulf region....They may measure up to 17km in length and grow to over 400m high....Upward growth of a diapir can be between 3 and 6cm per year....The salt can be up to 500,000 years old and emerge from depths of 10km....



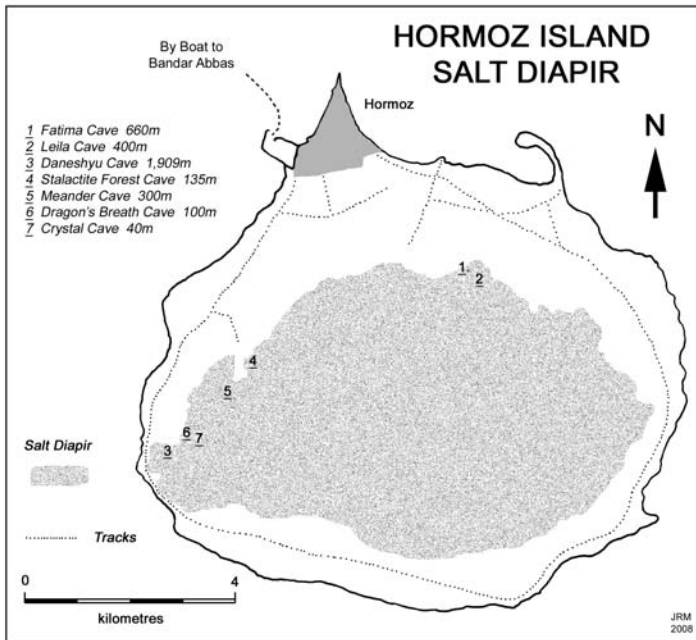
Halite formations within the caves occur in a huge variety of eccentric forms from bubbly wall coatings to 4m long curved stalactites....The latter may grow up to 20cm in a year....Most cave passageways so far investigated are thought to be less than 8,000 years old”

(BosÜk, 1999, Acta Carsologica; Bruthans, 2003, International Caver; Bruthans, 2006, NSS News).

HORMUZ ISLAND AND THE HORMUZ DIAPIR.

Hormuz Island can be easily reached with a twenty minute speed boat ride from the ferry terminals in Bandar Abbas. The island is about eight kilometres in diameter and roughly circular with a pointed extension to the north. On this point lays Hormuz town and its population of 4,000 people together with a fine Portuguese fort dating back to 1515 (well worth visiting).

Dominating the town to the south is the many jagged peaks of the Hormuz salt diapir which itself probably covers two thirds of the island. This diapir is particularly attractive to look at and is probably one of the finest for karst features. The interior contains many large depressions, blind valleys and collapsed dolines whilst everywhere pink to white salt exposures are etched with superb karren. Unfortunately traversing the central part of the diapir is particularly hazardous due to the many collapses and sharp jagged edges. Known caves exist around the south-east and north-east edges. Limestone forms a terrace between the domes southern side and the sea.



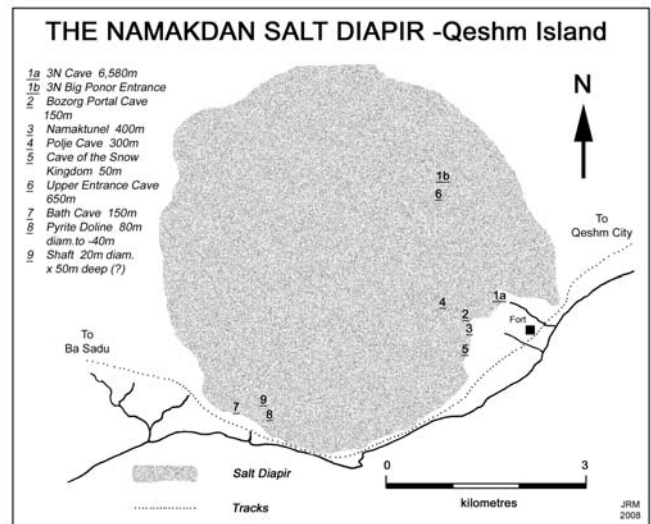
We visited the north-eastern area by first following the superb salt encrusted water course that almost reaches the dirt road as it circumnavigates the island. This stream is a dazzling white that contrasts sharply with the red iron enriched streambed where it is exposed. The stream, non existent whilst we were there, can be followed to Fatima Cave. This is 660m long, is extremely well encrusted with crystals and formations and is also challenging due to being rather complex and low in its middle section. The cave exits into the Malé polje where it then divides.

To the right (upstream) it emerges from a short choked cave and from straight on it emerges from the 400m long Leila Cave. This is also beautiful but considerably more awkward and wet. Before making this cave excursion we climbed onto the diapir and scrambled over it to view the Malé polje from above.

The dramatic overview fully compensates for the effort expended.

Our trip from Bandar Abbas and back lasted about nine hours. To visit the caves of the south-west would take considerably longer due to their distance – unless it was possible to negotiate for one of the few vehicles on the island.

QESHM ISLAND AND THE NAMAHDAN DIAPIR.



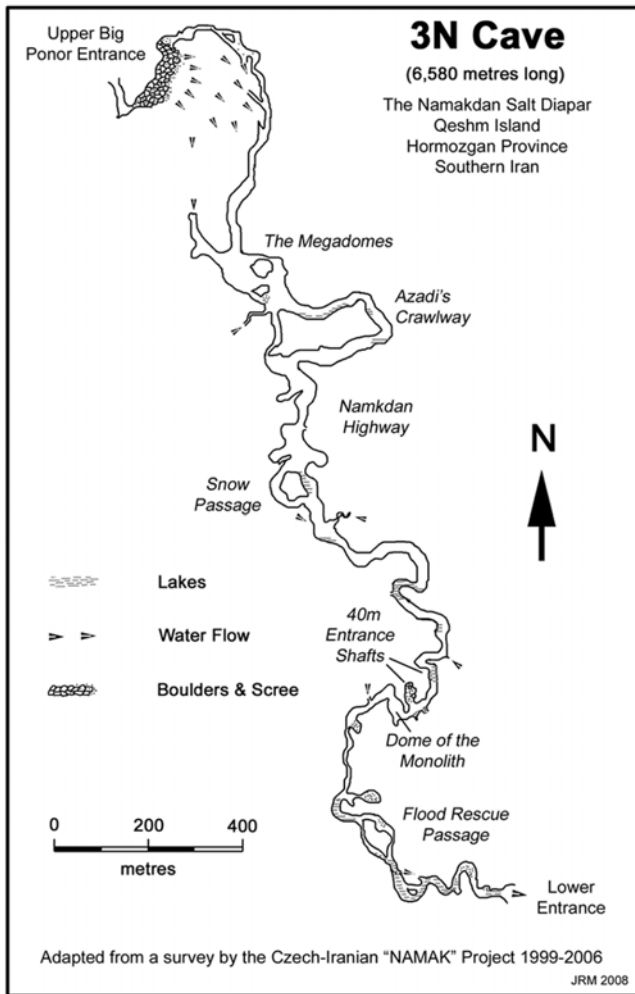
This, the largest Iranian island, is 135 kilometres in length and covers almost 1,618 square kilometres. It may be reached by small passenger boats direct from Bandar Abbas or on large vehicle ferries from Pahl.

The Namakdan diapir is situated at the islands western end but before reaching the salt dome several interesting features may be passed. Close to the vehicle ferry is the fascinating port of Laft with its old buildings, wind funnels, alleyways, museum, harbour and 52 (?) excavated water holes. The latter were once filled in the yearly rains and then each had to last all the villagers for one week. Nowadays the fresh water comes from the mainland. "Star Valley" not far from the south coast is an area of amazing erosion features whilst near to it are the troglodyte dwellings of "Kharbas".

There are other very impressive erosion features all along the southern dirt road leading to the salt caves so this trip can take quite a long time!

Namakdan itself is roughly 6 kilometres in diameter and almost 200 metres high. The dirt road traverses between its southern edge and the sea with all the currently known caves being easily found and accessed from this. The edge of the diapir has very steep and often loose faces but there are several valleys that give entry to the interior. It is well worth investigating these as the surreal karst scenery is outstanding. Blind valleys, dolines, poljes, caves, great shafts and karren abound as do collapsing surfaces and loose scree underfoot. Our first cave visit was to the obvious Namaktunnel (N26°36'43.9" E55°30'47.3" alt. 18m) with its 12m wide and 8m high entrance from which gently flowed a small stream much covered by snow white crystals.

Once inside the passage walls were beautifully banded from clear crystal through to various shades of red, brown and purple often with more snowy growths. Interesting shaped stalactites hung at amazing angles with the finest being found in a large terminal chamber reached after a 10m long crawl. The temperature in this chamber was an impressive 28°C (Bruthans, 2003, states that the recorded temperatures in Namakdan caves varied between 21°C and 30.4°C).



connected chambers 200mx100mx2-8m high. Passageways can be anything up to 40m in width, usually with spectacular banding. The frequent clusters of halite formations are always breathtaking and are here at their finest. One hundred and sixty metres from the entrance there is a lake whose depth seems to vary each year depending on the amount of damming material. The lake may be up to 300m long and is passed by uncomfortable crawling. About one kilometre from the entrance are three 40m deep shafts connecting to the surface. Entry through these is the best way to reach the further reaches of the cave but finding the correct shaft amongst a multitude of shafts is not easy! At the very upstream end of the system it is possible to exit or enter via the Big Ponor Entrance (N26°27'43.3" E55°30'39.1" alt. 80m) but this is generally considered complicated and dangerous due to loose rock. Viewing this entrance is probably better via a worthwhile excursion over the karst. When walking on the surface between these two entrances the GPS traversed distance was 3.3km. An underground return trip to the area of the shafts, as was done by our small team, takes around 4 hours.

At the south-western corner of the diapir we visited the short but attractive 150m long Bath Cave. The most notable feature of this is the salt encrusted resurgence stream which flows into a salt covered shallow lake and then to the nearby sea. Following the dirt track westwards it is possible to look back at good views of the Namakdan Diapir and see the actual beds of limestone that it has uplifted. As this road then turns north and then east towards the ferry many more erosion features can be spotted.

Cave of the Snow Kingdom (N26°36'43.1" E55°30'44.7" alt. 19m) is found within a few tens of metres of Namaktunnel and whilst it has an uncomfortable flat out crawling entrance the ensuing formations are well worth the discomfort. Around the corner eastwards and slightly higher the Bozorg Portal Cave (N26°36'51.9" E55°30'44.3" alt. 32m) has, in its 150m length, a chamber measuring 50mx25mx15m high. The walls are again superbly banded and some good straws with attached helictites occur in one corner. Polje Cave (N26°36'58.6" E55°30'32.3" alt. 45m) is situated in the side of a large enclosed depression about 400m from Bozorg Portal Cave and reached by a crumbling track. The scenery is once more superb. We thought that the cave itself and formations were some of the finest to be seen even though it only has a 300m length. The main passage is frequently 10m wide and up to 15m high leading to an exit (N26°36'59.9" E55°30'37.2" alt. 43m) that returns to the depression. Profuse displays of halite formations cover the walls, ceiling and often the floor. Very impressive!

The main reason for and obvious highlight of our trip was the 6,580m long 3N Cave (N26°37'03.9" E55°31'00.4" alt. 13m). This is situated in a small blind valley about one kilometre eastwards from Namaktunnel. It is easy to find as an obvious stream resurges and flows down to the sea. For most of the streams length it is 80% covered by a sheet of dazzling white salt crystals rather like ice. As for the cave, superlatives cannot begin to describe its treasures. There are awesome chambers - Hangar Hall is 35mx20mx16m high; Dome of Monolith 40mx20mx15m high and The Megadomes, two

OTHER DIAPIRS OF SOUTHERN IRAN. We passed many diapirs on our travels but only extensively visited two, Gach and Siag Tagh, both in the vicinity of Lar. We chose these because of their easily accessible glaciers, a feature that we had not previously seen. Gach was the first of the two that we reached on a road that conveniently followed its westward side for several kilometres and then turned eastwards almost directly under the glaciers snout. The views were classic with an obvious dome on the edge of some mountains that had then flowed onto and across the flat plain southwards for about 6km distance and 4km width. Unfortunately only very minor karst forms have been noted here. Siag Tagh was perhaps 10km further eastwards and had developed on the mountainside south of the plain. It appeared considerably more massive with an eroded but still steep sided snout well over a 100m high. Two obvious streams flowed down channels from the base of this each encrusted with the usual dazzling white salt crystals. Unfortunately the origin of the streams was through seepage rather than out of caves. Clean salt was exposed in several places with this exhibiting reasonable karren. We did spend some time scrambling over the flow but found no further obvious karst features. BosÛk (1999) notes that "Initial karst forms occur on the surface at the north" but we were not sure if it was limited to just what we viewed. Further eastwards still we could see the Chahal diapir which is reported to have numerous karst features including caves and springs (Bosák 1999).

Chahal was unfortunately much higher up the mountains and a very long walk! We were informed that very active salt

glaciers can move up to 2m per annum but we did feel that Chahal and Siah Tagh were no longer in that category.

On our trip to and from Qeshm Island we passed close to Puhai diapir and made several roadside stops. The dome is very prominent and particularly colourful. A small glacier can be seen and it is reported that dolines and shafts occur on the summit plateau (Bosák 1999). There are obvious and good examples of residual sediments.

OUR TRIP. Valerie and I were joined on this trip by Tony and Jan Waltham. Tony is a geologist and his patient explanations of everything that was happening around us immensely increased our appreciation of all things “salted”. For the three days at Namakdan we were also joined by Colin Boothroyd who was working in the Emirates at the time. Because we also planned to continue to Socotra and the Yemen we flew to Bandar Abbas via Dubai and then stayed at the rather fine “Homa” Hotel. We used this as a base to visit Hormuz Island and for our first and last day. Bandar Abbas is a large sprawling city made rich and busy by being the second largest port in Iran. Unfortunately it does lack character other than that of the very friendly population. Our second base was wild camping by the salt diapir of Namakdan on Qeshm Island. It is necessary to bring all food and water here as there is none for at least 20km in any direction. The nearest hotel is in Qeshm city almost 100km away. Our final base was at the excellent “Tourist Hotel” in the beautiful city of Lar with its ancient Partheon/Sasanid citadel, superb bazaar and buzzing streets. From Lar we visited several nearby salt glaciers and could happily have stayed many more days.

Iran proved surprisingly easy to visit. Initially a recognised agent has to be contacted in order to obtain a special access number from Tehran (a Tour Agent or someone recommended by the Iranian Consulate). This took about 4 weeks but once received a tourist visa costing £68 (2008) was obtained from the London Consulate within three days. Movement within the country was unrestricted and apart from the occasional polite road check we never had any hindrance. Initially we did not like the idea of us men having to wear long trousers and long sleeves nor the women having to be constantly covered from head to toe.



The northern edge of Siah Tagh diapir with Chahal diapir in the background, Lar.

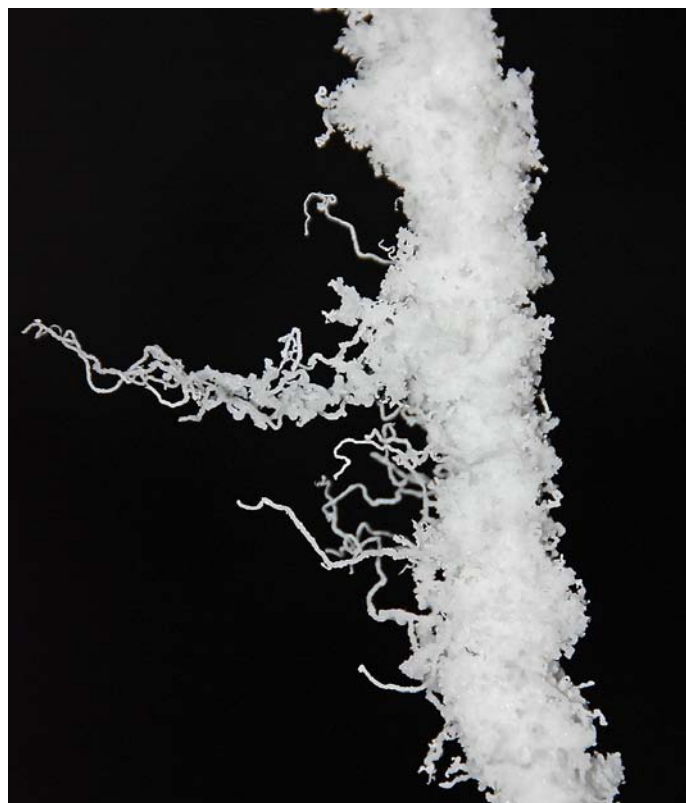
However we quickly accepted it and it became obvious that the local people appreciated our efforts. Our visit dispelled many misconceptions that we all had regarding Iran and its people prior to our arrival and we cannot recommend too highly a visit to this fascinating country.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Top of our list must be the Iranian people whose welcoming friendliness and desire to help made this trip such a pleasure. Mehran Etemadi was our knowledgeable guide who is now also an enthusiastic caver whilst Reza drove the vehicle and kept up our energy levels with his mouth watering cooking. Nasrin Harris of Persian Voyages, Dorking. (www.persianvoyages.com) efficiently dealt with the complex logistics of our little travelled route. We must even thank the Asseman Airline staff, the Iranian Immigration Authorities and the Customs Officials of Bandar Abbas who all made life easy for us! Thank you all.

REFERENCES.

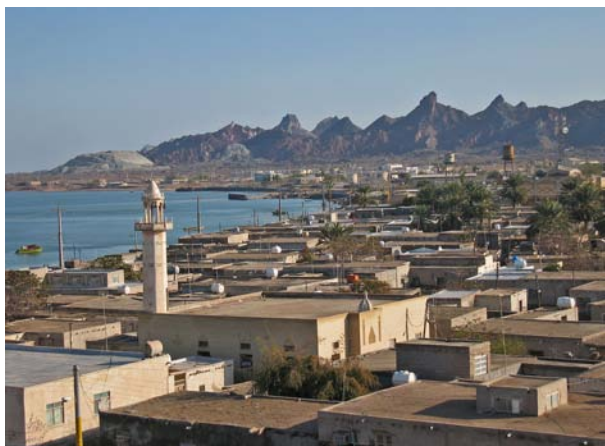
- Bosák, P., Bruthans, J., et al, 1999. Karst and Caves in Salt Diapirs, SE Zagros Mts. (Iran). *Acta Carsologica*. 1999, 28/2, 41-75.
- Bruthans, J., Filippi, M., et al, 2003. Tóí Naháèù and Ghar-e Daneshyu Caves. *International Caver*. 2002, 27-36.
- Bruthans, J., Filippi, M., et al, 2006. 3N Cave: The Longest Salt Cave in the World. *NSS News*. September 2006.10-16.
- Bruthans, J., Šmíd, J., et al, 2000. Thickness of Cap Rock and Other Important Factors Affecting Morphogenesis of Salt Karst. *Acta Carsologica*. 2000, 29/2, 51-64.
- Filippi, M., Vilhelm, Z., et al, 2006. 3N Cave, New World's Longest Cave in Salt. *Speleogenesis*. 28.09.2006. 3pp.
- Yousefi, Afshin, 2007. Namakdan 3 (3 Nahacu) Cave, 6,580m (First Iranian expedition to 3N cave report). *Damavand Mountaineering & Skiing Club*. Jan. 2007. 54pp.



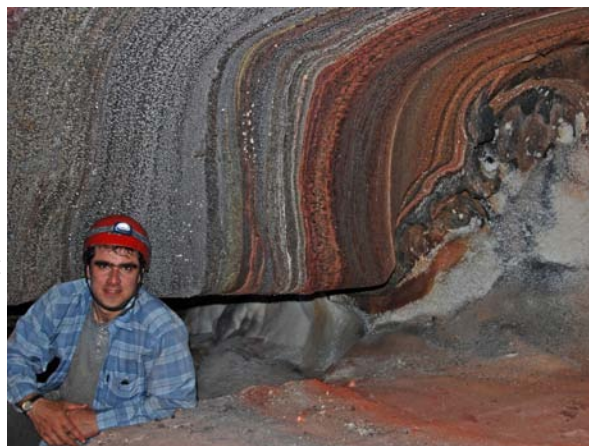
Halite helictites in Polje Cave, Namakdan.



Top left - Fresh water reservoirs in Laft, Qeshm Island.
 Top right- Ancient troglodyte dwellings at Kharbas, Qeshm Island.
 2nd left - Colin and formations in Cave of the Snow Kingdom, Namakdan.
 2nd right - The 3N Cave entrance with our party. The fallen blocks are recent. Namakdan.
 3rd left - The passageway in 3N Cave just before the Lake and Crawlway, Namakdan.
 Above - Colin in the entrance to Polje Cave, Namakdan.
 Left - A salt streamway at the base of Siah Tagh diapir, Lar.



Hormuz Diapir from Hormuz town, Hormuz Island.



Mehran and salt banding in Fatima Cave, Hormuz Island



Mehran and typical halite formations in Fatima Cave



Halite formations in 3N Cave, Namakdan.



GLAN DENA MEET MARCH



Llyn Ogwen and yGam from Glan Dena hut

Outflow from Llyn Ogwen

TO FLY LIKE A BIRD

I have just returned from a visit to the Alps and spent several hours at a paragliding and hang-gliding festival called the Coupe Icare (the Icarus Cup) which is held each September at the normally quiet farming village of St Hilaire du Touvet in the French Alps in the Chartreuse mountains, 25km east of Grenoble.

Amongst other attractions and activities including a mass hot air balloon ascent and microlight acrobatics displays, hundreds of paragliders and hang-glider pilots compete in a flying fancy-dress parade. The event is held over several days and attracts spectators from across the Alpine region.

The winners can look forward to seeing themselves on local and national TV and in the papers, and meeting with similar nut cases in the various bars to discuss what happened this year and plan for their costumes for the next year.

A star attraction at this year's event was Shere Khan, an eagle with a wing span of seven feet trained to launch and fly with a pilot and falconer flying a tandem paraglider



The falconer in the front passenger seat was calling the bird to his arm in mid-flight which was certainly impressive. The pilot follows the bird as it finds thermals and they can fly together in this way for many hours over quite considerable distances. The technique has been developed to train orphan eagles to fly.



Some of the contraptions were very Heath-Robinson but everyone completed their descents safely. From the village at the top to the landing area and country fair at the bottom was about 1500 feet.



I have to admit I kept my feet very firmly on the ground. I have flown gliders a few times but never been allowed to take off or land and I think that is enough for me. It does however make you sit back and admire the early pioneers who were very much taking their lives into their own hands. I know we have a number of members who indulge in such pastimes but Jeff Hooper has just brought to my attention that an early member was one such intrepid soul.

He has recently unearthed an article in the Ripon Gazette of 31 August 1933 as follows

GLIDING IN THE LAKE DISTRICT EXPERIMENTS BY MR. E.T.W. ADDYMAN

Mr E.T.W. Addyman, the secretary of the Harrogate Aircraft Club who has been spending the past six weeks exploring the gliding possibilities of the Lake District has returned to Harrogate delighted with the results of his tour.

The machine designed by Mr. Addyman was severely tested, 54 flights being made during the six weeks. Its improvement on similar German models is that it weighs only 195lbs. against 275lbs.; takes only 40 minutes to assemble against 3 hours; and has a better gliding angle.

Mr. Addyman, who is the first man to glide in the Lake District, says the topographical features of the Pennines are almost perfect, and he found many launching sites. In the Lake District, however, the hills for the most part were rather too close together, except around Keswick, where the hills are sufficiently far apart to allow the wind a clear upward sweep.



Jeff would also bring to our attention previous articles in earlier Club journals about Erik who was a member until 1928. Jeff had actually known this man in his later years without at that time realising he was a former member.

Erik was born and brought up in Harrogate and has many credits within the early journals both climbing and potholing. He descended Gaping Gill in 1907 and ascended Gardyloo Gully in 1911.

He was employed as a Locomotive Superintendent and became involved in climbing and potholing leading eventually to his selection as expedition reserve on the ill-fated Mallory-Irvine attempt to conquer Mount Everest in 1924.

Using the outhouses behind his home, he constructed several cars and two are thought to be surviving. In the early 1930's Erik tried his hand at gliding and then decided to manufacture his own machines in his Billiard Room! All his gliders have survived and are preserved by the Northern Aircraft Preservation Society in Stockport.

Unfortunately a serious gliding accident between Pickering and Whitby resulted in fractures to both legs and resulted in the amputation of his right lower arm. Erik died in the mid sixties.

Ref.
The YRC Bulletin: Winter 2000 A reminder of the YRC
The Ascent of Gardyloo Gully in 1911 (YRC Journal Vol. 3 p. 320 & Vol. 8 p. 9).
The Siege of Mere Gill (YRC Journal Vol. 4 p. 30)
Scawfell by Ski (YRC Journal Vol. 3 p. 209).



In the interests of continuing this tradition we had booked for six members to go gliding on the Sunday of the Bretton meet only for the weather to put paid to our plans.

WHAT IS A HAGGIS?

from the YRC Deeside correspondent (JH)

In preparation for reading the following it is recommended that one or two drams of Lochnagar or other whisky of choice should be taken. One or two more halfway through could be a great help.



A haggis is a small animal native to Scotland.

Because the habitat of the haggis is exclusively mountainous, and because it is always found on the sides of Scottish mountains, it has evolved a rather strange gait. The poor thing has only three legs, and each leg is a different length. The result of this is that when hunting haggis, you must get them on a flat plain - then they are very easy to catch - they can only run round in circles.

After catching your haggis, and dispatching it in time honoured fashion, it is cooked in boiling water for a period of time, then served with tatties and neeps (and before you ask, that's potatoes and turnips). The haggis is considered a great delicacy in Scotland.

The noise haggis make during the mating season gave rise to that other great Scottish invention, the bagpipes.

Many other countries have tried to establish breeding colonies of haggis, but to no avail - its something about the air and water in Scotland, once the haggis is removed from that environment, they just pine away.

A little known fact about the haggis is its aquatic ability. You would think that with three legs of differing lengths, the poor wee beastie wouldn't be very good at swimming, but as some of the Scottish hillsides have rather spectacular lakes on them, over the years the haggis has learned to swim very well. When in water, it uses its vestigial wings to propel itself forward, and this it can do at a very reasonable speed. Haggis are by nature very playful creatures, and when swimming, very often swim in a group - a bit like ducks - where the mother will swim ahead, and the youngsters follow in a line abreast.

In the water, haggis have been known to reach speeds of up to 35 knots, and therefore coupled with their amazing agility in this environment, are extremely difficult to catch, however, if the hunter can predict where the haggis will land, a good tip is to wait in hiding on the shore, because when they come out of the water, they will inevitably run around in circles to dry themselves off.

The largest known recorded haggis (caught in 1893 by a crofter at the base of Ben Lomond) weighed 55 lbs.

THE ISLE OF SKYE



These verses are attributed to Sheriff Alex Nicholson of Skye (circa 18 something)

Lovest thou mountains great,
peaks to the clouds that soar,
corrie and fell where eagles dwell
and cataracts dash evermore?

Lovest thou green, grassy glades
by the sunshine sweetly kist,
murmuring waves and echoing caves;
then go to the island of mists.

If you are a delicate man
and of wetting your skin you are shy,
I'd have you know before you go
you'd better not think of Skye

No one has as yet been able to ascertain the sex of captured haggis, and partially because of this, scientists assume the haggis is hermaphroditic. This may also be a product of evolution, and does explain the logistic problems of bringing two haggis together - after all, sure footed though the beast is, if two were to mate on a Scottish hillside, it is a long fall down, and a slip at the wrong time may very well result in a reduction by two of the total haggis population.

What is known about Haggis breeding is that, several days prior to giving birth, the Haggis make a droning sound - very much like a beginner playing the bagpipes for the first time - giving rise to the speculation that the bagpipes were indeed invented in Scotland, simply to lure unsuspecting haggis into a trap. At the onset of this noise, all other wildlife for a five mile radius can be seen exiting the area at an extremely high rate of knots (wouldn't you if your neighbour had just started to play the bagpipes?). The second purpose of the noise seems to be to attract other Haggis to the scene, in order to lend help with the birth. This also gives rise to the assumption that Haggis are tone deaf.

Haggis normally give birth to two or more young Haggis, or "wee yins", as they are called in Scotland, and from birth, their eyes are open, and they are immediately able to run around in circles, just like their parent.

The wee yins are fiercely independent, and it is only a matter of weeks before they leave the parent, and go off foraging for food on their own, although it is perhaps a two or three year period before they are themselves mature enough to give birth.

Most Haggis hunters will leave the wee due simply to their small size, but when attacked by other predators, they are still able to emit the bagpipe like sound, which again has the effect of very quickly clearing the surrounding area of all predators, and attracting other Haggis to the scene. This results in a very low infant mortality rate, with most wee yins actually making it to adulthood.

The lifespan of the Haggis is again an unknown quantity, but from taggings done in the Victorian era; we know that some haggis live for well over 100 years.

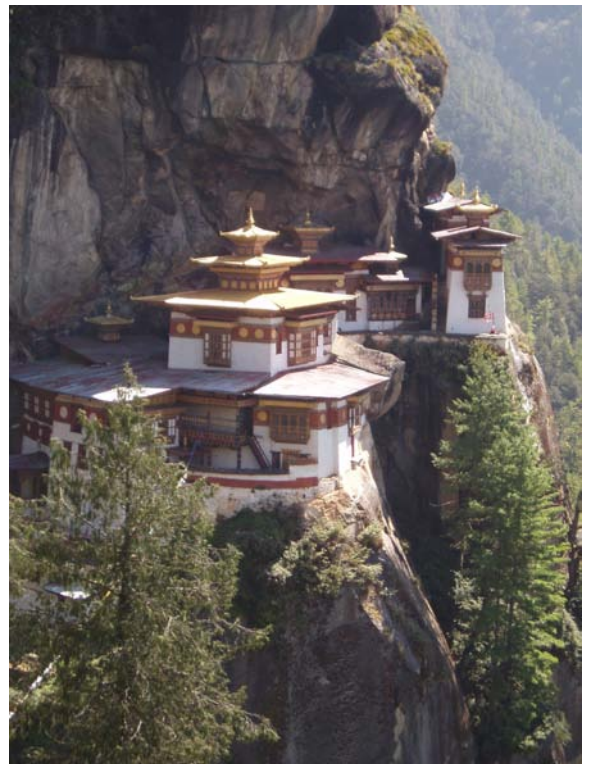
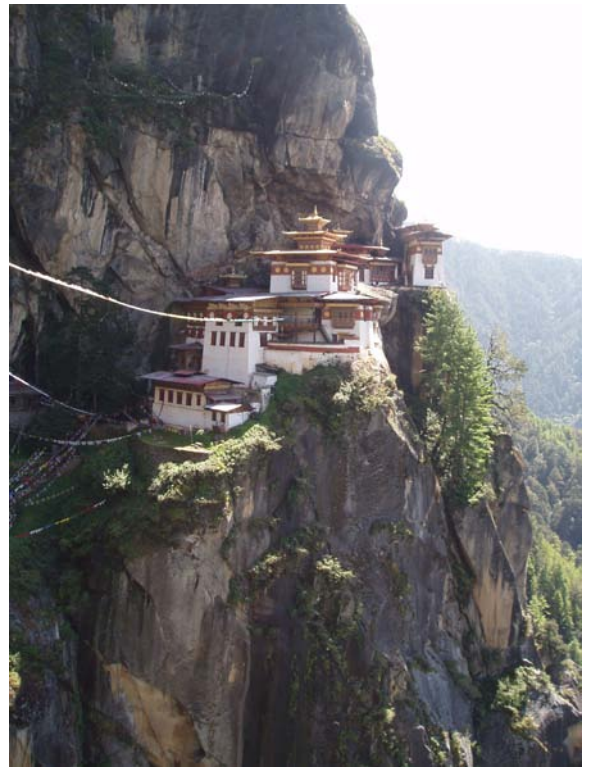
With thanks and appreciation to, Gordon's Tea Room & Restaurant, Braemar, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

We may well scoff but a recent survey discovered that 90% of visitors to Scotland did indeed think the Haggis was a wild creature and 92% of Scots actually believed it was edible.

IMAGES OF BHUTAN

Pictures taken on the recent meet





CAVES AND KARST OF FENGSHAN, CHINA.

Article by Ged Campion

The caves of Fengshan have been explored by three Sino-British expeditions between March 2004 and November 2005. The significance of these explorations was highlighted in 2005 when the Jiangzhou area of Fengshan was given Geopark status. As Club members continue on their work on this project it is perhaps time for an update of the situation so far and as Ged Campion has just penned an article for the British Cave Research Association it seems timely to reproduce this extract.

The Jiangzhou cave system has a surveyed length of 38.5km, the second longest cave in China. Many interesting leads still exist in the system, and the possibility of linking Jiangzhou to other caves means that it has considerable potential to be extended in the future. The caves of Fengshan are described, with observations on the development of the karst and the speleogenesis of the Jiangzhou system. The delicate balance between the needs of the population, tourism and conservation is also assessed.

THE KARST OF SOUTHERN CHINA

Parts of China's Guangxi province are considered to have some of the most spectacular karst in the world. This much-eulogised landscape cannot fail to impress even the most seasoned traveller, with its towers, arches, dolines and tiankengs of incredible dimensions. The vast area of limestone terrain is characterized by a sub-tropical climate, and has fenglin and fengcong karst at altitudes from 150m to 2000m above sea level. The Bama and Fengshan areas are particularly striking, with an array of karst features that include the massive Haolong and Jiaole tiankengs in Bama and the sprawling Jiangzhou cave system in Fengshan; this cave is currently the second longest in China.

The Jiangzhou natural arch, which forms a gateway to the village of the same name, is one of the largest of its type in the world. The spectacular landscape and the huge caves are the product of millions of years of karstic erosion, in a favourable tectonic environment and under favourable climatic conditions with no glacial interference.

Along with most of the caves in southern China, those newly discovered in Fengshan lie in a massive limestone sequence that extends from Devonian to Triassic in age. All of this limestone was folded during orogenic phases in late Triassic and Cretaceous times.

Throughout Tertiary times, most of southern China had a humid, Ntropical-subtropical or humid-temperate climate that greatly favoured karst development; then in the Pleistocene, the regional climate became hot and humid, and has remained so to this day. The karst has therefore developed over a very long period.

China has about 2.6M km² of karst, with about half of it (and most of the mature karst) concentrated in the southern provinces (Yuan, 1991; Zhu, 1986). The tiankengs found in this area are also of particular note. Now recognized as giant collapse dolines, tiankengs have only recently entered our vocabulary, but their discovery and documentation in Guangxi has been prolific (Zhu and Chen, 2005). Baidong and the giant Dashiewi tiankengs, in Leye County, were examined by the China Caves Projects in 2000, as were the Haolong and Jiaole Tiankengs in Bama more recently.

The caves of Fengshan lie mainly in the areas of fengcong karst, also known as cone karst because its clustered peaks commonly have a conical shape.

Fengcong predominate in the Jiangzhou area. The floors of the inter-cone depressions are distinguished by the presence of sinkholes, shafts and large fossil cave entrances. Local relief within the fengcong karst ranges from tens of metres to over 500 metres. One of the most important features of the fengcong geomorphology is the lack of rivers and surface water courses, as all drainage sinks into the cavernous limestone. The development of these often spectacular landscapes is the product of a complex interaction between tectonic, lithological and climatic factors.

THE FENGSHAN AREA

Fengshan county lies around 40km south of the large town of Tian'e. Reaching it used to require a road journey of almost three days from Guilin, but a newly constructed motorway has brought it within one long day's drive. It still retains a sense of remoteness, compared to other counties of Guangxi. Approached from the north, the winding road from Donglan plunges down the mountainside with spectacular views of Fengshan town squeezed in among the karst hills. Hundreds of years of farming on the alluvial plain below have provided a spectacular tapestry of greens and browns intermingled with shimmering water in circular concrete tanks and elliptical pools, there to sustain life in this sometimes parched landscape. The Qiaoyin River flows through the town after emerging from Chuan Long Yan (Factory Cave) with tributaries from other smaller caves in the local catchment.

Fengshan County covers an area of 1738km², and contains eleven towns with a total population of 190,000, where 58% of the people are Zhuang, 35% are Han Chinese, and 7% are from the Yao minority. Fengshan town bustles with activity and life, but this is a very poor area of China, where there is little industry and where farming is a struggle; there is no promise of a large hydro-electric scheme as in the neighbouring Tian'e county. However, Fengshan does have its own treasures, in its mountains and rivers where gold, aniseed, and numerous exotic plants have been found, along with Fengshan's own breed of famous black pig.

Tourism is also developing, and caves play a significant part in this. The two local show caves, Yuan Yang Dong (high in the hills just east of Fengshan) and San Men Hai Dong (the

resurgence of the Ma Wang cave system 12km to the south) are visited by large numbers of the aspiring middle classes from Nanning and Liuzhou.

The area is dominated by massive limestones of Devonian and Carboniferous age, with a thin band of Permian carbonate cropping out in the southwest. The two most cavernous sectors, within the Qiaoyin and Xialijing drainage basins in the east, and the hills of Duyang Shan that contain the Ma Wang and Jiangzhou caves in the west, are separated by a tight syncline of Triassic sandstone and shale that extends from north to south. The limestone outcrops nearly pinch together at Pao Li village, where the waters of the San Men Hai resurge below the Ma Wang cave and flow overground into the eastern basin. The Xialijing limestones continue south across the county boundary into Bama, where cave rivers south of Yueli and Poyue (surveyed by the China Caves Project in 1988: Gill et al., 1990) eventually resurge at Beimo.

The Jiangzhou and Ma Wang sectors in the west have been the main objective of recent explorations. This cavernous area of karst, dominated by fengcong terrain is underlain by 38.5km of cave in the Jiang Zhou system in the south and by 12km of passages in Ma Wang Dong in the north.

North of Jiangzhou, and west of Ma Wang, truncated lengths of very large phreatic cave passage extend from Si Fang Dong to the Green River sink, providing a nearly complete, but abandoned, underground highway from east to west. Beyond it, the immense passages of Mayo Li Dong and Dong Li Dong cut through the limestone hills in majestic style.

THE JIANGZHOU CAVE SYSTEM

The cave system of Jiangzhou underlies both Fengshan and Bama Counties in the fengcong karst of Duyang Shan. It lies about 24km south-southwest of Fengshan town, and roughly 50km west of the Hongshui River. The nearest large village is Jiangzhou, 2km from the southwest edge of the cave system. This village has as its spectacular gateway a huge karst arch, some 30m high, which features in many tourist leaflets. One entrance to the cave is close to the village, one is at the nearby Longhuai village, and another is just to the north of the small hamlet of Dalue.

In all, there are eight known entrances into the Jiangzhou cave system, which lies beneath a typical fengcong karst, and has 38.5km of passages mapped to date. The main entrances and the abandoned sections of the cave lie 50 to 100m above the alluvial plain. Cave passages are in the main large, dry, abandoned trunk routes. The main tunnel is breached in majestic style by a spectacular collapsed doline, the Herb Garden, which houses a lush tropical forest isolated by its perimeter cliffs. The Man Fei entrance to the system is also spectacular, and is very accessible from the road between Jiangzhou and Fengshan.

One of the most enduring features of the Jiangzhou cave system is the continuously large old passages.



The Jiangzhou trunk passage, Appian Way, inside the Man Fei entrance

Much of these are 30 to 50m high and wide, and the volume of the entire cave system could total about 28.9M m³ (Dale and Harrison, in press). These huge passages were formed under phreatic conditions, and there is ample evidence of this speleogenesis in many parts of the cave.

The floors of these passages and chambers have some areas obstructed by massive boulders piles, behind which accumulate in-washed clastic sediments along with insoluble residues. In some parts of the cave, invasive seepage makes passage floors muddy and awkward to traverse during and just after the rainy season.

However, passages are routinely decorated with speleothems, especially flowstone, giant stalagmites and gourls, some of the most spectacular of which are located in the Colossus area, Hijack Passage and the upper galleries in the far reaches of Hijack Passage.



Large stalagmite formations in the Appian Way

Considerable exploration effort has been expended to try to locate an entrance to Jiangzhou in Bama County, thereby creating a back door into the cave. However, despite reaching tantalizingly close in both Crystal Palace Cave and Da Shang Dong, no connection has yet been found. There is no evidence that Jiangzhou has been used for ritual purposes or for burials. However, substantial defensive dry stone walls in the Man Fei entrance and the Herb Garden doline suggest that there might have been turbulent times during the past, in this otherwise quiet part of China.

Speleogenesis of Jiangzhou

The consistently large size of the passage is a major feature of Jiangzhou. There is little or no dolomite within what appears to be a very pure limestone succession (Dale and Harrison, in press), and there are no major faults in the area. So it appears that the large scale of the passage development has been largely due to a long period with major water flow through the phreatic zone. Vadose percolation along joint planes has caused further dissolution and subsequent collapse. Major inputs of autogenic drainage in each depression within the fengcong karst have accounted for many of the branch passages that converge on the main trunk cave. The large size of Jiangzhou's passages might therefore be more attributable to climatic conditions prevalent during early stages of the cave development, notably to the high carbon dioxide concentrations in the waters influenced by the abundance of tropical vegetation and high temperatures that existed in southern China throughout Tertiary times (Yuan, 1991).

Under favourable conditions a cave can enlarge from a tube 10mm in diameter into a tunnel 10m in diameter within a time span of 5,000 to 20,000 years (White, 1988); the Jiangzhou caves appear to have a history much longer than that. Changes in flow direction and hydraulic gradient towards the evolving Hongshui trunk river, which arcs round the north and east sides of the limestone block, might also have played a significant part in Jiangzhou's development. The cave appears to have formed largely during the Pleistocene Period (1.8M to 10k years ago), within the same time as have the tiankengs of southern China (Zhu and Chen, 2005). The proximity of the Long Luo tiankeng, a huge shaft over 150m deep just north of Jiangzhou, indicates the close relationship between the formation of the cave river passages and the tiankengs in this karst.

Underlying the main levels of abandoned cave passages, there is an extensive active system that can be reached at various points by descending large and impressive, elliptical shafts in the floors of the main levels. Some of these shafts are more than 100m deep, and some also extend upwards to daylight. The cave rivers pass through numerous flooded sections, so that only short and immature sections of vadose river passage have yet been found. Rivers from the alluvial plains have transported large quantities of clastic sediment in through the main sinkholes, creating areas of massive infill and blockages within the active passages. Within the fengcong, many dolines have floors choked with

sediment at levels well above the cave rivers, as for example in the doline just east of the Man Fei Sink.



Deep holes in the floor of Jiangzhou's old trunk passage, near the Man Fei entrance.

OTHER CAVES IN FENGSHAN

Beyond Jiangzhou, significant caves in the Fengshan karst include Maguai Dong, lying in thin Permian limestones west of Ma Wang Dong. The entrance to this cave is located in a deep, heavily forested, elliptical doline that is well guarded by cliffs at its southern end. A karst arch provides a bridge for the road, and the drivers of heavy vehicles thundering across are blissfully unaware of what lies below. Deep in the doline, a howling draught and a shaft guard access to a river that is believed to resurge at the bottom of a gorge a kilometre away to the north.

Just south of Fengshan town, the caves of Hei Dong, Liang Dong (Light and Dark caves), Pan Yun Dong and the 70m shaft of Biao Dong cluster near to the village of Ping Shang. Liang and Hei Dong are segments of large, well-decorated, abandoned cave, with a collapse doline exposing their entrances. Conversely, Pan Yun Dong has a small and remote entrance in the side of a craggy hill; but it opens out into immense and well-decorated chambers where, sadly, there is much evidence of speleothem removal and damage. Pan Yun Dong almost certainly forms the back door of Hei Dong, but no connection has been found to date.

The valley north of Ping Shang was the objective of an Italian expedition in December 2004 and January 2005.

The team surveyed and explored a number of caves by Ping Shang village, including Poxian Dong surveyed for 1.3km, and also Sicily Dong with its large and well-decorated chambers that have since been opened as the show cave of Yuan Yang Dong.

The Pingle area, northwest of Ma Wang, has also been found to contain a variety of caves and karst features in Permian limestones, including a number of shafts and some quite exceptional poljes on a scale not normally found in this area.

Yu Long Dong, located northeast of Jiangzhou and midway between Fengshan town and the Beimo resurgence, has 4km of very large abandoned passage, but its exploration was marred by the considerable destruction of speleothems by local people who were harvesting the cave decorations for illicit trading.

Rather more endearing examples of how caves and people coexist in China were well illustrated when expedition members visited Chuan Long Yan (Factory Cave), near the town centre of Fengshan. This has a huge entrance, some 70m across and 50m high, with a sizeable river flowing out. It is a truncated section of huge cave, now about 200m long (**Fig.10**). The area inside the cave had been totally divided up between stalagmite bosses and other spelothems, and then littered with industrial space housing units for the manufacture of concrete blocks, grave stones, telegraph poles and a whole host of other assiduously crafted goods, all reached by the cave's internal road. The non-stop activity, the deafening machines, and the glare of mains electric lights give this cave environment a strangely surreal atmosphere, quite alien to that to which we are accustomed – an example perhaps of nature not quite in harmony with technology.

An ornamental bridge spans the river at the northern entrance to the cave. On the east bank of the river, a sizeable tunnel illuminated by fairy lights, leads up a slope to an old Taoist shrine, with assembly seating and an altar laden with effigies and candles. There is no space in this huge cave that had not been put to good use. Chuan Long Yan forms a part of the Qiaoyin River Caves system, which emerges in Fengshan and flows south to Bama county, intersecting more karst that is yet to be explored.

Exploration opportunities

The caves of Fengshan, and especially the Jiangzhou system, provide many opportunities for further exploration. Some of the underground traverses in Jiangzhou are relatively easy, whereas others are long and strenuous. Continuously large passages ensure that large distances can be covered in relatively short times, though climbs, traverses and rare shafts punctuate the walking sections and provide suitable sport. A traverse between the Man Fei and Long Hai entrances can be completed in three hours and route finding is quite straightforward. In contrast, a visit to the far reaches of Highjack Passage is much, more committing as it involves a return trip of 16km of caving,

following the Hochiminh Trail and climbing up and down huge boulder slopes in gigantic passages where cairns help to indicate the route. A traverse of the Man Fei to the Dalue entrance provide classic caving in the very best tradition, traversing high above Colossus to the Dambuster Passage to take in some stunning rock scenery and spelothems.

MAN'S IMPACT ON THE CAVES

It would seem that generations of local villagers have explored many of the dry and abandoned cave passages, and have even descended some of the shorter vertical shafts (notably in Hijack Passage in the Jiangzhou system), risking life and limb to extract speleothems for financial gain. This has left well-worn paths that penetrate to even the most remote parts of the system, and has inevitably caused despoliation of the cave decorations and removal of many of the most impressive features .



Speleothems near Shaftlands, at the northern end of the Jiangzhou cave system.

In Yu Long Dong, bamboo scaffolding has been erected to reach the finest stalactites hanging 30m high on the passage roof. In order to address the problem of speleothem removal from the caves, much work will be needed to re-educate the local people. This must make them aware of the unique resource that they have in their possession, in terms of tourist potential, and also of the long-term economic benefits a Geopark could have for the locality. Conversely, it is important to consider what impact increased tourism might have on the area in terms of conservation; it could bring some disadvantages, but it could also justify better local roads and infrastructure. This is a delicate balance that has to be considered in any future planning at Fengshan.



The road bridge over the river inside Chaun Long Yan.

Photos by John Whalley



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bensley, B, Campion, G, Clayton, M, Harrison, T and Porter, E. 2005. Tian'e and Fengshan Expeditions 2004: The 17th and 18th China Caves Project Expeditions. [British Cave Research Association, October 2005, ISBN 0900265 43 4].

Bensley, B, Campion, G, Clayton, M, Harrison, T, Porter, E, Renton, A, 2007. Guangxi 2005 Expedition: The 19th China Caves Project Expedition to Bama and Fengshan Counties in Guangxi Province, China. [British Cave Research Association, May 2007, ISBN 0 900265 42 6].

Campion, G. 2004. Large caves in Guangxi. *Descent*, No.178, p.35.

Campion, G. 2004. The exploration of caves in Tian'e and Fengshan Counties, Guangxi Province, China. *Yorkshire Ramblers Club Journal*, Supplement. 58pp.

Campion, G. 2005. Observations of karst features in Guangxi. *Proceedings of 13th International Congress of Speleology*, Kalomos, Greece. p.89.

Campion, G. 2006. Bama and Fengshan, China 2005. *Speleology*, Issue 8, December 2006, 25–27.

Dale, J and Harrison, T. In press. The use of x-ray compositional microanalysis in geomorphological studies by small caving expeditions. *Cave and Karst Science*, Vol.34, No.3. [in press.]

Gill, D, Lyon, B and Fowler, S. 1990. The caves of Bama County, Guangxi. *Cave Science*, Vol.17, 55–66.

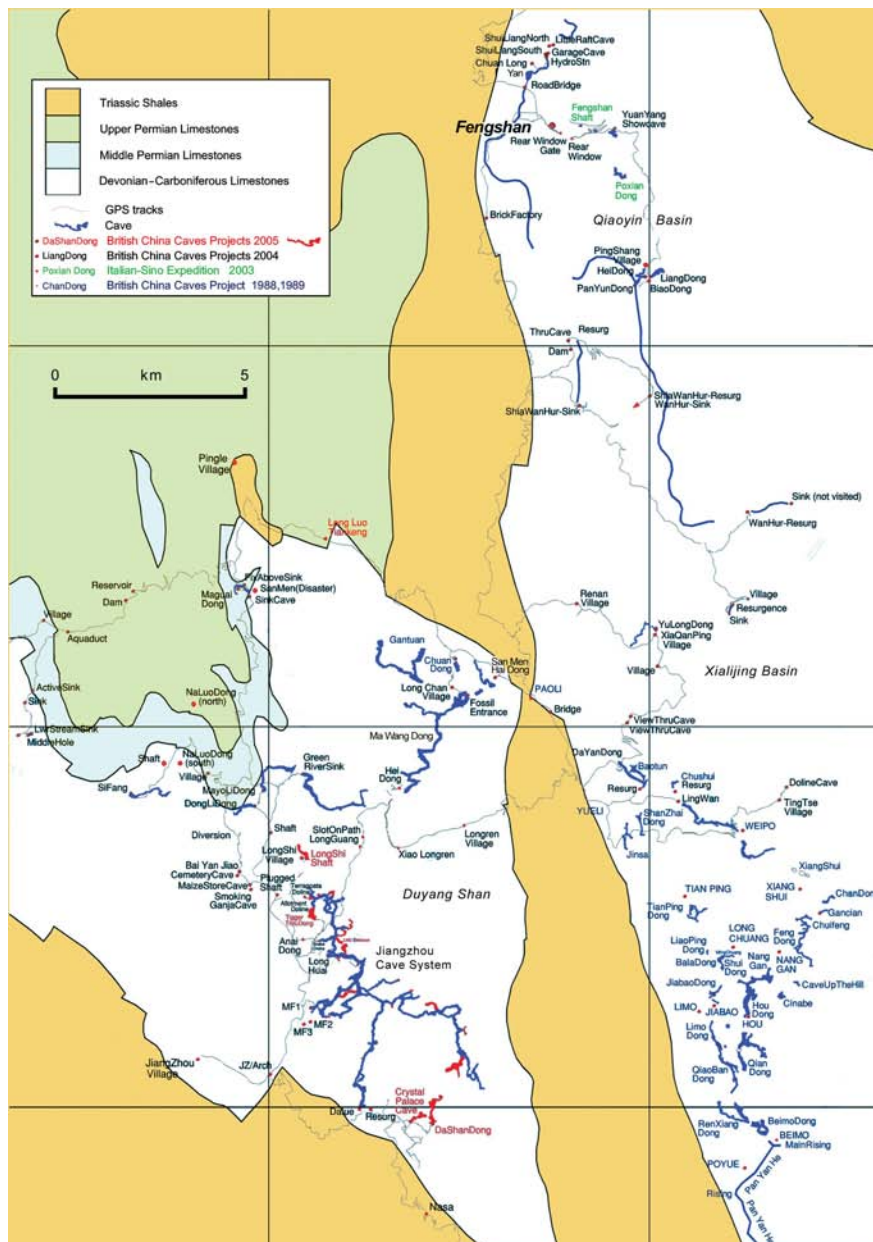
Waltham, A C and Willis, R G. 1993. *Xingwen, China Caves Project 1989–1992*. [Bridgwater: BCRA.] 48pp.

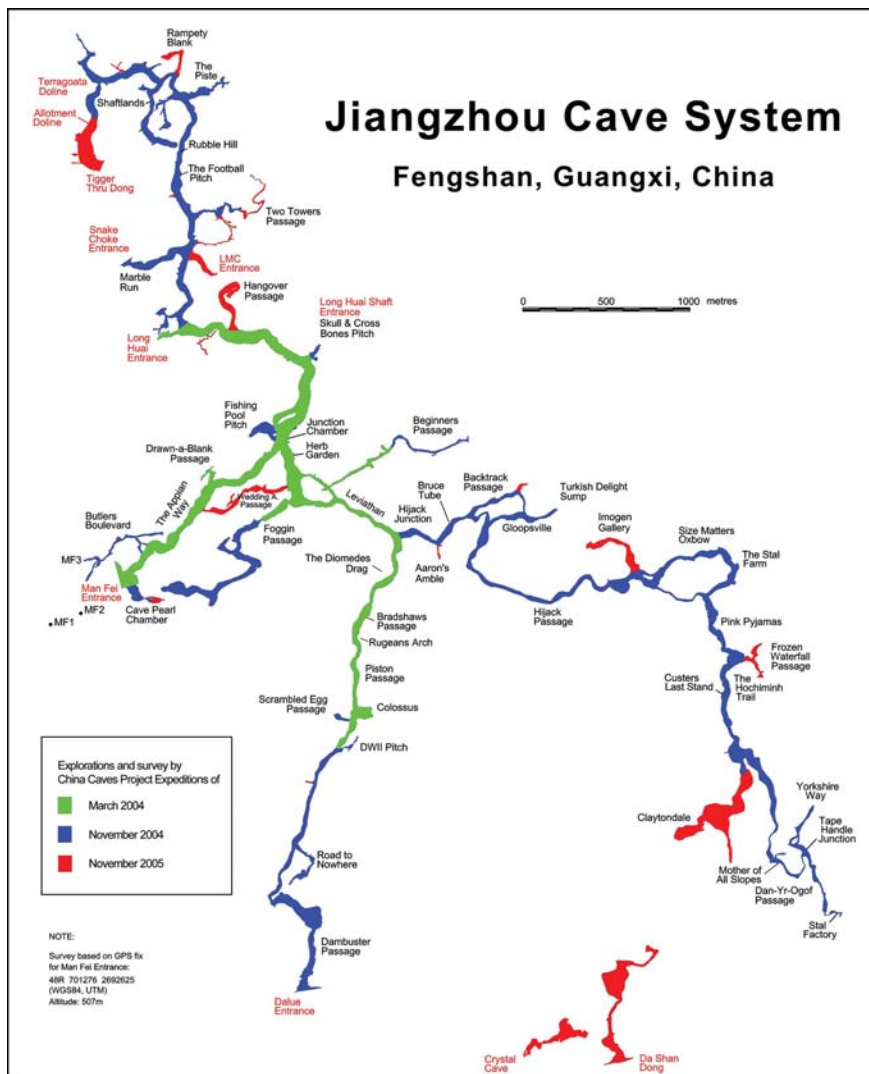
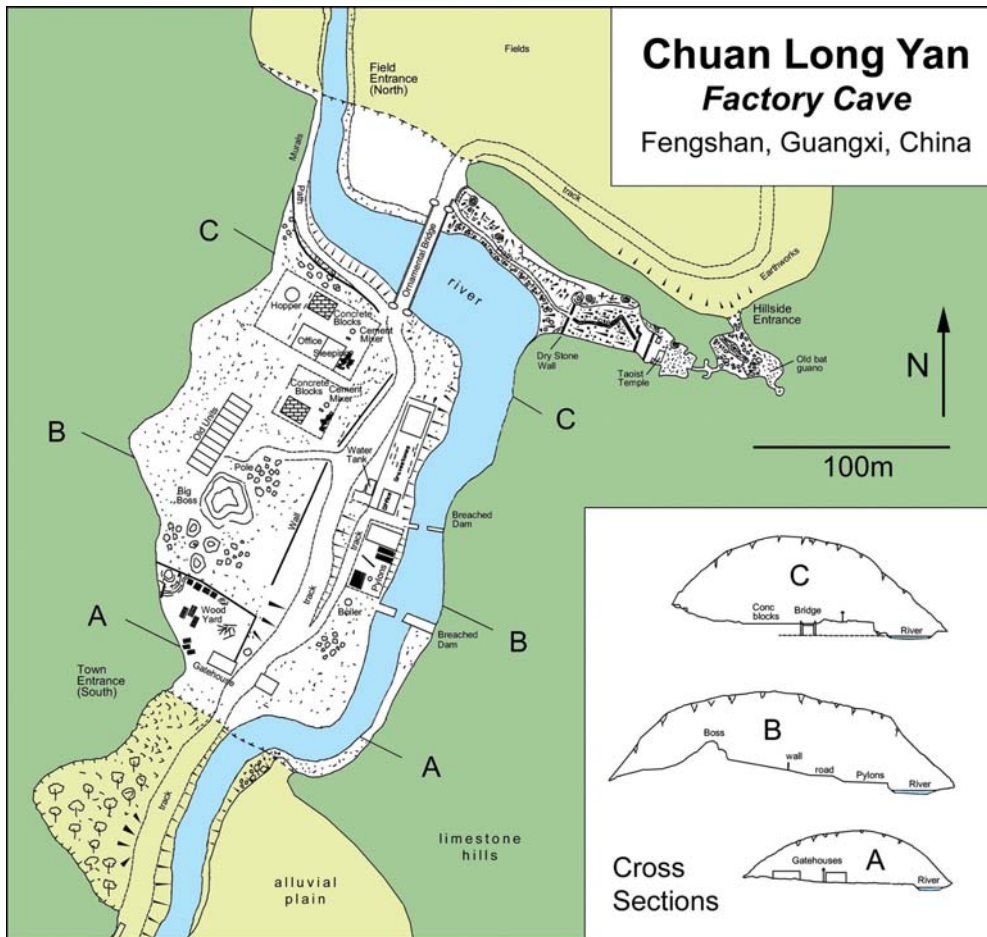
White, W B. 1988. *Geomorphology and Hydrology of Karst Terrains*. [New York: Oxford University Press, Inc.] 464pp.

Yuan, D (editor). 1991. *Karst of China*. [Beijing: Geological Publishing House.] 232pp.

Zhu Xuewen and Chen Weihai. 2005. Tiankengs in the karst of China. *Cave and Karst Science*, Vol.32(2/3), 55–66. [Replicated as: Zhu Xuewen and Chen Weihai. 2006. Tiankengs in the karst of China. *Speleogenesis and Evolution of Karst Aquifers*, 4(1), www.speleogenesis.info, 18 pp.]

Zhu, X. 1986. *Guilin karst*. [Shanghai: Shanghai Scientific and Technical Publishers.] 188pp.





This article was published in CAVE AND KARST SCIENCE Vol. 34, No. 2, 2007 and is reproduced by kind permission of the editors.

HISTORY OF CAVE EXPLORATION IN THE NORTHERN PENNINES OF ENGLAND:

THE WORK OF THE CLUBS, 1892 – 1945.

Stephen A CRAVEN

7 Amhurst Avenue, Newlands 7700, South Africa.

Abstract: The paper records the trends of cave exploration in the English Northern Pennines between 1892 and 1945. With the exception of Stump Cross Cavern¹, White Scar Cave² and Lost John's Hole³, all the major discoveries were made by members of the organized caving clubs.

INTRODUCTION

With the two notable exceptions of Alum Pot and Gaping Gill, all the caves explored towards the end of the nineteenth century were technically easy with no long pitch. Alum Pot had been descended in 1847 and 1870 with the assistance of railway contractors⁴. Gaping Gill was famously descended by Edouard Martel on 1 August 1895 with the help of the Ingleborough Estate workers⁵. The conspicuous open shafts were beyond the resources of individual explorers. It was the clubs that provided the human, financial and technical resources necessary for the descents of the big pitches. Organized climbing started in England in 1857 with the Alpine Club⁶, but its founder members had little or no interest in the British hills. It was the next generation of climbers that ventured onto and under their local hills.

YORKSHIRE RAMBLERS' CLUB⁷

The Yorkshire Ramblers' Club (YRC) was founded in Leeds on 6 October 1892⁸. Although its constitution makes no provision for cave exploration, some members soon ventured underground. The first recorded cave meet was at Yordas Cave in March 1893⁹, following which the members gradually acquired more experience and confidence, and the necessary equipment¹⁰, to descend the more difficult potholes (Table 1).

The members came largely from the urban business and middle classes who had the necessary time and money. Before the 1914 – 1918 war they travelled by train to the Yorkshire Dales. A local farmer would then load their heavy and bulky tackle onto a cart and take it as close as possible to the pothole. With the notable exception of meets at Gaping Gill, where a camp was organized, they usually stayed in a nearby inn, of which the Hill Inn in Chapel-le-Dale was the most popular¹¹. After that war the members acquired motor bicycles and cars, and often travelled independently of the railway companies.

Although the YRC regularly published a high quality journal, much of what its members achieved was either published elsewhere or merely recorded in the Club archives. The early meets were reported in detail in the Leeds newspapers, and syndicated to those of Bradford, Skipton, Lancaster and Kendal. The most active caving member was Samuel Wells Cuttriss who kept records of the explorations, surveyed caves, and made scientific observations. He was an active member of the Yorkshire Geologic and Polytechnic Society's Underground Waters committee¹².

After the First World (1914 – 1918) War the Law of Diminishing Returns applied. The conspicuous large, easy, shafts had been descended. The next generation of members, while continuing to organize meets, never achieved the pre-war record of new discoveries. The tight and wet caves and potholes required more effort for less return. The newspaper publicity ceased, perhaps because there was much less to report. Indeed, such promotion was later condemned¹³. Another explanation is the Club's Journal, founded in 1899, which provided a medium in which the members' achievements could be recorded. Much of the cave exploration was then organized and recorded by Ernest Edward Roberts.

First descents and explorations by the members of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club [errors and omissions excepted].

| Cave | Date |
|--|--|
| Manchester Hole, Nidderdale, surveyed | 01 - 03 June 1895 ¹⁴ |
| High Birkwith Cave | 05 August 1895 ¹⁵ |
| Fox Holes, Cam | 05 August 1895 ¹⁶ |
| Old Ing Cave, Birkwith area | 05 August 1895 ¹⁷ |
| Calf Hole and Browgill Cave | 03 - 06 April 1896 ¹⁸ |
| Gaping Gill, Jib Tunnel descended | 09 - 10 May 1896 ¹⁹ |
| Gaping Gill East Passage | 23 - 26 May 1896 ²⁰ |
| Hell Hole, Appletreewick | 04 June and 18 August 1896 ²¹ |
| Rowten Pot, Kingsdale, descended to 46m | 04 October 1896 ²² |
| Long Kin West, Newby Moss, descended to 31m | October 1896 ²³ |
| Goyden Pot, Labyrinth entered | 1896 ²⁴ |
| Long Kin West Pot, Newby Moss | 16 May 1897 ²⁵ |
| Rowten Pot, Kingsdale | 04 - 05 July 1897 ²⁶ |
| Douk Cave, Ingleborough | 11 July 1897 ²⁷ |
| Sell Gill Holes, Penyghent | 19 September 1897 ²⁸ |
| Marble Steps Pot, Gragareth | 15 May 1898 ²⁹ |
| Bull Pot, Kingsdale, descended to 68m | 28 May 1898 ³⁰ |
| Cross Pot, Penyghent | 29 May 1898 ³¹ |
| Penyghent Long Churn, Penyghent | 29 May 1898 |
| Death's Head Pot, Leck Fell | 28 - 30 May 1898 ³³ |
| Hunt Pot, Penyghent | May 1898 ³⁴ |
| Batty Hole, Kingsdale | 10 July 1898 ³⁵ |
| Short Drop Cave to Gavel Pot, Leck Fell | 21 July 1898 ³⁶ |
| Lost John's Cave, third pitch descended | 24 - 25 September 1898 ³⁷ |
| Hardrawkin Pot (= Far Douk), Chapel-le-dale | 1898 ³⁸ |
| Jackdaw Hole, Penyghent, first pitch | 1898 ³⁹ |
| Eye Holes, Leck Fell | 1898 ⁴⁰ |
| Boggarts Roaring Hole, Ingleborough | 07 May 1899 ⁴¹ |
| Rumbling Hole, Leck Fell, descended to 49m | 21 May 1899 ⁴² |
| Cow Pot, Leck Fell | 21 - 22 May 1899 ⁴³ |
| Bull Pot of the Witches descended to 65m | 21 - 22 May 1899 ⁴⁴ |
| Warm Hole, Saddleworth | 1899 ⁴⁵ |
| Diccan Pot to top of 1st. pitch | 28 September 1902 ⁴⁶ |
| Gaping Gill, South-East Passage | 29 May - 01 June 1903 ⁴⁷ |
| High Douk Cave, Chapel-le-Dale | 26 - 27 September 1903 ⁴⁸ |
| Jockey Hole and Rift Pot, Allotment area | 21 - 22 May 1904 ⁴⁹ |
| Fluted Hole, Newby Moss | 26 June 1904 ⁵⁰ |
| Rift Pot, Allotment area | 20 - 21 August 1904 ⁵¹ |
| Rosebay Pot, Newby Moss | 23 April 1905 ⁵² |
| Sulber Pot, Allotment area | 21 April 1905 ⁵³ |
| Juniper Gulf, Allotment area, descended to 30m | 21 April 1905 ⁵⁴ |
| Marble Pot, Allotment area | 22 April 1905 ⁵⁵ |
| Bridge Pot, Newby Moss | 23 April 1905 ⁵⁶ |
| Cross Pot, Newby Moss | 23 April 1905 ⁵⁷ |
| Thorn Pot, Newby Moss | 23 April 1905 ⁵⁸ |
| Rosebay Pot, Newby Moss | 23 April 1905 ⁵⁹ |
| Gritstone Pot, Newby Moss | April 1905 ⁶⁰ |
| Pillar Pot, Newby Moss | 11 June 1905 ⁶¹ |

Gaping Gill, South-East Passage extended July 1905⁶²
 Scosca Cave, Littondale 1 October 1905⁶³
 Cove Hole, Ribblehead 24 March 1906⁶⁴
 Gaping Gill, SE Passage further extended 05 - 07 June 1906⁶⁵
 Nick Pot, Alum Pot area 24 June 1906⁶⁶
 Blayshaw Gill Pots Nos. 1 and 2, Nidderdale 13 - 16 April 1906⁶⁷
 Gaping Gill survey completed 28 - 29 July 1906⁶⁸
 Gaping Gill, South East Passage 18 - 21 May 1907⁶⁹
 Gaping Gill, South East Passage 21 - 22 September. 1907⁷⁰
 Fairy Holes, Saddleworth c. 1907⁷¹
 Tom Bell's Cave, Heptonstall c. 1907⁷²
 Meregill, second pitch descended 18 – 20 June 1908⁷³
 Double Three Pot, Kingsdale June 1908⁷⁴
 Thorney Pot, Kingsdale June 1908⁷⁵
 Bull Pot, Kingsdale June 1908⁷⁶
 Jingling Pot, Kingsdale June 1908⁷⁷
 Sheepfold Pot, Kingsdale June 1908⁷⁸
 Meregill, third pitch partly descended and surveyed 04 July 1908⁷⁹
 Haws Gill Wheel Cave, Bruntscar area 09 - 12 April 1909⁸⁰
 Hardrawkin surveyed 24 April 1909⁸¹
 Car Pot, Allotment area, to 36m 26 June and 03 July 1909⁸²
 Gaping Gill, Spout Tunnel 11 June 1910⁸³
 Unnamed pot 37m. SE of Car Pot 12 June 1910⁸⁴
 Sunset Hole to Braithwaite Hole 17 - 18 September 1910⁸⁵
 Little Hull Hole to top of 1st. pitch November 1910⁸⁶
 ? Staircase Cave, Giggleswick Scar c. 1910⁸⁷
 Gingling Pot initial visit, Fountains Fell March 1911⁸⁸
 New Year Pot, Fountains Fell 02 April 1911⁸⁹
 P.101, Chapel-le-Dale May 1911⁹⁰
 Gaping Gill survey continued beyond Stream Chamber
 03 – 05 June 1911⁹¹
 Swinsto Cave, Kingsdale; first pitch descended 23 June 1911⁹²
 Gatekirk Cave, Bruntscar area Aug. 1911⁹³
 Little Hull Hole first pitch descended 29 – 30 October 1911⁹⁴
 Sleets Gill Cave surveyed October 1911⁹⁵
 Little Hull Hole, second pitch descended 04 – 05 May 1912⁹⁶
 Gaping Gill survey continued 25 – 27 May 1912⁹⁷
 Meregill Hole, Chapel-le-Dale; third pitch descended 27 May 1912⁹⁸
 Goyden Pot, Labyrinth discovered and surveyed
 13 and 30 June 1912⁹⁹
 Cowskull Pot, Penyghent 13 July 1912¹⁰⁰
 Greensett Caves, Ribblehead October 1912¹⁰¹
 Gill Head Pots, Buckden 1912¹⁰²
 Gaping Gill survey continued 10 – 12 May 1913¹⁰³
 Little Hull Hole to top of third pitch 10 – 12 May 1913¹⁰⁴
 Foxholes, Clapham, excavated August 1913¹⁰⁵
 Meregill Hole extended 30 May – 02 June 1914¹⁰⁶
 Dismal Hill Cave, Birkwith area 06 September 1918¹⁰⁷
 Calf Hole upstream, Birkwith area September 1915¹⁰⁸
 Thornes Gill Cave, Ribblehead 07 June 1919¹⁰⁹
 High Hull Pot, Penyghent, descended to 22m 07 June 1919¹¹⁰
 Hull Pot, Penyghent, preliminary exploration 07 June 1919¹¹¹
 Ribble Swallow, Ribblesdale 07 June 1919¹¹²
 Bull Pot of the Witches, Casterton Fell, surveyed c. 1919¹¹³
 Scosca Cave, Littondale, more bones found 06 February 1921¹¹⁴
 Penny Pot, Kettlewell 26 March 1922¹¹⁵
 Pillar Pots Nos. 2 and 3, Newby Moss 18 May 1922¹¹⁶
 Penyghent House Cave, Halton Gill 22 May 1922¹¹⁷
 Hull Pot upper cave May 1922¹¹⁸
 Gaping Gill, Stream Chamber branch Whitsun 1922¹¹⁹
 Little Hull Hole, Penyghent 04 June 1922¹²⁰
 Diccan Pot first pitch, Alum Pot area 07 June 1922¹²¹
 Angerholm Pots, Mallerstang December 1922¹²²
 Larch Tree Hole, Penyghent 1922¹²³
 Mallerstang, 16 unnamed potholes March and June 1923¹²⁴
 Diccan Pot to top of last pitch 07 July 1923¹²⁵
 Gingling Pot 3 pitches descended, Fountains Fell
 21 – 22 July 1923¹²⁶
 Cuddy Gill Cave, Ribblehead 29 March 1924¹²⁷
 Gunnerfleet Caves, Ribblehead 29 March and 10 May 1924¹²⁸
 Gaping Gill survey continued 06 – 09 June 1924¹²⁹
 Gingling Hole, Fountains Fell 28 June 1924¹³⁰
 Keld Bank Spring Cave, Chapel-le-Dale 18 August. 1924¹³¹
 Holme Hill Cave, Ribblehead August 1924¹³²
 Tub Hole, Dent 1924¹³³
 Blayshaw Gill Pot No.2 extended 10 May 1925¹³⁴
 Marble Steps Pot, Gragareth 31 May 1925¹³⁵
 Blayshaw Gill Pot No.1 extended 21 June 1925¹³⁶
 Marble Steps Pot (= High Douk), Gragareth 27 June 1925¹³⁷
 Yordas Cave extended, Kingsdale 02 August 1925¹³⁸
 Hazel Close Cave, Nidderdale 1925¹³⁹
 Bull Pot of the Witches, short extension 21 March 1926¹⁴⁰
 Gavel Pot 11 July 1926¹⁴¹
 Hidden Pot, Casterton Fell 19 June 1927¹⁴²
 Diccan Pot, partial descent of the final pitch 18 – 19 July 1925¹⁴³
 Gaping Gill, Boulder Chamber Pot 04 - 06 June 1927¹⁴⁴
 Bull Pot of the Witches, several new passages July 1927¹⁴⁵
 Swindale Pots, Stainmoor July 1927¹⁴⁶
 Gaping Gill, Pool and West chambers connected
 26 – 28 May 1928¹⁴⁷
 Lost Johns – crawl from Dome Junction to the Dome
 26 – 28 May 1928¹⁴⁸
 Three Trees Pots Nos. 1 and 3, Leck Fell Whitsun 1929¹⁴⁹
 Goyden Pot, new connections in the Labyrinth 16 June 1929¹⁵⁰
 Hollow Mill Pot, Birkdale area August 1929¹⁵¹
 Scots Hole Pots, Wensleydale August 1929¹⁵²
 Tarn Gill Pot, Wensleydale August 1929¹⁵³
 Blue John Hole, Birkdale area 27 October 1929¹⁵⁴
 Jingling Cove, Swaledale May 1930¹⁵⁵
 Goyden Pot, Carbide Tin Passage extended 1930¹⁵⁶
 Goyden Pot, High Rift to New Passage 11 April 1931¹⁵⁷
 Flood Entrance Pot extended 23 – 25 May 1931¹⁵⁸
 Giant's Grave Caves, Littondale 01 May 1932¹⁵⁹
 Lockey Cave 01 May 1932¹⁶⁰
 Upper Hesledon Caves I and II, Littondale 22 May 1932¹⁶¹
 Penyghent House Cave 22 May 1932¹⁶²
 Birks Fell Cave, Wharfedale 18 June 1932¹⁶³
 Walled Cave, Buckden 18 June 1932¹⁶⁴
 Rumbling Hole, Leck Fell, extended 26 June 1932¹⁶⁵
 Bishopdale Gavel Pot No.3 July 1932¹⁶⁶
 Boggart Hole – Bruntscar Cave through trip September 1932¹⁶⁷
 Gaping Gill, Lower Letterbox 04 June 1933¹⁶⁸
 East Gill Caves, Keld 1933¹⁶⁹
 Rosebush Pot, Keld 1933¹⁷⁰
 Tub Hole, Dent 1933¹⁷¹
 Scosca Cave extended February 1934¹⁷²
 Bishopdale Gavel Pot No.4 June 1934¹⁷³
 Douk Cave extended, Chapel-le-Dale September 1934¹⁷⁴
 Bull Pot, Kingsdale, extended 1934¹⁷⁵
 Bishopdale Gavel Pots Nos. 3 and 6, Wensleydale 1934¹⁷⁶
 East Gill, Swaledale 1934¹⁷⁷
 Nick Pot (2), Alum Pot area January 1936¹⁷⁸
 Marble Pot extended Whitsun 1936¹⁷⁹
 Tutman's Hole, Alston 07 July 1935¹⁸⁰
 Goyden Pot survey completed 01 October 1935¹⁸¹
 Gaping Gill, Amphibian Crawl June 1938¹⁸²
 Stot Rakes Cave June 1939¹⁸³
 Litton Pots, Littondale 1939¹⁸⁴

YORKSHIRE SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION¹⁸⁵

The Yorkshire Speleological Association (YSA) was the first club in the north of England to be devoted solely to cave exploration and survey. It originated at Leeds Modern School where Frederic Haworth was a teacher and Eli Simpson had been a pupil. Simpson had been caving since 1901, but needed regular companions which were denied him by the YRC¹⁸⁶. He and Haworth therefore in 1905 founded the YSA which attracted only 23 members during its short life.

Nevertheless these few members held regular meets, made several first descents and were very active with cave surveys¹⁸⁷. Extra manpower for the Gaping Gill winch meets was sourced from the Derbyshire Pennine Club¹⁸⁸.

The YSA published two issues of its Journal with surveys and photographs. The text was typewritten with carbon copies, the legibility being inversely proportional to the distance from the original¹⁸⁹. In 1910 the YSA began its decline despite the enthusiasm of Simpson and his committee. The last meeting was held on 24 October 1914, after which nothing more was heard of the YSA. Eight members subsequently joined the YRC.

First descents and explorations by the members of the Yorkshire Speleological Association [errors and omissions excepted].

| CAVE | DATE |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Meregill to top of 2nd Pitch | Whitsun 1905 ¹⁹⁰ |
| Hardrawkin explored and surveyed | 14 and 16 April 1906 ¹⁹¹ |
| Long Kin East Pot, Allotment area, surveyed | 03 June 1906 ¹⁹² |
| Douk Cave connected to Middle Washfold Cave | 1906 ¹⁹³ |
| Jingling Pot, Kingsdale | 19 May 1907 ¹⁹⁴ |
| Gaping Gill, Pool and West chambers | 01 - 04 August 1907 ¹⁹⁵ |
| Long Kin East connected to Rift Pot | 17 - 20 April 1908 ¹⁹⁶ |
| Flood Entrance Pot, Allotment area | 01 - 03 August 1909 ¹⁹⁷ |
| Disappointment Pot to top of 1st pitch | 16 March 1912 ¹⁹⁸ |

LEEDS RAMBLING CLUB¹⁹⁹

Very little is known about the transient Leeds Rambling Club whose members made a bizarre descent of Gaping Gill in August 1904. On that occasion May Johnson became the first woman to descend²⁰⁰. Three years later one or more members attended an inter-club meet at Alum Pot²⁰¹.

Three members, Fred Botterill, Matthew Botterill and Frank Payne, subsequently joined the YRC. Others involved included "Long" Booth, Arthur Botterill, Clarke, Frank Toothill and Williamson²⁰².

GRITSTONE CLUB

The Gritstone Club (GC), founded on 13 January 1922 in Bradford²⁰³, was the first of the post-war clubs. As its name implies, the members were more concerned with climbing, but some did explore caves with several first descents to their credit. The members were averse to publicity, but did publish a duplicated journal, which circulated among the members.

The Gritstone Club is best known for its first descents of three wet and deep potholes, Juniper Gulf, Swinsto Hole and Diccan Pot, but did have lesser discoveries to its credit and organized meets.

First descents and explorations by the members of the Gritstone Club [errors and omissions excepted].

| CAVE | DATE |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Star Pot, Newby Moss | Autumn 1922 ²⁰⁴ |
| Boggarts Roaring Hole II, Newby Moss | Autumn 1922 ²⁰⁵ |
| Y Pot, Newby Moss | Autumn 1922 ²⁰⁶ |
| Pillar Pots I, II and III, Newby Moss | Autumn 1922 ²⁰⁷ |
| High Hull Pot, Penyghent, descended and surveyed | 07 - 08 July 1923 ²⁰⁸ |
| Little Hull Hole, top of 3rd pitch | 21 July 1923 ²⁰⁹ |
| Juniper Gulf, Allotment area | 16 August 1924 ²¹⁰ |
| Borrins Moor Cave, Ribblesdale | 02 June 1925 ²¹¹ |
| Silva Pot, Allotment area | July 1925 ²¹² |
| Three Trees Pot No. 2, Leck Fell | Whitsun 1929 ²¹³ |
| Nippikin Hole, Leck Fell | Whitsun 1929 ²¹⁴ |
| Pippikin Pot, Leck Fell | Whitsun 1929 ²¹⁵ |
| Peterson Pot, Leck Fell | Whitsun 1929 ²¹⁶ |
| Swinsto Hole, Kingsdale | June 1930 ²¹⁷ |
| Diccan Pot, Alum Pot area | 31 January 1932 ²¹⁸ |
| Washfold Cave, Ribblesdale | 11 June 1933 ²¹⁹ |

NORTHERN CAVERN AND FELL CLUB²²⁰

The Northern Cavern and Fell Club (NCFC) founders were members of the Nelson and Leeds Camping Sections of the Cyclists' Touring Club. The inaugural meeting was held in December 1928²²¹. The members were very tough climbers and cavers who organized a full programme of meets. They were popularly known as the "Northern Tavern and Hell Club", and did not hold their annual dinner in the same venue twice! The leading potholer was Ernest Clifford Downham, who resigned in 1937 and later joined the YRC in 1950.

The Club shunned publicity, but recorded its activities in a series of log books. The first was dated 1929 and the last 1937/8. From 1934 the potholing meets gradually declined in favour of surface meets. Nevertheless the Club had a creditable list of first descents

It did not admit novices for training and therefore did not survive the 1939 - 1945 War during which three members were killed. A further six emigrated shortly afterwards²²².

First descents and explorations by the members of the Northern Cavern and Fell Club [errors and omissions excepted].

| CAVE | DATE |
|---|--|
| Bishopdale Gavel Pots 1 and 2 (Buckden Pike Pots) | 1930 ²²³ |
| Jingling Pot, Fountains Fell, extended | 26 - 27 September 1931 ²²⁴ |
| Lost John's Cave, Lyle Cavern and beyond | August and September 1933 ²²⁵ |
| Penyghent Long Churn extended | 14 - 15 April 1934 ²²⁶ |
| Washfold Pot, Alum Pot area | 07 July 1934 ²²⁷ |
| Lost John's Cave, Cathedral to Dome pitch Dec. | 1934 ²²⁸ |
| Lost John's Cave, extension near the Dome | 06 Jan. 1935 ²²⁹ |
| Lost John's Cave, Shale or Pinnacle Pot | 22 April 1935 ²³⁰ |
| Shatter Pot, Fountains Fell | April 1935 ²³¹ |
| Rocky Pot, Fountains Fell | April 1935 |
| Sludge Hole, Fountains Fell | August 1935 ²³² |
| Strangle Pot, Fountains Fell | 1935 ²³⁴ |
| Nick Pot descended to sump | Easter Saturday 1936 ²³⁵ |
| Far Douk No.1 connected to Great Douk | 01 August 1936 ²³⁶ |
| Scales Moor Pots, Ingleton | August 1936 ²³⁷ |

Gaping Gill, Hensler's Passage extended 26 September 1937²³⁸
 Lost John's Cave, master cave inlet passage July 1938²³⁹
 Whitber South Cave, Horton December 1938²⁴⁰

CRAVEN POTHOLE CLUB

The Craven Pothole Club was founded in Skipton in late summer 1929 following the efforts of Albert Mitchell^{241, 242}. The Club organised regular meets until 1939, using motorcycles and a hired Pennine Motors bus for transport. The latter encouraged a Club atmosphere, and discouraged members from absconding to rival private meets. Mitchell was a reporter with the Craven Herald, of which another member, John Mitchell (no relation) was Chief Reporter and later Editor. Therefore the meets and meetings were extensively announced, and reported, in the pages of the Craven Herald and the West Yorkshire Pioneer. The CPC is the best documented Club of the 1930s²⁴³. This publicity was deprecated by the other clubs, but ensured that the CPC attracted new members and survived the 1939 – 1945 War.

In addition to the regular meets, the members made several first explorations and descents (Table 5). The first notable achievement of the CPC was the first exchange of parties between Alum and Diccan pots on 12 June 1932. During that meet George W. Hurst fell on the Dolly Tubs pitch and had to be carried to the Club bus. There was no mention of this incident in the Craven Herald²⁴⁴ and other newspapers; Hurst was a prominent Skipton businessman and a director of the Craven Herald²⁴⁵.

First descents and explorations by the members of the Craven Pothole Club [errors and omissions excepted].

| CAVE | DATE |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Giggleswick Scar Quarry Cave | 31 May 1931 ²⁴⁶ |
| Greygill Hole, Malham | 14 February 1932 ²⁴⁷ |
| Bull Pot of the Witches surveyed and extended | 23 April - 21 May 1932 ²⁴⁸ |
| Alum Pot – Diccan Pot, exchange of parties | 12 June 1932 ²⁴⁹ |
| Ireby Fell Cavern "promising passage" | Summer 1932 ²⁵⁰ |
| Car Pot dig commenced, Allotment area | 1932 ²⁵¹ |
| Marble Steps, Gragareth extended by –15 m | 28 – 31 April 1933 ²⁵² |
| Marble Pot, Allotment area, extended | 1933 ²⁵³ |
| Gaping Gill, Rat Hole descended | 02 August 1935 ²⁵⁴ |
| Stump Cross Cave, 400m new cave | 15 September 1935 ²⁵⁵ |
| Rigg Pot, Kettlewell | 29 December 1935 ²⁵⁶ |
| Ringle Mill Cave, Horton | Spring 1936 ²⁵⁷ |
| Langcliffe Pot, Kettlewell | 05 April 1936 ²⁵⁸ |
| Blinkbeck Cave, Ribblesdale | 1936 ²⁵⁹ |
| Coronation Pot, Fountains Fell | July 1937 ²⁶⁰ |
| Blacksides Pots, Dentdale | 1938 ²⁶¹ |
| Ingleborough Cave, below Giant's Hall | 1938 ²⁶² |
| Boreham Cave, Littondale | 1941 ²⁶³ |

LEEDS CAVE CLUB²⁶⁴

The Leeds Cave Club was formed in 1930 or 1931, and held its first meet in Chapel-le-Dale during Easter 1931. It was a very successful club in terms of membership and attendance at meets and meetings, but had little speleological merit. In addition to caving meets it organized camps, dances, whist drives, tea parties and other social events. Indeed, during the eight years of its existence the members made only five short cave discoveries.

The LCC had a traumatic end. On 7 May 1939 John Lambert fell and was killed in Rowten Pot²⁶⁵. Thereafter the committee cancelled all meets for the rest of the year. The advent of the Second

World War and consequent transport difficulties ensured that the Club ceased to exist.

First descents and explorations by the members of the Leeds Cave Club [errors and omissions excepted].

| CAVE | DATE |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Hidden Pot linked to Bull Pot of the Witches | August 1933 ²⁶⁶ |
| Car Pot descended to –25m, unproductive dig | 11 – 12 May 1935 ²⁶⁷ |
| Sell Gill Hole – terminal bedding plane pushed | 08 August 1937 ²⁶⁸ |
| Penyghent Long Churn extended by 50m | September 1937 ²⁶⁹ |
| Jackdaw Hole excavated to water | 1937 ²⁷⁰ |

BRADFORD POTHOLE CLUB

The Bradford Pothole Club was founded as the parochial Bradford Moor Pothole Club in 1933. Its first President was Charles Leach of the (Bradford) Telegraph and Argus. His publicity efforts increased membership to the extent that in 1935 the name was changed to the Bradford Pothole Club²⁷¹.

First descents and explorations by the members of the Bradford Pothole Club [errors and omissions excepted].

| CAVE | DATE |
|---|----------------------------|
| Spectacle Pot, Kingsdale | March 1936 ²⁷² |
| Scales Moor New Pot | August 1936 ²⁷³ |
| Jackdaw Hole extended, Penyghent | May 1936 ²⁷⁴ |
| Penyghent Long Churn, Penyghent, surveyed | June 1937 ²⁷⁵ |
| Pan Holes, Bingley, surveyed | 1941 ²⁷⁶ |

LEEDS PENNINE CLUB

The Leeds Pennine Club was formed on 16 March 1936 by members of the 20th Central Leeds Rover Crew and former students of the Leeds Training College²⁷⁷. Despite the death of Mabel Binks, killed by a falling stone in Alum Pot on 5 July 1936²⁷⁸ (the first northern cave fatality), the club continued to hold meets. Three members extended Penyghent Long Churn by 540m in September 1937²⁷⁹. The Club disbanded in 1939; and those members who kept an interest in caves joined the British Speleological Association²⁸⁰.

BRITISH SPELEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The history of the British Speleological Association, founded on 27 July 1937, has recently been discussed elsewhere^{281, 282}. The table lists the original northern cave exploration done by its members, mainly during the War years, to which must be added the innumerable surveys done by its Recorder, Eli Simpson²⁸³.

First descents and explorations by the members of the British Speleological Association [errors and omissions excepted].

| CAVE | DATE |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Gaping Gill, Hensler's Passage | 16 May 1937 ²⁸⁴ |
| Sell Gill Hole extended beyond the big chamber | August 1937 ²⁸⁵ |
| Old Ing Cave, canal end | March 1938 ²⁸⁶ |
| Little Hull Hole, chimney at bottom of 3rd pitch | June 1938 ²⁸⁷ |
| Buzzer's Pot, Kingsdale | August 1938 ²⁸⁸ |
| Lost John's Cave, master cave inlet passage | August 1938 ²⁸⁹ |
| Pint Pot, Alum Pot area | September 1938 ²⁹⁰ |
| Lanteshop Cave | Easter 1939 ²⁹¹ |
| Stot Rakes Cave | Easter 1939 ²⁹² |
| High Hull Cave and Pot, Penyghent | Easter 1939 ²⁹³ |
| Glass Moss Cave, Penyghent | May 1939 ²⁹⁴ |

Christmas Cave, Giggleswick Scar 25 December 1939²⁹⁵
 Little Hull Hole, Penyghent, extended February 1940²⁹⁶
 New Cave, Penyghent March 1940²⁹⁷
 Simpson's Pot, connected with Swinsto Hole 27 April 1940²⁹⁸
 Hull Pot extended May and June 1940²⁹⁹
 Mossdale Caverns, Grassington May 1941³⁰⁰
 Quaking Pot, Chapel-le-Dale (= p102A)
 August – December 1942³⁰¹
 Dove Cave, Kettlewell, rediscovered 1942³⁰²
 New Pot, Glass Moss October 1943³⁰³
 Douk Cave, Chapel-le-Dale; another exit found 1943³⁰⁴
 Grange Rigg Pothole, Allotment area 1943³⁰⁵
 Disappointment Pot, Allotment area, extended January 1944³⁰⁶
 Hunt Pot extended August 1944³⁰⁷
 V.J. Pot, Allotment area August 1945³⁰⁸

MOOR AND FELL CLUB

The members of the Moor and Fell Club of York visited caves between 1928 and 1938³⁰⁹. That Club is known only for its complete exploration of the canal in High Birkwith Cave on 27 October 1937^{310, 311}, and for the accident to Reginald Weetman in Gingling Hole on 13 October 1934³¹².

DISCOVERIES BY INDIVIDUALS

By contrast the part played by unattached people in the discovery of caves was minimal.

Discoveries by unattached cavers. [errors and omissions excepted].

| CAVE | DATE | DISCOVERER |
|---|---------------------------|---|
| Stump Cross Cavern surveyed | 04 – 06 July 1903 | Eli Simpson et al. ³¹³ |
| Douk Cave surveyed | 24 August 1904 | Fred Haworth and Eli Simpson ³¹⁴ |
| Potholes at Tailbrigg Pass, Swaledale | 03 July 1909 | Horace Westmorland et al. ³¹⁵ |
| Foss Gill Pot, Wharfedale | pre-1914 | Gordon Maufe ³¹⁶ |
| New Pot, Leck Fell | Whitsun 1929 | Lipscomb and Innes Foley ³¹⁷ |
| South Bank Hole, Stockdale | 13 March 1932 | Eli Simpson and E Clarkson ³¹⁸ |
| Bull Pot of the Witches extended and surveyed | May and June 1932 | Eli Simpson et al. ³¹⁹ |
| (another) Giggleswick Scar Quarry Cave | Summer 1932 | Quarry workers ³²⁰ |
| Marble Pot | 17 March 1933 | Eli Simpson et al. ³²¹ |
| Lost John's Cave surveyed | August and September 1933 | Eli Simpson et al. ³²² |
| Goyden Pot extended | 24 June 1934 | H.S. Martin et al. of Hull ³²³ |
| Skirwith Cave, reopened | 1934 | "local people" ³²⁴ |
| Huff's Pot, Giggleswick Scar | July 1938 | Percy Huff of Settle ^{325, 326} |
| Goyden Pot, Nidderdale | 1939 – 1945 | Post Office Engineers ³²⁷ |

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The assistance of Messrs Donald Mellor, David North and Dr Trevor Shaw, who have contributed ideas and found references, is gratefully acknowledged.

NOTES and REFERENCES

- Craven, S A. 1980. A History of Stump Cross Caves. *Journal of the Craven Pothole Club*, Vol.6. 112–114.
- Craven, S A. 2007. White Scar Cave, Chapel-le-Dale, North Yorkshire, England. *Cave and Karst Science*, Vol.33(2), 79–86.
- Simpson, E. 1950. Lost Johns Cave, Leck Fell, Lancashire. *Cave Science*, Vol.2(13), 206–217, survey.
- Craven, S A. 1978. The History of Alum and Diccan Pots. *Journal of the Craven Pothole Club*, Vol.4(6), 321–329.
- Bradford Observer*. 1895. 03 August, p.5.
- Dangar, D F O and Blakeney, T S. 1957. The Rise of Modern Mountaineering and the Formation of the Alpine Club 1854 – 1965. *Alpine Journal*, Vol.62, (295), 16–38.
- Craven, S A. 1996. A Speleological Appreciation of the YRC on the Occasion of its Centenary 1892 – 1992. *Yorkshire Rambler*, (6), 32–45.
- Bellhouse, H H. 1899. The Formation of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.1(1), 3–12.
- Leeds Mercury Weekly Supplement*. 1893. 25 March, p.8.
- Green, J A, Calvert, E, Ellet, F and Gray, T. 1911. Cave Exploration. 230–238 in the Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire (ed.) *The Encyclopaedia of Sport and Games*. (London: Heinemann.)
- Craven, S A. 2001. Hill Inn Visitors' Books 1899–1935. *Craven Pothole Club Record*, (66), 22–35.
- Cuttriss, S W. 1899. *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnic Society*, (n.s.) Vol.13, 316–324.
- (Roberts, E E). 1927. A Hate against Potholers. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 236.
- Leeds Mercury Weekly Supplement*. 1895. 15 June, p.8.
- Fawcett, S E. 1895. *Yorkshire Weekly Post*, 24 August, p.8. The anonymous gentlemen are identified in the Simpson MSS folder 29 as Messrs Booth and Cuttriss of the YRC (British Cave Research Association Library, Matlock.)
- Cuttriss MS No.55 (YRC Library).
- Cuttriss MS No.42 (YRC Library).
- YRC Annual Report*. 1895–6. pp.10–11.
- Bellhouse, H H. 1896. *Yorkshire Weekly Post* 30 May, p.5. This descent was also reported in most of the Leeds, Bradford and Skipton newspapers.
- Calvert, E. 1900. Gaping Ghyll Hole Part II. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.1(2), 123–133, survey.
- Cuttriss, S W. (1895). *Leeds Mercury Weekly Supplement*, 24 August, p.5.
- Cuttriss, S W. (1899). *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnic Society* (n.s.) Vol.13. 433–443.
- Lancaster Standard and County Advertiser*. 1897. 21 May p.7.
- (Roberts, E E). 1924. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 156.
- Ellet, F. 1900. Long Kin Hole (West). *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.1.(2), 114–123.
- Swithinbank, J W. 1902. Rowten Pot, Gragareth. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.1(4), 316–324.
- Cuttriss MS (YRC Library).
- M(oore), L. 1900 *Proceedings of the Club*. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.1(2), 134–135.
- YRC Annual Report*. 1897–8. pp.13–14.
- Cuttriss, S W. 1899. *Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnic Society* (n.s.) Vol.13. 433–443.
- Cuttriss MS No.45 (YRC Library).
- YRC Annual Report*. 1897–8. pp.13–14.
- Cuttriss, S W. 1922. The Leck Fell Pot-Holes. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(15), 60–64.

- ³⁴ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ³⁵ YRC Annual Report. 1897–8. pp.13–14.
- ³⁶ C(uttriss), S W. 1922. The Leck Fell Pot-Holes. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(15), 60–64.
- ³⁷ (Moore, L). 1903. A night in a pot-hole (Lost John's). *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(5), 28–34.
- ³⁸ Cuttriss 1898 MS (YRC Library).
- ³⁹ Moore, L. 1898. pp.231–243 in Bogg, E. *Two Thousand Miles of Wandering in the Border Country, Lakeland and Ribblesdale*, Part 2 (Leeds).
- ⁴⁰ Cuttriss 1898 MS (YRC Library).
- ⁴¹ Anon. 1900. Cave Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.1(2), 140.
- ⁴² C(uttriss), S W. 1922. The Leck Fell Pot-Holes. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(15), 60–64.
- ⁴³ Cuttriss MS (YRC Library).
- ⁴⁴ Anon. 1900. Cave Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.1(2), 140.
- ⁴⁵ (Roberts, E E). 1949. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(25), 271.
- ⁴⁶ Lowe, G T. 1902. *Yorkshire Weekly Post*. 25 October, p.15.
- ⁴⁷ Cuttriss, S W. 1903. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(5), 48–51.
- ⁴⁸ Anon. 1905. Proceedings of the Club. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(6), 165.
- ⁴⁹ Booth, T S. 1905. Jockey Hole and Rift Pot. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(6), 145–156.
- ⁵⁰ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁵¹ Booth, T S. 1905. Jockey Hole and Rift Pot. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(6), 145–156.
- ⁵² Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁵³ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁵⁴ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁵⁵ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁵⁶ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁵⁷ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁵⁸ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁵⁹ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁶⁰ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁶¹ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁶² Horn, A E. 1907. Gaping Ghyll Hole. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 202–210, survey.
- ⁶³ Barnes, J B and Brodrick, H. 1906. Notes of a recently discovered skeleton in Scosca Cave, Littondale; read at a meeting of the Southport Society of Natural Science on 8th February 1906.
- ⁶⁴ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁶⁵ Horn, A E. 1907. Gaping Ghyll Hole. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 202–210.
- ⁶⁶ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁶⁷ Anon. 1907. Pothole Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 249.
- ⁶⁸ Buckley, J H. 1907. Gaping Ghyll Hole A Visit for Surveying. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(7), 211–215, survey.
- ⁶⁹ Cuttriss, S W. 1908. Gaping Ghyll again. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(8), 306–311.
- ⁷⁰ Cuttriss, S W. 1908. Gaping Ghyll again. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2(8), 306–311.
- ⁷¹ (Roberts, E E). 1949. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(25), 272.
- ⁷² (Roberts, E E). 1949. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(25), 272.
- ⁷³ Roberts, E E. 1908. Mere Gill Hole. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2. 312–314.
- ⁷⁴ Brodrick, H. 1911. Swinsto Cave and some others. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(11), 291–295.
- ⁷⁵ Brodrick, H. 1911. Swinsto Cave and some others. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(11), 291–295.
- ⁷⁶ Brodrick, H. 1911. Swinsto Cave and some others. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(11), 291–295.
- ⁷⁷ Brodrick, H. 1911. Swinsto Cave and some others. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(11), 291–295.
- ⁷⁸ Brodrick, H. 1911. Swinsto Cave and some others. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(11), 291–295.
- ⁷⁹ Roberts, E E. 1908. Mere Gill Hole. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.2. 312–314.
- ⁸⁰ Hastings, C. 1909. Members' Holidays. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(9), 96.
- ⁸¹ (Roberts, E E). 1909. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(9), 94.
- ⁸² Brodrick, H. 1910. Car Pot. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(10), 174–176.
- ⁸³ Rule, A. 1910. Gaping Gill: Exploration and Survey: Spout Tunnel and Rat Hole. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(10), 186–192, survey.
- ⁸⁴ Brodrick, H. 1910. Car Pot. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(10), 174–176.
- ⁸⁵ Roberts, E E. 1910. Sunset Hole I. Discovery and Exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(10), 177–179.
- ⁸⁶ (Roberts, E E). 1924. Little Hull Hole, Penyghent. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 125–134.
- ⁸⁷ (Roberts, E E). 1929. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(18), 328.
- ⁸⁸ Hilton, J. 1927. Gingling Pot, Fountains Fell. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 215–221.
- ⁸⁹ (Roberts, E E). 1912. Recent Pothole Explorations. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(12), 57.
- ⁹⁰ Thornber, N. 1953. p.107 in Thornber, N, Stride, A H, Stride, R D and Myers, J O, *Britain Underground*. (Clapham: Dalesman.) The primary source was not found.
- ⁹¹ Rule, A. 1912. Gaping Ghyll in 1912. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(12), 55–57.
- ⁹² Brodrick, H. 1911. Swinsto Cave and some others. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(11), 291–295.
- ⁹³ Brown, W V. 1924. Diccan Pot, Selside. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 117–124.
- ⁹⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1912. Recent Pothole Explorations. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(12), 57.
- ⁹⁵ Hastings, C. 1911. Sleets Ghyll and Dowka Bottom Caves. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(11), 288–290.
- ⁹⁶ (Roberts, E E). 1924. Little Hull Hole, Penyghent. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 125–134.
- ⁹⁷ Anon. 1913. Club Proceedings. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(13), 175.
- ⁹⁸ Roberts, E E. 1912. The Siege of Mere Gill. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(12), 30–43, survey.

- ⁹⁹ R(ober)ts, E E. 1922. Goyden Pot, Nidderdale. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(15), 65–67, survey.
- ¹⁰⁰ R(ober)ts, E E. 1912. Recent Pothole Explorations. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(12), 58.
- ¹⁰¹ R(ober)ts, E E. 1912. Recent Pothole Explorations. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(12), 58.
- ¹⁰² (Roberts, E E). 1922. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(15), 74.
- ¹⁰³ Anon. 1913. Club Proceedings. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(13), 178.
- ¹⁰⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1921. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(14), 273.
- ¹⁰⁵ H(ill), C A. 1913. The Excavations at Foxholes. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(13), 165–166.
- ¹⁰⁶ (Roberts, E E). 1921. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(14), 272.
- ¹⁰⁷ (Roberts, E E). 1921. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(14), 273.
- ¹⁰⁸ (Roberts, E E). 1921. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(14), 273.
- ¹⁰⁹ (Roberts, E E). 1921. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(14), 273.
- ¹¹⁰ (Roberts, E E). 1921. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(14), 273.
- ¹¹¹ (Roberts, E E). 1921. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(14), 273.
- ¹¹² (Roberts, E E). 1921. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(14), 273.
- ¹¹³ Craven, S A and Halliwell, R A. 2005. Bull Pot of the Witches – A frustrating and incomplete historical exercise. *Craven Pothole Club Record* (80), 5–11.
- ¹¹⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1921. The Lady of Scosca. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.4(14), 267.
- ¹¹⁵ (Roberts, E E). 1922. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(15), 74.
- ¹¹⁶ (Roberts, E E). 1922. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(15), 73.
- ¹¹⁷ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 258.
- ¹¹⁸ (Roberts, E E). 1922. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(15), 74.
- ¹¹⁹ (Roberts, E E). 1922. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(15), 73.
- ¹²⁰ (Roberts, E E). 1924. Little Hull Hole, Penyghent. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 125–134.
- ¹²¹ Brown, W V. 1924. Diccan Pot, Selside. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 117–124.
- ¹²² (Roberts, E E). 1924. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 155.
- ¹²³ Thornber, N. 1947. *Pennine Underground*. p.119 (Clapham: Dalesman).
The primary source was not found.
- ¹²⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1924. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 155.
- ¹²⁵ Brown, W V. 1924. Diccan Pot, Selside. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 117–124.
- ¹²⁶ Hilton, J. 1927. Gingling Pot, Fountains Fell. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 215–221.
- ¹²⁷ (Roberts, E E). 1927. Cave Exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 240–241.
- ¹²⁸ (Roberts, E E). 1927. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 241.
- ¹²⁹ Anon. 1927. Clearing up in Gaping Ghyll. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 222–227.
- ¹³⁰ Hilton, J. 1927. Gingling Pot, Fountains Fell. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 215–221.
- ¹³¹ (Roberts, E E). 1927. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 240.
- ¹³² (Roberts, E E). 1927. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 241.
- ¹³³ (Roberts, E E). 1954. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.8(27), 86.
- ¹³⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1927. Cave exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 243.
- ¹³⁵ (Roberts, E E). 1927. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 241–242.
- ¹³⁶ (Roberts, E E). 1927. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 243.
- ¹³⁷ (Roberts, E E). 1927. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 241–242.
- ¹³⁸ (Roberts, E E). 1927. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 241.
- ¹³⁹ Roberts, E E. 1952. Nettles hide a How Stean Cave. *Journal of the Craven Pothole Club*, Vol.1(4), 192.
- ¹⁴⁰ (Roberts, E E). 1927. Rumbling Hole, Leck Fell. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 243.
- ¹⁴¹ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Rumbling Hole, Leck Fell. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 229–234.
- ¹⁴² (Roberts, E E). 1929. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(18), 328.
- ¹⁴³ (Roberts, E E). 1932. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(20), 154.
- ¹⁴⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1952. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(26), 343.
- ¹⁴⁵ (Roberts, E E). 1929. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(18), 331.
- ¹⁴⁶ (Roberts, E E). 1929. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(18), 328.
- ¹⁴⁷ (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 75.
- ¹⁴⁸ Foley, I. 1930. Lost John's Cave. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 44–59.
- ¹⁴⁹ (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 76.
- ¹⁵⁰ (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 77.
- ¹⁵¹ (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 76.
- ¹⁵² (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 77.
- ¹⁵³ (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 77.
- ¹⁵⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 77.
- ¹⁵⁵ (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 76.
- ¹⁵⁶ (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 77.
- ¹⁵⁷ (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 154–155.
- ¹⁵⁸ (Roberts, E E). 1932. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(20), 153–154.
- ¹⁵⁹ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 258.
- ¹⁶⁰ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 258.
- ¹⁶¹ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 258–259.

- ¹⁶² (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 258–259.
- ¹⁶³ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 259.
- ¹⁶⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 259.
- ¹⁶⁵ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 259.
- ¹⁶⁶ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 259.
- ¹⁶⁷ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 258.
- ¹⁶⁸ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 256.
- ¹⁶⁹ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 259.
- ¹⁷⁰ (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(22), 354.
- ¹⁷¹ (Roberts, E E). 1954. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.8(27), 86.
- ¹⁷² (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(22), 353.
- ¹⁷³ (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(22), 353.
- ¹⁷⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(22), 351.
- ¹⁷⁵ Brook, D, Davies, G M, Long, M H and Sutcliffe, J R. 1975. *Northern Caves Volume Four Whernside and Gragareth*. p.53 (Clapham: Dalesman.)
The primary source was not found.
- ¹⁷⁶ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 259.
- ¹⁷⁷ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 259.
- ¹⁷⁸ (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(22), 350.
- ¹⁷⁹ (Roberts, E E). 1938. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(23), 83.
- ¹⁸⁰ (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(22), 354–355.
- ¹⁸¹ Yates, H. 1934. Goyden Pot, Nidderdale. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 216–228, survey.
- ¹⁸² (Roberts, E E). 1947. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(24), 178.
- ¹⁸³ (Roberts, E E). 1947. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(24), 179.
- ¹⁸⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1947. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(24), 179–180.
- ¹⁸⁵ Craven, S A. 1991. The Yorkshire Speleological Association: Britain's first caving club. *British Caver*, Vol.64,27–35.
- ¹⁸⁶ Craven, S A. 1998. Eli Simpson and the YRC. *The Yorkshire Rambler*, (10), 62–64.
- ¹⁸⁷ For a list of the YSA surveys see Craven, S A. 1991. Eli Simpson – 16 September 1884 to 01 February 1962; a biography up to 1945. *Studies in Speleology*, Vol.8. 39–56.
- ¹⁸⁸ Anon. 1909. *Climbers' Club Journal*, Vol.12(45), 38–41.
- ¹⁸⁹ Howes, C (J). 1995. *Yorkshire Speleological Association Journal Index*. 6pp.
- ¹⁹⁰ Haworth, F. 1907. Mere Gill Holes, Ingleborough. *Journal of the Yorkshire Speleological Association*, Vol.1(1), 3–8, survey.
- ¹⁹¹ Anon. 1907. Proceedings of the Association. *Journal of the Yorkshire Speleological Association*, Vol.1(1), 23.
- ¹⁹² Simpson, E. 1907. Long Kin East Pot, Ingleborough. *Journal of the Yorkshire Speleological Association*, Vol.1(1), 17–20, surveys.
- ¹⁹³ (Roberts, E E). 1938. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(23), 83.
- ¹⁹⁴ Price, A. 1909. Jingling Pot, Kingsdale. *Journal of the Yorkshire Speleological Association*, Vol.1(2), 4, 16.
- ¹⁹⁵ Simpson, E. 1937. Gaping Ghyll Hole. *Caves and Caving*, (1), 27–31.
- ¹⁹⁶ Simpson, E. 1909. Rift Pot, Ingleborough. *Journal of the Yorkshire Speleological Association*, Vol.1(2), 1–3.
- ¹⁹⁷ Greenwood, W H. 1910. Flood Entrance: Gaping Ghyll. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.3(10), 167–173, survey.
- ¹⁹⁸ Simpson, E. 1938. Gaping Ghyll Hole. *Caves and Caving*, (4), 140.
- ¹⁹⁹ Craven, S A. 1977. The Leeds Ramblers' Club. *Journal of the Craven Pothole Club*, Vol.5. 257–258.
- ²⁰⁰ Toothill, F. 1904. Pot-holing in Yorkshire. *Leeds Mercury Weekly Supplement*, 24 September, p.4.
- ²⁰¹ Seatree, G. 1908. Alum Pot. *Journal of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club*, Vol.1(2), 103–114.
- ²⁰² Botterill, M. 1929. Gaping Ghyll in 1904. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(18), 309–310.
- ²⁰³ Porter, E A. 1922. The Origin and objectives of the Club. *Gritstone Club Journal*, Vol.1(1), 1–3 and 14; reprinted (1972) *Journal of the Gritstone Club* n.s. (4), 29–30.
- ²⁰⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1924. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 154.
- ²⁰⁵ (Roberts, E E). 1924. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 154.
- ²⁰⁶ (Roberts, E E). 1924. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 154.
- ²⁰⁷ (Roberts, E E). (1924) Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(16), 154.
- ²⁰⁸ G(riffiths), G E. 1924. High Hull Pot. *Gritstone Club Journal*, Vol.2(2), 11a.
- ²⁰⁹ Griffiths, G E. 1923. *Gritstone Club Journal*, Vol.2(1) (unpaginated).
- ²¹⁰ G(riffiths), G E. 1927. Juniper Gulf. *Gritstone Club Journal*, Vol.2(2), 5–11, survey; reprinted (1927) *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 209–214, survey.
- ²¹¹ (Roberts, E E). 1927. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 240.
- ²¹² (Roberts, E E). 1927. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(17), 240.
- ²¹³ (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 76.
- ²¹⁴ Anon. 1929. New Pots for Old (Potholers). *Gritstone Club Journal*, Vol.3(3), (unpaginated).
- ²¹⁵ Anon. 1929. New Pots for Old (Potholers). *Gritstone Club Journal*, Vol.3(3), (unpaginated).
- ²¹⁶ Anon. 1929. New Pots for Old (Potholers). *Gritstone Club Journal*, Vol.3(3), (unpaginated).
- ²¹⁷ (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 75.
- ²¹⁸ Barker, H and Hainsworth, R. 1933. *Gritstone Club Journal*, Vol.4(2), 8–12.
- ²¹⁹ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 256–257.
- ²²⁰ Craven, S A. 1994. The Northern Cavern and Fell Club 1928 – 1937. *Craven Pothole Club Record*, (34), 31–37.
- ²²¹ Bradley, J. 1974. Potholing's a Daft Game. *Dalesman*, 36(7), 548–550.
- ²²² Bancroft, F T. (03 Jan. 1975). Interviewed by S A Craven.
- ²²³ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 259.
- ²²⁴ Anon. 1931. Northern Cavern and Fell Club Log Book (R Rowe Esq.).

- 225 (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 257.
- 226 D(ownham E) C. 1934. Northern Cavern and Fell Club Logbook (R Rowe Esq.).
- 227 (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(22), 351.
- 228 Simpson, E. 1950. Lost John's Cave, Leck Fell, Lancashire. *Cave Science*, Vol.2(13), 217, survey.
- 229 (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(22), 352.
- 230 Simpson, E. 1950. Lost John's Cave, Leck Fell, Lancashire. *Cave Science*, Vol.2(13), 206–217, survey.
- 231 (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(22), 352.
- 232 Bancroft, E and Downham, (E) C. 1934. Northern Cavern and Fell Club Logbook (8) (R Rowe Esq.).
- 233 Thornber, N. 1947. *Pennine Underground*, p.175. (Clapham: Dalesman).
The primary source was not found.
- 234 Thornber, N. 1947. *Pennine Underground*, p.180 (Clapham: Dalesman).
The primary source was not found.
- 235 Douglas, E J. 1938. Nick Pot, Ingleborough. *Caves and Caving*, (3), 32–33.
- 236 (Simpson, E). 1937. Great Douk. *Caves and Caving*, (1), 31.n
All three explorers were members of the Northern Cavern and Fell Club.
- 237 (Roberts, E E). 1938. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(23), 84.
- 238 (Anon.). 1938. Gaping Ghyll Hole, Ingleborough, Yorkshire. *Caves and Caving*, (3), 119.
- 239 (Roberts, E E). 1947. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(24), 179.
- 240 (Roberts, E E). 1947. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(24), 179.
- 241 Mellor, D (C). 1999. The Craven Pothole Club its formation and early years. *Craven Pothole Club Record*, (53), 26–29.
- 242 Craven, S A. 2007. The early history of the Craven Pothole Club 1929 – 1939. *Craven Pothole Club Record*, (88), 5–8.
- 243 Craven, S A. 2004. Some Historical References to the Craven Pothole Club. *Craven Pothole Club Record*, (76), 46–68.
- 244 *Craven Herald*. 1932. 17 June, p.7.
- 245 M(itchell), J. 1952. A Lover of the Craven Dales. Vale – G.W. Hurst. *Journal of the Craven Pothole Club*, Vol.1(4), 200.
- 246 *Craven Herald*. 1931. 05 June, pp.3, 6 and 10.
- 247 *Craven Herald*. 1932. 19 February, p.8.
- 248 (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 258.
This was done by Eli Simpson during private meets, inter alia during a CPC meet and while a CPC member.
- 249 S(impson), E. 1932. Diccan Pot – Alum Pot, Selside. *Craven Pot-Hole Club, Skipton, Record of Meets, Season 1932* (unpaginated).
- 250 (Atkinson, F). 1949. The Cavern, Ireby Fell. *Cave Science*, Vol.2(9), 21–27, surveys.
- 251 Mitchell, A. (n.d. 1949). Yorkshire Caves and Potholes (2) Under Ingleborough. p.114 (*Skipton: Craven Herald*).
- 252 (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 257.
- 253 Mitchell, A. (n.d. 1949). Yorkshire Caves and Potholes (2) Under Ingleborough p.117 (*Skipton: Craven Herald*).
- 254 *Craven Herald*. 1935. 25 July, p.3.
- 255 *Craven Herald*. 1935. 20 September, p.8.
- 256 W(aterfall), A C. 1954. Rigg and Langcliffe Pots. *Journal of the Craven Pothole Club*, Vol.1, 288–290.
- 257 Mitchell, A. 1937. Yorkshire Caves and Potholes (1) North Ribblesdale. p.33 (*Skipton: Craven Herald*).
- 258 W(aterfall), A C. 1954. Rigg and Langcliffe Pots. *Journal of the Craven Pothole Club*, Vol.1, 288–290.
- 259 Mitchell, A. 1937. Yorkshire Caves and Potholes (1) North Ribblesdale. pp.31–32 (*Skipton: Craven Herald*).
- 260 Waterfall, A C. 1948. Coronation Pot, Fountains Fell, Yorkshire. *Cave Science*, Vol.1, 91.
- 261 (Roberts, E E). 1947. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(24), 180.
- 262 (Roberts, E E). 1947. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(24), 179.
- 263 T(yas), P L. 1949. Boreham Cave. *Journal of the Craven Pothole Club*, Vol.1(1), 18.
- 264 Craven, S A. 1976. The Leeds Cave Club 1930–1939. *Journal of the Craven Pothole Club*, Vol.5(4), 217–220.
- 265 *Yorkshire Evening Post*. 1939. 08 and 09 May.
- 266 British Geological Survey, Nottingham: Haywood Photographic Albums.
- 267 *Yorkshire Evening News*. 1935. 13 May, p.7.
- 268 (Roberts, E E). 1938. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(23), 83.
- 269 Anon. 1938. Penyghent Long Churn, Ribblesdale, Yorkshire. *Caves and Caving*, (3), 119.
- 270 (Roberts, E E). 1938. Cave exploration I. New Discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(23), 83.
- 271 Browne, H. 1953. *Journal of the Bradford Pothole Club*, (1), 9–17.
- 272 (Roberts, E E). 1938. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(23), 84.
- 273 (Roberts, E E). 1938. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(23), 84.
- 274 (Roberts, E E). 1938. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(23), 83.
- 275 Anon. 1938. Penyghent Long Churn, Ribblesdale, Yorkshire. *Caves and Caving*, (3), 119.
- 276 Steele, R J. 1941. *Telegraph and Argus*. 08 October, p.2.
- 277 Burgess, H. 14 July 1971. Letter to S A Craven.
- 278 *Yorkshire Evening Post*. 1936. 06 July, p.9.
- 279 Anon. 1938. Penyghent Long Churn, Ribblesdale, Yorkshire. *Caves and Caving*, (3), 119.
- 280 Leeds Pennine Club Records. (BCRA Library, Matlock.)
- 281 Craven, S A. 2001. The British Speleological Association (1935–1973) and its founder, Eli Simpson: with particular reference to activities in the northern Pennines of England. *Cave and Karst Science*, Vol.28(3), 99–112.
- 282 Cant, S G. 2006. British speleologies: geographies of science, personality and practice, 1935–1953. *Journal of Historical Geography*, Vol.32. 775–795.
- 283 Simpson's surveys have been listed in Craven, S A. 1991. Eli Simpson – 16 September 1884 to 01 February 1962: a biography up to 1945. *Studies in Speleology*, Vol.8. 39–56.
- 284 Hensler, E. 1937. The New Series of Passages in Gaping Ghyll, Yorkshire. *Caves and Caving*, (2), 79.
- 285 Anon. 1937. Yorkshire, Sell Gill Hole. *Caves and Caving*, (1), 43.
- 286 Gemmell, A and Myers, J O. 1952. *Underground Adventure*. pp.128–130 (Clapham: Dalesman.)
- 287 Gemmell, A and Myers, J O. 1952. *Underground Adventure*. pp.5–17 (Clapham: Dalesman.).
- 288 Named for a BSA member, Frank (Buzzer) Butterfield.
- 289 (Roberts, E E). 1947. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(24), 179.
- 290 Simpson MS Folder 31 (BCRA Library, Matlock).

- ²⁹¹ Simpson, E. 1949. Lantyshop Cave. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(8), 294–295.
- ²⁹² Simpson, E. 1949. Stot Rakes Cave. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(8), 295–296.
- ²⁹³ Gemmell, A and Myers, J O. 1952 *Underground Adventure*. pp.132–135 (Clapham: Dalesman.)
- ²⁹⁴ (Simpson, E). 1949. Glass Moss Cave. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(8), 302.
- ²⁹⁵ Dove, R (pseud. Leakey, R D). 1974. The Discovery of Christmas Cave. *Dalesman*, 36(9), 693–694.
- ²⁹⁶ Simpson, E. 1949. Little Hull Pot. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(8), 296–298.
- ²⁹⁷ Simpson, E. 1949. New Cave. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(8), 298–299.
- ²⁹⁸ *Yorkshire Evening Post*. 1940. 11 May, p.4.
- ²⁹⁹ Simpson, E. 1949. B.S.A. Explorations 1939–1947. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(7), 280.
- ³⁰⁰ Leakey, R D. 1947. The Caverns of Mossdale Scar. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(1), 7–18, survey.
- ³⁰¹ Anon. 1948. Quaking Pot. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(4), 130–131, survey.
- ³⁰² Simpson, E. 1949. B.S.A. Explorations 1939–1947. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(7), 281.
- ³⁰³ Simpson, E. 1949. New Pot, Glass Moss. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(7), 302.
- ³⁰⁴ Simpson, E. 1949. Disappointment Cave. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(7), 281.
- ³⁰⁵ (Roberts, E E). 1947. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.7(24), 179.
- ³⁰⁶ Simpson, E. 1949. Disappointment Cave. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(7), 281–282.
- ³⁰⁷ Simpson, E. 1949. Disappointment Cave. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(7), 281–282.
- ³⁰⁸ Simpson, E. 1949. B.S.A. Explorations 1939–1947. *Cave Science*, Vol.1(7), 282.
- ³⁰⁹ Moor and Fell Club photograph album in the possession of Dr T R Shaw.
- ³¹⁰ Anon. 1938. High Birkwith Cave, Ribblesdale, Yorkshire. *Caves and Caving*, (3), 119.
- ³¹¹ Typed contemporaneous MS in the possession of Dr T R Shaw.
- ³¹² *West Yorkshire Pioneer*. 1934. 19 October, p.11.
- ³¹³ Botterill, F. 1903. *Yorkshire Weekly Post*. 12 December, p.15.
- ³¹⁴ Haworth, F and Simpson, E. 1907. *Journal of the Yorkshire Speleological Association*, Vol.1(1), opp. p. 8, survey.
- ³¹⁵ *Lancaster Guardian*. 1909. 10 July, p.2.
- ³¹⁶ (Roberts, E E). 1929. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.5(18), 328.
- ³¹⁷ (Roberts, E E). 1930. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(19), 76.
- ³¹⁸ (Roberts, E E). 1932. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(20), 155.
- ³¹⁹ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 258.
- ³²⁰ (Roberts, E E). 1932. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(20), 155.
- ³²¹ (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 256.
- ³²² (Roberts, E E). 1934. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(21), 257.
- ³²³ (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(22), 353.
- ³²⁴ (Roberts, E E). 1936. Cave exploration I. New discoveries. *Journal of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club*, Vol.6(22), 351.
- ³²⁵ Mitchell, A. (n.d. 1949). *Yorkshire Caves and Potholes (2) Under Ingleborough*, p.12.
- ³²⁶ *Craven Herald*. 1938. 22 July, p.8.
- ³²⁷ Craven, S A. 2006. An introduction to the speleo-history of upper Nidderdale, Yorkshire, UK, to the early nineteen-sixties. *Cave and Karst Science*, Vol.33(1), 33–40. Fell Club.



This poem was penned by a C Farmer, details unknown and certainly before the Great War. It is reproduced by kind permission of the Mountain Club of South Africa

THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT.

Above the mountain's rocky height
a hidden spirit broods
enraptured with a strange delight
and anger's interludes.

Sometimes he hurls cloud masses down
to veil the giant crest,
and sometimes weaves them in a crown
by sunset splendours dress't.

He keeps a watch serene and far
through quiet summer days,
and then re-lights the evening star
In skies of chrysophase.

The vials of his wrath outpoured
are winds that scorch and tear,
the mountain's hoary sides are scored
with lashes everywhere.

Far down, ambitious pine-woods strive
to climb the unfriendly steep,
'tis only by his grace they live
when tempests o'er them sweep.

Imperial, mystical alone,
untamed by fate or time,
God gave him this grand height for throne
on pinnacles sublime!

CHIPPINGS

THERE IS A TIDE IN THE AFFAIRS OF MEN

Earlier this year a milestone in the production of power from renewable sources which passed by with little note.

Tidal power is finally feeding into the national grid albeit only minute amounts at the present time.

Numerous technologies have been tried including ducking ducks and nodding donkeys but to date the only real prospect has been barrage turbines catching and then releasing the tide. This has great potential problems as regards silting up behind the barrage but finally we do seem to have a technology that works. It is not really cost effective yet but as other fuels sources get ever more expensive that will change.

A single turbine has been placed on the bed of the Atlantic, off Orkney. Production is going to be gradually increased and it should provide the power needed for 150 homes. Whilst very costly at present this experimental development has shown that we can tap this source of power which is far more reliable than wind or solar power.

As a number of us can personally attest there is no shortage of powerful tides around the Scottish coast.

MOUNTAIN CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA

In case you missed them the first time round the Mountain Club of South Africa is re-publishing its early annuals. Way back in 1912 these cost the then princely sum of one shilling to acquire but I imagine considerably more today. They appear to be being published now, funded by subscription, and just released is a handsome (and heavy) tome containing 1912-14.

The 3 years included average 180 pages each and this is a wealth of information both technical, historical and now fascinating as a glance back in time.

Adverts include a superior compass for 1/6 and camera for 6/- (younger members please consult an elderly relative to decipher these hieroglyphics)

The more intrepid amongst the members who also liked a little comfort could for the enormous fee of £8 take a first class rail tour for 6 days all found including ponies and climbing equipment and guides to take you up to Mont Aux Sources.



This edition includes as a preface a list of the subscribers and you might be surprised to see the Yorkshire Ramblers listed there.

Steve Craven who we regularly publish as a cave historian, has been involved in this project, and has kindly subscribed on our behalf.

The book has been added to our library at Lowstern and can be accessed in the usual way.

YORKSHIRE ROCK

John Middleton points out that it is possible to download an excellent series of "Mini Guides" to new routes and crags - both sports and traditional - in the Yorkshire Dales from www.theleedswall.co.uk

DUNCAN CARSE BUST APPEAL

The South Georgia Association are raising £3500 to purchase a bronze bust of adventurer, surveyor and broadcaster Duncan Carse and bring it to South Georgia. "Duncan Carse's extraordinary contribution to the Island of South Georgia will remain as one of the most important in the history of the island. His toughness, endurance, single-minded determination, integrity, loyalty and amusing sense of humour will be remembered fondly by many South Georgia veterans."

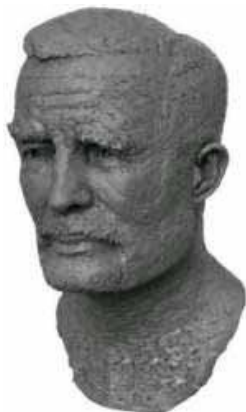
As we reported at some length in the last journal Duncan was the expeditioner and surveyor who led the South Georgia Surveys and made a very significant contribution to the Island. The incredibly accurate work carried out by Duncan and the South Georgia Survey teams between 1951-57 led to a new map in 1958 that has been the basis of all maps that followed, only recently being superseded by satellite imagery. The maps, which proved especially important during the liberation of the Island in 1982, are still used today.

A copy of our journal is now deposited in the official archive of South Georgia.

Duncan Carse made eight expeditions to South Georgia. He first visited the Island in 1933 as part of the Discovery Investigations, returning in 1936 as part of the British Graham Land Expedition. In 1961, after the four South Georgia Survey visits, he returned alone to live on the south coast as part of a "personal psychological experiment", a venture that turned into a survival exercise after his hut was washed away by a freak wave. His last visit was in 1973, when severe weather prevented him retracing the Shackleton crossing.

Despite the Island not always treating him kindly, he never lost his enthusiasm for South Georgia.

The slightly over life size bust will be given to the South Georgia Museum to mark the relationship Duncan Carse had with the Island, and to highlight the achievements and work of Duncan and the men of the South Georgia Survey.



The appeal has had support from the Government of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands but needs help to reach the target. If any member would like to help please send cheques, payable to the "South Georgia Association", or make electronic transfers, to:
Natwest Bank, Ledbury Branch,
The Home End, Ledbury,
Herefordshire, HR8 1BU.
Sort Code: 53:61:47
Account Number: 23478136

Please write "Duncan Carse Bust Appeal" on the back on the cheque, or refer to the appeal on any electronic transfer.

Any surplus funds raised by this Appeal will be used in a way that further enhances the knowledge, understanding and record of Duncan Carse and the men of the South Georgia Surveys.

More information can be found on their website <http://www.southgeorgiaassociation.org>

WHEN WINTER WAS WINTER

I am spending a lot of time and effort fighting aphids which are killing my conifers. These beasts should be kept at manageable levels by cold winters but we do not seem to have them any more.

The changing weather pattern is making a nonsense of our traditional seasons. Autumn is supposed to start on Sept 1st but in reality it is darker nights which make us think Autumn is upon us rather than any dramatic change in the weather. It is simplistic to think of each season to be three months long and distinct seasonal weather differences are no longer seen. We often have hot spells in October and March and if we have a winter at all it is now only December and January and they are rarely as severe as they used to be. We used to see snow as often as not at most of our December and January meets

We have often held Hill Inn meets when the Dales were wrapped in snow but it now seems that we will not get

classic winter conditions without going much further afield.

Jeff Hooper shares his recollections of a Yorkshire meet in March 40 years ago but his sentiments seem misplaced in today's conditions.

Chapel le Dale to Malham

It was Saturday morning 14 March 1968; Members were gathered for breakfast at Malham, all worldly cares gone, thinking only of the walks ahead and the YRC; except for one man who had a newspaper. Reading it, he saw a report of a government crisis and could not resist reading it to the whole room. 'I say, George Brown has resigned'.

A solitary voice replied, 'Good heavens, I did not know that he was a Member'.

Breakfast and the numerous interleaved conversations resumed, but eventually Jeff with Arthur Craven, David Smith, Peter Swindles and his six month old spaniel decided to drive to Chapel-le-Dale and walk from the Hill Inn back to Malham via Ingleborough, Pen y-ghent, Fountains Fell and Malham Tarn.

Driving up to the Hill Inn snow could be seen on the tops, sun was shining but there was quite a bit of wind. They had a pleasant walk up Ingleborough by an easy route. Ben, the dog was full of vigour running in the soft snow on top. They took the usual route through Sulber Nick down to Horton where they stopped for lunch.

In the pub at Horton somehow a discussion developed about the earth's path around the sun and the formation of the seasons and Jeff remembers many contortions as demonstrations were made with apples around pint pots.

When they set off again it was raining. They went to the summit of Pen-y-ghent with the wind increasing all the time as they climbed higher following the wall. The wind was banging against the wall with great force. On the top it was quite terrific, to move against the wind driven sleet one had to bend almost double towards the snow underfoot. On the southern slope there was thick snow. Peter solved the problem of descent by lying full length in the snow and sliding down letting his rucksack act as a brake. Once below the snow line rain continued driven by a cold wind in worsening visibility.

Nothing could be seen of Fountains Fell from the road and two conflicting compass bearings both guaranteed to take them to the top. Some compromise took them to the flat top and the tarns. It was here that Ben, the dog, squatted down behind a tussock and refused to move further. Jeff recalls he was very much in sympathy with Ben, as he was the only one of the party without one of those new fangled nylon cagoules. He was wearing his ex-army cotton anorak, which by now was as much use as a pocket-handkerchief.

Peter put Ben into his rucksack and Jeff wished something similar could happen to him. By the time the track from Fountains Fell to tarn House was found Jeff was wet to the skin and his breeches made from

ex-American army trousers were as stiff as cardboard and had scraped a lump of skin from each thigh, needless to say he was cold.

The weather was worsening and as it was now obvious they were not going to be back at Malham before dark, a decision was made to ring friends at Malham to pick them up at Tarn House. Of course there were no telephones on the moors and mobiles were still twenty years in the future, and they were almost at Tarn House before they found a telephone box.

As there are two roads shown on the map to the House they split into two parties of two, one taking each route that a car might take. Wind was driving rain horizontally over white waves across the tarn and after waiting a short while with no shelter, very cold and now in the dark, David and Jeff set off to walk as fast as we could to Malham. Just on the edge of the village a car picked them up, with Peter, Arthur and Ben already inside. What none of them had known was that there were barriers across both roads preventing cars from passing.

After a bath, in Jeff's case in fourth-hand water, and dry clothes they were all back to normal. A good dinner revived spirits further, and then Peter and Arthur left for the Hill Inn to retrieve the car left there.

Jeff made for his tent. During the night he felt the temperature drop and wrapped his motorcycling jacket around his sleeping bag. In the morning the ground was white with snow.

That was the weekend Jeff made a decision, which he claims to have not changed; March in Yorkshire is winter!

EXPLORE

The Ordnance Survey are trialing a beta version of a new service which you may find of interest. "explore" is more than just maps - it's a whole new way of exploring and sharing your favourite parts of the country.

Search for a location and then view the routes that people are sharing for that area. This will include details and points of interest - even photos, so you will be well prepared for a satisfying walk. When you've done the route for real, why not add comments and enhance the experience for future users?

You must have a route you really love to walk? You can now plot your route directly onto Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 scale mapping, not only that but you can add points of interest and photos and share all this with the world.

I have had a go and added one. It is early days yet but this could grow into a very useful tool. If each of us added every walk we go in there would soon be an enormous library.

<http://explore.ordnancesurvey.co.uk>



START 'EM YOUNG

Izzie Corbett, three, granddaughter of Iain Gilmour going through her moves.

LEAVE NO TRACE

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics is an educational, nonprofit organization dedicated to the responsible enjoyment and active stewardship of the outdoors by all people, worldwide. It is committed to the enjoyment, health and protection of recreational resources on natural lands and believes education is the best means to protect natural lands from recreational impacts while helping maintain access for recreation and enjoyment. It is founded on outdoor ethics whereby a sense of stewardship is gained through understanding and connecting with the natural world and strives to build key partnerships that support education programs, training and communities of volunteers, teachers, land managers, organizations and companies committed to teaching and instilling the values of Leave No Trace and its basic principles. These are to be considerate of others, respect farm animals and wildlife, travel and camp on durable ground, leave what you find, dispose of waste properly and minimise the effects of fire.

Based in the US they also operate in Canada, Australia and Ireland and are starting to move into the UK.

For more information see www.lnt.org

THE DAY THAT THE RAINS CAME DOWN

October 25th 2009 will be indelibly imprinted on the minds of many in the world of orienteering and fell running.

This was the day someone turned Cumbria upside down and the lakes fell out of the sky. The press have made much of it but first hand reports from friends who were there suggest they understated the situation, probably because they just could not conceive how bad it was.

As a long time Orienteer, albeit one that has never aspired to such levels, I have often seen our sport described as a haven for lunatics, but madmen or heroes the sort of characters who tackle the Original Mountain Marathon are a breed apart.

Using different terrain each year this year the top runners were to take in most of the central fells, mostly heading south towards Langdale and Wasdale, and then turning north back to the mid-camp. The other courses were mostly to the north of Honister Pass, over the Derwent Fells. It is actually not a marathon but more a less two marathons on successive days. The ultimate distance this time for the top runners would have been about 50 miles.

It was dry when the first runners checked into the start down in the valley but the strength of the wind was remarkable and it was apparently hard to hold onto maps or headgear, with the wind rocking runners back on their heels. Kit and banners were being blown all over the place. Most runners started off over Stockley Bridge and some had to hold onto the side of the bridge to avoid being blown off. What was it going to be like on higher ground? They were to soon find out with a vengeance!

As the rains started to fall some competitors decided against starting but those who did soon found every track had become a stream; every stream a wall of white-water and visibility was becoming a joke.

Their overnight destination was Gatesgarth Farm in Buttermere, down in the valley, but at risk of flooding.

As the day wore on, rivers began to burst their banks and even rivulets became raging torrents; fell sides became waterfalls and roads were awash.

There was little choice but to call off the race but that is no mean task with any mountain marathon when you have thousands of runners scattered across the hills.

On this occasion it was compounded by difficult mobile phone reception. The organisers had to contact as many marshals as possible by radio and get additional marshals out to crossing points to instruct all competitors to return to the registration area. The biggest problem is counting them all back and confirming identities so that there is a proper view of who is still out there.

During the night runners had sheltered in various schools, youth hostels, slate quarries, mine buildings, barns and farm houses.

Despite the press understating the actual conditions on the tops they went overboard with the drama of the situation. Yes, as evening fell, there were over a thousand still out but they were all tough, experienced, well equipped, carrying food for 36 hours, tents and sleeping bags and by two in the morning only 44 competitors had not been located. By lunch this was down to just 16.

The mountain rescue services helped race officials to ferry competitors back and a steady stream of very wet racers walked back down Honister Pass and along Borrowdale. It is worth noting that the mountain rescue are paid in advance to be present and use the funds received to part finance their normal activities.

Some were upset that it had been called off as they were doing very well. One teacher in her forties is quoted as saying that she was blown off her feet three times and had never experienced such unrelenting bad weather but she did not think it was really dangerous.

It was horrendous and the race had to be called off for the first time in forty years but in the end everyone came through it and the race planning coped albeit with a little help from the rescue services. There do not appear to have been any more injuries than would be experienced when thousands of people take to the mountains whatever the conditions.

They are a hardy breed these fell runners.

It does however bring home how treacherous mountain areas can be and how dangerous for the unprepared and reinforces the advantages of joining well organised mountain or running clubs to learn from people who have been there and done it.

I regularly run with friends who compete at this level, one who has done the Bob Graham round and another who has done the Everest marathon. Both are only a few years younger than me and still pursue such activities but their experience tells them when to call it a day and go no further. My only mountain marathon was 15 years ago and that was just 26 miles. Whilst not coming last I was well down the field and I think I will leave it to younger men.

I still enjoy orienteering however, including the high fells and the last major I did in Cumbria was this April when I was running over Hampsfell. Just to show the contrasts to be found in the Lakes the day was bathed in glorious sunshine if a bit windy and we could see for miles over the bay. Wonderful!

I must admit however the previous day on our training run it was very wet but nothing like these intrepid souls faced on the OMM.

THE CALL OF THE MOUNTAIN

Extreme mountaineer Robert Bösch is regarded as one of the best mountain photographers in the world. His new book contains photos of striking peaks, ridges and cliff faces "Schweiz alpin" (Alpine Switzerland), published by AS-Verlag. He illustrates his best climbs in the Alps and explains in detail how, when and where to go up and come down.

The book is ISBN 978-3-909111-55-8

and some of the photographs can be sampled at

www.swissinfo.ch/eng/multimedia/picture_gallery/The_call_of_the_mountain.html?siteSect=15075&sid=9885877



Die schönsten Touren in den Schweizer Alpen

Eiger, Matterhorn, Wendenstöcke und Salbitschijen: Die Schweiz besticht mit Supertouren, Klassikern und Geheimtipps. Der Bildband «Schweiz Alpin» präsentiert die schönsten Gipfel, Grate und Wände, erzählt von grossen Touren zwischen Genuss und Extrem und erklärt, wie man hinaufkommt.

MARINE BILL - This is an extract from the Executive Summary on the consultation in respect of the Marine Bill which is of particular interest to us in regard to its coastal access provisions. The full summary is to be found at www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/marinebill/summary-responses.pdf

UK waters present a rich and valuable resource. The Marine Bill introduces a framework for the management of the marine environment, integrating conservation and socio-economic objectives to provide maximum benefit for all marine users whilst protecting marine resources. Respondents were generally supportive of the proposals of the draft Bill. Comments focused on areas such as the timescale and procedure of transitional periods, particularly in relation to the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and new marine planning and licensing arrangements. Also addressed was funding. The majority of respondents supported the creation of the MMO and its planned role as a 'one-stop shop' for marine planning and licensing.

Marine nature conservation attracted many comments primarily concerned with the Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs). The majority of respondents were broadly in favour of the creation of MCZs, but this support was conditional upon the following concerns being addressed. Respondents were concerned that there was no statutory requirement for designation. The importance of a network of sites being established, in order to provide for species movement and thus better preserve bio-diversity, was stressed and calls were made to impose a duty on the Secretary of State to establish a network of Highly Protected Marine Reserves, covering at least 30% of UK seas out to 200 nautical miles. The Marine Fisheries proposals in the draft Bill were referred to and their were calls to reform inshore fisheries management through the creation of Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs).

The topic of coastal access is of most direct interest to us. A large majority of those giving an opinion on this project were in favour and welcomed the consideration of local opinion and nature conservation in provisions for planning the coastal route. Concerns were expressed however about funding for implementation and long term maintenance of the new access measures. This was predominantly from local authorities, public bodies and other non-governmental organisations who may face picking up the tab. Respondents particularly highlighted the need to provide funding for roll-back of access where coastal erosion would have a significant impact.

Respondents also commented on the categories of land to be excepted from coastal access. The draft Bill's provisions are for parks and gardens to be excepted land, as they are under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) Act of 2000. Respondents focused primarily on gardens, emphasising that excepting this land was important in maintaining the privacy of private landowners. Needless to say and understandably this view came from the owners of such land. There was some opposition to the uniform designation of parks and gardens as excepted land arguing that this would compromise the vision of a continuous coastal route and that it may be reasonable to provide a route through in some exceptional circumstances. Parks area similar issue but how you define what is or is not a park needs clarification.

Nearly a quarter of respondents proposed that procedures be established for compensating coastal property owners or businesses, where a significant loss could be proven. They expressed concern that increased coastal access could result in loss in terms of disruption to agriculture or other businesses or reduced property values. It was also noted that coastal businesses could benefit from an upswing in tourism as a result of increased coastal access.

There was considerable comment on the need to protect vulnerable habitats and species from the impact of increased coastal access. Respondents supported the proposal that some sites be closed to access during sensitive seasons (for example during bird nesting seasons). The Bill envisages Spreading room and many sought further clarification on the designation of land for 'spreading room,' and the activities which might be permitted within these areas. It is likely that this land will be where some seasonal closure might be necessary.

There was call for some further clarification on the treatment of estuaries within the coastal access legislation.



WILDLIFE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

CONKERS CRACKING UP

Fast on the heels of the nasties which have wreaked havoc with our hawthorns and oaks we now have scourge hitting our horse chestnuts.

25% of Britains horse chestnuts have conquer canker which causes splitting of the trunk and the bleeding or oozing of sap. The same number again are showing some symptoms of the problem which appears to be spreading rapidly.

There is no cure and it has been discovered that this is a new virulent bacteria not the one which has laid low small numbers of these trees over the years.

No one knows how this bacteria got here and it is usual to blame our warming climate but perhaps not in this case as the bacteria was first identified in the Himalayas. It probably came with imported chestnuts but it is not a disease easy to understand. One puzzle with it is that chestnuts in cities are far more badly hit than those out in the woodlands.

BOLD STEP?

Four families of European Beavers are to be released into the wild in a forest in Argyll. This is not to happen until 2009 although it has been being debated for some years. The creatures arrived in the UK in November but have to spend six months in quarantine.

The benefits to wildlife, communities and local economies have been demonstrated in many parts of mainland Europe, where since the 1920s re-introductions have taken place in 24 different countries.

These vegetarian creatures usually make nests in river banks and thereby slow water run off partially changing the local habitat and providing refuges for many other creatures. They have been introduced in other parts of Britain within enclosure to assess their impact and are being tried as part of management regimes.

It is hoped to restore areas along streams to a mix of water meadows and open marshland with pockets of native trees at various stages in their life cycle including dead and decaying remains. We should then see an increase in the species of flora and fauna present and it is thought that

the beaver will play an active part in maintaining this diversity once it has been established.

Beaver have been absent from the UK for several hundred years but the Forestry Commission are allowing them back in an attempt to restore wildlife balance and improve water quality. The last recorded presence of Beaver was at the end of the 16th century.

Beavers, once found throughout the whole of Britain, are both an indicator species and one whose presence greatly affects what else lives and grows in an area. Their presence indicates a clean environment in good balance, and In order to gain access to their feeding areas, lodges and bank-side homes, beavers fell small trees, mainly willow and aspen, and build dams. They rarely cut down mature trees for dams unless in very rocky terrain which is not likely to be the case in the Knapwood Forest were they are being released. The pools and wetlands created by them then attract many other species and damming also help water quality throughout whole river systems as sediments are slowed down and flooding and bank side damage is reduced. Also pollutants are oxidised as the water escaping through the dam is aerated.

They do feed largely on bark but with Forest Enterprise moving away from commercial forestry and taking steps to restore natural woodland this is not seen as an unacceptable threat. Beavers are herbivores, feeding on plants, tree bark and twigs and they never eat fish.

Their reintroduction opens up potential for tourism based on beaver watching. Unlike many wild mammals, beavers are suited for organised viewing as they are relatively predictable and loyal to one local area and can be easily located by their building works. These charming and entertaining creatures are well adapted to their semi-aquatic lifestyle and with a hairless, flattened tail and webbed hind feet are very agile.

They have attractive, sleek, waterproof fur, and weighing in at just under 80 lbs are Europe's largest rodent. They are well known to have been hunted for this fur but also contributing to their downfall and less well known, they secrete a substance containing salicylic acid as a result of eating willow bark and this is an active ingredient in aspirin.

They will be closely monitored and if no problems arise they may be allowed to expand their area freely with further imports from Europe.

STILL BANGING ON

Following on from our reports of the activities of the more responsible shooting interests in sustaining and supporting the wildlife of their areas, further evidence is emerging that there are still large numbers of arrogant and selfish gunsmen and rogue estates.

The RSPB has highlighted that record numbers of birds of prey were killed in Britain last year, with buzzards, peregrine falcons and golden eagles badly hit. They received 262 reports of birds of prey being illegally shot, trapped or killed by the destruction of their nests, compared with 185 reports the previous year, a rise of 40%.

According to the society's annual 'Birdcrime' report, there were also 49 reports of birds of prey being poisoned, including red kites and one of the only pair of Golden Eagles breeding in the Borders.

Red kites were often poisoned, deliberately or otherwise, when they scavenged on carrion, itself killed by illegal toxins. The RSPB fear the figure is much higher because many crimes in more remote areas remain undetected or go unreported.

Many hen harriers, which do eat grouse, have been killed on some grouse moors, and peregrine falcons have been shot because they preyed on pigeons including racing birds..

Apparently in England this year hen harrier chicks were only successfully reared in 10 nests from 19 attempts as against 14 from 23 attempts last year. Despite the protestations from the shooting organisations it does seem that some of their members or employees of some estates are destroying nests.

In all, there were 1,208 separate incidents of crimes against wild birds reported to the RSPB in 2007, beating the then record of 1,019 in 2006. The four worst counties in England for reported persecution of birds of prey were North Yorkshire (78 reports), Northumberland (22), and Shropshire and Cumbria (16 each).

All is not doom and gloom however. A pub tycoon has just instigated one of the biggest regeneration schemes ever undertaken in Britain. 5000 acres of Wemmergill Moor in County Durham are to be re-seeded with heather to restore the habitat ruined by over grazing. He has also planted a quarter of a million shrubs and trees to provide cover and hopes to protect and encourage many endangered species of birds.

Golden plover, red and black grouse need the heather for their survival and his efforts have already seen black grouse numbers increase from 4 to 150.

Merlins, moorhens, snipe, short eared owls, curlew and red shanks are all increasing in number as well.

COME ON YOU REDS

Good news on the squirrel front. The sanctuaries being created to try and preserve the red squirrel are seemingly working quite well.

The Red Squirrel Protection Partnership have organised culls of well over 20,000 greys in the last 18 months, mostly in Northumberland but a few thousand have been killed in Cumbria and efforts are being stepped up in Scotland where outbreaks of squirrel pox are increasing. This is carried reasonably happily by greys but is fatal to reds.

In all about 170,000 acres of reserves have been created within which the greys are being eradicated. Reds are now being seen in increasing numbers over these 16 reserves and two more are to be added.

Ullapool has no population of either species so a red introduction programme should get off to a good start and the second is to be on the Isles of Scilly where again at present there are no squirrels at all.

KITE FLYING

Red kite numbers are growing countrywide. A survey of the birds reveals that the Scottish population is now at its highest level for 200 years, following one of the best ever breeding seasons and an ongoing reintroduction project around Aberdeen.

Numbers have also doubled in North East England over the last year and increased by more than 40% in the Yorkshire. Area.

Red kites continue to thrive in their English strongholds of the Chilterns and Rockingham Forest in the East Midlands where I live and also in Wales which was their last bastion in the UK before re-introductions. Red kites were once common across the British Isles but they were all but wiped out by widespread killing in Victorian times. And by the 1930s there were just 10 pairs left in a remote part of Wales. As previously reported, In 1989, a UK reintroduction project began in the South of England and the North of Scotland, and the fruits of this labour are now being seen.

This summer also saw 27 of the birds reintroduced into Northern Ireland for the first time in two centuries. The Scottish population now stands at 122 breeding pairs, with the UK population as a whole growing to an estimated 1,200 breeding pairs.

The UK population is becoming increasingly important on a global scale as land use changes, illegal poisoning both direct and indirect causes declines in its main breeding areas of Germany, France and Spain. Red kites are now classified as 'near threatened' by the World Conservation Union and the UK's 1,200 pairs are around 5% of the world population.

WILDLIFE THREAT INCREASES

Wildlife is disappearing at an unprecedented rate in the countryside but nature is compensating as more species start colonising urban areas.

There have been major declines in populations of breeding wading birds on unprotected lowland wetland grasslands, notably the snipe which is down by 90% in some regions but in the last 12 years the overall population of urban birds increased by 14%.

Pigeon numbers more than doubled, and there were big increases among green woodpeckers, goldfinches, robins and great tits.

Natural England's annual state of the natural environment report, published earlier this year, finds birds, bees and other insects deserting intensively farmed lowland areas for better conditions in urban gardens and in brown field sites. Some butterfly species, it says, are now more likely to be found in suburban areas than in the open countryside, and at least 40 species of invertebrates are now wholly confined to towns. More than half of the summer roosts of some species of bat are in man-made structures less than 30 years old.

"Our land and seas are under more pressure than ever before," says the report. "We have a growing population with growing aspirations, meaning increasing demand on the natural environment to provide food, energy, leisure and space for development".

"We are now locked into at least 50 years of unavoidable climate change. Wildlife is increasingly isolated in protected areas, unable to move with the changing climate". "Although we are broadly maintaining the character of England's landscapes, 20% still show signs of neglect and within our landscapes there are significant problems. For instance, lack of woodland management is causing a 50% decline of our native woodland butterflies - the wood is still there but the butterflies aren't".

"Other habitats are also deteriorating - only 3% of our grasslands remain rich in native plants. We are seeing signs of stress from climate change, both on the coast, where habitats are being squeezed between our sea walls and the rising sea (25% salt marsh loss from the south east of England), and on land, with a range of species moving northwards and upwards such as the mountain ringlet butterfly".

"The current system of conservation has often focused on protected areas such as sites of special scientific interest and national parks. But away from these areas the natural environment is increasingly under threat. It not well placed to withstand the challenges of development and climate change."

Britain's leading environment groups, including the

National Trust, the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are calling for a radical new approach to conservation to match the unprecedented scale and speed of the habitat change taking place in the countryside.

Butterfly Conservation report that the mountain ringlet, only found in Scotland and the Lake District could be extinct in 50 years. As our climate warms the high level grasslands on which it ekes out a living are retreating upwards with nowhere finally to go. The Scotch argus and northern brown argus are also expected to decrease in numbers as their habitat shrinks and other specialist species like the Duke of Burgundy and the pearl-bordered and high brown fritillaries are less able to adapt.

FELLS AT RISK

Our uplands themselves are in danger of rapidly changing beyond recognition. Hill and moorland farms are likely to largely disappear unless action is taken to save them, as a government adviser has acknowledged.

The Chairman of the Commission for Rural Communities pointed out that foot and mouth and blue tongue, flooding, changing weather patterns and a decline in the numbers of young people willing or able to work on the land given the lack of affordable housing, has brought hill farming almost to extinction. Rising feed costs, increased European competition and the economic down-turn are exacerbating the situation and if livestock disappears from the hills then it will change the character of the countryside dramatically.

He said keeping livestock on the hills was vital to preserving the character of areas such as the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and Dartmoor. Uplands, which cover 18 per cent of the country, feature heavily in the cultural identity of Britain and attract millions of tourists and are thought to contribute about £325 billion to the economy.

Opening an enquiry into the situation, he said there were difficult questions as to how to keep hill farming as a sustainable business. "I am particularly concerned about the social effects if we do not have hill farmers. The knock-on effect is a downward spiral for the whole community."

As you would no doubt expect of a government representative, he said the way forward was innovation and business development rather than subsidies. The growth in home-based offices, entrepreneurship, improved Internet access, the demand for renewables and new markets for country produce all presented opportunities, he added, as did "carbon storage".

The National Farmers' Union uplands spokesman, commented that the dry stone walls and grazed landscapes loved by visitors were dependent on farmers and that the alternative could be coniferous forests and wind

turbines. He could have added miles of scrub and bracken to the picture.

He did suggest that market forces were unlikely to be able sustain hill farms."Society has to ask itself, 'Do we want the uplands to look like they do now?'" he asked. "If the answer is yes then the system that manages them now needs to survive."

A BIT OF A PUZZLE

If trees do not have enough problems with infections and diseases man is again adding to the problem.

One local council is proposing to cut down 'monkey puzzle' trees in school play grounds as the needles on the trees are sharp and if they fall to the ground may hurt children if they fall on them.

Need I say anything more!

RATTY'S COUSIN DOING NICELY

The poor old water vole is still struggling in England and Wales but there is encouraging news coming out of Scotland..

A major part of the problem is the mink. I saw one in my local stream earlier this year and this creature is the biggest culprit in the drastic reduction in numbers of voles.. I would advocate its eradication but it is probably too well established by now.

The mink at about 18 inches long is only half the size of the otter and whilst its coat can vary it is generally dark where the otter is a fairly plain brown with a white bib at its throat. The otter has been staging a strong come back as rivers have been cleaned up and it is hoped that as they soon colonise areas they will reduce the predation by mink which cannot compete with the larger otters for homes. Mink numbers in the last ten years have probably halved.

Otters do not attack many of the other forms of wildlife which have been decimated by mink.

There were literally millions of water voles a hundred years ago but they have been decreasing rapidly and their population has reduced by 90% in the last decade. There are now thought to be only about 875,000 left and they have vanished completely from many areas of the country.

It is threatened with extinction within 10 years due to privations by mink and mans activities in reducing their normal riverbank habitat. Strangely they are doing better close to man where the mink are less comfortable, but

they are suffering at the hands of uninformed pest controllers as it is similar to a brown rat.

It is easily distinguished if you know what it looks like. It is a medium dark brown in colour whereas the rat is greyer. It is slightly smaller than a rat and has hidden ears where the rat's stand out proudly. It has a whiskery nose and hairy tail unlike the bald pink tail of the rat.

The water vole in Scotland looks quite different in that the Highland water vole is actually black.

A recent survey shows that up there the creature is doing rather well. This is probably because the mink does not like the harsher conditions.

The water vole in Scotland is a tough little cookie and has been found as high as just under 2000 feet up Ben Nevis.

GREEN (or should that be Blue) POWER

As more and more studies are showing how grossly inefficient wind turbines are, opponents are being challenged to come up with 'green' alternatives if the government is not to plough on with its massive subsidies to this snowballing industry.

A number are now calling for a "tidal reef" to be built across the Severn to generate electricity.

Tidal surge at the mouth of the river has the potential to generate up to five per cent of our electricity needs but there are massive downsides to many possible schemes. The Government is currently looking at 10 ways to harness this potential power.

A barrage from Cardiff in Wales to Weston-super-Mare in Somerset is widely considered the most likely option and a road along the top would help regenerate South Wales and the West Country but the 10 mile dam is bound to be unsightly and cause major ecological damage. It will prevent the migration of fish without complex escape routes which themselves will reduce the efficiency of the power generator. It will also destroy bird habitats and is likely to be a short term solution as the waters behind the barrage are bound to rapidly silt up. Dredging costs will outweigh the benefits from this means of generation.

The RSPB amongst others, supports a 12 mile reef from Minehead in Somerset to Aberthaw, in South Wales. It argues a reef would be lower in the water and its slower turbines would be less dangerous to migrating fish. It commissioned a study to look into the feasibility of a reef which concluded that the structure would generate more electricity, cost less to build and last longer than a barrage.

The RSPB also claims a reef would keep intact most of the estuary's salt marshes and mud flats on which at least 68,000 birds feed in winter.

OVERSEAS MEET - LHAKHANG EXPEDITION

17th August - 13th September 2008 - Mick Borroff

Introduction

After Albert Chapman's successful 2005 YRC meet to Ladakh, Mick Borroff wanted to return to the Himalaya and began looking at possible trekking routes combined with a suitable mountaineering objective. Western Tibet was initially attractive, but the multi-day approach by jeep and the complexity of obtaining eight separate authorisations for a permit were off-putting.

The Indian Himalayas looked more attractive and the concept of a long traverse beginning in Himachal Pradesh and ending in Ladakh began to take shape. As the barrier of the Great Himalaya would be crossed into the high-altitude desert, sheltered from the rain-bearing clouds of the Indian monsoon, such a route would offer great contrast in terms of the scenery, flora and fauna and of course to meet different groups of local people and take in their culture.

The route eventually selected started close to the Satluj river in Kinnaur, the north-eastern region of Himachal Pradesh, then headed north up the Bhaba valley to cross the Great Himalaya Range by the Pin-Bhaba Pass to descend into the Pin valley in the rain shadow area to Kaza in the Spiti valley. The route would then take the old trade route north from the Spiti river over the Parang La and follow the Pare Chu river north-east to enter Rupshu, the eastern region of Ladakh. The Pare Chu would then be left behind close to the Tibetan border, gaining the road-head at Karzok on the shore of Tso Moriri lake. This area was closed until 1994, but now can be accessed with the appropriate Inner Line Permits. Both passes could be crossed by ponies and food supplies could be restocked part way in Spiti. We would meet Kinnauri, Spiti and Ladakhi people, including the Changpa nomads in Rupshu. Spiti is also renowned for its ancient Buddhist monasteries: Tabo, Dhankar and Ki Gompas, all over 1000 years old which would add interest to the trek.

A bit of searching on the internet and in the Alpine Club library revealed numerous opportunities for mountaineering in the tributary valleys to the Pare Chu, with well over a dozen unclimbed 6000m peaks in the vicinity. After further research, perusal of Google Earth and a very helpful exchange of information and photographs from Tsuneo Suzuki of the Japanese Alpine Club, the unclimbed 6250m peak of Lhakang "Place of the Deity" was selected as our goal, for which an Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF) permit and Liaison Officer would be required.

Logistics

Rimo Expeditions were again engaged as our trekking company and as usual, Motup provided a first class service. We had an excellent, highly experienced seven-strong Nepali crew, under the very capable leadership of Nima Bhutia, as Sirdar. Two groups of 18 ponies were hired.

The first string was obtained in Kafnoo, the village at the start of our trek, with four Kinnauri ponymen who returned there once we reached Spiti over the Pin-Bhaba pass. The second string originated from Manali in the Kulu valley, but met us in Spiti at the road-head in Kibber for the leg over the Parang La, returning to Manali from Tso Moriri lake by a different route at the end of the trek.

YRC Members

Mick Borroff - Leader
Adrian Bridge
Richard Dover
Paul Dover

David Hick
Tim Josephy
Barry Wood

Nepali Trekking Crew from Rimo Expeditions

Nima Bhutia - Sirdar
Khem Sing - Helper
Norbu Tamang - Head Cook
Kami Sherpa - Climbing Sherpa
Manbadhur Rai - Assistant Cook
Sangbo Lama - Climbing Sherpa
Bishal Tamang - Helper

IMF Liaison Officer

Mast Ram Kapoor

Permits and Visas

This report would be incomplete without mentioning the Indian bureaucracy to be negotiated. Mountaineers wishing to climb peaks higher than 6000m need to hold an Indian "X" Mountaineering Visa (this is a type of Entry Visa). This Visa may only be issued in the UK on receipt of a clearance letter from the Indian Mountaineering Foundation (IMF), which in turn depends on IMF having approvals from both the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Defence. Expeditions also need to be accompanied in the field by a Liaison Officer.

IMF requires that applications are made no later than three months before the planned date of travel. Although this requirement was met, we did not receive our IMF clearance letter until 6th August, the week before we left! The Indian High Commission had also changed to a new on-line visa application process in June. We are indebted to Richard Dover for a last minute, high speed, cross-country motorbike journey from the visa offices in Birmingham to those in London to secure our "X" visas, just three days before travelling.

Once in India, the passports, visas and rescue insurance for each expedition member were checked by IMF during a mandatory briefing meeting. Copies of passports, visas and passport photographs were also needed for Inner Line Permits to enter the Spiti valley in Himachal Pradesh and the Tso Moriri region in Ladakh.

Itinerary

17 Aug - Arrival in Delhi

We arrived in the capital to be met by our guide Nima, just before a torrential downpour marking the end of the monsoon part-flooded the roads. A coach slowly transferred us to Lutyen's Bungalow, a very pleasant guest house in South Delhi, with a shady garden populated by green parakeets and ground squirrels. Apart from Mick, who had to attend the IMF briefing, after an early dinner, the rest of the group travelled overnight on the sleeper train to Kalka. Delhi railway station was a seething mass of humanity and rodents all trying to escape the rains.

18 Aug - Transfer to Shimla

The overnight train partly changed onto the narrow gauge "Toy Train" railway in the morning for the ascent to the old British hill station of Shimla, arriving in time for lunch at the Woodville Palace Hotel, followed by some sightseeing in the afternoon.

Meanwhile Mick was interviewed by Wing Commander Dahiya, the IMF Director, who introduced our Liaison Officer, Mast Ram Kapoor, a mountaineer from Chamba in Himachal Pradesh. Having satisfied IMF's requirements, Mick and Mast Ram were then driven by car to Shimla, arriving at the hotel some ten hours later in time for a very late dinner, after negotiating a procession of washouts, avalanches, accidents and roadworks fortuitously avoiding the kamikaze intentions of some Indian drivers.

19 Aug - Transfer to Kafnoo road-head

After an excellent breakfast, we headed along the ridge-top in three jeeps. The drive lasted some ten hours and took us through sections of forests with troops of black-faced langur monkeys, down long switchback descents, eventually reaching the swollen Satluj river which looked like liquid cement. We stopped for a lunchtime curry in a restaurant that grew its own Basmati rice before reaching Wangtu, where a bridge allowed access over the Satluj to the Bhaba valley and on to our first camp beside the hydroelectric intake lagoon at Kafnoo, complete with patrolling armed guard. Here Nima introduced us to the rest of his crew and we found out that our cook Norbu was the elder brother of Kumar, the talented cook on our 2005 trip, and being accompanied by their nephew Bishal for his first trekking season!

20 Aug - Kafnoo to Mulling

The crew woke us at 0600 with tea. After breakfast, we waited for the ponies to arrive and eventually left the intake installation behind in bright sunshine to follow the clear Bhaba river through the village orchards and bee hives up into a superb flower-filled steep-sided alpine valley. We watched a flock of eight Himalayan Griffon vultures circling overhead shortly before passing into an area of mature pine forest. We stopped at Mulling to camp beside the river in a

large grassy meadow, whilst the mist descended onto the surrounding peaks. Several members explored higher side valleys and some blue Himalayan poppies were photographed.

21 Aug - Mulling to Kara

Scotch mist swirled around us as we broke camp and made way for a large flock of sheep and goats heading down to Kafnoo from higher pastures, accompanied by two Kinnauri shepherds. Rain fell as we crossed the river by a natural stone bridge and took shelter under an overhang to avoid possible stonefall from an even larger flock of animals traversing the slopes above us. The campsite at Kara had a Scottish glen feel about it, aided by extensive mist and rain! Tim and Adrian followed a side stream and eventually ventured around the back of a long waterfall before returning just before it got dark.

22 Aug - Kara to Fustirang

After breaking camp, we had to ford the river. Whilst the flow had diminished overnight, we still had to wade across. We then followed the Bhaba river into a steep grassy valley to reach Fustirang, the last camp below the Pin-Bhaba pass. As this was a short day, the rainy afternoon was spent in exploring the upper Bhaba valley and the snow fields with their strange formations well beyond the camp, to aid acclimatisation.

23 Aug - Fustirang to Pin-Bhaba Pass (4866m) to Bara Bulder

An early start was made to attack the steep scree guarding the pass and after crossing several ridges and small snow-fields we reached the customary Buddhist prayer flags at the col overlooking the high altitude desert of Spiti. The contrast in scenery in crossing the Great Himalayan Range into its rain shadow could not be more striking. Gone were the greens of the grazing meadows and familiar alpine slopes, replaced by the multiple shades of browns and greys of the convoluted, thinly-bedded immature mountain ranges and their scree and moraines.

The descent from the pass crossed more scree slopes to pick up a river, which was followed for some distance to our next camp perched above the main Pin river. A track could be seen on the far side of the valley leading down from the Pin-Parbati Pass, which crosses to Spiti from the Kullu valley.

24 Aug - Bara Bulder to Mudh

The day dawned with full-on blue skies and unbroken sunshine. We followed the Pin valley on a meandering path through the multi-coloured landscape admiring the geology and eventually reaching the village mani walls and their inscribed stones leading down to the suspension bridge at Mudh. Threshing was in progress. The Spitians used sets of donkeys, mules and yaks, attached in order of size, to a stout central post. These were driven round in circles to trample the barley stalks. The locals were very friendly and the crew took the opportunity to purchase some chang beer.

25 Aug - Mudh to Tabo

Breakfast was enjoyed in the open air, again in bright sunshine. We said goodbye to the ponymen who were to return to Kafnoo and jumped in our jeeps for the journey past Sagnam village to the Spiti river and then downstream to Tabo and its ancient gumpa. After refreshments in a local café, we visited the 1600-year old monastery complex which had a very different construction and feel to the more fort-like gompas perched on hilltops, elsewhere in Ladakh. The Buddhist deities were preserved in near darkness and the guide's torch was needed to pick out the richly coloured thankas on the walls and the striking faces of the gods in the prayer hall.

After lunch camped in the garden of a local hotel, several of us visited some caves in the hillside formally used as monastic cells. One of these had been enlarged to form a temple where a party of Indian experts were planning the final stage of restoration of the ancient wall paintings. We were introduced to several professors and under the flood-lighting could closely inspect the work completed so far; it was very well done using the same materials and methods as the original paintings.

26 Aug - Tabo to Rangrik

Once the camp had been struck, we drove back up the Spiti valley and ascended a side road to Dhankar Gumpa. Established some 1200 years ago on a high ridge above the river, its setting was spectacular. We explored all accessible parts and took a myriad of photos. Meanwhile the crew stocked up with supplies in Kaza market and repaired to Kibber for a well earned rest day.

After lunch, we had to stop in Kaza to visit the office that issued Inner Line Permits. There we found that the requirements in Himachal Pradesh had recently been changed to match those in Jammu & Kashmir i.e. two passport photos, plus photocopies of passport and Indian visa were needed. Needless to say that we didn't all have the photos or photocopies with us, but the Indians now have the technology! The Border Police representative also informed us that as part of the approval process, they would be making an inspection of our baggage in the morning.

After a thorough test of the STD telephone service and the internet links in Kaza, we drove to the newly constructed Spiti Sarai Hotel upriver at Rangrik. At the hotel over dinner and a few beers, we chatted to Steve Berry from the Himalayan Kingdoms trekking company and some of his friends, who were in the final stages of their overland expedition from England to Mumbai in a pair of Toyota Land Cruisers.

27 Aug - Rangrik to Dumra

Breakfast was disturbed at 0715 by the arrival of the Border Police Sergeant, his boss and another colleague for the kit inspection. An introductory discussion about where we

were going and the age and medical condition of the team was followed by a check of our baggage - Adrian's ex-army kitbag was singled out for particularly close attention! Fortunately they were satisfied by finding nothing suspicious and we received our Inner Line permit for us and the crew to visit Rupshu.

Breakfast was completed and we drove to Ki Gumpa, the white buildings gleaming like a fairytale castle on top of a hill. The monks had just started to chant a mantra in the main prayer hall and we sat entranced for about half an hour until an intermission, when a novice brought in tea.

We left the Spiti river behind and ascended a side road to reach the white stupas guarding the entrance to Kibber, one of the highest villages in India. After a drink, we set off on foot for the second leg of the trek towards Tso Moriri, descending into the gorge of the Parilungbi river for lunch beside the clear sparkling stream. A climb up the other side soon had us at the next camp at Dumra.

The tributary stream led into a small gorge where Tim, Adrian and Paul climbed some routes on doubtful rock, whilst others watched from a safe distance. A herd of bharal (Blue Sheep) were observed on the hillside well above our camp. Dinner was followed by a huge iced chocolate cake baked by Norbu.

28 Aug - Dumra to Thalta

Another fairly short day took us to a camp perched high above the main Parilungbi gorge. Our trek was accompanied by great views of the snow-capped trekking peak Kanamo (5963m), climbed solo earlier in the year by Nima. Once the camp at Thalta had been reached, various excursions were made along the side of the gorge marvelling at the stupendous rock formations, as we observed the following day's intimidating ascent leaving the other side of the gorge. Another herd of bharal were seen and some smaller goral (a species of "goat-elope").

29 Aug - Thalta to Borigen

Watched by a lone marmot, we descended steeply into the gorge and followed the lovely clear river upstream crossing it on a couple of dodgy bridges, and cooled by a stiff northerly breeze. The rock architecture was amazing: contorted zig-zagged bedding planes, a series of ramps and pinnacles adorned the steep cliffs flanking the river. Adrian had succumbed to Delhi belly and enjoyed a free pony trek to the next camp at 5190m. There was just enough space beside a cliff to pitch the cook's tent and the mess tent, which became our dormitory amongst the scree at the foot of the pass. The ponies were tethered to a rope overnight and fed on barley using nose-bags, whilst other ponymen levelled the scree to provide the ponies small platforms to sleep on too.

30 Aug - Borigen to Parang La (5578m) to confluence of Pare Chu and Pakshi Lamur rivers

A reasonably early start was made to ascend the 500m of remaining steep scree to the Parang La pass under blue skies. At the obligatory prayer flags adorning the pass, the white slopes of the glacier led our eyes down into the Pare Chu valley and onto the snow-capped mountains above. One of the donkeys slipped over on the ice, but was fortunately unhurt. The rest of the glacier was descended uneventfully in deteriorating weather and we followed the trail down the flat grey valley floor penetrating into the brown mountains above, in a swirling snow storm. We set up camp at the entrance to the Pakshi Lamur river valley, close to its confluence with the Pare Chu.

31 Aug - Pakshi Lamur valley

Accompanied by the ponies and more snow fall, the stony Pakshi Lamur valley was ascended via a barely visible path traversing the lateral moraines. Base Camp was established at 5153m on a flat area well below the glacier snout at N 32° 28', E 78° 09' remarkable for the unusual volume of large red pebbles in the vicinity.

An exploratory walk, partly in another snow storm, up the benign glacier to about 5370m was undertaken but further inspection of the lower parts of the north-west faces of Dhhun and Lhakhang peaks was cut short by the deteriorating weather.

1 Sep - Pakshi Lamur valley

The same weather pattern predominated again. After a bright start, Advanced Camp was established on the lateral moraine to the west of Dhhun at about 5400m by the full team and crew. Signs of a previous tent platform were observed but no litter or rubbish was seen. After a snow storm had blown through, the snow covered glacier was ascended to a point below Lhakhang's north-west face, where it was obvious that the whole range was well-plastered with fresh unconsolidated snow.

Two possible lines up Lhakhang's face were examined. The first was a very steep climb up an ice wall to the left leading to easier angled snowy ridge to the summit. Fixed ropes would have been needed for this route. The second was a more serpentine excursion skirting the extensive central seracs, to gain the steep north-west ridge to gain the summit. This route looked more feasible in good conditions but too dangerous under the blanket of new snow.

On the preceding two Japanese expeditions, which climbed the adjacent peak of Dhhun, their fixed ropes were swept away on the first ascent by an avalanche and on the second ascent, they had to escape down the back of the mountain, as their ascent route had become too unstable. We therefore reluctantly took a decision to abandon the attempt in the face of the obvious avalanche risk and possible consequences.

However our disappointment was somewhat mitigated by the magnificent scenery. The upper cirque above the Pakshi Lamur glacier was a really spectacular place with five 6000m

metre snow peaks nestling around its rim, three of them supposedly unclimbed. Adrian, Richard and Paul returned to BC, leaving Mick, Tim, Dave and Barry, with Nima and the two Sherpas to spend the night at AC.

2 Sep - Pakshi Lamur valley

After a cold night, a leisurely breakfast was enjoyed in glorious sunshine, soaking up the warmth like lizards and whilst admiring the panoramic view across the cirque! AC and BC were removed and the Pakshi Lamur valley descended to the confluence with the Pare Chu river, which was then followed by a good path to our next camp at Kharsa Gogma.

3 Sep - Kharsa Gogma to Galpa Buze

After breakfast in the warm sunshine, we set off for a spectacular day's trekking along the wide-floored valley of the Pare Chu. Although the clouds gathered and the north wind returned, the scenery drew us on. Lines of incised lateral moraines were passed, then sequences of conglomerate towers with frequent views to snow-capped mountains beyond accompanied the ever present river. Fossils abounded in the limestone cobbles at our feet and infrequent flowering plants clinging onto life added extra interest. Our next camp was rather cramped beside the river at Galpa Buze.

4 Sep - Galpa Buze to Norbu Sumdo

The flat floored valley widened - up to two kilometres across, with the blue river snaking from side to side over the grey pebbles. More conglomerate towers and more incised moraines and more afternoon snow showers heralded our arrival at Sumdo, the Ladakhi word for confluence. Here we waded across the braided Pare Chu before climbing out of the valley to enter Rupshu. We emerged on a flat area of moraine, where the stumpy ruins of an old fort used as in the past a British tax collection point, looked out over the Pare Chu flowing onwards into Tibet, before returning to India to join the Satluj. The tributary valley was followed upstream to the lush water meadows at Norbu Sumdo, where the ponies enjoyed their well-earned grazing. Barry was in his element as the bird-life changed again with the different environment.

5 Sep - Norbu Sumdo to Kiangdom

The wetlands in the wide valley were traversed on a good path with more snow-capped peaks hovering into view. Several recently vacated Changpa camp emplacements were passed with small mani walls. The expanse of tussock grass, which provided grazing for the Changpa's herds of pashmina goats, eventually petered out to be replaced by a wide expanse of bare gravel which after some miles led past the rocky Chumik peak (5660m) guarding the entrance to the Phirse Phu river and its trekking route to Pangri and Manali. Shortly afterwards, the improbable sight of the turquoise Tso Moriri lake shimmering in the heat haze, could have been a mirage. However the twin snow peaks of

Chhamser Kangri (6623m) and Lungser Kangri (6666m) beyond and to the east were definitely real. The camp at Kiangdom was established on the south-western corner of the lake, where the view along the lake was stunning. Over a dozen large, sleek marmots grazed in the sun, enjoying their last months of food before the winter hibernation. More deserted Changpa camp sites overlooked the marmot colonies and a lone Kiang (wild Tibetan ass) was seen close to the lake shore.

6 Sep - Kiangdom

Mick, Dave, Adrian and Tim decided to walk back towards Norbu Sumdo keeping to the western bank, but then turned sharply west into the major side valley containing the Phirse Phu river, to have a look at Chumik on the south side. After following the river for several kilometres, plans for Chumik were abandoned and Dave and Adrian returned the same way. Meanwhile Mick and Tim ascended the rock ridge to the north-east, traversed to a fine viewpoint at 5434m and then descended a steep loose gully back to the camp beside Tso Moriri.

7 Sep - Kiangdom to Karzok road-head

The last day of trekking was a long journey along the pebbly shore of Tso Moriri. The view back down the lake was topped by Gya (6794m) while Kangris Chhamser and Lungser were slowly passed. The waterside path eventually led to a sequence of a score of mani walls, then a cremation platform and a prayer flag bedecked stupa overlooking Karzok village and our final camp. The village was a real contrast to our previous nights in the wilderness and the chorus of dog barking in the night would have led to some machine-gunning had the armaments been available!

8 Sep - Karzok

The day at Karzok before the jeeps arrived allowed us the opportunity to visit the tented encampment of the Changpa nomads in a wide valley some distance above the village. The Changpas live in four-sided black yak-hair tents, which are moved between grazing areas in the summer whilst yaks and pashmina goats crop the grass. Changpas are devoted Buddhists and the two central objects of a nomad's tent are a stove and an altar. Many nomads carry spinning prayer wheels or strings of amber prayer beads. Mid-morning, the whole tented village emptied into a large canvas tent to attend the day's prayers led by monks from the gumpa in Karzok. Nima told us that they were now seven days into a two-week prayer cycle.

It is a hard way of life for the Changpas and may now be starting to die out. There were no older children or teenagers in the camp, as they were either away at school or having gained an education, had left to seek work in the towns, rather than returning to Rupshu. The younger kids were as inquisitive as ever and always interested to see themselves on our digital camera screens or to look through Barry's binoculars. They will undoubtedly see great changes in their lifestyles compared to their parents.

The rest of the day was spent wandering around Karzok and down to the lake shore. Our last night's dinner was prepared by Norbu and several courses were enjoyed including an enormous freshly-baked cake with the message "Happy Trek Ending 2008" in chocolate icing!

9 Sep - Transfer to Leh

Our three jeeps arrived at 0715 under a clear blue sky which heralded a welcome break in the weather pattern. After leisurely packing up the camp, we thanked each of our crew members for their unstinting efforts and said our farewells. After having our permits checked at the police post, we set off for Leh. The first leg on an unmetalled road took us past yak herds to another blue lake - Kiagar Tso and over the prayer flag bedecked Nakpokoding La (4990m) to the Mahe Bridge spanning the Indus river. The metalled road then followed the spectacular Indus valley all the way to Leh.

The drive passed through seriously impressive rock scenery through gorges and across steep hillsides, with the Indus never far below. We arrived in Leh some seven hours later and were soon enjoying tea and biscuits with freshly picked apples in the flower garden of the Omasila Hotel, admiring the Stok Kangri range, glistening under a coating of fresh snow. After walking round to the Rimo offices to see Motup, we had a brief wander around Leh, followed by a really good Indian buffet and a few beers in the hotel restaurant.

10 Sep - Leh

Tim joined a Rimo white-water rafting trip down the Indus. Adrian and Mast Ram went in search of some rock climbing on the cliffs below Leh Palace, while everyone else explored Leh. We all met up in the late afternoon to watch a polo match, where two local teams fought a somewhat frenetic game in front of a large crowd of locals and tourists. Afterwards, we joined Motup and Nima for a chat over an excellent tandoori dinner. Motup told us that plans were well advanced for the Ministry of Tourism, supported by the IMF, to designate a further 100 peaks as trekking peaks, a very welcome development.

11 Sep - Transfer to Delhi

The morning flight to Delhi was uneventful (must have been Barry's prayers) and we were soon back at Lutyen's Bungalow, chilling out in the garden. Another Indian dinner was enjoyed at Pindi in Pandara Market, after a rather lengthy perambulation of the streets of South Delhi.

12 Sep - Delhi

Richard and Paul left early for their flight back to the UK. The remaining five hired a car and driver for a tour of Delhi taking in the Parliament buildings, Delhi Gate, New Delhi, the Jama Masjid mosque, the Red Fort, the Raj Ghat, where Gandhi was cremated, finishing up at Quth Minar Complex and its soaring sandstone minaret deeply inscribed with verses from the Koran. Swagath, a southern Indian

restaurant in Defence Colony market was chosen from the Rough Guide for dinner. We took advantage of their fortuitous two-for-one offer on Tiger beers, to wash down Mangalore-style seafood and other tasty curries.

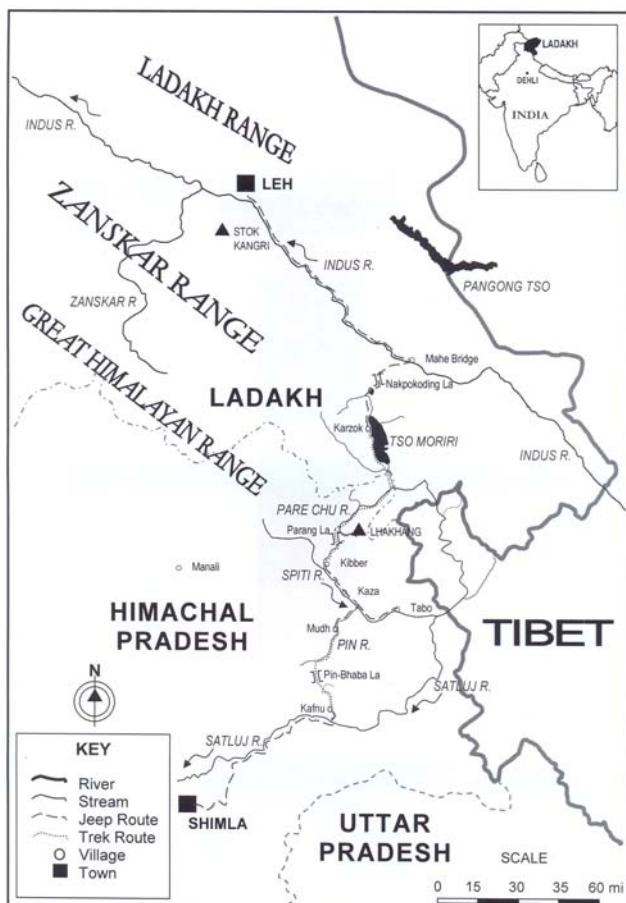
13 Sep - Transfer to UK

Mick, Adrian and Dave crammed in a tut-tut to visit the Jantar Mantar, the open-air observatory built in 1726 with its unusual geometrical measuring instruments, before stopping for a last-minute purchase of some top quality Darjeeling tea and an intricate painted thanka.

We had booked an evening flight back to the UK and as we were driven to the airport were shocked to hear the news that at least 20 people had been killed and 90 injured when five bombs tore through a Delhi shopping district. Four more unexploded bombs were found by police in the area and defused. Fortunately the airport was not disrupted and we departed after Adrian bought a round of ice creams.

Conclusion

From the trekking perspective, the expedition exceeded our expectations. Both the alpine valley on the Kinnaur side and the rugged beauty of the high altitude desert in Spiti and Rupshu were fantastic. None of us will forget the mirage-like panorama across Tso Moriri. We arrived at Base Camp to schedule in a fit and well-acclimatised condition. Only the unseasonable snowfall and the attendant avalanche risk were not expected. The mountains around the upper Pare Chu valley and Pakshi Lamur valley certainly deserve more exploration and there are still well over a dozen unclimbed 6000m peaks in the area.



Bibliography - Books

A Comprehensive Touring and Trekking Guide to the Indian Himalaya.

Manmohan Sindh Bawa. Ed. Robin Collomb. Leomann Maps, Springfields USA, 2001.

Spiti - Adventures in the Trans-Himalaya.

Harish Kapadia
Indus Publishing, New Delhi, India. 1999.

Trekking and Climbing in the India Himalaya.

Harish Kapadia and Victor Saunders
2nd ed. New Holland Publishers, London, UK, 2001.

High Himalaya Unknown Valleys

Harish Kapadia
4th ed. Indus Publishing, New Delhi, India. 2001.

Bibliography - Journal Articles

A Return to Lingti 1987

Harish Kapadia
Himalayan Journal 1988; 44: 96-101

Climbs in the Lingti Valley, Spiti

Harish Kapadia
American Alpine Journal 1988; 235-237

Ascent of Dhhun

High Magazine 2000, 23: 68

The First Ascent of Dhhun

Tsuneo Suzuki
Himalayan Journal 2001; 57: 195-198

The First Ascent of Umdung Kangri

Tatsumi Mizuno
Himalayan Journal 2001; 57: 199-201

Mountains Surrounding the Headwaters of Pare Chu Valley, North Spiti

Tsuneo Suzuki
Himalayan Journal 2006; 62:

Spiti - Upper Pare Chu Valley

Tsuneo Suzuki
American Alpine Journal 2006; 391-392

Mapping

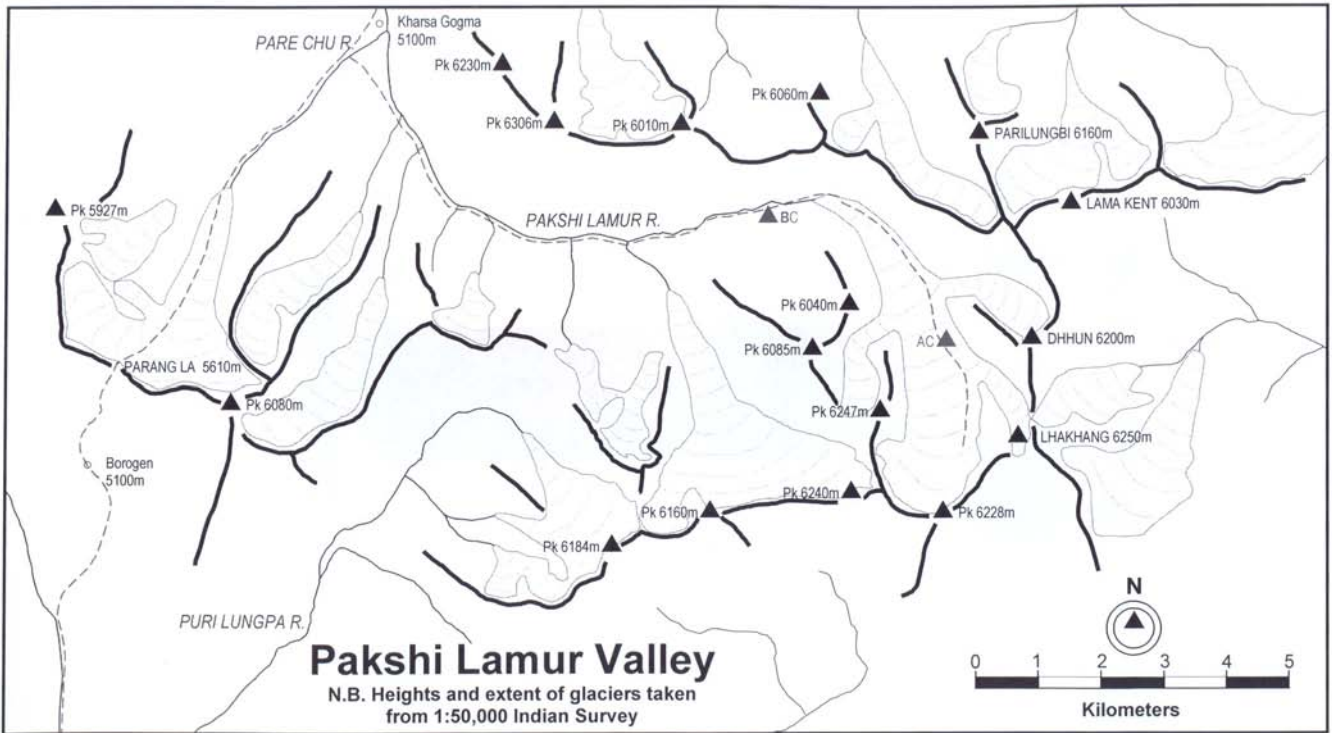
Northern India 1:1,500,000, Nelles Verlag GmbH, 2006

Indian Himalaya 1:200,000 Sheet No. 6 Himachal Pradesh, Leomann Maps, 2005

Indian Himalaya 1:200,000 Sheet No. 9 Jammu & Kashmir, Leomann Maps, 2004

Russian Map 1:100,000 Sheet No. I-44-121, 1984

Survey of India 1:50,000 Sheet No. 52 L/3, 3rd Edition



Four pictures of the Locals

Goats & sheep in the upper Bhaba valley, Kinnaur

Pony train in the Pin valley, Spiti

Lakhang Peak (6250m) from Pakshi Lamur glacier, Spiti



Photos
 Tim Josephy, Barry Wood and Mick Borroff

SPITI KINNAUR TRAVERSE A PARALLEL VIEW!

It was clear from the outset that Mick had put in a tremendous amount of time and effort in planning/organising the trip - also as we got involved with it, that, had he not done so, we could not have gone where we did and seen the magnificent sights that we did.

The rest of us were amazed at his command of the names and relative geography of the whole plan; for me it was only after we'd been to each place along the route that such details began to stick.

Near to departure, the frantic visa application process threatened to drive us to drink - Richard proved to be the hero and saviour of the hour with a motorbike dash to London.

The end of the monsoon was still in progress when we arrived in Delhi - hundreds (thousands?) of locals were out in it as we drove away from the airport. Some sought shelter from the heavy rain, others just carried on uncaring about being soaked. The authorities are building a metro in the city due (to be completed in 2010 for the Asian Games). Large disruption, extra slow progress, plenty of mud and big machines occupied large sections of the roads they are tunnelling under. The dense traffic grinds around it, leaving tissue paper thickness gaps between vehicles.

At Delhi train station the squalor was remarkable. It appeared some people were living there, squatting and keeping out of the rain. Unsavoury food vendors, surrounded by even more unsavoury dogs and plenty of rats kept us company during the extra time we waited for the delayed train. There was hardly a square yard of space anywhere - we sat on our kit to stop it walking. Once on the train, it was very smooth and sleep was easy. Beside the Toy Train line, which we joined after dawn, there was a chap with a whistle every mile or so; he saluted and blew his whistle as we passed; (possibly the Raj introduced that practice as they moved to the cooler mountain town for the summer and it has carried on ever since?).

At the Woodville Palace hotel, we were met by a severe old soldier - still in uniform. He saluted each of us in a very elaborate and stylised way, picked up three bags and marched off to our rooms. Each bag was nearly 20kg and one was as much as we could carry. He did wobble a bit on the steps.

Money changing in Shimla was a real performance; we had to give in our £ or \$ in one little shop and were given a carbon copied scrap of semi legible pink paper then had to follow a chap to another shop where eventually the rupees arrived (we got 79.5 Rs to the £1). The second office had electrical installations that looked like a Frankenstein set, with about a dozen clerks jammed into the small room.

How they survived is a mystery.

The drive from Shimla to the beginning of the first trek was often alarming; three 4x4s were engaged for us seven and our gear, Nima, his crew and their gear. The drivers were very aggressive: it seemed mandatory to pass whatever was in front, no matter whether there was space to get into or not or if anything was coming the other way. To begin with, whilst the roads were very crowded and full of puddles/mud, it wasn't scary, but later, traversing roads cut into steep valley sides with several hundreds of feet/metres of drop only inches away, it became alarming. Heights don't generally bother me but I was very glad to see the end of that drive.

At our second campsite, one of the ponies needed a re-shoe at the back. A novel technique was adopted. A piece of rope was tied to its tail which was then wrapped around the ankle and tensioned so its hoof was in the air at the right height for shoeing. It realised it had to stand on three legs so was quite docile and didn't writhe around - they heated the shoe up on a gas ring before fitting.

In one of the several flocks of sheep and goats we passed, there was a donkey with four tiny kids in a pouch on its back; they had the softest ears imaginable.

The ponies were very sure footed - it was amazing how they coped with the rough terrain loaded with all the stuff. Difficult enough for us with only two legs. I walked behind one and watched closely (and discovered probably what any horsey person knows). They do watch where they put their front feet, then the back feet go to almost exactly the same place as they move forward.

Just before Mudh, we came across a couple of family groups threshing barley by having horses and donkeys tied to a pole and walking on it in a circular path. The man of the family walked behind, not only to urge them on, but also to pick up and throw away the poo they dropped before it got trodden in.

In Kaza, we had to get an additional Inner line permit to allow us to go where we intended, and already had permission for, from the IMF. The office we had to visit was quite something. On the third floor of a dismal cement building two 'clerks' were crammed into a hot tiny office with no ventilation, plenty of flies and two desks piled high with papers. There was no telephone, no filing cabinets, no typewriter, no copier - and not surprisingly, little function! One imagines this is repeated thousands of times across the country.

The mountain scenery in the Pin and the Pare Chu valleys defies adequate description; the vast scale and steepness of the multicoloured, continuously varied, layered, fractured and friable rock was quite amazing. You have to see it to know - great that we could.

Some time after crossing the Parang La and visiting Lakhang, I took a picture looking back to the pass. One would look at the picture and think - a good day's walk to the pass; it had taken us three days! It's a big country.

Between leaving Kibber Village and reaching Karzok, we saw just two groups of trekkers: some Polish folk and a couple of Belgians, going back the way we'd come. There was one additional chap on his own, by Tso Moriri, who said he was going to Kibber - no support, no tent, not a very big rucksack, 'going to sleep in caves on the way' - we'd seen no caves. He turned back we heard. Apart from these, we saw no others for the twelve days we were on the trek. Its fortunate that we had no difficulties - getting out quickly wasn't an option.

There were wild horses at Kiangdom and we saw several, generally more than a km away. At one point, Manbadhur decided to try and catch one, so, (carrying a rucksack full of the party's lunch), he set off running across the stony plain. He didn't succeed, but to think of this at 4600m left us breathless. I later learned he'd been born at 3300m, so perhaps was a little better prepared than we were.

When we visited the Changpa yurt encampment above Karzok, I felt quite uncomfortable - a bit like a voyeur - looking at these people who were so different in all respects. The little children were all snotty nosed and demanded money or pens, the mothers were certainly not pleased to see us. I suppose many trekkers visit just to look at their way of life and they are fed up with it.

The final drive from Mahe Bridge to Leh alongside the river Indus must rank as one of the most scenic in the world. Steadily descending for over 100 km, through a huge gorge of largely granite rock, with fantastic colours, shapes, enormous scree fans and intriguing narrow valleys joining, it was really spectacular. Should anyone fly through and make an Imax film, I doubt it could be watched without white knuckles, fear and perspiration!

ADB



Pare Chu panorama (L) and Paralungbi River gorge, Spiti
Photos - Dave Hick



At base camp (L)

Upper Bhaba valley, Kinnaur



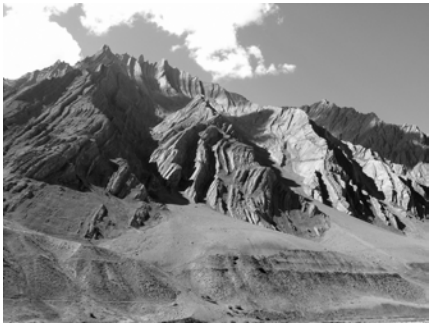
Descent into the Pin valley, Spiti



Camp at Kharsa Gogma, upper Pare Chu valley (L)

Ki Gompa, Spiti valley

Photos Mick Borroff



Folded strata, Pin valley,
Spiti



Descending the Parang la
glacier, Spiti



Dave Hick inspecting
Lhaxhang Peak (6250M)
from Pakshi Lamur glacier,
Spiti



Pony train by eroded tower,
Pare Chu valley, Spiti



Paul & Richard Dover
crossing the Pare Chu



Base camp, Pakshi Lamur
valley, Spiti



Phirse Fu river valley,
Rupshu



Mentok Peak above
Tso Moriri, Rapshu



Camp beside Tso Moriri,
Rupshu



Pare Chu valley, Spiti



Chhamser Kangri & Lungser
Kangri above Tso Moriri

Photos Mick Borroff

MEETS REPORT, UK

INVERIE MAY 17-23

I understand it is some years since the YRC last held a Meet in Knoydart. Knoydart is one of the most remote areas of Scotland and as a walking and mountaineering area, is considered by many to be second only to Skye. Therefore, considerable interest was shown when a Meet, centred on Inverie, was listed for 2008.

Inverie, the main centre of habitation, can only be reached by boat so it was that 11 members gathered on the quayside at Mallaig awaiting the arrival of the hired boat arranged by Richard. There is a public ferry between Mallaig and Inverie but this only runs on weekdays. Our boat, crewed by Bob Wright, arrived on time and a reasonably calm crossing up Loch Nevis with overcast skies, was enjoyed. A porpoise/dolphin was sighted and several guillimot.

On arrival at the jetty at Inverie we were met by Paul who was accompanied by his bicycle. He had travelled by train to Mallaig from Cambridge and crossed to Inverie on the Friday. Transport had been arranged to transport our considerable amount of luggage and provisions to the bunkhouse and as this was a mile walk away, it was much appreciated.

Inverie boasts a pub, restaurant, Post Office and Tea Room, probably the maximum amount of civilisation appropriate to this area.

It may be of some interest to learn that there has been a considerable change in the ownership and management of a large area of Knoydart since 1999. In that year, 16,500 acres of the Knoydart Estate were taken over by the Knoydart Foundation, run by a board of local community members and representatives of the John Muir Trust and other like bodies.

We found the bunkhouse (run by the Foundation) to be adequate but lacking in some respects, particularly the kitchen.

Sunday dawned bright and clear. This set the pattern for the rest of the week, with plenty of sunshine and no rain.

Sunday also saw the arrival of Mick. He had been to the USA on a business trip and was delayed by storms at Newark Airport. He eventually managed to get on a hired boat from Mallaig and after some setbacks, reached the bunkhouse.

Knoydart boasts 3 Munros:- Ladhar Bheinn (1020m), Luinne Bheinn (939m) and Meall Buidhe (946m). All these were climbed by various routes during the week by Derek B, Barrie, Paul, Graham, John (G) and Mick. In addition, the Corbetts:- Beinn Bhuidhe (855m), Sgurr Coire Choinnichean (796m) and Beinn an Caillich (785m) were ascended.



Inverie Bay
Above from Sgurr Coire Choinnichean
Below from Druim Righeanaich



Luinne Bheinn from
Gleann An Dubh-Lochain

Various groups walked all or part of the 7-mile stretch of tarmac road to Airor. This must be one of the most picturesque stretches of road in the country with magnificent views to Eigg, Rhum, the Cuillins and Slioch as well as the Torridon Hills.

On three occasions (once by bicycle), the 14-mile circuit to Airor and along the coast to Inverguseran returning to Inverie by the Mam Uidhe track, was traversed. Also, various parties walked to Loch an Dubh-Lochain and scrambles along the coast to Sandaig (a delightful bay) and Doune were made.

Monday saw the arrival of Tim who had taken the train to Spean Bridge and walked in up Glen Garry and Glen Kingie bivouacking out. He had ascended Sgurr an Fhuarain (901m), Sgurr Mor. (1002m), Sgurr nan Coireachan (953m), Garbh Chioch Mhor (1013m) and Sgurr na Ciche (1040m) as well as the three Knoydart Munros.

On Monday evening we were visited by Tony Dunford, an ex YRC member, now a Prospective Member and his Guest, Ken Roberts. They were stopping opposite at the Olde Byre bunkhouse. This proved to be a very superior establishment with all mod-cons.

Wednesday saw the departure of Albert, Derek (E), Howard and David as well as Graham and his Guest. The latter two, having climbed all accessible Munros, were heading south to add to their tally.

Wildlife was somewhat disappointing but the following sightings were reported -

Mammals :- Fox and Red Deer.

Birds:- Golden Eagle, Sea Eagle, Stonechats, Whinchats, Jack Snipe, Black Throated Diver, Wheatear, Pied Wagtail, Siskin, Cuckoos (one young being fed by its host bird), Gannets, Guillemot and Common Sandpiper.

There were also two Peacocks in the vicinity of the bunkhouse who serenaded us with their cries at night.

This trip was also a sentimental one for John who first came to Knoydart 61 years ago at the age of 17 and remembered camping on the beach in a Bell Tent in the company of the Stembridges.

Friday, the day of our departure, saw the only rain of the week on our boat trip to Mallaig where the party split up to make their various ways home.

I think I can say, without doubt, that everyone enjoyed the Meet in this wonderful area of Scotland. Our grateful thanks must go to Richard for organising the Meet in his usual efficient manner and also to whichever Gods control the weather for putting on a near-perfect performance.

R.E.D

Attending:-

Derek Bush, Mick Borroff, Albert Chapman, Roger Dix, Graham Dootson, Paul Dover, Tony Dunford, Derek English, David Handley, Howard Humphries, Tim Josephy, Richard Kirby (Meet Co-ordinator), John Lovett, Ken Roberts (Guest), John Sykes (Guest), Barrie Wood.

BIG BIKE RIDE JUNE 10 -12 THE WHITE PEAK

It was a jovial and convivial group that convened at Alstonefield on Tuesday June 10th in preparation for the Long Bike Ride the following day. Some had fitted the LBR around other activities during the week, whilst others were there for this event only. The varied and exciting culinary expertise of YRC members was very much to the fore as maps were studied to confirm food stops and assess the hills involved. The location for this meet was extremely well chosen: the Youth Hostel was exclusively ours, and its location was picturesque and peaceful.

There were two route options: a Long of nearly 70 miles, and a 'Not so long' of around 45 miles, with an impressive set of on and off-road options. Although 70 miles might not seem particularly long (previous routes have been up around 100 miles), the 5200 feet of Peak District ascent was certainly going to sap our energy as was the steady stiff breeze that changed direction as we did to ensure that it was always in our faces.

The route was designed to allow us to take in the four main cycle trails of the Peak District, namely the Manifold, Tissington, High Peak and Monsal trails. These well established trails make for wonderful cycling on good surfaces through some of the most attractive parts of the Peak District, and it is a tribute to the enterprising Dovers that they were able to string them together in such an all-encompassing and convincing manner.

We nearly got away by 6.30, but the inevitable last minute fettling made it nearer to 7.00 before we set off into a keen breeze of the grey early morning. Stoked by a serious breakfast, and warmed by the first hills we were soon onto and beyond the Manifold trail, over Throwley Moor and onto the best known of the trails, the Tissington. A short spell soon brought us to the first of our fuel stops at the old Tissington station where Ann Dover was patiently waiting to offer coffee and snacks. Entertainment was provided by the Dover's friendly Dalmatian who hovered up crumbs and another passing dog that was frightened of its own shadow.

By now after around 15 miles, the Long Riders had pulled ahead of the Short Riders although Richard Gowing stayed with the short group before ploughing his own furrow on the long route. Coffee supped, it was off along the Tissington trail in a gentle but relentless climb into the wind all the way to the delightfully named Parsley Hay, and then we threaded our way through a series of quiet roads and lanes to Miller's Dale. The off-roaders had some short-cut options, leaving Rob and Howard the slightly longer road routes. Longer; yes, but also appreciably faster as we hit nearly 40mph on the glorious descent into Miller's Dale. Time to watch the river, fishermen and trout as we waited for the others, poor Graham nursing some bumps and grazes after a spectacular foray over the bars on a moorland section. Lunch at Cresswell by the brook, courtesy of Ian Laing, was delightful before we remounted to climb

up....and up...and up to Monsal Head where we joined the Monsal trail that led us to Bakewell. A breather in Bakewell preceded a long and arduous series of undulations over about ten miles, which was one of the biggest challenges of the day.

Those on the short ride had meanwhile been enjoying a spin around a lake...more precisely they had cycled over from Tissington to Carsington water where they followed the lake's edge for a while before heading to Hopton and shortly afterwards to the High Peak Trail. The third food stop for the Long Ride...and second for the Short...was very welcome as Ann greeted us once again, this time on the High Peak Trail. From here, those on road bikes had a slightly longer route home, revisiting Parsley Hay before heading on delightfully quiet roads along a valley through to Hartington and then on even quieter roads after Hulme End. The off road team had a more direct and equally charming route home via Beresford Dale. So it was a somewhat wind-burned and pleasantly tired team of cyclists that gathered at the hostel on the Wednesday evening. While supper was prepared, some repaired to the George Inn in the village, whilst others swapped tales of the ups and the downs of cycling in the Peak District. How can it be that one group was allegedly 1.5 hours behind the lead group after only 15 miles? Or had they found a café? Or does the George serve a breakfast special? Some things will not be known: we do know that the wind was officially measured at 15mph, and we know that we owe a huge vote of thanks to the Dover family...Richard, Paul, Ann and Johnny... for their efforts in making this another highly successful Long Bike Ride. The turn out attests to the popularity of this event and we all look forward to many more in this vein.

H.P.

MINORITY REPORT FROM THE WALKING SECTION (me)

This was a good meet with a real physical challenge for those inclined towards un-powered two wheel transport. There is a keen minority of club members who enjoy (if that is the right word) this activity and to my mind it should be encouraged. Despite being a keen cyclist as a teenager I now find my anatomy does not lend itself to such travails but I enjoyed the company of fellow members and did my own thing, perhaps more so than I had intended.

I arrived at the first support stop with some already having gone through and enquired of the next stop where I intended to lend a hand. When I got there I went for an impromptu walk and returned to no sight of any YRC and not being sure whether they were in front or behind me that was the end of my involvement with the meet until we met up at the youth hostel for the evening repast.

This may not be a dramatic walking area but I found corners that I had never visited before and had an excellent days walking. One feature peculiar to this area is that the small hill summits often had copses on top which on closer inspection turned out to be stock pens shielded by rings of trees. Minning Low was one such hill that I went over and

another which attracted me for some reason was Roystone Rocks.

I would also have to say that walking across the river valleys rather than along them brings a very considerable amount of climb. Gypsy Bank out of the Dove up to Alstonefield was a sting in the tail of my walking day.



The following day dawned to pretty miserable weather so I took advantage to visit the hostel we were to use for the October meet and finalise arrangements.

If this cycling event is to remain in our calendar I would suggest it should be bolted onto a walking weekend by using either a Friday or Monday so that more members can be involved in some way.

R.D.

Present: Richard, Ann, Paul and Johnny Dover, Ian Laing, Roy Denney (walking), Roger Dix, Graham Dootson, Richard Gowing, Jeff Hooper, Rob Ibberson, Richard Kirby, Howard Papworth, Arthur Tallon

LAKES, LONG WALK JUNE 20 - 22

Circumstances prevailed against this meet and not many of the regulars were available. As a consequence, the original venue was cancelled and the meet relocated to LHG

Early arrivers on Friday enjoyed excellent weather for a preliminary walk, all the more appreciated in view of the appalling forecast for the weekend. There were only four walkers and two supporters; nevertheless a convivial evening was had.

Because of the forecast, an early start was decided upon and John Sterland ferried the walkers over to Honister Pass for a 6 AM start. Clear skies gave a false sense of optimism as we set off past Green Gable and along the path under Gable crags. Great Gable, Styhead Tarn and Scafell Pike were all reached in the dry, but ominously gathering clouds decided us against Scafell itself and by the time we reached Esk Hause the weather was diabolical, with low cloud, gale force winds and torrential rain. On the way up Bowfell we met a fell race in full swing and realised that however bad things may seem, there is always someone more miserable than you are. On the way down to Crinkle Crag, we followed an obvious path until it became clear even to ostrich minds that we were heading too far down and entirely the wrong way. Slogging back up, we eventually found the right path and reached Wrynose summit without further ado.

Here one member swore he knew a good traverse way across to LHG and convinced the rest to follow. Whatever he had been taking, it had given him delusions and before long the party split, with two taking the easy option of going down to the road and walking back up. Everyone arrived back safely, if wetly, by late afternoon.

We enjoyed an excellent dinner, courtesy of Roy Pomfret and despite the small numbers, still managed animated and argumentative conversation well into the night.

Sunday dawned even worse than the day before, with severe gales and heavy rain. Most headed off south in search of better weather, whilst two remained. They walked over to Tilberthwaite and back; even that gentle outing was a monumental struggle against the elements. In the late afternoon, they attempted to leave, but after negotiating a flooded lane, found a large fallen oak tree blocking the way at the ford. It is worthy of praise that Cumbria County Council, despite having, as they told us, hundreds of trees to clear, got the job done within 3 hours. Excellent service.

Despite the fine efforts of the support pair, this was a disappointing meet, both in turnout and weather. It is to be hoped that this was a one off and that next year will be attended as well as befits this most traditional of meets.

Support
Roy Pomfret
John Sterland

Walking
Michael Smith
Mick Borroff
Richard Josephy
Tim Josephy

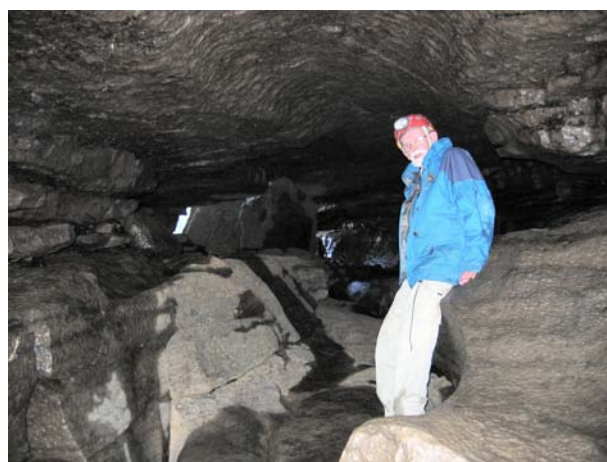
NIDDERDALE JULY 18-20 STUDFOLD ACTIVITY CENTRE, LOFTHOUSE.

There was some discussion as to when the Club was last in Nidderdale. At least two oldies recalled having tea at the Yorke Arms during a meet in 1954 so our return was long, long overdue. Spenceley was the mover of this meet as he had been introduced to the hills and potholes of this dale by his father in the 30's. For him it was a weekend of nostalgia for others an opportunity to tread ground in a valley less well known. There was of course the chance that at 87 years of age he might not make the date, in which case it would have been the swiftest held memorial meet of all time! However George seems indestructible.

The dale was ascended, traversed, contoured, descended (and wheeled sometimes speedily by others) at a leisurely rate over the two days by possibly the largest turnout for a July meet for many years. Brimham was also attacked where a non serious fall was sustained. The elusive Meagher did not elude the President elect and his French

guest. The weather throughout defied the forecast as large amounts of sunshine and high scudding cloud prevailed for the most part. Spenceley was led into the early stages of Goyden Pot triggering many memories. Meanwhile less than 20 miles away a golf course was shut because it was waterlogged!

George
underground



Dinner was a grand affair with a beef stew made by GBS, but given a French name by him, unaware that there would be a French guest present to check the spelling and the grammar of the menu.

Spenceley's praises were sung. His, the Club's and absent friends were toasted and the post prandial bonhomie for which the Club may be unique prevailed till torpor, induced by exercise and alcohol, sometimes in large amounts of both, made bed the only option.

Rule 2 had been fulfilled though the bit about 'folklore' is doubtful. Those roaming the east side of Great Whernside could easily imagine how a party of YRC members, some 20 years ago, had totally failed to find Hag Dyke after a pub lunch at Middlesmoor one December Saturday. Very confusing ground when mist appears and the light begins to fail. They did make Kettlewell where they bivouacked in a barn much to the amusement of the rest of the meet.

It really is hard to see how we could improve on what the Club has in abundance i.e. an intimate, sometimes eccentric, band of comrades welded by common love of the hills and an incredible amount of shared experience

D.J.H

Attending:

The President Mike Godden
George Spenceley, David Handley, Arthur Chapman, Derek Bush, Barrie Wood, Adrian Bridge, Florent Ducos (Guest), Tim Josephy, John Jenkin, John Hawkes, Mick Borroff, Paul Dover, Bill Lofthouse, Harry Robinson, John Hemingway, Richard Josephy, Alan Linford, Derek Smithson, Mike Smith, Steve Craven (Guest, Mountain Club of South Africa), Ian Crowther, Dave Martindale, David Hick, Eddie Edkins, Harvey Lomas, Ged Campion, Jeff Hooper, John Lovett, Mike Hartland.

Editors note -

In passing I would point out that we have been in Nidderdale several times since the 50s.

I started going out with the club at the end of the 60s and have certainly been to one at least one Meet there. We walked into Nidderdale from two meets at Hagg Dyke but we also had a camping meet by Howstein Gorge when we beaked the gorge on the Sunday after doing Goyden Pot on the Saturday.

The meet was attended by a PE teacher from St Peter's School York founded in 627AD. He felt that the oldest school and oldest climbing club in Yorkshire should do something together but he changed his mind on the Sunday having been encourage to become fully immersed in the beck. He called it a day and by the time the rest of us got back to the tents he had decamped and vanished.

As to the meet you refer to in Hagg Dyke I must put the record straight. I and a solicitor friend who was my guest at that meet were part of the group who walked into Nidderdale and whilst some longstanding members of the Club did fail to find Hag Dyke on the return the two of us had no difficulty and enjoyed the sumptuous repast and joined in the toast to absent friends (and helped eat their dinners)

We had no difficulty finding Hag Dyke despite fairly deep snow and thick mist. We did not even have to resort to compass or altimeter. The racket from those members already present who had presumably only had modest days out, was clearly to be heard and followed from at least half a mile away.

LADS AND DADS, LOWSTERN August 22 to 24th

This meet falling on Half term and August Bank holidays did not result in a drop in attendance, 10 lads, unfortunately no lasses this time, 11 members and a most welcome addition of 5 family members, 26 in all. Apart from overnight rain on Saturday weather fine all activities with almost a third of members preferring a tent to the comforts of Lowstern. Not, I might add to get away from the lads as they were no bother all weekend 8 of the group on their 4th L&Ds representing a significant core strength, another 5 were known to be on other activities.

Friday evening as usual a refresher on fitting harnesses and basic knots, preparing food and gear for Sat breakfast at 7am and 8am start to Gaping Ghyll. In fact, with the help available we were off in true YRC style before 8 am, most grateful to John Schofield who attended with the sole task of cleaning up and preparing the veg etc for 26 for dinner on our return.

10 lads and 7 adults took advantage of the winch set up by our friends, the CPC, with the early start not too long a wait and all had along day underground visiting the Sand Caverns, descending into the Mud Hall and enjoying the spectacle of the main chamber. This trip made possible by the arrival late Friday eve of Michael Smith who led one of the two groups.

The plan for Sunday was to visit Twisleton Scar but with the overnight rain and insufficient experienced members we opted for the rock wall, the preference of the lads it has to be said. Some of the lads are noticeably improving technique but need a better ratio than available to structure climbing.

We enjoyed excellent service from Inglesport who allowed us to collect hats and lamps on Friday and in some cases return on Sunday for a 1 day hire rate. Sunday, all the children climbed on their rock wall and for those without rock boots the hire rate included the loan of boots. Good old fashioned Yorkshire service, makes life so much easier.

More or less a 'clean plate' meal of bangers and mash on Saturday evening most grateful for the support of the ladies especially Evelyn (hope to see her again!) who waded into something like 90 slices of crispy bacon and a mountain of sausages.

Mike and Marcia Godden, Jahel Godden with Jaques and Max, Alan Linford with Joe and Alex, Bill Lofthouse with Luke and Kier, Richard Josephy with Charlie, Ian Crowther, Robert Crowther with Michael and Adam, Phil and Evelyn Dover, Helen Vaselec with Marco, John Schofield, Michael Smith, Richard and Elizabeth Gowing and a welcome visit from Albert Chapman. Thanks from all to John Lovett, a grand hut.

AL

GREAT LANGDALE - RLH JOINT MEET 12th to 14th September

Many of the YRC attendees went to the funeral of a much respected member, Chris Renton, on Friday before moving on to RLH. This did not detract from the enjoyment of the meet though occasionally raised a more philosophical note.

Only three were active on the Friday who then managed to meet in the ODG for a drink before enjoying a dinner of corned beef hash, etc. with the 23 other attendees. The two Waferers arrived at the ODG via Pavey Arc and Harrison Stickle, whereas the YRC member walked all the way down the far side of the river to the Langdale camp site.

Saturday dawned with typical miserable Lakeland weather and the party divided itself more by age and ability rather than club membership. Apart from those who felt they were needed to fulfil the most important of club objectives of preparing a magnificent dinner; the most decrepit managed to walk round to Little Langdale and visit LHG. There was then another good sized group who faced the weather by traversing Lingmoor Fell, but there was no organized attack on The Crinkles. Most of the day the Crinkles were enveloped by wind rain, and mist, but this did not stop a number of small parties traversing the mountains successfully, not all in the same direction, which seemed to prove that it is easier from south to north. The one party in the reverse direction found themselves part of a number of groups all groping for some idea of where they had got to. With touching belief they accepted the view of a stranger with a GPS and so managed to join the rest of us before we had finished eating. The heroes of the day were the party of two who went off in the direction of Scafell via Bow Fell and completed Scafell Pike and Scafell but admitted not being able to follow the Corridor Route back to Sty Head. Despite the wind, rain and cloud it is not suggested that they were lost, merely finding a more interesting route over the greasy boulders. Shortly after lunch there was a change in the weather and many of us dried as we walked at lower levels towards the end of the day.

The evening buffet maintained the high standard of catering we have come to look forward to at this meet. The hard work, planning, and execution by Alan and Mike has to be seen to be believed. Many of us helped with simple tasks like washing up, but perhaps rodding out the sewer was a notable and essential task, and observed with interest by passers-by.

Sunday dawned sunny, well at about 8'oclock, and the view up the valley was outstanding. Every regular attender at this meet must have photographed this view and still we stand and stare. Apart from the party polishing the hut nearly everyone and their cars just seemed to evaporate so the only activity to report is a younger pair who left late morning to visit Scout Crag. Presumably they enjoyed themselves and survived. Some of us arrived home early enough to be involved in gardening, which is not among either club's objectives.



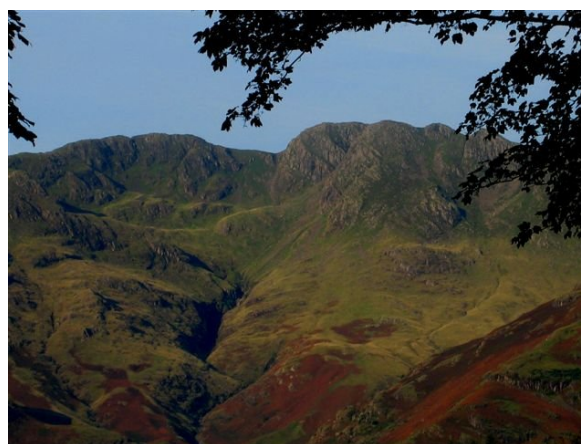
Present were,
Wayfarers.

Alan Linford
Mike Godden
Ken Aldred
Pete Dixon
George Chambers
Russ Bloor
Steve Auty
Colin Smith
Jack Middleton (G)
Nigel Musgrave
Martin Tomlinson
David Omerod
Bob Ferguson

YRC

Derek Smithson
John Schofield
Richard Kirby
John Lovett
Martyn Trasler
Chris Ursell(G)
John Jenkin
Harry Robinson
Mike Smith
Richard Smith(G)
Frank Wilkinson

DAS



Crinkle Crag and Oxendale from RLH

CWM CYWARCH

Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th October

After a gap of five years we were back at the superbly situated Bryn Hafod hut of the Mountain Club of Stafford. Six members were installed by Thursday evening, the remaining five arrived at various times on Friday or early Saturday morning.

The weather on Friday was claggy and windy; on Saturday it was just claggy, but despite this everyone got out on the hills and most succeeded in finding their intended tops. Several groups did the Arans, in various directions and combinations with lesser hills. Ian had a long day's cycling on Friday and had his life saved by John on Saturday. Richard J. did an obscure 2000 south of Glasgym and made the mistake of returning through the forest - knee-deep mud and endless felled trees to negotiate. The Smiths and Mark got the prize for the longest walk on Saturday - Hengym and the Arans followed by a descent to the east and an involved route back.

Sunday dawned warm and sunny with clear sky and wisps of cloud disappearing from the valley. It was too good to miss and most people went out again, some to Cadair, Richard J. to some more 2000s south of Cadair, and the Smiths and Mark to find a dry climbing route. It was described afterwards as "exciting" - this might have been a euphemism as they looked a bit pale and Mark had one less rock boot than he started off with.

The world's financial problems were all sorted out in the evenings, along with many other issues, helped by Roger and Stuart's excellent provision of two delicious and distinctive dinners. Many thanks to them for organising the meet.

RJ

Present: Mick Borroff, Derek Bush, Ian Crowther, Roger Dix, Stuart Dix, John Jenkin, Richard Josephy, Mark Pryor, Michael Smith, Richard Smith (G), Barrie Wood.

PEAK DISTRICT, BRETTON YHA

OCT 31 - NOV 2

Members gathered during Friday afternoon and evening at the YHA hostel we had taken over for the weekend. This attractive self catering hostel at Bretton, on Eyam Edge in Derbyshire sleeps 18 which exactly what our turn out was although overflow arrangements were in hand if needed.



Catering facilities are more than adequate for breakfasts but a bit limited for attempting to cater for an evening meal for all of us, to our

YRC journal

usual standards, so we reserved a number of seats at the hostelry next door (the Barrel) for meals Friday evening and booked a communal meal at the Bulls Head in Foolow for the Saturday.



Bretton is an isolated hamlet high up on a gritstone ridge which rears up above the limestone plateau where the Dark and White Peaks meet. The YHA and the Barrel Inn next door are at about 1000 feet.

Not surprisingly the view is spectacular.

This is a great location and one we may return to as it offers something for everyone. Given the time of year we had no takers on this occasion for the caving possibilities at nearby Castleton and it is only ten minutes to the superb traditional climbing routes of Stoney Middleton Dale.

Towards the top of the dale is the excellent BMC owned Horseshoe Quarry for 100+ sports routes.

John Middleton who was away and unable to join us on the meet but knows the area intimately commented in advance

"The area should make a great venue as it is easy to tie in all the moors on one walk which would give an impressive day with sensational views throughout. Both Bretton and Abney Cloughs contain a rich flora"

Perhaps a spring visit is called for in a few years time?

In the event members gathered during Friday evening, some having done some walking during the afternoon and enjoyed some wonderful food and good company before retiring.

Next morning we awoke to fairly strong winds and rather threatening weather but everyone set out with enthusiasm with all groups heading in the same general direction.

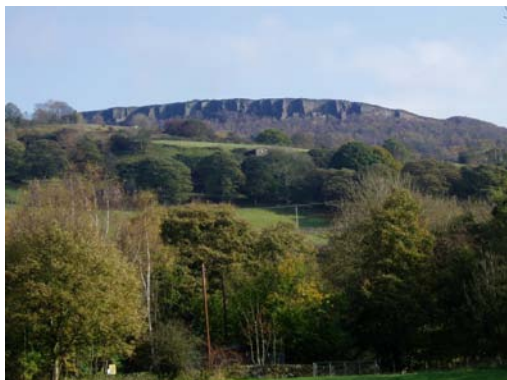
They dropped down into the very attractive Bretton Clough with some following it down to the Derwent at Leadmill and then following the Derwent Valley Heritage Trail.

Others extended this part of the circular by climbing out of the Clough up to Abney and then crossing Offerton Moor to hit the trail further to the north west before heading downstream to Leadmill.

From there, several variations on the theme saw members taking alternate routes back to the hostel.

Their walks ranged in length from eight to twelve miles.

In following the Derwent south some stuck to the trail whilst other went up onto the Millstone and then Froggatt Edges.



Another party of six followed a middle route starting down the trail but cutting up into the edges of the Longshaw Estate and walking through the woodlands on the slopes of the edge to cross the river at Froggatt.

This did allow them to include a visit to the renowned Station Cafe at Grindleford for generous and good value lunches including chip butties washed down with pints of steaming hot chocolate. Very welcome!



This group returned via the plague village of Eyam before climbing up on to Eyam Edge and back to the hostel.

The weather had been pretty horrible for about an hour, shortly after most had set off but the rest of the day was fine.

After a wash and brush up we went down to the evening meal (1.3 miles and many hundreds of feet descent) mostly by car but a number of intrepid souls did it on foot in the dark despite the cold and very strong winds. We enjoyed a superb three course meal in a private end of the restaurant which was excellent value, before retracing our steps back to the hostel or the hostelry next to it.

The communal breakfasts were well received and the accommodation much admired and we may well return in a few years time. The area was a delight, but without driving out, there would not be many alternatives to what had been undertaken on this meet so it is impractical to come back very soon.

Plans were made for the following day, to little avail as it turned out.

Overnight the weather deteriorated and a raging gale hit this exposed location. Six members had arranged to go gliding at the adjoining club but with the winds and rain and a cloud ceiling not much above the hostel this was out of the question. Most members elected to head for home but three were intent on taking cars to each end of a good walk and walking down-wind between them.

They disappearing into the gloom heading to Peak Forest from where Adrian Bridge, Mike Smith and Mick Borroff walked to Monsal Head, via the various differently named dales. Not apparently a path for grannies - very muddy with lots of slippery rocks along a lot of the way.

Tellingly described as a low level "beck bottoming" route traversing Dam Dale, Hay Dale, Peter Dale, Monk's Dale and Miller's Dale, two of which are National Nature Reserves, the route selected successfully avoided most of the wind and apart from the mud, the conditions were better than expected.

They had good views of the valleys' mills and railway heritage and saw a charm of goldfinches although the flat dull light didn't do them full justice.

The soup in the cafe at Monsal Head with the splendid view down to the River Wye is strongly recommended!

Attending

- Mike Godden (President)
- Roy Denney (Meet Leader)
- Keith Raby, Martyn Trasler & Dave Martindale (Catering team)
- Derek Smithson, George Spenceley, John Lovett, Mike Smith
- Richard Gowing, David Hick, Paul Dover, Richard Dover,
- Adrian Bridge, John Jaggard (PM), Mick Borroff,
- Ian Crowther, Rob Ibberson
- and
- David Large, Alan Clare, Derek Clayton (day visitors)

AFTER DINNER MEET INGLEBOROUGH 16.11.08

Sixteen members and guests walked from Ingleton via Crina Bottom over the summit of Ingleborough, down to the Hill Inn and back to Ingleton along the bench above Twisleton Scar. The weather was exceptionally good with clear air allowing views further than I can recall seeing before, from the summit.

On the limestone bench above the scar we came upon a shakehole with a remarkable ring of downwards pointing teeth-like clints. It was not unlike a honey-dew plant and nearly ate Iain.

After a lunch stop split between the pub and the chapel graveyard, the groups returned, either via Ingleton falls or Beezley falls - both of which had good flows to admire. A most enjoyable walk.

Attending were:

Adrian Bridge, Mick Borroff, Derek Bush, Roger Dix, Paul Dover, Richard Dover, Paul Exley (our FRC Guest), Iain Gilmour, Richard Gowing, Rob Ibberson, Richard Josephy, Arthur Salmon, Hilary Tearle (Guest), Edward Whitaker (our CPC Guest), Frank Wilkinson and Barrie Wood

Additionally: Tim Josephy, Mike Smith and Nick Welch went to Easegill, visiting Easter Grotto, Gypsum Cavern, Wretched Rabbit Passage, Ignorance is Bliss and exiting via County Pot.

Some parts of the cave were tighter than had been remembered! ADB

COMPETITION

Win a free laminated map of your choice for the best contribution to the next journal, be it a meet report, article or photograph. The winner will be able to select an OS map of their choice and receive a laminated copy, kindly provided by Guidepost, an on line bookshop, specialising in maps, outdoor books and accessories, and digital mapping.

Dig out those old photos - put pen to paper - help enhance your journal and you never know, you may well win. If there is no clear winner then the better entries will have the contributors names put in a hat and drawn out to receive the map

Guidepost sell maps of Britain by the Ordnance Survey (both paper and laminated), Harvey, the British Mountaineering Council, Footprint, and reproduction old OS maps by Cassini. In addition, they have an ever expanding range of foreign maps, and can source maps for most countries if they are not on their website.

They have books covering all types of walks from short family walks to long distance routes, as well as books on navigation, first aid, weather and outdoor survival. In addition, they sell the popular Anquet digital mapping, a range of Silva compasses and gifts such as map jigsaws for children and adults..

Orders can be placed by telephone 0115 937 7449, by post or on the website, www.guidepost.uk.com, and payment can be made securely on line, by telephone, or by cheque. Their address is 37 Normanton Lane, Keyworth, Notts, NG12 5HB



WHERE CAN WE GO

The meets sub committee is always looking for ideas for meets in new venues.

Quite obviously we wish to use classic areas for most of our activities but as a club we have always sought some geographic spread and there are lots of areas which can afford us a good weekend's activity but which would not then be worth visiting again for some time. Despite the limitations on options, areas like Bretton give something for everyone. Pleasant and surprisingly remote walking with good views with good opportunities nearby for both caving and climbing.

Over the years we have visited numerous locations just outside what would normally be considered classic areas but the problem we face is that a number of members cannot be tempted to these areas. They often do not know what they are missing.

We do need members with some knowledge of these areas who are happy to champion them for inclusion in the meets programme. Without delving into the records many meets come to mind where we have enjoyed excellent sport outside our usual pattern of events.

The difficulties are compounded by the fact that hostel type accommodation is less frequent away from the main areas but over the last few years we have made increasing use of YHA hostels and should bear these in mind.

What about Teesdale or the Tyne valleys? Do we go to Northumberland often enough? Should we contemplate Exmoor, Bodmin or Dartmoor again? Should we consider long distance coast paths; The South West or The Cleveland Way? They are not short of climb is just comes in lots of short sharp bursts.

Should we visit the Welsh borderlands, The Mendips or Malvern Hills? Does Anglesey appeal or even the Isle of Man?

Given the roots of the Club do we visit the Yorkshire Dales and Moors as often as they deserve?

What about the Scottish Borders. A good number of us enjoyed an informal meet near the Gatehouse of Fleet some years ago.

It is time for a little lateral thinking. It is nice to have somewhere genuinely different to visit each year.

Similar issues arise with overseas meets. Very interesting both formal and unofficial meets have been held on Tenerife, Crete and Majorca. Should we visit the Picos de Europa? What about Scandinavia?

It is important to get use out of our own huts but variety is the spice of life. Overseas meets are great for those who

can find the time (domestic and work considerations permitting).

It is good we put these on but we should find ways of providing UK meets for other members - we do not want long gaps in our calendar as far as the non overseas going members are concerned.

I am sure any ideas will be welcome preferably, but not necessarily, from members who can help organise the activity.

There are areas now open to us under the CroW Act 'Right to Roam' provisions where we could not walk previously. Can we take more advantage of this? Some years ago we held our long walk on the Trough of Bowland ending up back at Lowstern. More of that area is now open to the public, should we contemplate something similar again?

Whilst on the subject of the new access land, many of us who spent countless hours dissecting the draft, then provisional and then conclusive maps of access land back in 2002-04 as part of the process of the CRoW Act are aware that within the next year or so the whole process will be beginning again!

Natural England and DEFRA are currently seeking legal advice on exactly how this new mapping process should work.

The CRoW Act provides for this review but leaves many important questions over the necessary direction and extent of the review unanswered. It is unlikely that exactly the same approach will be undertaken second time around (thank goodness).

The new options being considered include something based on the current coastal access proposals contained within the Marine Bill, and a broader definition based on landscape character.

There are a number of key issues that users would like the review to address, in particular the expansion of the area mapped as downland, the potential inclusion of improved and semi-improved grassland as access land, the improvement of the mapping methodology and the inclusion of a public right of appeal.

Last time we could suggest, landowners could object and if the decision went against them they could appeal but we could not do so.

If there are any pockets of land you are aware of that are not open access land but which you feel could and indeed perhaps should be included but which missed out in the first sweep either contact your local access forum (via your local authority) or let me have details and I will see they get to the appropriate office.

Roy Denney

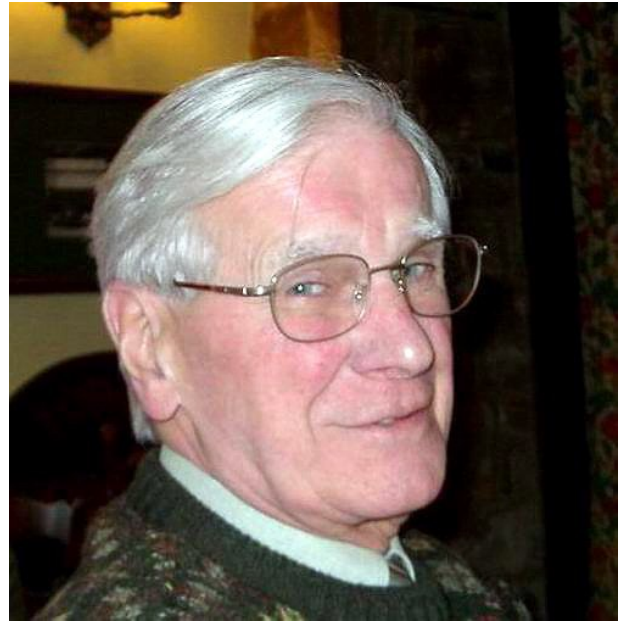
OBITUARY

John Paterson Barton 1925 – 2008

Vice President 1974-1976, President 1978 – 1980

Dennis Armstrong was asked by John's family to give the homily at his funeral on Friday 15 August. There were about 30 YRC members and wives attending.

This is what Dennis had to say.



“The family have asked me to say something about John Barton's many years in the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club – the YRC – and his love of the hills. It was through the YRC that I got to know John. Through our days on the hills together, I came to admire his unusual character. He had a calmness that brought forth strength. He had met fools in this world, and he knew only too well the folly of this noisy world. John however thought more than he spoke. His words were therefore to the point, pithy, and were often laced with his own brand of dry humour. It is an honour therefore to be able to pay my respects to a very good friend; and in so doing I know I am also speaking for all the YRC members here present and for the many more members not here but who knew John.

John became a member of our Club in 1948, sixty years ago – the same year, it so happened that he married Irene. Whether that was a coincidence, or whether it was because of, or indeed in spite of, one can only speculate; but what it is quite certain that in that year he took two momentous steps, both of which were to enrich the rest of his life, and along with his Methodist faith, be the foundations of his life.

In those post war years, the YRC resumed its activity in caving and rock climbing. There was an influx of good young men keen to play a full part in these activities. Over the years the club's meets increased in scope. The Whit Meet lasting six days was special. We could go farther a field. There were caving meets in N Ireland, camping meets in the more remote places in Scotland, and winter meets in Glen Etive seeking ice and snow adventures. John was involved in all of these.

It was in the 1970's that I got to know John, who by that time had moved to work in the West Midlands. So when in 1980 I too went to live in the West Midlands, our friendship deepened. We would go to meets together, especially the Welsh meets. In 1983 he persuaded me to go to Glen Etive, although at that time I had no crampons and only an ex-army ice axe. He took me up Bidean Nam Bian. The final bit to reach the summit was a steep snow cliff. John said: “As you have no crampons I'll go first and kick some steps for you. We won't rope up, because if you fell, you'd only pull me off.”

His words were more logical than reassuring.

But all went well and the scene on the summit was beyond compare. Not a breath of wind, crisp white snow, bright sunshine, unbroken views in all directions, and many people in shirtsleeves it was so warm. Later that year, we did the Welsh 3000s together, descending off Foel Fras at midnight in deep blackness. He told me to stop singing; it disturbed the sheep!

Alpine Meets were restarted in 1986. John went on the 1987 Meet to Saas Grund, and to his great delight, at the age of 64 aided by John Devenport and David Hick, he climbed his first alpine peak, the Mont Blanc de Chileon – a wonderful experience he never thought would come his way. In 1992, the Club was in Norway. John was with John Snoch and Cliff Cobb, and in a major expedition, traversed the Jostedalbreen, the largest glacier in Europe. In the following years, four of us in rather less hostile surroundings had a week on the West Highland Way, and later the Dales Way. There was talk of us doing the Southern Upland Way, but finding accommodation proved too difficult.

Scotland was his first love. He was proud of his middle name, Paterson, with its Scottish connection.

He particularly admired Bonnie Prince Charlie. John would have liked to have followed the footsteps of Bonnie Prince Charlie's flight to safety after his defeat at the Battle of Culloden (1746). He greatly admired the Prince's fortitude, surviving three months in typical Scottish weather among the big hills of Creag Mheagaidh and Ben Alder, clad in little more than a bonnet, a plaid and a kilt; and he was proud of the loyalty of the Scots, who despite the huge rewards on offer, never betrayed their Prince. Endurance and integrity were two virtues John could relate to.

John was active in the club's policy. He was Vice President of the Club when I joined the Committee in 1974. In 1978 he was chosen by David Smith to become President and so continued the task that David had begun: of keeping the Club active and up to date.

In the late 90's, when he was over 75, some heart problems developed. These were eventually brought under control, but by then he found that going on meets was more difficult. Irene and he however maintained their Club contacts, enjoying the monthly Lunch at Appletreewick with old friends. I took him to a few more Annual Dinners, but more recently he would say to me over the phone that he found all the noise a bit too oppressive.

If distance kept us apart, we maintained contact by exchanging letters. I tried to make my letters amusing and he would reply in like manner, in his own idiosyncratic way. His last letter came in the New Year, in reply to my Christmas letter. It was still full of sardonic humour, poking fun at the folly of the world, John all over, a delight to read.

Members of the Yorkshire Ramblers' Club are proud of their club. There are of course many mountaineering and caving clubs, but the YRC, being a small club with restricted membership, has a 'something' that we treasure. It has a spirit and that spirit comes from the intermingling of the many and varied characters of the members over the years. John was one such character. He gave much to the YRC and in turn he received from it new wisdom.

We shall miss him."

Dennis Armstrong

CLUB PROCEEDINGS

AGM

The Annual General Meeting was held at Whoop Hall Hotel, Kirkby Lonsdale on November 15th with 50 members present.

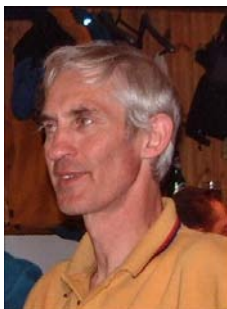
After a minutes silence to remember members who had passed away since the last AGM, officers' reports and the accounts were debated and adopted and the President, officers and committee were elected for the forthcoming year.

The retiring President thanks Gordon Humphreys for his years of service as Honorary Secretary and nominated four new honorary members which the membership happily approved. These were Ian Gilmour, John Lovett and Gordon Humphries, all members of the Club and Chewang Motup.

The Honorary Secretary as part of his report named those members achieving the status of Life Member having been in the club for 35 years. They were Roy Denney and David Laughton.

The new appointments to positions were:

President - Adrian Bridge (right),
Vice President - Mick Borroff,
Honorary Secretary - Richard Kirby,
Honorary Treasurer Arthur Salmon,
Meets Secretary - Jeff Hooper,
Membership Secretary - Mick Borroff,
Huts Secretary - Richard Josephy,
Editor - Roy Denney,
Librarian - Albert Chapman,
Lowstern Warden - John Lovett,
LHG Warden - Gordon Humphries



and committee members without portfolio –

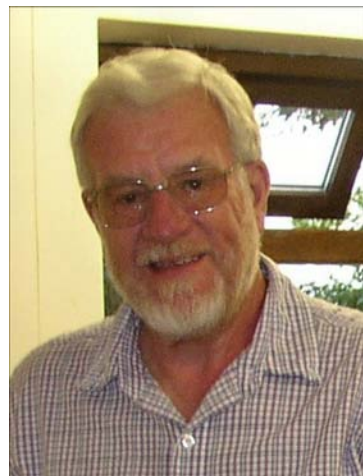
David Handley, Ged Campion and Andrew Syme.
(Ian Hawkes who was not present has since confirmed his agreement to be the fourth ordinary committee member - to be offered for co-option at next Committee meeting.)

Bill Todd will continue as Club Archivist, Derek Bush as Auditor and Alister Renton will assume the role of Webmaster although none will serve on the committee.

Total membership stood at 183 at the previous AGM.

During the year there were 3 deaths (F David Smith, Chris G Renton and John P Barton), 4 resignations (Mike Ellacot, Wilfred Anderson, John Medley and Jon Riley) and 6 new members (Joe Burfitt, Will Burfitt, Phil Dover, Tony Dunford, Ian Hawkes, Andrew Syme)

RETIRING PRESIDENT



When I became President, in my first year we had two additional open meetings in 2007 which were a direct result of two mixed membership kindred clubs requesting joint meets. This caused some speculation and may have had some influence on the recent request for the Club to look at mixed membership again. As I write, no doubt the new President will be pondering the words to be used on the Ballot Paper to members on this issue, to be sent out with the new handbook.

It has been a busy two years in which the lease for Low Hall Garth was finally signed, and the much needed improvements completed. Those matters identified concerning the future of the Club, Health and Safety, Child Protection, and the general administration have been successfully addressed and now need constant attention, particularly the annual risk assessments for our properties.

I find it very gratifying that our Lads/Dads/ and Grandads meets have been so successful. However, I feel great disappointed that the redrafting of our rules, bye-laws, and general guidelines could not be presented to the members at the 2008 AGM. In retrospect, perhaps our time scale was too tight, but no doubt this will be progressed in 2009.

The work on the LHG Barn conversion has proceeded at a pace faster than I would ever have thought, and this is due to the persistent efforts of its leader.

In proposing the four honorary members at the AGM I was conscious that a great deal had been achieved over the past two years and no new honorary members had been proposed since 2003.

My opinion in this respect is that Honorary Members should not necessarily be proposed because they have been in the Club a long time, but that they are recognized as Members who came forward and made a substantial contribution to the Club by their own acts, and which deserve recognition.

Iain Gilmour (18 years membership) has served without limitation of effort as Warden at Low Hall Garth 2002 to 2007, and directed the refurbishment in 2007 with success and great professionalism, assisted by our late friend and colleague, Chris Renton.

John Lovett (58 years membership) has considerably improved Lowstern during his Wardenship, and this year has planned, organized, and successfully seen the

introduction of our own dedicated water supply to Lowstern.

His local knowledge and the trust of local farmers enabled him to keep Lowstern operational throughout the long period when there was no water flowing in the water main to Lowstern.

A considerable amount of revenue would have been lost if we had been forced to close Lowstern to visitors.

Gordon Humphreys has been a member now for 57 years, and since he became responsible for Low Hall Garth Barn has worked continuously to see the job through. There is no doubt in my opinion that he will receive much praise when the 1st phase is finished. The improvement to the overall enjoyment of LHG will be considerable.

My last proposed Honorary Member is not a present club member but has served the YRC over the last 20 years by providing excellent and professional service on our trips to the Himalaya. He is Chewang Motup. Motup and his wife Yangdu Gombu have not only provided us with every facility through their trekking business – Rimo Expeditions, but used their considerable experience to enhance our expeditions. Lasting friendships have been formed with YRC members, and over the past 12 years Motup has met over 40 members of the YRC. I think Honorary Membership is well deserved.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Committee, and the many organizers of meets and other projects, for their help during the past two years. In particular my Vice President, who has given me good advice and support throughout.

The Editor of our Journal deserves particular recognition for his constant efforts to produce a publication for which we are all proud.

Adrian Bridge, as President Elect, has also been very supportive and I wish him well in the knowledge that you will all give him your support during the next two years.

To summarise, your Committee's achievements during my two years as President are as follows:-

- Improvement of Committee procedures.
- New caving tackle recording system.
- Annual risk assessments for huts.
- Continued H & S monitoring.
- Successful improvements at LHG.
- Lads and Dads climbing meets introduced.
- Child Protection and H & S policy statements written.
- New booking procedure for huts to cover Child Protection requirements.
- Re-drafting of the club rules to bring them up to date.
- Work has commenced on LHG Barn.
- A new uninterrupted water supply to Lowstern.

Mike Godden.



CLUB DINNER

The Club Dinner followed shortly after the AGM at the Whoop Hall and our Principal Guest this year was Hugh Montgomery, Professor of intensive Care Medicine, and Director of the UCL Institute for Human Health and Performance.



His research has focused on identifying 'mechanisms of health', studying the genetics of (amongst others) soldiers, climbers, Olympic athletes, and mountaineers. He was author of the first description of a gene influencing human physical performance in the prestigious scientific journal Nature.

He has had over 150 publications including, amongst others, several in 'Nature', 'Lancet' and 'Circulation'

He was research director for the 2007 Caudwell Xtreme Everest Expedition, viewing exposure to very extreme environments as a unique way of investigating human response to life-threatening illness in critical care. He has a practical and research interest in extreme environment physiology and his talk to us was both entertaining and fascinating.

He climbs in the Alps, Himalayas and Andes; holds a Cat X skydiving qualification and was a member of the diving team that raised the Mary Rose from the Solent in 1982. He also participates in occasional ultra marathons (100km).

He is best known for a groundbreaking study in 1998, when he and his team at UCL discovered the role of the Angiotensin-Converting Enzyme (ACE) gene in human fitness. At that point it had been established that everyone had two copies of the gene that produces ACE, known as 'I' and 'D'. These variants are equally common, so 25% of us have two 'I' versions ('II'), 50% an 'I' and a 'D' (ID), and 25% two 'D' versions (DD). Among army recruits, 'II' subjects showed improvement in repetitive weightlifting that was 11 times greater than those with two 'D' versions. The I-variant was also more prevalent amongst elite UK mountaineers.

Hugh's own gene variation is 'DD', but he takes a philosophical approach: "The existence of Olympic marathon runners with the 'DD' variation proves the point that having the right sort of gene variation does not make it impossible to achieve anything. Having the 'I' variation simply improves the odds of a person being highly effective at endurance sports."

Last year a BBC Horizon team spent three and a half months following Hugh and a team of doctors on their journey to

the summit of Everest. The programme 'Everest: Doctors in the Death Zone' was superb and if you missed it and it is shown again make every effort to see it this time. This unique expedition, called Xtreme Everest, sought to determine how a team of scientists and clinicians would battle with the gruelling conditions to gain a greater understanding of how the human body works.

The purpose of the research is to draw parallels between the human body pushed to its limits during critical illness, and the changes that will occur when they are exposed to Everest's harsh environment. The human body can cope with remarkable extremes of temperature, from desert to Arctic conditions. It can also endure long periods of starvation and thirst – as any survivor cast adrift at sea will testify. We can tolerate intense pain and put up with unimaginable hardships, as some of the toughest commandos fleeing an enemy over hundreds of miles will recall. The capacity of the body to recover from the most devastating trauma is impressive and the power of the survival instinct never ceases to surprise.

Climbing Everest is hard enough, but they were also using it as a laboratory to investigate understanding of critically ill patients with themselves as guinea pigs. The project was designed to discover why some people are better able to cope with a lack of oxygen than others. By taking blood and tissue samples from each other and undertaking extreme exercise at a series of high altitude "laboratories", they hoped to replicate the problems of patients in intensive care, who suffer similar low oxygen levels to the climbers on Everest. Throughout the expedition, the Xtreme Everest team looked closely at the impact of Mount Everest's extreme conditions on the human body, taking physiological measurements during the ascent and upon the summit of the mountain. The team measured the amount of oxygen in their own blood as well as running tests to measure how well their brains, lungs and metabolisms were working at extreme altitudes.

One aspect of particular interest is the effect of fear on performance. Fear or anxiety is actually a good thing for most people; it leads to an increase in adrenalin production which in turn increases the speed of emotional, physical and mental responses. It makes you think faster, very useful in critical situations.

The Xtreme Everest team climbed from the south, via the South East Ridge, setting up labs at Base Camp (5300m), in the Western Cwm (6400m) and even doing some experiments on the South Col (7950m). The climbing team also sampled arterial blood on the Balcony at 8400m.

The climbers were confronted with temperatures down to -40°C, high winds, and critically low oxygen levels. Frostbite, exhaustion, hypothermia and high altitude illness were ever-present and potentially fatal risks. Parallel studies will include a population genetic study of Tibetans, who have adapted to living at high altitudes for thousands of years, and a project by researchers at UCL which will take 1,000 fit young men and expose them to low levels of oxygen to

determine how their bodies would cope with similar conditions to those on Mount Everest.

The team are now back in the UK and many of the 47 doctors, nurses and other health professionals have already returned to their regular jobs at GP surgeries or hospitals up and down the UK. Others have stayed on to help process the research and the main body of results is likely to be published sometime soon. The findings now being analysed will be used to improve intensive care treatment for patients suffering from a range of life-threatening conditions including blue babies, congenital heart disease, chronic bronchitis, cystic fibrosis etc.

In thanking Hugh for his contribution he kindly commented that the pleasure was all his. "What delightful company, venue, food and even scenery the next day (although my nine and a half hour coach- and- rail journey home gave me better views of Lancaster, Preston, Birmingham, Manchester, Banbury, Oxford, and Marylebone)"

He offers the members his best wishes, and thanks for such generous hospitality.

Attending the dinner were-

Members

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Ken Aldred | Raymond Ince |
| Dennis Armstrong | John Jenkin |
| Mick Borroff | Richard Josephy |
| Adrian Bridge | Tim Josephy |
| Alan Brown | Alan Kay |
| G. D. Bull | Mike Kinder |
| George Burfitt | Richard Kirby |
| William Burfitt | Cliff Large |
| Derek Bush | David Large |
| Ged Champion | David Laughton |
| John Casperson | Alan Linford |
| Peter Chadwick | Bill Lofthouse |
| Albert Chapman | Tim Lofthouse |
| Iain Chapman | Harvey Lomas |
| Iain Crowther | John Lovett |
| Robert Crowther | Don MacKay |
| Roy Denney | Aaron Oakes |
| Roger Dix | George Postill |
| Paul Dover | Harry Robinson |
| Richard Dover | Arthur Salmon |
| David Gamble | Graham Salmon |
| Iain Gilmour | Trevor Salmon |
| Mike Godden | John Schofield |
| Richard Gowing | Michael Smith |
| David Handley | George Spenceley |
| John Hemingway | John Sterland |
| David Hick | Bill Todd |
| David Holmes | John Varney |
| Jeff Hooper | Frank Walker |
| Gordon Humphreys | Nick Welch |
| Howard Humphreys | Frank Wilkinson |
| Rob Ibberson | Barrie Wood |

| Club Guests | Representing |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Hugh Montgomery | Principal Guest |
| Dick Courchee | Gritstone Club |
| Peter Dixon | Wayfarers' Club |
| Edward Whittaker | Craven Pothole C. |
| Bob Allen | The Climbers Club |
| Paul Exley | FRCC |
| Bob Arkwright | Bradford Pothole Club |
| Paddy Buckley | SMC |
| Dr Farrer | Hon. Member |



Guests of Members

Eric Atkinson
 Gary Chapman
 Tony Durham
 Stewart Evans
 Chewang Gobat
 Alan Hanbury
 Sandy Lofthouse



ROLL OF HONOUR

PRESIDENTS

1892-93 Geo T Lowe
1893-03 Wm Cecil Slingsby
1903-06 Alfred Barran
1906-09 Rev LS Calvert
1909-12 Lewis Moore
1912-19 Walter Parsons
1919-22 WA Brigg
1922-23 JC Atkinson
1923-25 EE Roberts
1925-27 F Leach
1927-29 HH Bellhouse
1929-30 TS Booth
1930-31 T Gray
1931-32 AE Horn
1932-34 WV Brown
1934-36 A Rule
1936-38 JM Davidson
1938-46 C Chubb
1946-48 H Armstrong
1948-50 CE Burrow
1950-52 Davis Burrow
1952-54 J Hilton
1954-56 HL Stemberge
1956-58 S Marsden
1958-60 TH Godley
1960-62 FW Stemberge
1962-64 RE Chadwick
1964-66 WPB Stonehouse
1966-68 EC Downham
1968-70 EM Tregoning
1970-72 AB Craven
1972-74 BE Nicholson
1974-76 JB Devenport
1976-78 FD Smith
1978-80 JP Barton
1980-82 WR Lofthouse
1982-84 WA Linford
1984-86 JD Armstrong
1986-88 PC Swindells
1988-90 AC Brown
1990-92 DA Smithson
1992-94 GA Salmon
1994-96 CD Bush
1996-98 TW Josephy
1998-00 WCI Crowther
2000-02 AR Chapman
2002-04 TA Kay
2004-06 K Aldred
2006-08 FM Godden
2008 - A D Bridge

HONORARY MEMBERS (PAST)

1892 Edward Whympier
1892 Wm Cecil Slingsby
1892 Clinton T Dent
1892 8th Duke of Devonshire
1892 Charles E Matthews
1892 The Earl of Wharnccliffe
1893 Charles Pilkington
1893 Charles F Tetley
1893 Gerald W Balfour, MP
1893 Sir W Martin Conway

1900 Horace Walker
1907 Sir Alfred Hopkinson
1907 EA Martel
1907 G Winthrop Young
1909 Dr Norman Collie
1909 James Anson Farrer
1921 George Yeld
1921 George T Lowe
1923 Charles Scriven
1925 Canon AD Tupper-Carey
1939 Sydney J Farrer
1939 Walter Parsons
1946 Robert de Joly
1949 Ernest E Roberts
1955 Sir R Charles Evans
1956 Harry Spilsbury
1959 Fred Booth
1959 Davis Burrow
1965 Clifford Chubb
1965 Jack Hilton
1968 EC Downham
1968 S Marsden
1968 HG Watts
1977 HL Stemberge
1985 A David M Cox
1998 Major W Lacy TD
1990 FD Smith

HONORARY MEMBERS (CURRENT)

1988 Dr John Farrer
1997 Derek Bush
1997 George Spenceley
2001 Alan Brown
2003 Alan Linford
2008 Iain Gilmour
2008 Gordon Humphries
2008 John Lovett
2008 C. Motop

VICE PRESIDENTS

1892-93 H Slater
1919-22 EE Roberts
1892-93 G Arnold
1921-23 F Constantine
1893-94 G T Lowe
1922-24 P Robinson
1893-94 L Moore
1923-25 JF Seaman
1898-00 Rev LS Calvert
1924-26 M Botterill
1899-01 JC Atkinson
1925-27 L Moore
1900-02 A Barran
1926-28 W Villiers Brown
1901-03 Dr Tempest Anderson
1927-29 CE Benson
1902-04 Dr FH Mayo
1928-30 CE Burrow
1903-05 W Parsons
1929-31 WA Wright
1904-06 JA Green
1930-32 C Chubb
1908-10 F Leach
1931-33 GL Hudson
1909-11 C Hastings
1932-34 FS Smythe

1910-12 A Rule
1933-35 JM Davidson
1911-13 JH Buckley
1934-35 GA Potter-Kirby
1912-14 CA Hill
1935-37 J Hilton
1913-19 AE Horn
1935-37 H Humphreys
1914-19 H Brodrick
1937-46 A Humphreys
1919-21 CRB Wingfield
1938-46 H Armstrong
1946-48 D Burrow
1946-48 AL Middleton
1948-49 GS Gowing
1948-50 GC Marshall
1949-50 HG Watts
1950-52 S Marsden
1950-53 J Godley
1952-54 FS Booth
1953-55 FW Stemberge
1954-56 RE Chadwick
1955-57 GB Spenceley
1956-58 CW Jorgensen
1957-59 JA Holmes
1958-60 JE Cullingworth
1959-61 J Lovett
1960-62 WPB Stonehouse
1961-63 MF Wilson
1962-64 EC Downham
1963-65 BE Nicholson
1964-66 JA Dosser
1965-67 FD Smith
1966-68 MD Bone
1967-69 AR Chapman
1968-70 JD Driscoll
1969-71 J Hemingway
1970-72 EJ Woodman
1971-73 WA Linford
1972-74 AJ Reynolds
1973-75 JG Brook
1974-76 JP Barton
1975-77 WR Lofthouse
1976-78 J Williamson
1977-79 N Newman
1978-80 J Stuttard
1979-81 GA Salmon
1980-82 PC Swindells
1981-83 DA Smithson
1982-84 TW Josephy
1983-85 DJ Atherton
1984-86 GR Turner
1985-87 AC Brown
1986-88 R Cowing
1987-89 CR Allen
1988-90 DRH Mackay
1990-92 WCI Crowther
1992-94 H Robinson
1994-96 K Aldred
1996-98 IFD Gilmour
1998-00 DA Hick
2000-02 DJ Handley
2002-04 G Champion
2004-06 FM Godden
2006-08 RA Kirby
2007-08 AD Bridge
2008- M Borroff

HONORARY TREASURERS

1892-93 HH Bellhouse
1893-99 H Slater
1899-04 J Davis
1904-21 AE Horn
1921-24 C Chubb
1924-51 BA Bates
1951-78 S Marsden
1978-83 D Laughton
1984-90 JD Armstrong
1990-98 TA Kay
1998--- GA Salmon

HONORARY SECRETARIES

1892-93 JA Green
1893-98 HH Bellhouse
1898-09 L Moore
1910-20 F Constantine
1920-24 CE Burrow
1924-29 J Buckley
1929-46 D Burrow
1946-52 FS Booth
1952-56 JE Cullingworth
1956-57 CR Allen
1957-66 EC Downham
1966-68 FD Smith
1968-79 EC Downham
1979-83 J Hemingway
1983-93 CD Bush
1993-96 JA Schofield
1996-08 RG Humphreys
2008--- RA Kirby

HONORARY ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

1894-10 F Constantine
1957-62 J Hemingway
1910-12 JR Green
1962-64 TW Salmon
1912-19 L Moore
1964-68 WCI Crowther
1919-24 J Buckley
1968-73 FD Smith
1924-26 AS Lowden
1973-79 J Hemingway
1926-46 FS Booth
1979-83 CD Bush
1946-52 FW Stembridge
1983-85 J Hemingway
1952-53 O Stonehouse
1985-92 M Smith
1953-54 C IW Fox
1992-95 M J Kinder
1954-57 EC Downham

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

2008- M. Boroff

HONORARY MEETS SECRETARY

1996--- JH Hooper

HONORARY EDITORS

1899-09 T Gray
1909-20 W Anderton Brigg
1920-49 E E Roberts
1949-70 HG Watt
1970-83 AB Craven

1984-90 AC Brown
1990-93 DJ Atherton
1993-03 M Smith
2003--- RJ Denney

HONORARY ASSISTANT EDITORS

1947-58 RE Chadwick
1958-59 RB Whardall
1959-60 HL Stembridge
1960-70 AB Craven
1970-77 DP Penfold
1985-92 EC Downham

HONORARY WEBMASTER

2001-08 CG RENTON
2008--- A Renton

HONORARY LIBRARIANS

1899-03 F Constantine
1903-24 JH Buckley
1924-27 C D Frankland
1927-29 JK Crawford
1929-30 W Allsup
1930-35 J Buckley
1935-39 R Rimmer
1946-48 HS Booth
1948-49 DS Blair
1949-58 HL Stembridge
1958-62 JG Brook
1962-71 AB Craven
1971-79 JG Brook
1979-96 R Harben
1996-98 MP Pryor
1998-03 WN Todd
2003--- AR Chapman

HONORARY HUTS SECRETARIES

1955-57 GB Spenceley
(Low Hall Garth)
1957-59 JD Driscoll
(Low Hall Garth)
1958-62 PR Harris
(Lowstern)
1959-66 FD Smith
(Low Hall Garth)
1962-66 FD Smith
(Lowstern)
1966-67 AR Chapman
1967-82 WA Linford
1982-91 K Aldred
1991-96 DM Martindale
1997--- R Josephy

HONORARY WARDEN

LOW HALL GARTH

1952-55 GB Spenceley
1955-59 A Tallon
1959-73 JD Driscoll
1973-76 FD Smith
1976-78 GP Postill
1978-84 N Newman
1986-89 WA Linford
1986-98 FD Smith
1998-01 D English
2001-02 M Edmundson

2002-07 IFD Gilmour
2007-08 G Dootson
2008--- RG Humphreys

HONORARY WARDEN

LOWSTERN

1958-64 J Lovett
1964-67 J Richards
1967-72 CG Renton
1972-74 JTM Teasdale
1974-76 A Hartley
1976-78 JA Varney
1978-79 GP Postill
1979-82 WCI Crowther
1982-86 C Bauer
1987-88 J Lovett
1988-90 H Robinson
1990-93 FM Godden
1993-96 GR Salmon
1996-00 FM Godden
2000-05 RA Kirby
2005--- J Lovett

THE YRC JOURNAL

This twice yearly publication is both a journal of the activities and proceedings of the club and a source of articles on a range of subjects provided by the membership from their great range of interests.

Selected articles are reproduced in the web pages but copies of the full journal can be provided at a nominal cost whilst stocks last. Articles or the entire publication can be provided in electronic form and may be reproduced providing that the author and the club are given proper acknowledgement. The same applies to any photographs provided.

Requests can be addressed to the Club's Honorary Secretary or Editor who will advise on costs etc.

The journals over the years have included articles on climbs, caving exploits, skiing, sailing, expeditions; natural history, archaeology, folklore and many other similar subjects.

They occasionally include material from non-members who are happy for us to reproduce their work but we cannot pass these on in electronic form due to copyright considerations.

The opinions expressed in the publication are not necessarily those of the Club or its officers.

The current series of journals goes back to Summer 2006. Series 12 goes back to summer 1994 and is held in electronic form. Series 12 was under the title of the 'Yorkshire Rambler'.

Earlier journals can be accessed for information and go back to the formation of the club in 1892

Articles in the more recent past include:

Issue 5 Series 13 - Summer 2008 includes:

- Mapping of South Georgia
- The early days of Ski-ing
- Climbing Saint-Jeannet, France
- Ice pack crossing Spitzbergen
- Caves & karst in Libya
- Trekking in Bhutan

Issue 4 Series 13 - Winter 2007 includes:

- A history of Yorkshire Rock
- Telemarking with Pulks, Norway
- Gunung Ledang, Malaysia
- Jade Dragon Snow Mountain (5400m) China
- Skye
- Oparara Basin, New Zealand
- Costa Blanca rock
- Trekking in northern Pakistan

Issue 3 Series 13 - Summer 2007 includes:

- Caving in Nidderdale in the 19th C
- Jotenheimen, Norway

- Fauna of Gran Paradiso
- Bosnia
- Loengpo Gang, Himalayas
- China Caving
- Flora of Ladakh

Issue 2 Series 13 - Winter 2006 includes:

- Tafraoute, Morocco
- Jamaica
- China
- Spitzbergen
- Venezuela
- Austria
- California, High Sierra
- Isles of Scilly
- Annapurna Sanctuary
- Ladakh
- The Langdales, a history
- Valnontey Aosta, Italy

Issue 1 Series 13 - Summer 2006 includes:

- Monte Rosa
- Madagascar
- Skiing in Austria
- Climbing, Arêtes du Sapey, Lake Annecy

Japan
Ladakh
56 page supplement on Cave
exploration in China

**Issue 24 Series 12 - Winter 2005
includes:**

China, Great Wall
Mauritania
Skye
Kibo, Kilimanjaro
The Dolomites
Lakeland 3000s
Newby Moss Cave
History of the Lyke Wake
Nepal
The Monroes

**Issue 23 Series 12 - Summer 2005
includes:**

Demirkazik, Turkey
Yosemite
The Sudetenland
Paine Circuit, Chile
China caving expedition update
Walking in Nidderdale and the
North York Moors
Wanderings in Scotland

**Issue 22 Series 12 - Winter 2004
includes:**

The High Sierra and Appalachians
in the USA
Caves in Ethiopia
Early exploration of Alum Pot
The history of Carabiners
Caving Expedition to Tian'e,
Guangxi, S W China
High level walking in Scotland,
The Lakes and the French Alps

**Issue 21 Series 12 - Summer 2004
includes:**

Caves & Karst of Madagascar
The History of Dunald Mill Hole
Erta Ale & The Danakil
Sailing off Croatia, walking More-
cambe Bay, climbing on Clogwyn
Activities in Sardinia

**Issue 20 Series 12 - Winter 2003
includes:**

Activities in Mongolia, Crete,
Galloway, Ireland and
Switzerland
The Prehistory of Saddleworth

**Issue 19 Series 12 - Summer 2003
includes:**

Drakensberg Trek
Fong Yen, China
Alderley Edge Mines, Sardinia,
Ben Alder and the Haute Savoie

**Issue 18 Series 12 - Winter 2002
includes:**

The Hidden Valleys China Caves
Project Expedition 2002
Pic Du Midi D'Ossua,
Activities in Wales, the Scottish
Highlands and on
Dartmoor.
The John Muir Trail
Sailing a Square Rigger

**Issue 17 Series 12 - Summer 2001
includes:**

John Muir Trail full report
Morocco Expedition Report
Madagascar caves, Lundy,
Newby Moss Sink, La Meije

**Issue 16 Series 12 - Summer 2001
includes:**

Nanda Devi Inner Sanctuary
Expedition Report
John Muir Trail, Skye, Sinai,
Scawfell

**Issue 15 Series 12 - Summer 2001
includes:**

Guangxi Caves 2000 Expedition
One Cave in Palawan and three in
Laos
The Bradford Caving Community
a Century Ago
Fantan B
Gondogoro La and The
Karakoram

**Issue 14 Series 12 - Winter 2000
includes:**

Corbetts Meet, Spring Bank 2000

Svalbard
Ingleborough Cave Box and
Giggleswick School
Mount Kinabalu in Rainy Season

**Issue 13 Series 12 - Summer 2000
includes:**

Travel in the Valleys of the
Assassins, Iran
Rambling in Australia,
1975 to 1999
Hiking in the South-West USA
Hurricane on the Kohl Larsen
Plateau 1957,
South Georgia
Orion Face Direct, Ben Nevis

**Issue 12 Series 12 - Winter 1999
includes:**

Cordilleras Cocapata and Real,
Bolivia – Expedition report
Table Mountain, Weissmies & the
Lagginhorn
The Julian Alps, Lundy,
The Cullin, Kanchenjunga,
Seana Bhraigh

**Issue 11 Series 12 - Summer 1999
includes:**

Catamite Hole
Macedonian Caves
Blue Mountain Peak, Jamaica

**Issue 10 Series 12 - Winter 1998
includes:**

Iceland Expedition Report
Cycling in the Dolomites
Goyden Pot, Pudsey Rambling
Club, Eli Simpson

**Issue 9 Series 12 - Summer 1998
includes:**

Climbing in Wales and on the
Cullin
Knoydart
Bulgaria
South Africa
Australia
The Himalaya
Life and times of E E Roberts
Gaping Gill

**Issue 8 Series 12 - Winter 1997
includes:**

Telemarking on Piz Bernina
Andalsnes, Norway
Bungle Bungle Massif,
N W Australia
Climbing Volcanoes, Sulawesi,
Indonesia
Mountain of God, Tanzania
Caving in the Dales
Fell walking in the Eastern
Cairngorms
Trekking up the Khumbu, Nepal



CLUB MERCHANDISE

A wide range of outdoor and leisure clothing is available with the traditional YRC 'Yorkshire Rose' badge (in green, yellow & white silks), beautifully computer embroidered at no extra cost, directly on to the clothing.

The badges are available in two versions, either the straightforward 50 mm diameter circular badge or a larger, 65 mm diameter version with the words 'A mountaineering and caving club founded in 1892' around the outside.

The range includes Tee-shirts, sweatshirts, polo shirts, fleece jackets of several grades and designs, knitted jumpers, cagoules and parkas.

There is a full range of sizes from S to XXL. The smaller badge can be embroidered onto any items; which are available in a wide range of colours, but the larger badge can only be done on to an item coloured in YRC bottle green.

Discuss your requirements by contacting Rob Ibberson or better still; see him at a meet, where he will be able to show you the samples and illustrated catalogues showing all the items available.

YRC

www.yrc.org.uk

YORKSHIRE RAMBLERS CLUB



Established 1892

Affiliated to The British Mountaineering Council
www.thebmc.co.uk

Editor

Roy Denney, 33 Clovelly Road, Glenfield, Leicestershire LE3 8AE
Editor@YorkshireRamblers.Org.UK

Secretary

Richard Kirby, 9 Whittam Road, Whalley, Lancs. BB7 9SB

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily
those of the YRC or its Officers.

The YRC Journal is published twice a year and is free to members
and certain kindred clubs.

First published July 1899