

# YRC JOURNAL

EXPLORATION, MOUNTAINEERING AND CAVING SINCE 1892 - ISSUE 13 SERIES 13 - SUMMER 2012



## Snowshoeing in Val Fourane, Mercantour

Photograph by Mick Borroff



Activities in Ireland

### ARTICLES

Rock climbing in Turkey

Caving in China

Woodland threats

Early skating

Three Counties Pot

# **CONTENTS**

**EDITION 13 - SERIES 13 - SUMMER 2012**

3	Get Your Skates On	Michael Smith
3	Three Counties Pot	Photos, John Whalley
5	Cant See The Trees.....	Roy Denney
6	Rock Climbing in Turkey	John & Valerie Middleton
10	Mushroom Cave	John Whalley
15	China Caving	Mike Peters
17	Activities in Ireland	
18	Malin to Mizen Heads	Tony Penny
19	Observations on Ireland	Roy Denney
23	Connemara Meet Report	Mick Borroff
28	Ireland of Pictures	
31	Our meet programme	
34	Members	
43	Chippings	
50	Natural History	
51	The Age of Exploration	Albert Chapman
52	Book review	Roy Denney
53	Joining the Club	Mick Borroff
54	U K Meet reports	Low Hall Garth Jan
		Glan Dena Feb
		Feshiebridge Mar
		Calderdale Apr
		Simonstone Hall (social) May
63	Meets Montage	
66	Obituaries	

## GET YOUR SKATES ON

Michael Smith

Back home after the most recent wintry Blencathra Christmas meet and tidying up my desk I came across a short piece relating even colder times in the Lakes and how they were enjoyed by Penrith-based members of our kindred clubs.



George Seatree, Justice of the Peace, FRCC member and Wayfarer, artist and documenter of Cumberland and Westmorland dialects, published his *Lakeland Memories* in 1923 but this particular memory was from February, 1879.

For the first time in twenty-five years the Patterdale end of Ullswater froze over so George, Annie Westmorland and Tom Vipond skated the full length of the lake.

Familiar with their local lake's bays and promontories they started on Saturday at 2pm from Pooley Bridge to Halsteads Point into a strong head wind and with a snow covering to slow their progress. A switch to the Martindale side gave a following wind to help them pass Place Fell and Norfolk Island before a break was called at the Patterdale landing stage for a quick coffee at the hostelry.

Resuming their journey they reached the head of the lake then were joined by a second young lady for an hour or so and, reading between the lines, some 'show off' over-ambitious figure skating ensued. Fading light and an increasingly gusting wind hastened their return to Pooley Bridge.

The increasing creaks and groans of the heaving ice became so ominous that they considered taking to the road but instead grit their teeth and faced the 'terrific sou'-easter' to reach the relative shelter of Sharrow Bay and easier going in the gloom to Pooley Bridge.

That night the thaw set in and the ice was gone in two days.

Incidentally, the next piece in George's book recalls being taken down Gaping Ghyll by the YRC surveying party during the Whitsuntide of 1910.



Ice skating in London about that time

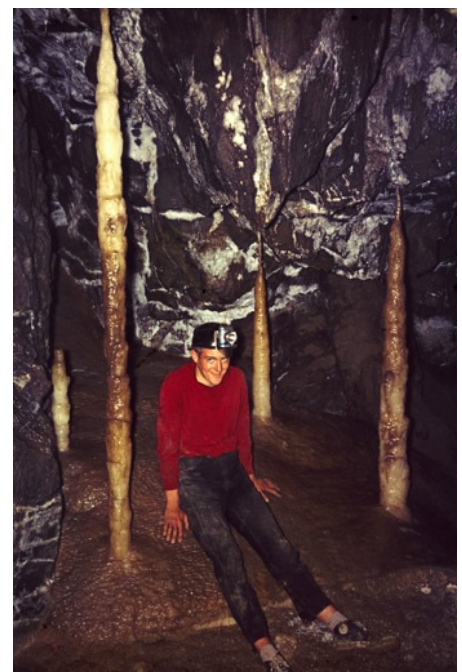
## THREE COUNTIES POT

In the last edition we covered the breaking news of the break though (sorry about the pun) when it was finally proved possible to go down a hole in Yorkshire travel below Lancashire and emerge in Cumbria. The dreamed of Three Counties System was at last a reality. Stretching from Large Pot above Kingsdale, near Ingleton in Yorkshire, passing under Leck Fell, Gragareth and Ireby Fell to Bull Pot Farm, near Kirkby Lonsdale in Cumbria it is estimated to be more than sixty miles long.

As more information comes out from various sources, quite how useable the link is yet I am not sure but it is a milestone in cave exploration. It is likely to be accessible to only the most expert and determined as the through trip will be rarely if ever made. It is a long and extremely hazardous trip requiring cave diving skills as well as all the other varied skills of a top-class caver.

Last November, two groups of dishevelled cavers, working from both sides, managed to push a small hole through the boulder choke and shake hands through the gap but that is still a long way from actually doing a through trip.

For nearly 50 years cavers have been working on this theoretic link; miles of passages have been forced and entire new caverns have been exposed. Untold numbers of cavers have spent countless hours digging through masses of rubble, mud and silt accumulated over thousands of years.



The Columns, Lancaster Hole on an earlier trip

Some cavers have themselves spent over 30 years working on it. Divers have swum through flooded tunnels in zero visibility and every possible technique has been involved. Indeed it was only two years ago when smoke tests finally established that the connection existed.

At times and especially as the join came closer, progress was painfully slow as every inch of the way had to be shored with scaffolding or cementing the loose rock into place to ensure the diggers were safe.

Regardless of the difficulty of the through trip there are spin off benefits for mere mortals; superb caves that have been discovered during the explorations, with great cascades and formations. There are bound to be more caves and connections to be found for those addicted to exploration.

The pictures of part of the system, Lancaster Hole and (below) Easegill Caverns are by John Whalley

Ed.



# CAN'T SEE THE TREES.....

Roy Denney

The major causes of climate change are debated at length and much is laid at man's door, probably justifiably. Politicians are not really grasping the issues and indeed even our own government seem to have lost their way despite having one of the most ambitious targets for reduction of green house gases. On the one hand they pour untold millions into wind turbines, an inefficient means of power production which disfigures the landscape, whilst they have halved the subsidy for solar power on domestic roofs, a proven technology with little by way of downsides.

However, one of the really worrying threats to knock us off course is not a man made one at all, although perhaps partly our fault. Orienteering is the woodland sport and as a keen devotee I am worried about a developing problem. Indeed as members of the human race we should all be.

The greatest source of oxygen on the planet is the by-product of plants' respiratory systems. Within this process by far the most productive is algae at sea and who knows what the effect is on this by our pollution of those waters.

Next however, is the conversion of carbon dioxide to oxygen by trees. Whilst it has had little publicity, this benefit is in real danger of being lost to a large extent. Of at least as much concern as the cutting down of rain forests is a natural problem creeping up on us with devastating effect.

Although I say it is natural it is in part brought about by man planting trees etc in areas where they are not naturally found and in densities which would not be found in the wild.

The end result is however that one by one, most species of trees are being decimated by insect, fungus or bacterial attack. Elm, Spruce, Oak, Hawthorne and Chestnut have suffered badly in recent years but there is an even bigger threat looming.

It started by attacking Rhododendrons and has meant that orienteers and other users have been banned from large swathes of the countryside to stop spreading the problem, which otherwise few people seem to know anything about.

The problem is in fact a family of what might be described as parasitic plants. These Phytophthora eventually kill their hosts and the latest type to hit us is wiping out Larch trees

The Forestry Commission have been felling literally millions of trees in the south west to try and halt the spread of the 'disease' but this may well not be enough. The problem is now being seen all over the UK.

The safe disposal of millions of infested tree carcasses is a matter of great concern. The organisms will survive in the leaf litter and debris; the rotting stumps and roots left after felling. Burning the affected area will have no impact on the survival and proliferation of the phytophthora and any

attempt to remove the debris and the stumps will probably only spread the infestation way beyond the forest.

These plant-killing plants are not new indeed the supposedly first recorded major attack by them was the potato blight which laid Ireland low although there are hints that the Japanese recognised similar problems in earlier times.

The Larches show the symptoms of extensive dieback of crowns and outer branches and resin bleeds on the trunk and lesser branches; lesions that dry out to form pale scabs. Unfortunately by the time these symptoms appear, the disease process is well advanced and the tree will have passed on the problem to its neighbours. The Forestry Commission has no option but to fell the affected trees, because allowing the disease process to continue increases the reproductive potential of the phytophthora, which then spreads to previously unaffected areas.

Even more worrying, Phytophthora are rapidly hybridising and mutating and have to date been found in about 100 countries. In parts of the world it is erupting in the native woodlands, a classic example being Australia. It is destroying a vast range of native vegetation in the land of OZ, from forest hardwoods to woody shrubs and has been identified in more than half of all described plant species and threatens to annihilate entire ecosystems. They are mutating faster than we can keep up with the variants and all that can be done is to limit the spread of the infestation.

In Europe it seems initially to have been spread by the horticultural trade, where it has infested citrus trees, azaleas, forsythias and numerous other woody ornamentals brought in from other parts of the world, but it is now running wild. In Britain it is known that Rhododendron is a host plant and we are trying to remove those and restore biodiversity to our woodlands which may be more effective in the long term than felling millions of Larches.

Larch in Britain may now be doomed. There is actually no native larch species; the European larch comes from the open mountainous areas of Central Europe, where it does not form dense stands. The species does not do well in Britain so we have grown the Japanese Larch, often in plantations, a situation which we know as a monoculture, is likely to be overwhelmed by pathogens that are less virulent in mixed plant communities.

The problem is spread through the water supplies of the trees and usually hits plants that are already distressed by overcrowding, drought, flood etc. In Australia the relentless spread is thought to have been helped by the steady rise of the water table due to excessive tree clearing. You may well have noticed that many national parks and conservation areas now request visitors to wash their footwear on coming and going, usually in a solution containing bleach. This is to my mind a fruitless tactic given the multitude of access points.

The Ancient Woodlands Project, based in Rockingham Forest on the borders of Rutland, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire, is intended to restore the Forestry Commission's lands to native species. Conifers have been cleared in 24 woods to be replaced by native species such as field maple, ash, oak and hazel.

This is not before time as ancient woodland is still under threat and not many local authorities maintain a proper register of such sites. As a result planning often disregards damage to such areas and proposed new planning systems will provide even less protection. At present only 2% of the UK is covered by ancient woodland. They could provide the biodiversity to keep this 'disease' at bay (hopefully). This project is by way of a test case and if successful be emulated in other areas of the country. The Woodland Trust are also following the same policy.

Many parts of Rockingham Forest are being worked on and Natural England and a number of other conservation bodies are involved working with Forest Enterprise. One particular strand of the project is to restore coppicing to most sites where it was previously employed and an analysis of all the Commission's woodland is being carried out to assess their suitability for this technique. This process was for many centuries the best way of producing a renewable supply of timber.

For the uninitiated it involves cutting the stems of broad-leaved shrubs and trees to encourage growth of new shoots which grow fast and straight and can then be cut to order when they have reached the desired length. This old practice is making a comeback on several counts.

This cutting back to ground level causes the stumps (stools)

to create a thicket of new growth which would be left for ten years before being partially cropped and after a further ten years the whole process would be repeated. The long straight poles would be taken for fencing etc., the older trunks for building and the off cuts for burning either as firewood or to produce charcoal.

Such woodland, in the various stages of its life cycle, provides a welcome variety of habitat as well as stimulating bio-diversity. In the first years after cutting back the warm sheltered sunny glades created on the woodland floor is a boon to many plant forms and insects that thrive on them. As the dense thickets grow up again they provide safe nesting areas for many birds and dormice which also use the network for aerial walkways.

One problem the foresters are experiencing however is that they are finding that the new growth is being attacked by wild boar, muntjac and fallow deer. These creatures also speed up the spread of phytophthora as do badgers. Culls of badgers and wild boar in particular and also deer in some areas are being organised but again we are treating the wrong end of the problem - we have to stop the trees from being susceptible in the first place by treating woodlands as amenities and wildlife havens and not commercial operations. As a country we are moving away from trying to be strategically self providing with timber and moving back to the importing of our needs from sustainable woodlands where the trees are native.

In the meantime all we can do as individuals is to change out of our boots as soon as we leave an area where we have been walking or running and then clean them in mild bleach when we get home.

## **ROCK CLIMBING IN TURKEY**

### **TURKISH DELIGHT – Rock Climbing in Lycia - John & Valerie Middleton**

Recent exploration by local rock climbing enthusiasts in Turkey has resulted in this country being added to the list of "must go" international climbing destinations. Two recent visits by us would certainly confirm that it does indeed equate to other year 2000-plus discoveries such as Sardinia, Kalymnos and Sicily. The only real difference being that the actual number of routes is less than the first two sites. As with the aforementioned regions Turkey can be addictive and on our recent trip not only did we meet nationalities from all around the world but we met some Austrians already on their thirteenth visit!

WHERE IS IT? There are now several rock climbing sites of note in Turkey but the one that stands out above all others are the various cliffs to the west of Antalya. Antalya is a large city situated on the coast in the central south of the country. This city is also the starting point for visiting the spectacular karst and caves of the Taurus Mountains (e.g. see the YRC Journal Vol. 10, No. 34, 1968).

WHAT IS IT? It is an area of sun-drenched Mediterranean beaches, stunning protected landscapes, wild mountains up to 2,625m in altitude, mid-winter skiing, a very friendly and hospitable local population, a still visible history dating back to the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC and most importantly six separate and very different sports climbing regions. The main group of cliffs is known as Geyikbayirland is situated some 20 minutes drive westwards from Antalya. It is reached via a fascinating countryside road that passes through the very traditional villages of Cakirlar and Pazar.

Cakirlar is noted for its profusion of small tea houses that seem to be permanently full of (always the same) village men whilst women, heavily laden, busily wander about dressed in dull patterned baggy pants, a bulky blouse and head scarf. At Pazar there is also a major local open air market stretching for over a kilometre along both sides of the road, this is only fully open every weekend and is then an atmospheric riot of colours, peoples and goods. The route continues into the mountains before arriving at a continuous escarpment on the right hand side of the road averaging some 45m in height. This is the main cliff of Geyikbayiri that runs unbroken for almost two kilometres. Further crags are situated just down the slope on the opposite side of the road. Here there are 620 challenging routes of all grades from French 5a upwards. Most sectors can be excitingly and easily identified from the road with access usually taking less than a 10 minute walk on small tracks through scrub and occasional trees. The second major area is situated an hour's drive southwards to ancient Olympos and nearby Cirali. Here, amongst rocky mountains and beautiful coastal scenery 252 further quality routes currently exist in 11 very different sectors. Access is again a very short walk although three of these sectors require interesting wading across quite a wide stream. Between Geyikbayiri and Olympos are found the four remaining smaller but still interesting regions with a total of 70 routes. Three of these, Öküzini, Citdibi and Karataşlar are in the mountains whilst Akyarlar is by the sea. An added incentive for the two major regions is that local enterprise has also ensured that plenty of food and drink is easily available, in one instance barely 25 metres from the climbing.

#### HISTORICAL CLIMBING.

The great cliffs of Geyikbayiri were first noted by a local climber, Metin Yilmaz, who then invited Öztürk Kayıkcı and Züleyha Geels to join his explorations during December of year 2000. Interestingly Öztürk, who was to become the key figure for the region, originally resided in England. By the year 2002 there were 30 bolted routes of a quite incredible quality and a Climbing Festival was organised. This attracted many overseas visitors and was subsequently followed by a new route "explosion" culminating in the first Guide Book being produced in 2004. Once more, as is inevitably the case, this new Guide stimulated even more exploration necessitating a second edition in 2007 that included 419 routes at Geyikbayiri alone. Turkey, by then, was definitely well established as a worthwhile climbing destination. Other possibilities had also been noticed; particularly around Olympos due to its popularity as a holiday destination but the actual bolting of routes here only commenced in 2002. Within two years over 200 interesting routes were added that encompassed many styles of climbing in contrasting settings. This, together with its 3km long beach and ease of accommodation made it instantly popular.

#### THE ROCK.

With the exception of just one area all climbing is on top quality limestone that is both massive, solid and to a rock climber, a delight to behold! The rock tends to be vertical to just off vertical but there are also a number of satisfying slabs particularly towards the base of certain sectors.

Many great caves and overhanging bays also exist providing both the very hardest and most spectacular of routes but even here it is possible to find some quite amazing easier grades. The surface maybe smooth with small "crimping" holds; peppered with small, large or giant pockets and "gouts" or possibly covered with very frictionable sharp coral like features. Calcite flows, tufa ribs and stalactite formations also add to the variety of techniques that might be required to progress upwards. We never came across any loose rock even though certain routes did give the initial impression of being rather like cemented boulders. The Karataşlar area is the only exception to limestone with the rock being a boulder conglomerate. Climbing on this alternatively smooth or nobly rock is an acquired taste that did not seem to suit us on our visit i.e. it seemed hard! The Guide Book suggests that there are 10 towers with 70 routes to 150m in length but we could find fewer than 20 routes up to an estimated 70m in height. However it is an interesting place to visit and was first explored by German climbers in 1998 who still keep their website going ([www.h-bardoux.de](http://www.h-bardoux.de))

#### THE ROUTES.

As was the case with Sardinia, Sicily and Kalymnos the bolting is immaculate. This starts relatively close to the ground and continues at rarely more than 3-4 metre intervals. With only one or two exceptions all the lower offs that we came across were substantial and well backed up. These high standards ensure that the only problem that can stop any climber reaching the top is their own technical ability. The grading of the routes seems to be consistent and compares very well with the training wall standards that we had left behind in Sheffield although the climbs situated below the road may seem very slightly harder. The majority of routes are of single pitches averaging 28m in length with many of the best reaching 35-40m. A minimum 70m sports rope is recommended as with stretch this will usually extend to cover the longest ones. Several routes which deviate or where the upper half is overhanging may have two pitches but the total length is rarely more than 40m. Sixteen quick-draws plus a couple of slings are all the other equipment that is normally required.

The Main Wall at Gerikbayiri is divided into 26 sections, some of which are contiguous whilst others may be separated by a short stretch of dense vegetation, a gully or similar. We have not visited all these sectors but from the ones that we did some examples of our most memorable routes and suggestions for first time visitors might be as follows.

The two sectors of Alaaddin and Barbarossa at the right hand end of the main cliff (see photo page 9) make an excellent introduction to Turkish climbing with 25 superb routes; each one worthy of 2 good stars if not 3! These range from technical slabs to steep walls from 13m to 35m in length with tufas and flowstone often thrown in for good measure. The grades vary from very amenable 5c to 7b+.. Our favourites were the 26m Ayasofya at 5c with lots of large hidden holds; the 33m steady Merci Michelle at 6a+ and a new route with no name that was the last one of the Barbarossa section at 6b+ with steep bridging, good jugs and an exciting hand-jam to finish. Two sectors to the left is

Ottoman with another 20 slightly longer routes where TasOcagi at 6a and 39m is particularly good value, this is usually done as two pitches with the top one pulling over an exposed but well protected overhang. Just to the left of this is the amazing bulging 6c, 35m long Rigalos, another feast of jugs but only if you can find them, and a top wall with a worrying sting in the tail! Continuing leftwards, Poseidon is the next sector. This bristles with up to 8a+ overhangs but surprisingly, at the right hand end, is the brilliant three star 6a+ Ya Sabir that curves improbably round the edge of these, again, quite amazing situations for the grade! Guarding the left hand end of Poseidon is King Crimson which provides a bouldery start followed by a sharp but well situated corner at an amenable 6a level. With these few routes now "tucked" away then any 14 day climbing holiday, even spent all on this one cliff, will end far too soon.

The Olympos area does not have quite the top quality routes but it is well worth visiting as it is definitely different. There are many more routes at the easier end of the scale and the height rarely exceeds 25m. We particularly enjoyed the routes in the Dershan Gorge and across the river at Cirali but beware the old in-situ slings that are not know needed and should really be removed.

#### DIVERSIONS.

Even if the obvious sun, sand and sea delights of beach resorts and the ever spreading metropolis of Antalya are ignored then the local diversions can still be counted in thousands. For lovers of nature the protected areas found within the many local and national parks are a haven for rare flora, birds and wildlife generally. Of particular richness are the wilderness regions of the Olympos/Beydağlari, Güllükdaği/Termessos and Köprülü Canyon National Parks. For walkers the mountains with their spectacular sea views provide endless opportunities for unfettered exploration. The winding and long distance route of the "Lycian Way" covers much of the Olympus/Beydağlari Park and this can be done as one "expedition" or by selecting shorter sections of interest. Waterfalls always fascinate and the Upper Düden and Kursunlu Selalosi Waterfalls, are well worth a visit, the latter with some low but fine tufa cascades. However for anyone with a cultural interest then the sites of antiquity to be found literally "everywhere" are probably without parallel! To mention only a few that we visited then the crumbling 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC city of Termessos situated at over 1,000m is easily the most spectacular; Aspendos with its 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD theatre incredibly well preserved and still in use being the most impressive; then there is the 4<sup>th</sup> century BC multiple necropolis of Myra carved out of a great cliff; and finally the most beautifully situated was extensive Arykanda dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. Then there are skiing, mountain biking, cycling, museums, trout farms and endless places to eat to mention but a few. The useful Turkish Tourist Office website is [www.goturkey.com](http://www.goturkey.com).

#### WHEN TO GO.

The best season for climbing is from September until November and mid-February until May. June to August is too hot even though Geyikbayiri is at a 500m altitude and

has several shaded cliffs. December and January tend to be wet and snow is not uncommon.

#### GETTING THERE & WHERE TO STAY.

It is usual to fly to Antalya from the United Kingdom and this normally takes around four hours. Regular and good value flights can be made from many airports with both "Thomas Cook" and "Thomson" throughout the year although these flights do tend to be rather cramped. "Easyjet" does seem slightly more spacious but currently only flies from Gatwick. Several national airlines also go to Antalya but the cost is frequently prohibitive being anything up to five times more expensive. Upon arrival at the airport there is a £10 visa fee to pay (2012).

Most of the major car hire companies can be found at the airport together with many local enterprises. Unfortunately the latter, whilst cheaper, tend to reside off the airport thereby taking up more arrival and departure time. To drive directly from the airport to the main climbing area of Geyikbayiri would take around one hour assuming no wrong turnings. To go directly to the Olympos sections then this would probably add an extra forty minutes.

Regarding accommodation then it has to be remembered that this is the area of the "Turkish Riviera" with a multiplicity of options. There are several campsites, often with small cabins, found within five minutes of the major Geyikbayiricrags such as [www.climbersgarden.com](http://www.climbersgarden.com) and [www.josito.de](http://www.josito.de) Apartments abound on the internet for Antalya particularly in the convenient western Konyaalti district. The luxury hotels are also worth checking out particularly out of season as some quite remarkable all inclusive offers can be had. Accommodation around Olympus is towards the budget end but a visit to the renowned "tree-houses" is considered obligatory and is one of the world's top ten backpacker's destinations! Try [www.turkmentreehouses.com](http://www.turkmentreehouses.com) [www.kadirstreehouses.com](http://www.kadirstreehouses.com) and take a tour. The nearby coastal village of Cirali also has a number of Guest Houses.

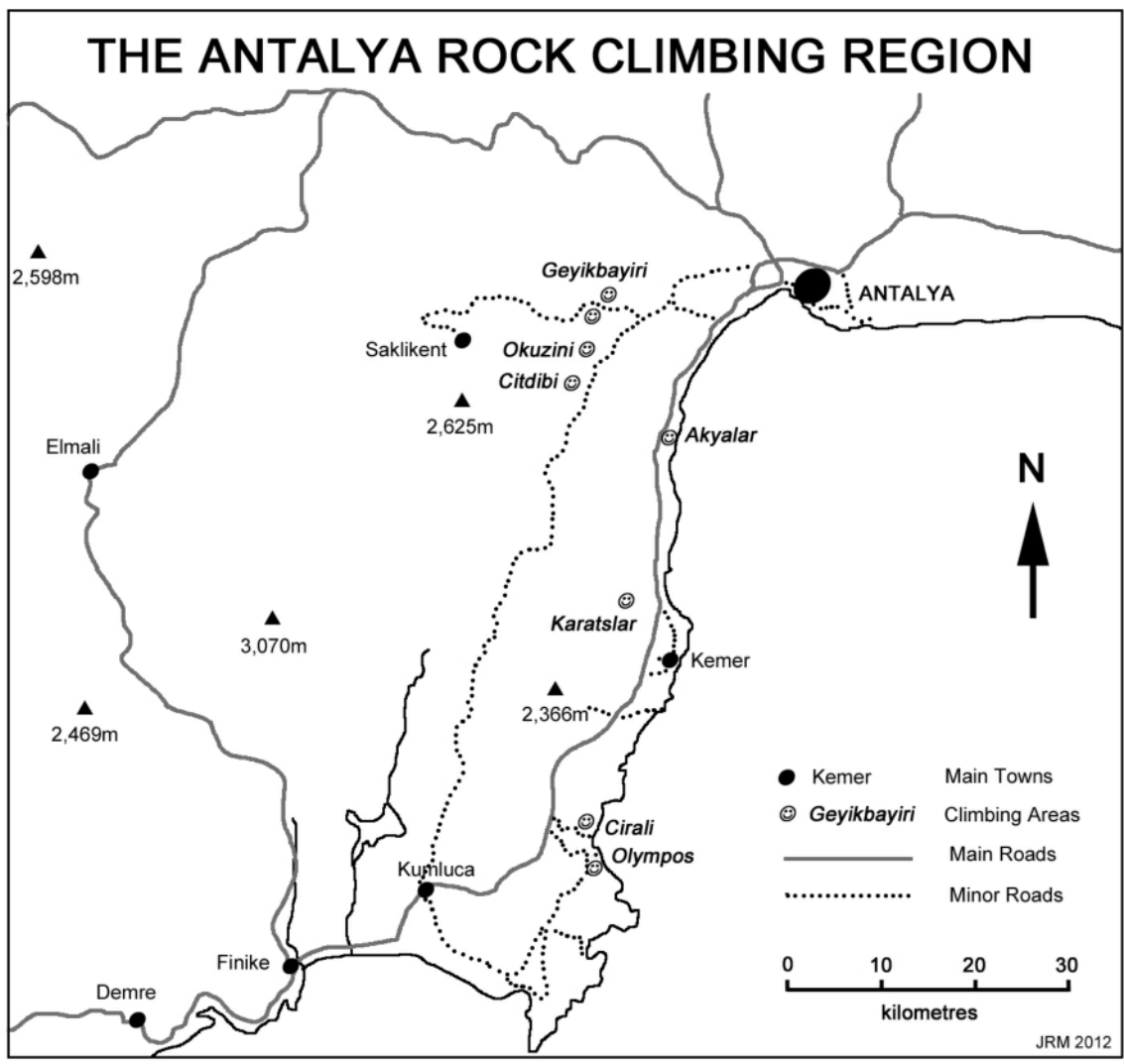
#### MAPS AND GUIDES.

As all the climbing areas are within the popular "Turkish Riviera" region there is a plethora of maps to choose from. We generally found that the 1:150,000 Freytag & Berndt "Western" and "Eastern Riviera" maps adequately covered all our needs. There are also larger scale maps available for walkers such as the 1:54,000 "Mount Olympos Region" published by EWP [www.ewpnet.com](http://www.ewpnet.com). These and other maps are easily found at travel booksellers and on the internet [www.stanfords.co.uk](http://www.stanfords.co.uk), [www.mapsworldwide.com](http://www.mapsworldwide.com) and [www.themapshop.co.uk](http://www.themapshop.co.uk). Additionally it is useful to have a good road map with which to negotiate Antalya as this vibrant city has an ever growing population in excess of 1,500,000. This item can usually be obtained for free at the Tourist Office within the airport and is also given away by the larger car hire companies. The airport is situated to the east of the city whilst the climbing is to the west!

The standard guide for climbing is "A Rock Climbing Guide to Antalya" by Öztürk Kayıkcı ISBN 978-9944-5709-0-9.



This excellent easily followed guide is currently in its 4<sup>th</sup> edition (2011) and can be obtained from most UK climbing shops. Basic information online of routes can also be seen at [www.ozturkkayikci.net](http://www.ozturkkayikci.net). The very latest climbing update is available in situ from the JoSiTo campsite idyllically situated directly beneath the Geyikbayiri cliffs. Apart from the general “Lonely Planet” and “Rough Guide” type publications a valuable book that covers interesting local sites, the “Lycian Trail” and other walks is “*Turkish Coast. Antalya to Demre*” published by Sunflower Books ISBN 978-1-85691-327-0.



# MUSHROOM CAVE OR SHEN LONG GONG DONG

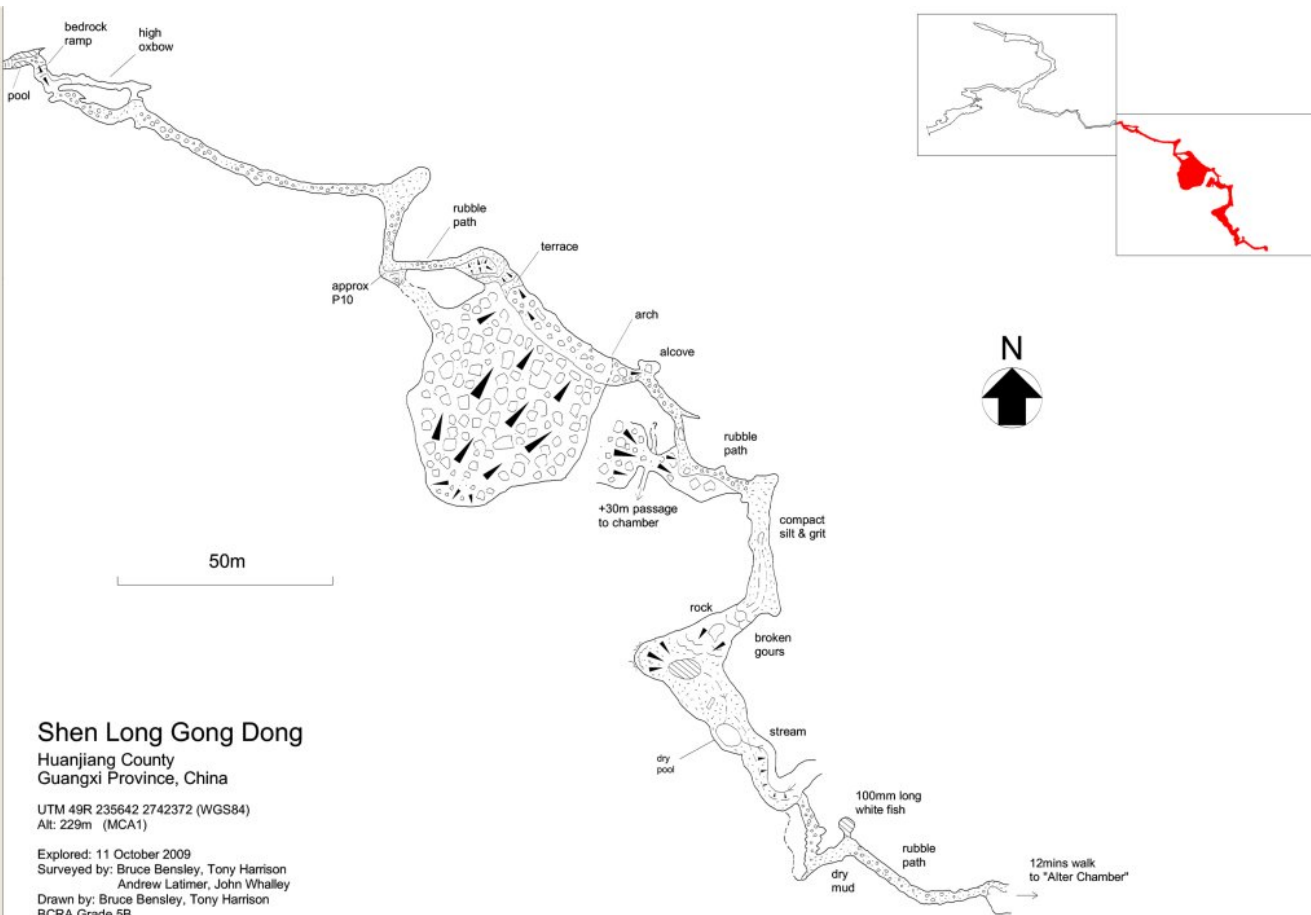
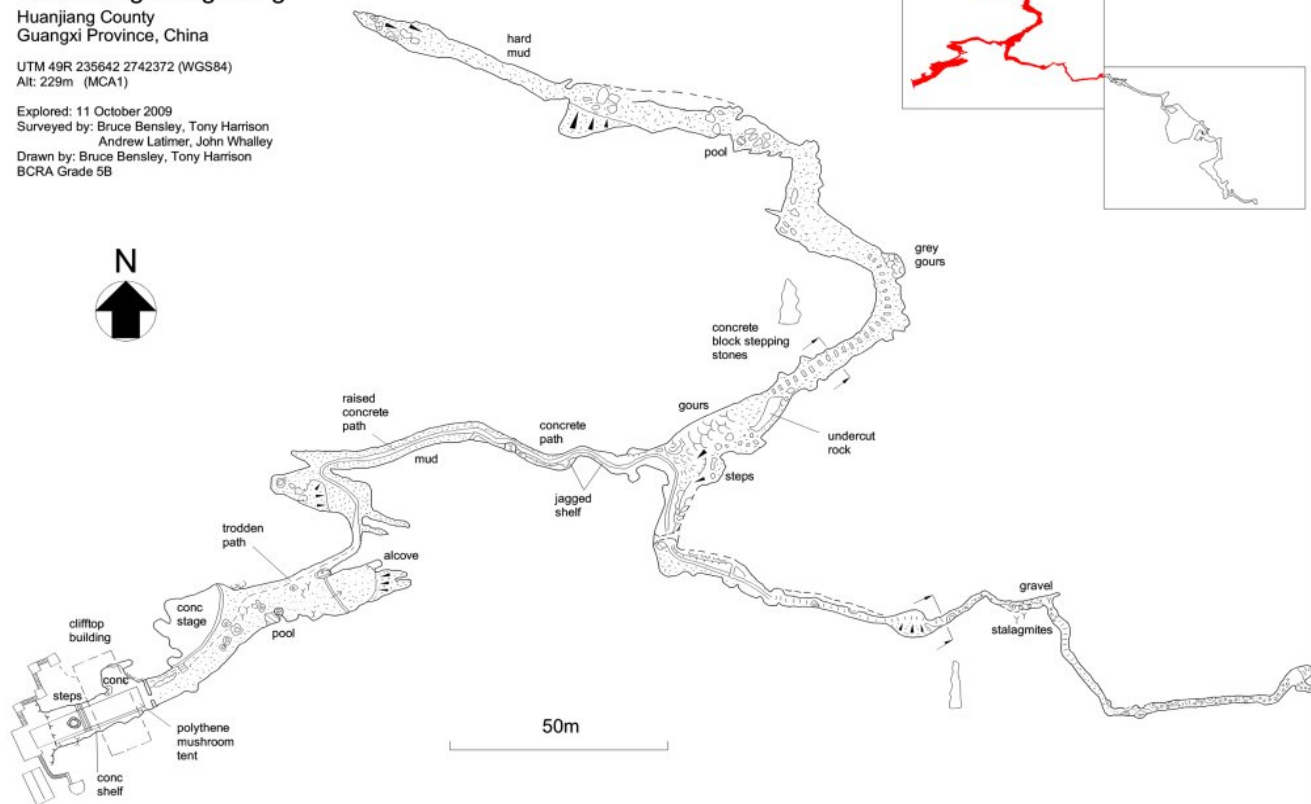
John Whalley

## Shen Long Gong Dong

Huanjiang County  
Guangxi Province, China

UTM 49R 235642 2742372 (WGS84)  
Alt: 229m (MCA1)

Explored: 11 October 2009  
Surveyed by: Bruce Bensley, Tony Harrison  
Andrew Latimer, John Whalley  
Drawn by: Bruce Bensley, Tony Harrison  
BCRA Grade 5B



## Shen Long Gong Dong

Huanjiang County  
Guangxi Province, China

UTM 49R 235642 2742372 (WGS84)  
Alt: 229m (MCA1)

Explored: 11 October 2009  
Surveyed by: Bruce Bensley, Tony Harrison  
Andrew Latimer, John Whalley  
Drawn by: Bruce Bensley, Tony Harrison  
BCRA Grade 5B

My association with Mushroom Caves began in 2002 when, while the rest of the expedition was photographing the "Funnel of Light" in Bai Dong: Tony Penny, Arthur Salmon and I investigated such a cave on the outskirts of Leye.

The Chinese are big on eating fungi (another thing China has in common with Italy along with pasta) There are many different edible species. In the caves they are cultured in cylindrical bundles, which are stacked along the sides of the entrance passages of these caves. It must be assumed that the cooling draughts of the cave system combined with the subtle influences of the threshold zone provide them with a perfect environment. The cylindrical bundles are delivered intact to the towns, where they can be seen in the shops and markets, the fruiting bodies protruding from their ends.

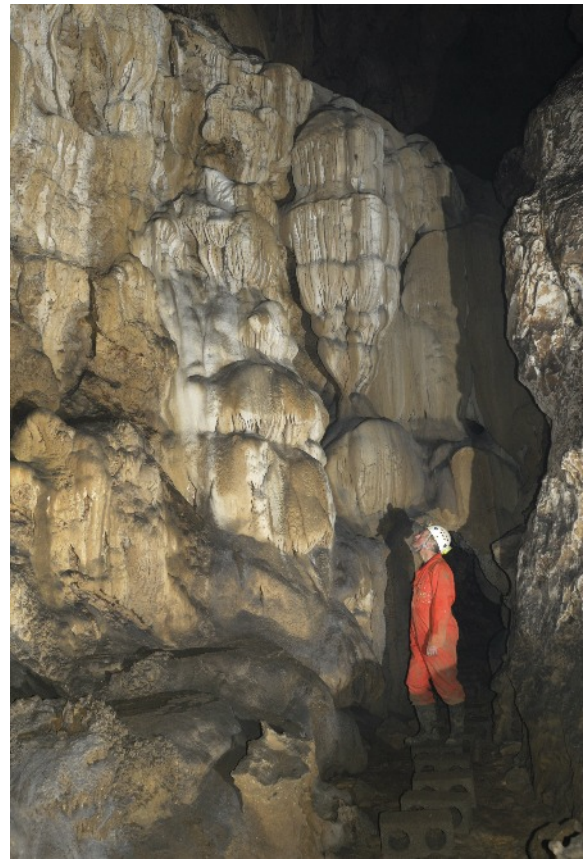
The Mushroom Cave of Huangjiang County is situated about 18 kilometres south east of the city. The main road from Huangjiang is a veritable boulevard: straight and lined with fine trees. Towering overhead to the front and right are magnificent karst towers. Eventually we took a lane leading off to the left. This led to a network of country lanes and we had some difficulty in finding cave but we eventually found the entrance, complete with the diminutive farmer.

The Cave, we were informed, was extensive and used to be a show cave and also a Buddhist temple, though this was no longer the case. The mushroom crop was housed in a makeshift polytunnel protruding from the entrance and going into the cave 20-30 metres. Beyond this a polythene sliding door gave access to a roughly circular chamber with a stage on one side.



The way beyond was a rift passage with plenty of calcite formations along the way. Stepping-stones improvised from concrete blocks were evidence of water during wetter times. Active water was encountered in a pool on the left at one point.





On my first visit, with Tony, we investigated the left hand passage. This was accessed by means of steps leading up to a floor of spectacular, but rather dry gours. Beyond, further concrete stepping-stones led to a terminal boulder choke with a large beehive formation with graffiti.



Returning to the main passage, there was no indication to suggest that the continuation would be any different from what went before. However, Arthur Clarke, who had been on a previous visit, spoke of bigger spaces beyond.

On our next visit, Tony and I surveyed into the cave: and time was lost because the Suunto compass disk had jumped off its bearings so we had to retake a lot of the readings. Continuing along the main, lower passage a bend is reached where the passage widens and there is a huge eroded stalagmite.

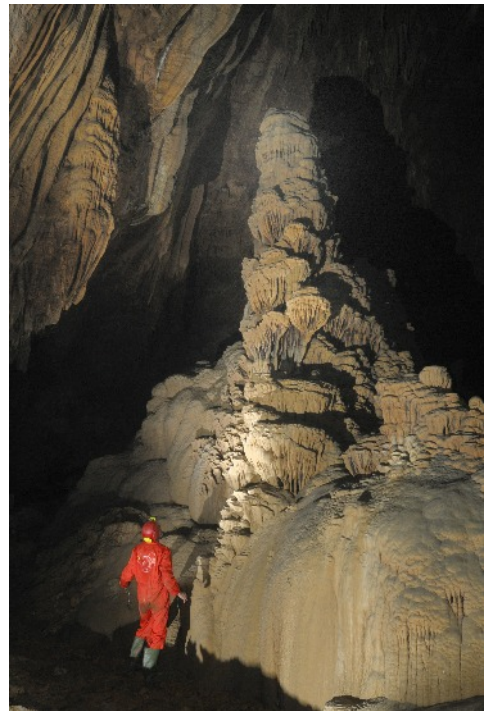
Beyond this we came to a short section of similarly eroded, fretted rock. This led to a T-junction, although the only continuation on the right was at high level. On my return I spotted a large winged creature flying that way. My impression was that it was rather large for a bat. If a bird, this implies that there is a connection with the surface in that direction.



The way on, however is to turn left and follow a much larger passage. Rude graffiti on the left hand wall attest to its former status as a poorly regulated show cave. Eventually we came to a really huge chamber. Steps cut into the bank led up to a path ascending diagonally beneath a giant stalagmite cluster. On reaching the platform behind these stalagmites, it was evident that one had collapsed: broken off from its base to leave a horizontal surface at tabletop height. Small drinking vessels had been placed on this in a formal arrangement suggesting that it may have been used as an altar for religious observances.

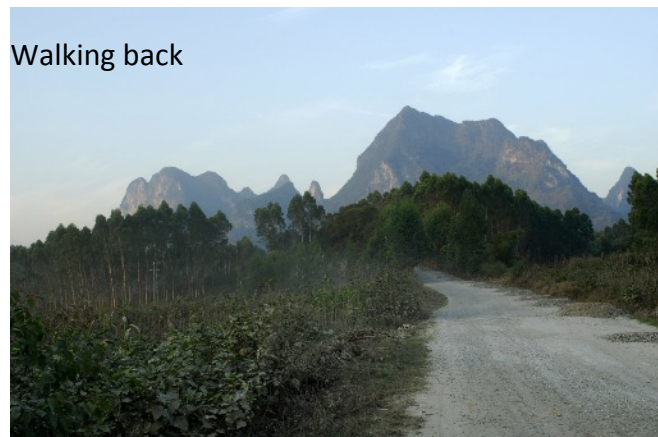


Beyond this high point the chamber continued as a huge descending passage though, unfortunately, we had to cut our explorations short and return to the entrance.



We were anxious to make our appointment with a VIP of previous acquaintance whom, we hoped, would be able to resolve the conflict between the Mulun Nature Reserve and their landlords the Forestry Commission that was seriously hampering our activities.

On reaching the entrance there was no vehicle to pick us up but we managed to walk to the road junction and hitchhike back to Huangjiang in time for the banquet, which was in a 'posher', hotel than ours and included crunchy barbecued sparrows on the menu.



Walking back



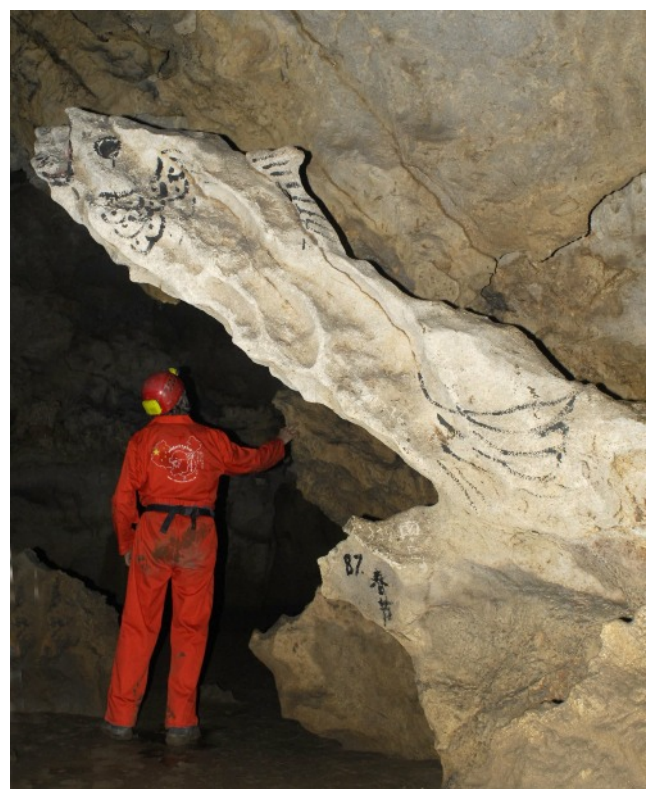
Left, formations in the Altar area

Above, assembled by the entrance

Bottom left, taking water samples

Below, the graffiti

Photos by John Whalley



# **MORE TALES FROM CHINA 2009**

## **Ganmei - Long drops, white pillows, camp fires and farmhouses .. by Mike Peters**

Something quite unique lay before us for the next 24 hours. Due to the lack of roads, we were to drive the long way round in a long curve to the North for 4 hours. We would achieve very little distance as the crow flies. The route would take us from Huanjiang, around the Mulun National Nature Reserve and across into the Maolan National Park in Guizhou. We would then turn back south into Guangxi, where we would be based in a remote farmhouse in a village called Ganmei just beyond the Gengba village. The aim was to complete the descent of a deep shaft that others of the team had started to rig. This was to be an evening descent and early hours of the morning exit.

We were all up, packed and ready for the 9am departure as arranged by Zanghai. The usual delay as we waited on the hotel steps was to be no different today. Delays were often caused by the last minute errands, to go for pack lunches or waiting for the vehicles and people accompanying us. Today it was the "being driven off to another location for breakfast" situation. In his frustration, Ged refused the offer and reiterated that we had a long journey with a hard task at the end of it. We were then informed that our vehicle was under repair in a garage and would not be many minutes. If I remember correctly, the front calliper had fallen off the brake the day before.

To cut a very long story short we finally got the vehicle and a change of driver, who insisted we go to his house enabling him to gather personal gear on the other side of town. This was preceded by a trip to the local market area so he could make some bullets for his gun! To our exasperation, we finally crossed town once again, passing our hotel for the start of the journey proper, at 10:30am.

We raced through the ever changing China countryside, glad to be finally on our way.

The driving surfaces frequently changed from smooth tarmac to bone jarring tracks and back to tarmac again. The views across the more open valleys and richer farmland helped time pass. The backdrop of hills and Karst cones made it all the more magical. We stopped in a village and to the amusement of us all, our driver redeemed himself and turned into chef mode at a restaurant and cooked for us. We continued to the town of Lao Cun Xiang where local people shopped at their market dressed decoratively in local costume. The road descended to a tributary of the Da Gou river, At the confluence our vehicle splashed into the water but arrived at the other side safely. We then climbed up to higher pastures and impressive scenery on the Guangxi/Guizhou border. Well appointed houses dotted along the road seemingly incongruous to the poverty of the region. Another stop just outside the Maolan Nature Reserve saw us nourished and ready to go again.

The end of our journey was literally at the end of the road/track in a tiny village called Gengba. This village was

going through a transformation with some very old traditional buildings being over shadowed by new domains and conversions. One old large residence was in the process of having tiles placed on the front walls from the ground to the roofline. To us it was a shame to see old buildings losing their uses and others going through this upgrade, but to the owners I am sure it was considered as natural progress.

We were now faced with an hour's hilly walk through small field plantations and Karst cones with a lot of rope and gear to carry. Some farmers became our Sherpas, who were happy to earn some extra Yuan and they quickly strapped heavy bags on the end of bamboo poles. They lifted our belongings and equipment onto their shoulders and set off walking at a fast pace. Bruce Bensley had previously left a hotel pillow at this village and Ged decided he would take it along and use it for the overnight stay. It was quite a colonial site as we set off with our Sherpas and Ged in tow with a pristine white pillow under his arm.

As we passed between the cones, the landscape opened up before us. For me, these were the best views of the trip so far. High peaks and deep heavily vegetated valleys as far as the eye could see. There were tempting narrow paths leading down to whatever lay below, used by the farmers to travel through these beautiful formations. We traversed and climbed in the hot sunshine and finally we descended steeply to our three-house village. It was in a very remote situation with limited water and no electricity. Their three hectares of small patches of cultivated land were enclosed tightly by the Karst cones leaving no room for expansion. This was a traditional small farm, farmed in the same way that their forefathers had farmed it. The middle-aged daughter, who had doubled as a porter welcomed us into the farm house. An older lady stood silently in the background and one of her sons, an absolute Charles Bronson double, arranged seats and beckoned us to sit down. The upstairs accommodation in our farmhouse was an internal balcony where the maize harvest was stored. It was here we laid out our sleeping bags among the dried harvest. The usual concrete circular reservoir nearby had about one metre of warm green turgid water in it. I hoped this was not our drinking supply.

At the other house a little away from ours, we had stored some of our ropes. I do not know how many pigs or cattle slept below the living area, but my eyes immediately streamed from the stench and ammonia rising from below as I gathered up the ropes. There is no straw for bedding and these animals just lived upon their self produced bedding.

All equipment sorted and checked now and we made our way to the shaft on the hillside 300m away followed by chattering villagers.

It was big elliptical entrance or more precisely a giant booming hole and we quickly began to respect the situation

that we now found ourselves in contemplating its descent. As I gazed down its dizzy depths it reminded me of Coleridge's vision of dream and caverns measureless to man in the Kubla Khan epic .....But oh! That deep romantic chasm which slanted down the green hill athwart a cedern cover! A savage place! As holy as enchanted as e'er beneath a waning moon was haunted by woman wailing for her demon lover!

We retreated to the safety of the farm house to arrange our gear and receive the last supper, Anxious to get on we packed the rope bags, re-packed them again and loaded ourselves like gladiators for the kill.

The first 150m had already been rigged already been rigged on the previous visit. Bruce and Ged were soon double checking each other's harnesses for safety. There was an estimated 200m left to rig, hopefully enabling them to reach the bottom of the shaft. At 5pm, they began the descent.

Dusk soon came and the dozen or so villagers retreated to the village for their evening meal. Before they departed one man used his machete to cut down some wood and lit us a fire between the grikes for myself, Ling the translator and Mr Wei our Forestry driver. The wood chopping man left us the machete enabling us to keep the fire going until GC and BB returned to the surface hopefully in 7 - 8hrs. We sat at the side of the shaft feeding the fire listening to the caver's voices getting fainter and fainter as they descended. We could hear the sound of their drill, as holes were being made for the bolts. Finally, all sound ceased from the shaft and we settled down for the long and sort of anxious wait. There is no cave rescue to be had and the nearest phone was a long way out of here to get any sort of assistance.

It was a warm night as we settled down around the fire. The full moon slowly moved upwards and lit up the karst cones across the valley.....it was as if Coleridge's poem was coming to life not a waning moon but a full moon! It was truly a surreal experience as we sipped some beer, fed the fire and chatted about the differences between China and the UK. At times if we laughed too loudly the dogs in the village below bayed out in a barking chorus which broke the peace of the quiet night. We were comfortable in our new found friendships and we felt confident enough to ask possibly sensitive questions that we would not have normally enquired about each others' countries.

Around midnight soft footsteps approached our haven on the edge of the shaft. It was one of the Bronson brothers from the farmhouse coming to see if all was well. He joined in the mood of the group easily. I asked if there was any room for improvement in his standard of living on the farm. He said it was a traditional farm and that it had been farmed that way for generations not out of choice.

He went on to tell us that the local government were in the process of moving the poorest farmers out of the valleys in the hope of improving their quality of life. I said that I could see that we were in a beautiful place and as a "tourist", it was wonderful to see, but that we all realised that to live and work there everyday was very hard thing do.

Some of his questions to me were a little surprising. For example, he asked, would he be discriminated against if he came to the UK? What about the poor farmers in the UK, how do they survive? I smiled at the thought and said that they just did not exist in comparison to this part of China. He was very surprised.

The last two bottles of beer looked very inviting and temptation to finish them off was becoming a battle of wills.

Suddenly, we were all brought back to the reason why we were there, as we heard muffled voices from far below. Our cavers were on the long haul back to the surface. We could hear the snap of the karabiners as rope changes were made and then the calls of the surveying readings as they proceeded upwards.

The farmer went down to wake the household with the news and start cooking a meal for us. We stoked up the fire and double checked that we had two bottles of beer left as we knew our cavers would be in need of a long drink.

At 1.30am, they emerged from the shaft and took the final survey readings. Around the fire they chatted tiredly about their successful 8½ hour trip to the base of the shaft and back. They had reached a depth of over 300 metres and it was still going albeit smaller in size. The ropes remained rigged we would have to return and de-rig ..... this place wasn't going give up easily. Meanwhile the smoke from the fire rose in the stillness of the night and the moon stood right above us casting an eerie light over the mouth of the cavern behind us.....all we needed was Coleridge's wailing women to complete the scene!

After 30 minutes, we descended back to the village to our farmhouse for a meal. In the darkness of one corner, one of the brothers started up a generator to power one light bulb for us all to eat by. As the room slowly filled with fumes, we hurriedly donned our caving helmets and switched on our lights and suggested that they saved their precious petrol for another night. We feasted well and our chatter was only stopped by the meowing of tiny kittens dashing into the shadows frightened but tempted by the offer of freshly cooked meat.

We all tiredly gave our thanks and retired to bed on the balcony.... we slept well only to be awakened by the crowing of cockerels and the clatter of dishes at 8.00 in the morning, we finished breakfast and packed our bags. Ged ceremoniously presented the old lady of the house with the glossy white pillow he had trailed from the hotel in Huanjiang. She was absolutely delighted .... it really made her day. Her daughter loved the gesture and carefully placed the pillow on the dusty wooden sideboard in the corner of the room. It looked so incongruous amid the ramshackle but rustic splendour that surrounded it,

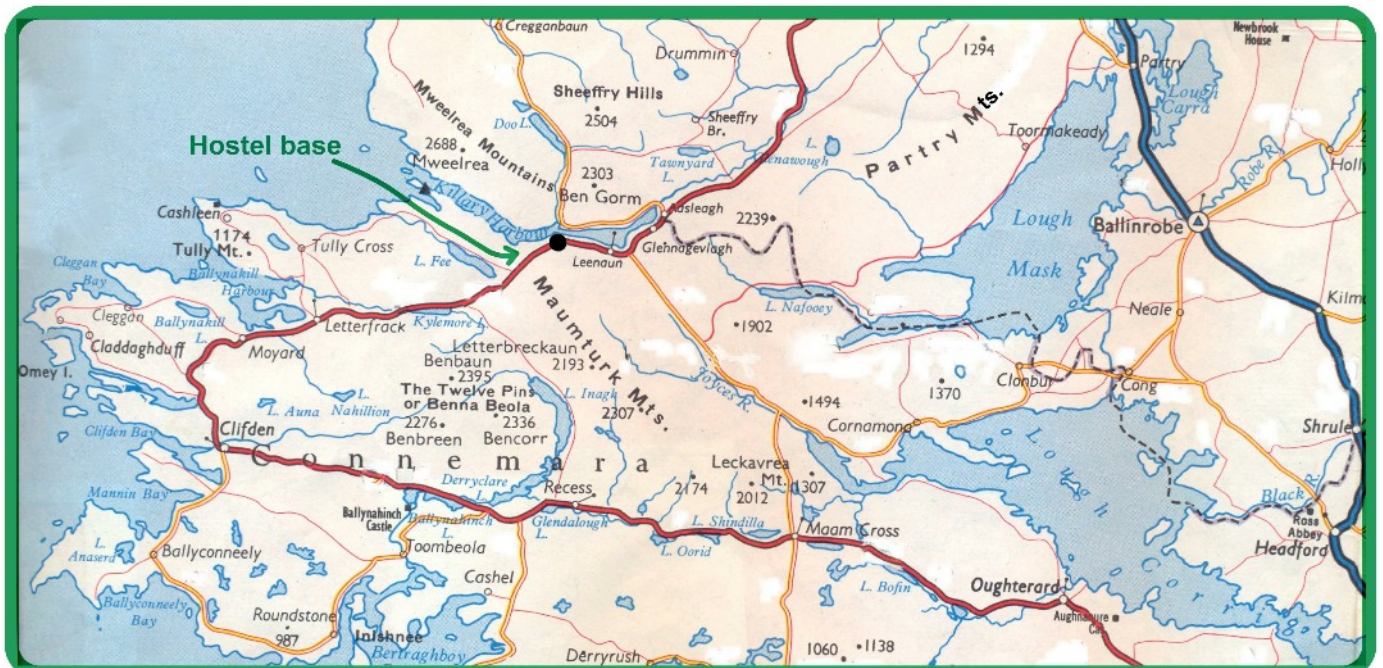
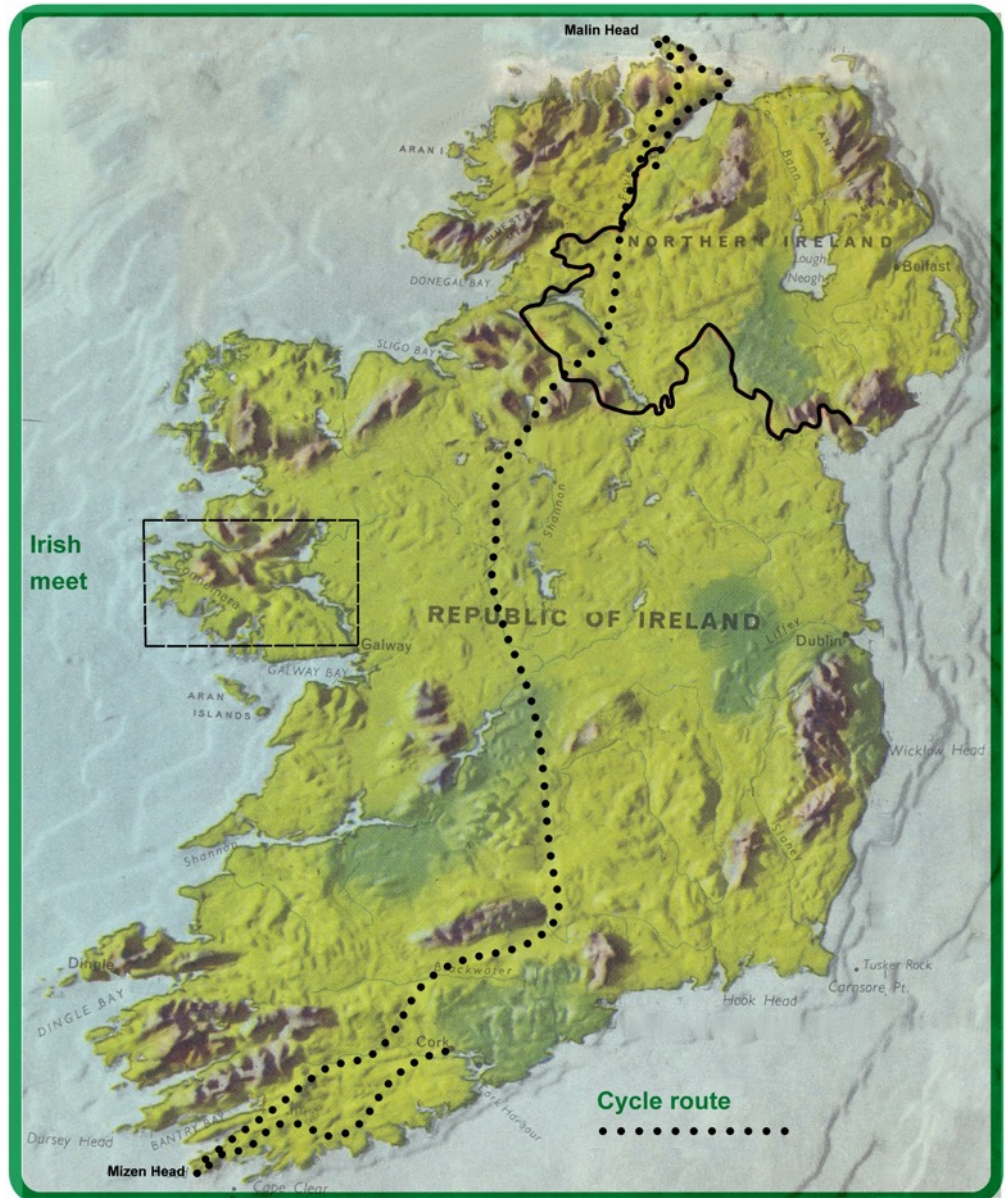
Ganmei is an experience I will never forget for the smells, the kind people, the quietness of that isolated patchwork, hidden in the China hills.



# THE EMERALD ISLE

In addition to the extended meet in Connemara, Tony Penney has completed an epic cycle ride the length of the island.

The route he followed is shown on the top map and the location of the hostel we used for the meet is indicated on the blow up below



# MALIN HEAD TO THE MIZEN HEAD

## Cycling The Irish End-to-End

Tony Penny

The first question a touring cyclist is asked on completing a trip is not about the route, nor the scenery, nor even the weather encountered but invariably it's "How long did it take?".



In my case, an honest reply to this query would have to be: "Sixty years in the concept and two weeks in the execution." Events occur or conspire to delay plans throughout life and, with me, a journey by bike from the Mizen Head in County Cork, to the Malin Head in Donegal, first thought of when aged 14, was put off until I reached 74!

I live now in Spain during the winter months and flew in to Dublin from Murcia in late September with my bike, courtesy of Ryanair. (Provided that this is in a bag or box, there is no problem with carriage.) Dublin is a busy bustling city, even in the present recession, with reasonably priced B & Bs and cafes. I stayed at the Irish HA hostel (An Oige) and there met an Australian touring the world with his bagpipes. Needless to say, he was finding accommodation inexplicably unavailable whenever he made enquiries.

From Dublin I took the train to Cork, again very reasonably priced, and with racks for bikes and facilities to charge up mobile phones, lap tops etc. (no adaptor is needed the sockets being compatible with the UK.) Refreshments were sold by trolley during the journey and travellers were kept constantly informed about the route in both Irish and English.

Cork, the second city of the republic, is divided by the River Lee and sports a festive air with boating trips out to the harbour. It has lively pubs which were celebrating "Arthur Guinness Day" when I arrived with drinks costing €3 a pint for the occasion. It has not one, but two cathedrals to cater for the pious many of whom were busy celebrating the aforementioned "Arthur's Day" in the bars of the city.

The first problem with the End-to-End bike ride is how to arrive at the starting point and what one does at the finish to arrive back home. When I completed the British Land's End to John O'Groats there were trains to Penzance and

likewise from Wick, but the rail lines in south-west Cork and north Donegal are long gone. The solution for me was to cycle another 100km from Cork station via Skibereen to the Mizen Head on the very busy N71 road. Riding here a high-visibility outer layer is essential as there were many blind bends, with no hard shoulder. The speed limit for traffic is 100kph. It is not uncommon to witness a herd of cows being shepherded across such a busy main road with cars and lorries screeching to a halt at the last minute! There are signs indicating "Cattle Ahead" but they are often obscured by untrimmed hedges. The Highways Authority must address the totally inadequate provision for cyclists and pedestrians on these roads by creating at least a metre wide smooth-tarred hard shoulder if they are to encourage a return to cycling.

At the time of writing, Dublin claims to be the 9<sup>th</sup> most bike friendly city in Europe and the Irish government gives a tax discount of 50% for the purchase of "bikes to work".

The whole of the southern coast is warmed by the Gulf Stream and has, as a consequence, a very temperate climate with Mediterranean type trees and plants in abundance. From Cork, the route winds in and out of several picturesque towns like Inishannon, Bandon and Clonakilty. Shortly after leaving the village of Leap I came across a replica Model T Ford painted in silver and mounted on a platform to commemorate the birthplace of William Henry Ford, father of the great industrialist Henry Ford, who was born nearby.

The Mizen Head itself is where the first transatlantic radio signals began. Now a centre for lectures on ornithology, weatherlore and nautical history, it is very tastefully landscaped. The day I arrived the temperature was 20°C and sunny and I soon forgot the N71 on the quieter roads to Durrus. Here I stayed in an outstanding B&B (€35) overlooking Dunmanus Bay listening to the haunting cries of the curlews. A large ruined building stood on the water's edge..... a former cereal store that was utilised for exporting grain even during the great famine of 1845/1850 whilst the peasants starved.

The weather remained fine with a following wind as I continued through Macroom, Mallow, Michelstown and into Tipperary. In Macroom, I stayed at a B&B displaying the CTC (Cyclists' Touring Club) logo. The female proprietor was about to attend a 60 year celebration at the Castle Hotel in the town and gave me the keys to the house after only meeting me for two minutes. Next morning, at breakfast, she told me her story: she had started at the hotel as a fourteen-year-old maid 50 years ago and had bought her own house with the tips from waitressing. She had been

asked to seek out all the eight former maids that she had worked with and discovered that she was the only one left alive!

A horse fair was in progress when I passed through Ballinsloe. I thought the town a little run down and badly needed something like the fair to bring in some trade. The local people however, were helpful and curious about my little expedition, advising the best route through the horse strewn streets. It began to rain when I reached Roscommon so I took the opportunity to visit Strokestown National Famine Museum whilst the downpour lasted.

There was a permanent exhibition explaining the terrible events that befell the Irish people during the potato blight when the population of the country fell from 8 million to 4 million through starvation and forced emigration.



Leaving this evocative memorial in a rather pensive mood, I pushed on to Dromud in County Longford and on to Ballinamore, a quaint town with most of the shopfront names written in Gaelic script. From here, it was 60km to Enniskillen, a bustling town at the head of Lough Erne. This entailed changing from Euros to Sterling as Enniskillen is one of the six counties of the north of Ireland which still retain the pound. The journey from here led to County Tyrone, crossing and re-crossing the old border with the Republic at Castledearg and Castlefinn. The roadside here is peppered with monuments relating to past ambushes and skirmishes of the 1916/1922 conflict that led ultimately to the foundation of the Irish republic.

Taking advantage of a strong following wind again, I reached Bunrana on the shores of Lough Swilby. The route was quite hilly and tiring but finally led towards the Malin Head in Donegal. Here I stayed in an independent hostel that proved to be the cheapest of the whole trip at €12 per night with central heating and a self-catering kitchen. I had the place to myself as it was late in the season (early October).

Malin Head has the word "EIRE" painted on the cliff face as an indication to planes during World War 2 that they were approaching Ireland, a neutral country.

Now, my route home saw me add another 70km round the Inishowen peninsula through Carndonagh, Quigley's Point into Derry City where I caught a flight back to Alicante, Spain.

### In Brief:

The total distance covered by bike was 850km. Accommodation was unplanned but readily available everywhere, the average for B&B being €35 and hostels being €17 a night(2011 prices!) For those with more time, I would recommend a journey up the west coast taking in the Ring of Kerry and the Burren district of County Clare, through Connemara and then to Donegal. It would be more picturesque but obviously take a lot longer to contemplate than 60 years!

## WALKING ON PAVEMENT

Whilst in Ireland on the Connemara meet, my friend and I took the opportunity of visiting the Burren. This is an amazing area of 'pavement' just south of Galway.

As we near the end of any long walk, we none of us relish having to walk on pavement, natural or otherwise. It is often the unforgiving surface alongside a busy and toxic road but it is equally true when struggling to pick weary feet up as we traverse round Ingleborough on the natural limestone pavement. The Burren is similar but on a much more massive scale.

We should however take time to really look where we are going: Not what direction we are heading necessarily, but at the wildlife around us.

Most roads are edged by hedges or dry stone walls which are entire ecosystems in themselves and in amongst the limestone pavements rare plants can be found surviving in the micro-climates in the cracks in the rock.

This rock feature 'pavements' was created by ice sheets as the last ice age receded and are areas of exposed limestone rock split into blocks in sheltered nooks of which, whole eco-systems have developed. As the Ice Age ended and the ice caps melted, this fascinating landscape revealed itself in parts of the British Isles. It is basically wide areas of rock, scalped of top soils and worn flat under the immense weight of the slowly advancing ice.

Over the millennia since, it has been weathered by the weather so that its surface has worn smooth with occasional

cracks where water has found a weakness and slowly cut away these grikes. In England, some of the best lime-stone pavements are found in Yorkshire on Ingleborough and Wharfedale and above Malham Cove. Similar pavements occur elsewhere in limestone country and Martyn Trasler and I found ourselves picking our way through it on Dalton and Hutton Roof Craggs on wooded slopes around Morecambe Bay during the last Whoop Hall meet. It provided some real challenges not least getting some good photos for Martyn's daughter's homework.

At first glance these pavements look dry and lifeless, but even the shallowest of these grikes is damp and relatively humid compared with the surface and rare wild flowers and ferns thrive in the gloom. Lily of the valley, herb robert, dog's mercury and herb paris can all be found there to name but a few. Plants are found in pavements which are found nowhere else in the British Isles and which are survivors from the near 'alpine' conditions which followed the Ice Age.

Where sheep graze limestone hill country the young tree shoots growing in the grikes are chewed off, leaving stunted 'bonsai'. Lower down, scrubby trees often surround areas of pavement leaving secluded clearings where yew and juniper develop.

Pavements are also found in Ireland, mostly in County Clare and Galway with the Burren being the best known. This mass of limestone covers almost a hundred square miles and is apparently as much as three thousand feet thick in places and is honeycombed with underground streams and large caves containing incredible calcite features with the largest stalactite in a cave near Elva which is over seven metres long. The region supports arctic, Mediterranean and alpine plants side-by-side, due to the unusual environment.



During the recent Connemara meet when we took the opportunity to go and have a look at it we found it very much a natural rock garden with many rare and beautiful flowers in bloom. The symbol of the Burren is the spring gentian, with its vivid blue flowers and a rosette of small, bright-green leaves.

Yellow clumps of bird's foot trefoil flourish in thin soil on the rock surface and from the deepest fissures, magenta sprays

of bloody cranesbill grow widely – the only place in Ireland. All kinds of flowers blossom including mountain avens, with its pure white flowers, smothering rock like snow. On still days the fragrant scents of wild thyme and juniper are said to mix on the breeze but when we were there it was far from still. Orchids abound between rocks and the bee and fly orchids bloom on slopes nearby. The abundance of flowers and their nectar attract countless species of butterfly and other insects. My limited botanical knowledge inhibited identifications but there was plenty to find.

Not surprisingly this larder attracts many species of birds. One thing that is a bit odd is that whilst wrens are common amongst the pavements of the north of England in Ireland their place in the food chain is largely taken up by pipits. On the Burren the sound of yellowhammers and skylarks form a pleasant background and numerous pied wagtails hop about the place.

The corncrake has its Irish stronghold in the Burren but we did not hear, never mind see, one of these elusive birds.

Another strange result of the Burren's complicated drainage system is strange dry lakes known locally as turloughs.

They can fill and empty within a few hours as water struggles to escape through small swallow holes into the tunnel system below. Not surprisingly this strange landscape with its numerous hiding holes does support mammals; with mice, rabbits and hares having to take advantage of the cover to avoid the prowling foxes, badgers and stoats. Bats abound and there is even a thriving population of pine martens. Further up the food chain, raptors also make a good living. We however saw very little.

This is a truly massive area and we could only walk into two parts of the N.E. corner which may not be fully representative but to my mind there are more spectacular grikes in Yorkshire and the Burren's claim to fame is that it is so extensive.

Returning to the roadside, the man made stone walls are akin to small scale vertical limestone pavements and whilst you will not find the larger mammals there, they do provide homes for many of the smaller ones including stoats and weasels. They are rich ecosystems for insects and invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles and also some species of birds which nest in them and plants especially herbs, ferns, lichens and mosses. They can also house snakes, something you will not find in Ireland.

Where you do not find yourself walking alongside a dry stone wall, you will invariably be beside a hedge of one sort or another. These along with the grass verges which normally accompany them are a tremendous wild life asset. The largest landowner in Britain is thought to be the Highways Agency with its traffic islands and verges and these latter are wonderful migration corridors for flora and fauna. The same can be said of the hedges but they also provide secure homes for numerous creatures. Britain was once widely wooded, and much of the animal and plant life of our countryside originally lived in woodlands. With woodland removal, they

sought refuge elsewhere and hedgerows are one of the major habitats into which they moved. Hedges act as wildlife reservoirs, providing food and shelter, often in otherwise barren arable landscapes; often being many centuries old they can be thought of as long low thin strips of ancient woodland, containing hundreds of plant species.

Hedges can provide food and shelter for many different creatures, from badgers to birds and rare butterflies. They help support an estimated 80% of woodland bird species; up to 50% of British mammals and 30% of butterflies. Hedges are also the preferred home of 47 endangered types of wildlife which are of concern to conservationists in the UK, 13 of which are globally threatened species. Due to the loss of other wildlife habitats, hedgerows have become even more important for wildlife in recent years; woodland species especially, are more common in hedgerows than they used to be. Well managed hedgerows, which are wide and tall, provide birds with food year-round, good nesting sites and song posts during the breeding season. Yellow hammers, blackbirds and chaffinches will all sing from the top of the hedge, whilst wrens and dunnocks will sing from the bottom of the hedge, where they nest. Almost all of our partridges nest in the hedge bottom and feed in and around hedgerows and chaffinches bring colour and sound to the hedgerow.

So next time you are working along a road, whether on the metalled surface or a village pavement don't rush on by, do look about you as there is a whole world out there.

Roy Denney

## **WALKING THE LAND OF BOGS**

Variouly described as the land of the bogs; the land of the Bens; the empty land or little France, Connemara was certainly a land of surprises for those there for our first time when we went on the Club meet.

For reasons I could not really bottom the French have really taken to this part of Ireland and to a lesser extent Cork and Kerry as well. There is a ferry from Roskoff to Cork which may be the reason or that may be there to service the demand. In any event I heard more French spoken in Connemara than I normally do when visiting my daughter's home in the cosmopolitan city of Grenoble. The manageress and all the staff at our hostel were French, the only supermarket in the area had very French products and every bar or restaurant we visited the language of nearby tables was almost exclusively French. One local bar lady even said that this time of year the French outnumber the residents and other visitors put together. Certainly I would estimate that other than locals probably 90% of people we met or heard were French.

Part of the reason for this very high percentage is because there are very few locals anyway and they do not get many visitors from other places. I did note one German couple and a couple visiting from Dublin but that was it. There is a scattering of small hamlets round the coast and to the north, in Mayo, Westport is a large town servicing the needs of the people of the wider area but the great central mass of Connemara must be the least populated part of the British Isles apart possibly for the Scottish Highlands. Clivden is a largish town to the south and Galway City is only about 65 kilometres from where we were staying. Connemara is one of the last unspoilt areas in Ireland and is actually a loosely defined area of Galway. There are the remains of numerous small hamlets scattered about which were abandoned during the potato blight and subsequent famine.

It could also be described as the land of islands (or water) as it is hard to see much difference between the land and sea. The sea is full of thousand of islands of various sizes; there are numerous sea lochs and a fjord; countless inland lochs and thousands of small lochans. The lochs all have islands in them and most islands have lakes on them.

It is easy to see this lake-rich Roundstone Bog and the golden beaches reaching out into the wild Atlantic Ocean as the area is dominated by the rugged Twelve Bens (or Pins) mountain range and other similarly impressive stark summits. We were informed that 90% of Ireland's blanket bog had been lost but most of what was left seemed to be here.



Connemara has long provided for adventure and outdoor activities and is subject to sudden invasions. Where we were staying was hosting a Mountain Walking Festival the weekend we arrived and a massive Triathlon type event was scheduled for the day we left. The first was something of a surprise as mountain walking was very difficult.

With the exception of a tiny National Park all the land was in private ownership with no access points and much fence climbing is entailed.

Once on the land, and given that the few locals have no tradition of hill walking, there are actually virtually no paths onto or along the ridges. Pick the wrong approach and you could be fighting through tangled undergrowth for miles which is not helped by the bogs which amazingly run well up some hillsides.



Walking onto the Burren was equally difficult for the lack of access points.

In the valleys running down to the waters, beautiful spring flowers were to be seen, many beyond identification by my untutored eye, buds were on the trees many coming into leaf, newborn lambs were doing their thing and it was all very idyllic.

Wildlife however was notable for its absence. The call of the cuckoo and the song of the skylark were everywhere and one woodpecker was heard but disappointingly little was actually seen. I did actually see a snipe, meadow pipits, stonechats, chaffinches, robins, wrens and a gold finch.

Deer fences in and around the National Park give evidence that some deer are about but nobody saw any evidence of them. One rabbit was seen by a member as were three hares and a distant pod of probably dolphins.

The National Park is actually on the edge of the wilder area and is only of about 3000 hectares and was once part of the Kylemore Abbey estate. Given how much it costs to visit the Abbey and the rest of its estate this free park is popular, not least as it has actual paths assisting the ascent of a very respectable peak (Diamond Hill)



Kylemore Abbey

## **WALKING ON THE BEACH**

Walking round the coasts where possible threw up yet further different plant species and everywhere was brightened up flowering gorse.

There were several very good beaches which various members walked along but access was again generally not easy.

One trip most members undertook however, was the walk out to Omey Island, only accessible when the tide is out.

The report of our activities on the meet follows.

Roy Denney



## REPORT - CONNEMARA MEET MAY 5TH - 12TH

A party of twenty three members and guests converged on the Connemara Hostel for this Irish meet.

The accommodation was delightfully situated amongst trees and rhododendrons above the sinuous fiord of Killary Harbour close to the border of counties Galway and Mayo. The hostel is a converted country house at Derrynasliggaun, a few kilometres from the village of Leenane and we were made welcome by Farida Straub and her French staff. The midges in the car park were a surprise as we had all left our repellents at home, but they did help us unload quickly! However the wee beasties could not detract from the wonderful view across the lines of mussel ropes in the fiord to the soaring ridge leading up to the summit of Mweelrea in Mayo. Fortunately the same view could be had from the dining room too!

En route, John and Carol visited Marble Arch Cave, originally explored by Edouard Martel in 1895 and much extended by the YRC in 1935 (shades of Gaping Gill!). YRC explorers were referred to several times by the guide. The cave now has a visitor centre and is the focus of a global geopark. The Manager was so impressed that YRC was still operating, he presented them with a goody bag containing souvenirs plus a geology tract!

The weather during the week was generally good, with most of the rain falling overnight. A biting wind from the NE kept us from getting too hot on the several sunny days, so we all got some colour in our cheeks one way or the other! The conditions underfoot were dryer than expected and few problems with Connemara's legendary pony-swallowing blanket bogs were encountered. It came a surprise to members and locals alike to wake on the Tuesday morning to see a good covering of snow on the higher hills!

In true YRC tradition, climbing, walking, birding, running, road-biking and kayaking were all undertaken during the week with the odd glass or three of celebratory Guinness to finish or to accompany traditional music in Malloy's bar in Westport or Lowry's in Clifden. Lovers of Ardbeg or Laphroaig should sample Cooley's Connemara peated single malt whiskey (where Islay meets Ireland) - it combines the best of both - the smokiness associated with an Islay malt and the sweetness and smoothness of an Irish whiskey.

There was an activity centre just up the road from the hostel and one of the sights not to be missed were the participants emerging from the bog run (more of a wade really) – all having a brown tidemark just above or below the collar bone depending on stature!

Archaeological sites including megalithic tombs, standing stones, stone rows, ring forts, *fulachtaí fia* (Google it!) and holy wells added interest as well as the legends of kings and fairies. Numerous gable-ended ruins and abandoned lazy beds testified to the mass emigration that followed the appalling deprivations of the Great Famine years.

Despite foreign tourism spending being about €3bn to €5bn (when total public expenditure on goods and services is only €28bn) and widespread advertising of its scenic delights, it remains a mystery why they make so little effort to accommodate tourist access to the hills. Access points are few and unsigned unless they are on one of the few official 'Ways' and these are as often on roads as across the hills. Dogs, even on leads, are unwelcome here though generally acceptable throughout England, Wales and Scotland.

The tourist authorities 'development' on Diamond Hill with its National Park centre and trails undoubtedly encourages but constrains access there since it provides wide engineered tracks to the summit. A lower cost, less intrusive project with greater impact might have been to agree access points with local landowners, provide modest roadside hard standing and install signage. The financial return could be considerable as almost half of foreign tourism spending ends up as badly needed tax income for the government – that would be over £200 alone just for the evening we went out for a meal together. Our experience over the last three trips to Ireland of blocked official ways, inadequate mapping and difficulties with farmers is discouraging and surely not what that nation needs.

The following should give you our impressions of an excellent week of activities in good company - there will be many takers for a return visit as there is so much more to do, despite a few obstacles to be overcome.

### Diamond Hill

This highlight of the Connemara National Park was tackled by several parties on different days from the visitor centre.



Above the approach to Diamond Hill  
and overleaf  
the summit and views off it



Looking seaward down Killary Harbour and below,



### Killary Harbour

Several groups enjoyed a walk along the length of Killary fiord via the Famine Relief Road which hugs the shoreline from the sheep farm to the Killary Harbour. Superb views of the fiord and mussel fishing operations down to the coast and islands with fine views of the Mweelrea range opposite. Various higher level routes were employed to return. A number went round the promontory to climb up Foher Hill from the rear, before dropping back to the fiord side track and the return home. Others stayed high and returned over Lettertrinn.

### Carrot Ridge

Inevitably drawn like moths to a candle, three ropes of three simultaneously tackled the quartzite of Carrot Ridge, the stand-out line on Bencorr visible from afar and illuminated by the morning sun. It was named the Carrot Ridge by Joss Lynam and Liam Ó Réagain who believed they were completing the first ascent in the 1949, though they later learned that some Cambridge students had already climbed it in 1933.



Looking inland up Killary Harbour



Richard Taylor on the ridge





Nick Welch on the ridge



Approaching Ben Carr on Carrot Ridge

The Gleninagh valley was surprisingly dry facilitating a direct approach to the large pale coloured slab marking the beginning of the 370m route. We all enjoyed an excellent climb up the seven Diff pitches of clean rock admixed with some easier scrambling to the summit of Binn an tSaighdiura (Soldier's Peak) and then on to Bencorr itself. One party returned via Bencollaghduff and the Maumina col while the other completed a traverse over Derryclare, all having enjoyed the splendid views of the Twelve Bens around the Glencoaghan horseshoe to the SW and the Maumturks to the NE.



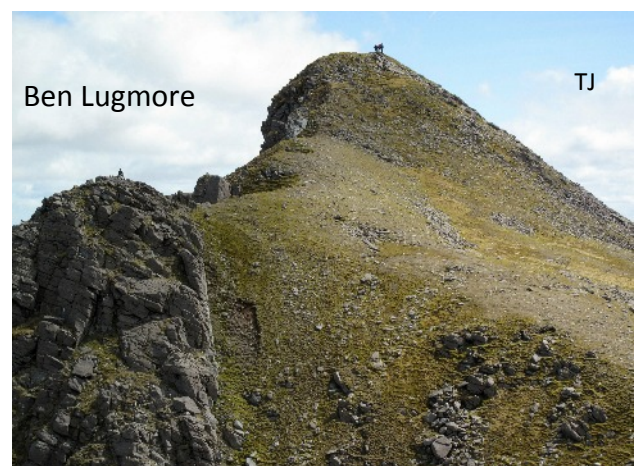
Carrot Ridge across Gleaning

Mweelrea from Foher

This fine viewpoint (at 814m, the eighth highest peak in Ireland) was reached by two parties. One group started near the memorial to those who perished after the 1849 famine walk to Delphi Lodge and completed their traverse to the Delphi Adventure Centre. This route crossed between the lakes of Doo Lough and Glencuilin Lough gaining the ridge by a linear feature known as the Ramp (allegedly frequented by Finbarra, king of the Connaught fairies). The other pair started at Delphi and completed an anti-clockwise high level circuit. Both parties enjoyed the airy ridge between Ben Lugmore and Ben Bury.

MB

Approaching the ridge



Ben Lugmore



Descent from Mweelrea



Barrsleivenaroy, Maumturks

### The Maumturks

One party did a circuit of the central portion of the range starting at Illion taking in the lochan-sprinkled quartzite ridges of Knocknahillion, Barrlugrevagh and Letterbreckaun. The second group split and arranged a crossover: those from the SE using the Western Way to the Holy Well and crossing Derryvealawauma, Binn idir an Da Log and on to Letterbreckaun then back and down near Finnisglin while the others started from Illion West and traversed the tops between the lochan and the Holy Well. The two groups conveniently met for a communal lunch at a sheltered spot on the ridge.

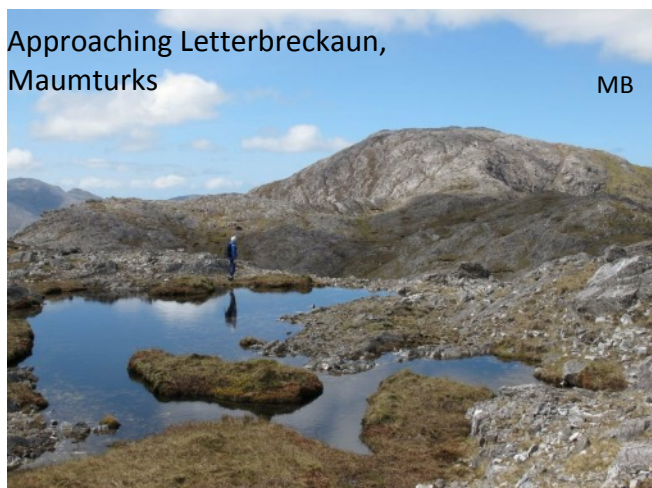
Yet a third group, wishing to avoid the use of cars, walked in from the hostel using the Western Way aiming for the northern end of the main Maumturks range. The choice of attack point was to prove poor with appalling underfoot conditions and having achieved one of the lower cols they elected to use one of the very few paths in the area to contour round the shoulder of Tooreenacoona and then across the valley of bog to rejoin the Western Way, returning by a variant of that route to create a figure of eight.



The Twelve Bens from the Maumturks



Following the Western Way through Lettershanbally Forest to approach Maumturks from west.



Approaching Letterbreckaun, Maumturks

### Ben Maum

One couple ascended Ben Maum but did not complete the fine horseshoe which would have included Benbrack and Knockbrack. They returned by scenic coast route, visiting a castle on the Tully peninsula.

### Sheeffry Hills

On the last day, Mayo's Sheeffry Hills were tackled west-to-east from the 1849 Famine memorial on the Glen Keen col. The bog soon gave a steep grassy then scree ascent to the several kilometres of flat ridge flanked by steep drops after the first top. A descent to the south gave some shelter for lunch out of the biting northerly wind. A turn south after the

third summit had the party scattering hares, shedding layers and descending via a forest track near Tawnyard to Glendavock and pre-placed waiting cars.



Taking a breather on Sheeffry

### Silver and White Strands

These beautiful shell sand beaches with accompanying sand dunes and machair in South Mayo were visited by several parties to enjoy a scenic coastal walk when the clag was down on the tops.

### Knocknagur, Knockaunbaun and Gleann Glaise

One group did a round including this ridge to the northeast of the Maumturks mountains ascending via an isolated 'fairy thorn' returning along the Gleann Glaise where the last wolf in Connemara is supposed to have been shot.



The Fairy Thorn

### Glengowla Mine

One couple visited this showmine near Oughterard, which proved to be 45m deep, spiralling down through different levels. It was worked for galena and various other minerals and is now preserved as a museum.

The surface gear, including horse-powered winding gear has been preserved and there is a nature trail being developed - well worth a visit.

### Kylemore Abbey

Several parties visited nearby Kylemore Abbey on the wet days, an imposing castle built in the 1870's in a stunning location, with a very impressive Victorian walled garden.



### Leenane Hill/Northern Maumturks

Situated between the hostel and the village of Leenane, this grassy hill was tackled from either end by a number of parties.

### Omey Island

This small island was reached across a tidal strand and a lane quickly led to a sandy path circumnavigating the island finishing at Omey graveyard with its tall granite crosses silhouetted against the lumpy dark outline of mountain peaks and ridges of the Twelve Bens in the distance.



### **Attending**

Mick Borroff (leader)	David Hick	Roy Swinden (G)
Kevin Brown	Tim Josephy	Richard Taylor
Peter Chadwick	Dave Martindale	Hilary Tearle (G)
Ann Chadwick (G)	Michael Smith	Nick Welch
Roy Denney	Helen Smith (G)	Carol Whalley (G)
Adrian Dixon	Richard Smith	John Whalley
Iain Gilmour	Chris Luby (G)	
Bob Haskins (G)	Dee Richards (G)	
	Chris Swinden (G)	

# COLOURFUL IRELAND



# FLORAL IRELAND



RD



RD



BH



RD



RD



RD



RD



RD



JW

# MORE IMAGES OF IRELAND



Images on page 28

The Mweelrea Round from Delphi Bridge  
and from just above our hostel

Diamond Hill

Killary Harbour

River crossing on Western Way

Lettershanbally Forest

Western Way

Thrift on Omev island

Images this page

Our hostel and the village

Climbing out of Killarey Bay Little

Kylemore from Diamond Hill

Lough Inagh

Maumturks over Lough Inagh

All photographs from Ireland were taken by either  
Mick Borroff (MB), Tim Josephy (TJ), Roy Denney (RD), Bob Haskins (BH) John Whalley (JW) or Mike Smith (MS)

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

ROY DENNEY

The Club is now 120 years old

For the benefit of any members who were not around when it was formed and other interested readers it is worth looking back over those years.

From the day of its conception, when four men met in a pub in July 1892, the club has pursued energetic pastimes such as caving, potholing, skiing, becking, fell walking, climbing and mountaineering not to mention numerous expeditions abroad.

We do suffer the misleading image conjured up by our name. Rambling is now taken to be the act of wandering here and there, taking a short stroll or brief excursion off the beaten track, a good bit different from what rambling obviously meant back in those days. Strolling has never featured in our ambitions excepting those members well past their sell by dates but who still like to turn out occasionally to keep in touch with younger members.

Back when we celebrated our centenary, amongst numerous activities, a dozen members set off for 11 days of gruelling cross-country skiing in Norway between dramatic peaks, several of which they were to climb. Logistics have never been a dampener to our ambitions. Having members climb every Monro in a long weekend took some organising as do expeditions to far flung corners of the globe.

The various component sports within our ambit do tend to wax and wane. There were periods when climbing (with ropes) featured heavily in the programme but less so lately. Caving and potholing did feature very heavily in the early years of the Club. Looking at old journals members can be seen hanging from hempen ropes and with candles stuck on their bowler hats, often wearing plus fours and a tweed jacket. They opened up the likes of Rowten Pot and Boggart's Roaring Hole. Potholing is now more restricted to a group within the club who are still doing great work as their exploits in China in recent years indicate.

Alpine weeks have been variously popular over the years and in recent years the exploration of remote parts of the world has come to the fore. After the fatalities in the Himalayas on the expedition we mounted (the first by a single Club) overseas epics did fall away for a while but are now again a regular feature in our programme.



In my early years in the club we would never have a UK meet when some of us did not try and search out a becking prospect.

For the uninitiated this pastime sometimes referred to as beck-bottoming or canyoning is the art of climbing as high as you can get without leaving a watercourse. It has also been described as caving on the surface.

It involves swimming the deeper water holes and climbing waterfalls often in the face of a heavy flow of water

This challenging activity demands the deployment of various skills not least of which is keeping a camera dry to use during the trip.

This old picture reflects one such exploit .

Early members were also gaining reputations on rocks and mountains not least Cecil Slingsby, who climbed and conquered many of the significant peaks in Norway as featured in the last edition of the journal.

It has always been an unwritten ambition that we should have no more than 200 members. More it was felt would dilute the camaraderie of a close-knit club and much less would reduce our ability to fulfil our ambitions.

What of those ambitions, what do we want to be doing as we move forward? What meet programme do we want? What makes a perfect meet?

Quite apart from bringing members together, to my mind meets should provide us with opportunities to do things and go to places that it would otherwise be difficult for us to arrange as individuals. A meet should also extend the ambitions of members. In the early days of the Club private arrangements were very difficult, but today with the advent of professional training organisations, commercial hostels and low cost airlines it is perhaps less so.

In looking at the meets programme I am sure the sub-committee have these considerations in mind but they are always open to suggestions from members and there are corners of Britain which can provide surprisingly good sport for the occasional weekend, if not enough to take us back there regularly.

Another important tool is the evidence of past meets and this is an area where we have not in the past been too hot. David Smith used to keep comprehensive records of who joined when and what had been done but since he passed on, the Club have not really been compiling such records although they are all to be found in the annals of the journals. His membership records are interesting and are published after this article.

The need was identified early last year and as, in the electronic copies of the journals I probably have the most complete record, I started to see what I could do from my end. It proved much more of a job than I envisaged but the record I have been building up is fascinating and will give the club a lot of information in a number of areas.

We can see what type of meet attracts how many members; what time of year is most popular and how many members attended meets any given year.

Dinner meets would greatly distort the statistics so I am separating these attendances and also maintenance meets and lads and dads are unrepresentative for these purposes so I have ignored them. Christmas meets drag up the average but they are proper meets so I have left them in, but similarly, overseas meets are light on numbers so that balances things out. Not a fine science; but it is looking helpful.

It is clear that some members only turn out when we visit classic areas but they miss out on some great one-off events in less known spots. Some never go on meets longer than weekends, probably for domestic reasons. It does show who has been out more regularly but there is no competition to get out most often and this record is in no way judgemental. The information is only an extraction of what is already in the journals and on the web site but in a compiled form, more easily to be referred to.

I had to start somewhere so I started at the point where we have journals produced on computer i.e. 1994. Had I realised how much work it was I might well have started much later. Starting where I did does still mean that some members' more active years are missing, my own included, but it does give us something to work on, and if we keep it up, it will be a valuable tool in future.

It provides a wealth of information: It shows the distinct curve in activity levels as we go through life's cycles, including tailing off as age and health impact. The pressures of work and family impact on earlier years and members' activity levels do wax and wane.

Some extracts from the register follow but to highlight a few points it is worth noting that during the first 5 years of this survey we had 7 overseas trips with an average of 17 members attending. In the next 5 years we had 9, but only an average of 8 attending. Since then we have had another 8 with an average of 7. These numbers are of course increased by guests joining us. It must be also said that in recent years we have been going to more exotic overseas locations which by definition require a larger investment in both time and money and in going more often some members cannot do as many as they would wish. I have nowhere included any reference to China caving meets as we do not have complete details of the activities of those caving members .

The two most popular Christmas events in the last 12 years have been Osmotherley and Hag Dyke, both fairly central locations, one catered for and one catered amongst the membership. Other things of note - June and October meets are popular. Jan is still popular especially if in Wales. The most popular meet looking back even further was LHG in January when we had in excess of 40 out some years.

Reading the meet reports however shows that back 25 years or more, only one in ten such meets failed to see snow and ice at least on the tops, whereas now we get any such winter conditions only about one in ten times.

Other very popular meets in the 60s to 80s seemed to be those based on larger country inns where older members took all the rooms, we all ate in the hotel, but most of the members crashed out on bar room floors, in annexes or barns or on one occasion in the armoury. It seems fire regulations have put paid to these 'hybrid' meets.

Numbers are not everything however. We have never been a 'large' club with long crocodiles of members in fetching anoraks all following each other over the hills. We all report to meets arranged in excellent venues and then do our own things. It is important however that for the future of the club we still undertake challenging activities to fire the enthusiasm of younger members and potential members.

We are not like any other club; nor should we try and emulate them.



Without a local base we cannot hold weekly social gatherings, cannot organise lectures and cannot have day walks or evening climbs other than for a very few members in the areas with membership clusters. Given most people join after word of mouth and personal introduction we do have areas where membership is stronger with north Lancashire jumping to mind but Manchester has been a hot spot in the past. In addition members as they retire often move closer to hill country and the end result is that our members are now spread throughout the UK and indeed several live abroad.

One thing we are not are Yorkshire ramblers. We do have Yorkshire members but they are not in the majority and what is now considered to be rambling is as previously mentioned, something I suspect most of us rarely do. When the Club was named, Rambling meant going all over the place on foot which we certainly do, it is just the pace and ambition which are different.

We are unique - we have been in existence since 1892 and are therefore one of the oldest clubs in the world and as such we should be proud of our history and promote the Club whenever we can. Walking the hills, mountaineering, caving, exploration and rock climbing are all still major parts of our programme.

The meet programme is an important contributor to the outside perception of the Club and we must ensure that whilst providing something for everyone it also provides real challenges and opportunities. It must still afford us opportunities to visit unusual places both at home and abroad but should also to my mind provide challenges to do different things. The caving members are still active but as technology has moved on and with it, the skills needed to use it, there is no longer the crossover we used to see whereby many of us would do the occasional cave or pot hole whilst not considering that our principle interest. Reading through the journals members either as part of organised meets, as spin off from them or on any private gatherings, have tackled numerous different sports and many parts of the world and long may that continue.

Members' ages are spread over almost a 70 year span, they are at different stages of life's cycles and commitments and live in widely different places and as such we cannot expect a high percentage turn out for every meet. It would be good to think that most, other than those in their later years, could turn out 3 or 4 times each year. At a glance less than 10% of the membership has not turned out in recent years.

The optimum size for a meet is difficult to identify and probably varies by type of meet but logistically somewhere between 12 and 24 including guests is possibly best, other than the Christmas and Dinner meets. In recent years the average numbers on meets has been creeping upwards and is of course increased by guests and prospective members.

Time to put your thinking caps on folks; let the committee know your views and any suggestions for meets and give some thought as to whether there is anywhere you could organise a meet for us. If you cannot actually organise a meet you should be able to help in other ways. We all muck in with the domestic chores in the huts but there are some specialised meets where more help would be welcome.

We are increasingly holding family meets encouraging the next generation but for whatever reason some parents and grandparents do not have the special skills or fitness to teach rock climbing or caving and those members who do not bring children, could still attend to help out.

	Average members on meets	Most popular meets excluding Xmas	Dinner / AGM	Xmas
1994	17	25 N.Pennines (Jun) 22 Hubberholme(Oct) 21 LHG (Jan) 21 Etive (Feb)		Ribblehead 43
1995	17	25 Newels(Jan) 24 Swaledale(Oct) 23 Eskdale (March)		Blencathra 39
1996	18	25 Breckon (Jun) 24 Etive (Jan)		Goat Gap 49
1997	19	40 Buttermere(Jun) 23 LHG (Jan)		Ennerdale 41
1998	22	25 Swaledale (Mar) 24 Glan Dena (Jan) 22 Linn of Dee (Feb)	Whoop Hall 77	Lowstern 35
1999	19	32 LHG (Jan) 22 Lowstern (Mar) 21 Etive (Feb) 21 Rosedale (Jun)	Whoop Hall 71	Hag Dyke 40
2000	20	28 LHG (Aug) 22 N.Pennines(Oct) 21 Lowstern (Mar) 15 S.Pennines (Jun)	Whoop Hall 70	Lowstern 44
2001	17	27 Lowstern(Jun) 25 Hill Inn(Jan) 23 N.Wales(Feb)	Whoop Hall 77	Ennerdale 33
2002	19	26 Hill Inn(Jan) 26 Etive (Feb) 24 LHG (Feb) 23 Lowstern(Oct)	Whoop Hall 73	Osmotherley 35
2003	15	26 Ogwen (Jan) 26 Tulloch (Feb) 21 Lowstern (Jul)	Whoop Hall ?	Threlkeld 38
2004	16	27 Tulloch (Feb) 20 Tan Y Wyddfa (Feb) 17 Lochearnhead (Oct)	Whoop Hall 66	Lowstern 35
2005	15	28 Etive (Feb) 20 Lowstern (Jan)	Whoop Hall ?	Osmotherley 40
2006	14	25 Braemar (Feb) 22 Ryd Dhu (Mar)	Whoop Hall 63	Lowstern 35
2007	15	39 Lakes 2000s (May) 25 RLH jt (Sep) 23 Crianlarich (Feb)	Whoop Hall 71	Ennerdale 29
2008	16	27 Nidderdale (Jul) 20 Bretton (Oct)	Whoop Hall 64	Lowstern 37
2009	13	20 Lowstern (Jun) 19 Lowstern (Sep) 19 N.Balachullis (Feb)	Stirk House 55	Hornby Laithe 28
2010	14	18 LHG (Jan) 18 Rum (May)	Whoop Hall 55	Lowstern 34
2011	15	21 Glen Etive (Mar) 18 St Cuthbert's Way (Jun)	Stirk House 59	Blencathra 23

# RECORD OF MEMBERS

Based on the original records dating back to the early days of the Club and updated by Malcolm D Bone in 1973. Later updated for YRC Centenary year 1992 by F David Smith. Updated again in Jan 2000 by comparisons with Journals, Annual Reports and committee minute books covering the period between 25th October 1910 and 5th November 1974. Last update 20<sup>th</sup> December 2004

ABRAHAM Ashley	Elected 1899		Resigned 1901
ABRAHAM George D	Elected 1899		Resigned 1901
ADAMS Arthur	Elected 1946		Resigned 1958
ADAMS Dennis	Elected 1950	Committee 1952-54 Life Member 1985	Died 1992
ADDYMAN Eric T W	Elected 1907	Committee 1914-21	Resigned 1928
ADDYMAN James Cadwallader	Elected 1945		Name Deleted 1953
ADDYMAN Oscar James	Elected 1908		Killed in Action 1915
ALBBECHT W H	Elected 1909		Died 1942
ALLEN Cedric Roger	Junior Member 1953	Committee 1955-56 Secretary 1956-57 Life Member 1998 Vice President 1987-89	Killed In Norway 1992
ALLSUP William	Elected 1919	Librarian 1929-30 Life Member 1950	Died 1969
*ALDRED Kenneth	Elected 1979	Huts Secretary 1982-91 Vice President 1994-96 President Elect 2003 President 2004-	
ALEXANDER George Baker	Elected 1931		Name deleted 1934
ALDRIDGE Rex James	Elected 1957	Committee 1959-60	Resigned 1971
ANDERSON James Alexander Dunlop	Elected 1921		Name Deleted
ANDERSON Dr Tempest	Elected 1899	Vice-President 1900-02	Died 1913
*ANDERSON Wilfred James	Elected 1953 Re-elected 2002	Committee 1956-57	Resigned 1975
ANDREWS Edward	Elected 1893		Resigned 1900
	Re-elected 1908		Died 1932
ANDREWS Donald Henry Benson	Elected 1968		Resigned 1984
APPLEYARD John Chancellor	Elected 1920	Life Member 1950	Died 1979
APPLEYARD John Ernest	Elected 1919		Resigned 1924
ARCULUS R J	Elected 1967		Resigned 1975
ARMITAGE Peter	Elected 1988		Name Deleted 1902
*ARMSTRONG John Dennis	Elected 1955	Committee 1974-77 Treasurer 1984-90 <b>President 1984-86</b> Life Member 1990 Trustee 1986	Treasurer 1984-90
ARMSTRONG John Mark	Elected 1976		Resigned 1979
ARMSTRONG Harold	Elected 1929	Committee 1931-37 Vice President 1939-46 <b>President 1946-48</b>	Died 1961
ARMSTRONG Walter	Elected 1934	Life Member 1969	Died 1983
ARNOLD George	Elected 1892	Vice President 1892-93	Resigned 1901
ARTHUR A David	Elected 1899		Resigned 1901
*ATHERTON David James	Elected 1971	Committee 1975-81 Vice President 1983-85 Editor 1990-93	
ATKINSON John Cecil	Elected 1894	Vice-President 1898-00 <b>President 1922-23</b> Committee 1900-02	Died 1923
AVILA John Segar	Junior Member 1951		Killed on Llwydd 53
BACKHOUSE James	Elected 1903	Life Member 1933	Died 1946
BAIN Victor	Elected 1922	Committee 1925-26	Resigned 1942
BAIN John	Elected 1899	Life Member 1931	Died 1950
BAINES John J	Elected 1903		Resigned 1923

BAIRSTOW A W	Elected 1896	Committee 1902-04	Resigned 1921
BALEY E C C	Elected 1914		Name Deleted 1933
<b>BALFOUR Rt Hon Gerald William</b> (MP Leeds)	Honorary Member 1893	Became 2nd Earl 1930	Died 1945
BALDWIN Geoffrey Leonard G	Elected 1959		
BARKER Denis T	Elected 1959	Life Member 1994	Died 2004
BARKER Keith Malcolm	Elected 1962		Resigned 1975
BARKER Henry	Elected 1899		Resigned 1923
BARNES Anthony George	Elected 1973		Resigned 1993
BARNES James B	Elected 1906		Resigned 1907
BARR John Malcolm	Elected 1952	Committee 1955	Resigned 1955
BARRAN Alfred	Elected 1893	Committee 1901-3, 07 Vice Pres. 1895-97 99-01 <b>President 1903-06</b>	Died 1927
BARRAN Claude Roulton	Elected 1907	Committee 1908-10	Died 1942
BARRAN Sir John N (Bart)	Elected 1896	Committee 1899-02 Life Member 1931	Died 1952
BARSTOW Frank Hawksworth	Elected 1908	Committee 1910-13 Life Member 1938	Died 1955
BARTLETT Philip Noel	Elected 1935		Name Deleted 1952
BARTON Claude	Elected 1901 Re-elected 1912		Resigned 1902 Resigned 1920
*BARTON John Paterson	Elected 1948	Vice-President 1974-76 <b>President 1978-80</b> Life Member 1983	
*BATEMAN Timothy	Elected 1991		
BATES Bernard Arthur	Elected 1921	Treasurer 1924-51 Life Member 1951	Died 1951
BATES Geoffrey Booth	Elected 1959		Resigned 1995 Died 1996
BATTY Gordon	Elected 1970		Resigned 1984
BAUER Christopher	Elected 1974	Lowstern Warden 1982-86	Resigned 1989
BAUME Louis Charles	Elected 1960		Resigned 1976 Died 1993
BEAMONT Harold	Elected 1952		Resigned 1965
BEDFORD Peter Warwick	Elected 1950		Name Deleted 1965
BELL Peter Alexander	Elected 1960		Resigned 1967
BELLHOUSE H H	<b>FOUNDER MEMBER</b>	Treasurer 1892-93 Secretary 1893-98 <b>President 1927-29</b> Life Member 1931	Died 1943
BENNETT Arnold Marsh	Elected 1915		Resigned 1928
*BENSLEY J Bruce	Elected 1994		
BENSON Claude Ernest	Elected 1905	Committee 1912-15 Vice President 1927-29	Died 1932
*BERESFORD Stephen	Elected 1993		
BEST Vincent George	Elected 1928		Resigned 1936
BEETHAM Bentley	Elected 1925		Died 1963
*BLACKSHAW Alan	Elected 1991		
*BIRD Christopher N	Elected 1998		
BIRD Rev G H	Elected 1896		Resigned 1899
BISHOP Eveleigh	Elected 1902		Resigned 1909
BLAIR David Stephenson	Elected 1946	Life Member 1979	Died 1982
*BLAIR Alexander J	Elected 1983		
BLAND F W	Elected 1907		Resigned 1907
BONE Malcolm Drummond	Elected 1935	Vice-President 1966-68 Life Member 1970	Died 1975
BONNER Arthur	Elected 1921		Resigned 1927
<b>BOOTH Frederick Singleton</b>	Elected 1924	Comm 1924-26 19 54-59 Asst Secretary 1926-46 Secretary 1946-52 Vice President 1952-54 Hon Member 1959	Died 1972
BOOTH Harold Singleton	Elected 1924	Committee 1926-30 Asst Librarian 1937 Life Member 1959	Died 1982

BOOTH Thomas Singleton	Elected 1893	Committee 1896-99, 1902-05, 09-13, 15-19 Vice President 1929-30 Life Member 1932	Died 1938
BOOTH Wilfred	Elected 1947		Died 1975
*BORROFF Michael J	Elected 2004		
BOTTOMLEY Albert Edward	Elected 1930		Resigned 1932
BOTTTRILL Fred	Elected 1902		Resigned 1914 Died 1920
BOTTRILL Matthew	Elected 1907	Committee 19 23-24 1926-28, 1935-36 Vice President 1924-26 Life Member 1937	Died 1959
BOWKER Thomas	Elected 1973		Resigned 1976
BOWLING Michael Harrop	Elected 1940		Resigned 1964
BRANDON Derek	Elected 1983		Resigned 1990
BRAITHWAITE A L	Elected 1895		Resigned 1902
BRAYSHAY George Harold	Elected 1919		Resigned 1926
BRAYSHAY John Arthington	Elected 1947		Resigned 1971
*BRIDGE Adrian D	Elected 1983		
BRIDGER Charles Joseph	Elected 1950		Died 1998
BRIERLEY John	Elected 1902		Resigned 1905
BRIERLEY W	Elected 1906		Resigned 1910
BRIGG John Jeremy	Elected 1894	Life Member 1931	Died 1945
BRIGG William Anderton	Elected 1894	Editor 1908-20 President 1919-22 Life Member 1931	Died 1938
BRISTOL Charles Clarence	Elected 1927	Committee 1931-34	Resigned 1956
BROADRICK R Wilfred	Elected 1902		Killed on Scafell 1903
BRODRICK Harold	Elected 1903	Vice-President 1914-19 Life Member 1933	Died 1946
* <b>BROWN Alan Crawshaw</b>	Elected 1955	Editor 1984-90 Vice President 1985-87 <b>President 1988-90</b> Hon Member 2001	
BROWN David John Bowes	Elected 1951		Resigned 1973 Died 2004
BROWN James Duncan	Elected 1931	Life Member 1966	Died 1998
BROWN James Roger	Elected 1910		Resigned 1912
*BROWN Kevin C	Elected 1990		
BROWN William Villiers	Elected 1910	Committee 1915-19 1923-26, 1928-32 Vice President 1926-28 <b>President 1932-34</b>	Died 1936
BROOK J Geoffrey	Elected 1953	Librarian 1958-60,1971-79 Vice President 1973-75	Died 2001
BUCKLEY George Arthur	Elected 1922		Name Deleted 1939
BUCKLEY Henry	Elected 1920		Name Deleted 1935
BUCKLEY James	Elected 1907		Died 1914
BUCKLEY John	Elected 1919	Secretary 1919-29 Committee 1929-36 Librarian 1930-34	Resigned 1935
BUCKLEY James Henry	Elected 1901	Librarian 1903-24 Vice President 1911-13 Life Member 1932 Committee 1924-29	Died 1932
BUGG Stephen Victor	Elected 1973		Resigned
*BUGG Victor	Elected 1969	Life Member 2004	
*BULL David	Elected 1982		
*BURFITT George S	Elected 1999		
BURNETT Theodore Ridley	Elected 1910	Life Member 1941	Died 1955
BURNS Peter	Elected 1974		Resigned 1981
BURROW Charles Edward	Elected 1919	Committee 1919-20, 1924-28,1931-46 Secretary 1920-24 Vice President 1928-30 <b>President 1948-50</b> Life Member 1950	Died 1954

<b>BURROW Davis</b>	Elected 1919	Committee 1920-28 Secretary 1929-46 Vice President 1946-48 <b>President 1950-52</b> Hon Member 1959	Died 1964
<b>*BUSH Charles Derek</b>	Elected 1968	Committee 1972-79 Asst Secretary 1979-83 Secretary 1983-93 President Elect 1993 <b>President 1984-86</b> Committee 1996-97 Hon Member 1997 Hon Auditor 1998 Trustee 1986 Life Member 2003	
BURTON Peter Wightwick	Elected 1947	Committee 1948-49	Name Deleted 1964
BUTLER Rodney Fawcett	Elected 1923	Committee 1931-33 Life Member 1958	Died 1978
BUTTERFIELD Alfred	Elected 1928	Committee 1929-31 Life Member 1963	Died 1980
BYRNE Brian Turtin	Elected 1931		Name Deleted 1947
CALVERT Edward	Elected 1894	Committee 1896-1900 Life Member 1931	Died 1943
CALVERT Rev Langton Samuel	Elected 1896	Committee 1899-1906 Vice President 1897-99 <b>President 1906-09</b>	Died 1909
CALVERT Rhodes K	Elected 1896		Resigned 1921
CAMPBELL Alexander	Elected 1903	Committee 1905-08 Life Member 1941	Died 1941
<b>*CAMPION Gerard</b>	Elected 1990	Committee 1998-2002 Vice President 2002-04	
CAPEL E A	Elected 1903		Resigned 1907
<b>*CARR Ian</b>	Elected 1959	Life Member 1994	
CARR J M	Elected 1892		Resigned 1894
CARROL A A	Elected 1892		Resigned 1894
CARSWELL Jack	Elected 1964		Resigned 1981
<b>*CASPERSON John D</b>	Elected 1975		
CATLOW John Watson	Elected 1935		Resigned 1952
CHADWICK L S	Elected 1896		Resigned 1897
<b>*CHADWICK Peter R P</b>	Elected 1978	Committee 1982-84	
CHADWICK Robert A	Elected 1905	Committee 1906-09 Life Member 1935	Died 1961
CHADWICK Robert Everard	Elected 1939	Committee 1946-50 Asst Editor 47, 54-58 Vice President 1954-56 <b>President 1962-64</b> Life Member 1974	Died 2000
CHADWICK S J	Elected 1897 Re-elected 1902		Resigned 1901 Resigned 1912
<b>*CHAPMAN Albert Ronald</b>	Junior Member 1955	Committee 60-6, 86-9 Huts Secretary 1966-67 Vice President 1967-69 President Elect 1999 <b>President 2000-02</b> Life Member 1990 Librarian 20043	
<b>*CHAPMAN Iain Edward</b>	Elected 1985		
CHAPPELL Frank Helliwell	Elected 1910 Re-elected 1920		Resigned 1914 Resigned 1923
CHAPPELL Lionel Sheard	Elected 1907	Committee 1911-14	Resigned 1925
CHAPPELL S S	Elected 1912		Resigned 1924
CHARLSWORTH A	Elected 1912		Resigned 1920
CHIDLEY Arthur Howell	Elected 1934		Resigned 1938
CHIGNELL Thomas	Elected 1981		Resigned 1988

<b>CHUBB Clifford</b>	Elected 1912	Committee 1920-24,35-36 Treasurer 19210-24 Vice President 1931-2 <b>President 1938-46</b> Life Member 1942 HonoraryMember 1965	Died 1967
CHURCH Maurice	Elected 1967	Committee 1967-70	Resigned 1991
CLAPHAM J H	Elected 1902		Resigned 1908
*CLARE Alan	Elected 2000		
CLARK Edwin Dowsett	Elected 1913		Resigned 1023
CLARK Edwin Kitson	Elected 1896		Resigned 1923
CLARKE Donald	Elected 1950		Resigned 1967
CLARKE John Peard	Elected 1921		Name Deleted 1934 Died in Kenya 1944
*CLARKE Peter David	Junior Member 1956 Re-elected 1975		Resigned 1961
CLARKSON Walter	Elected 1912	Committee 1919-22 Life Member 1942	Died 1952
CLAUGHTON WilliamThomas Alban	Elected 1912		Resigned 1925
*CLAYTON William Derek	Elected 1967	Committee 1972-78	
CLOVER A L	Elected 1901		Resigned 1902
*COBB Clifford	Elected 1976		
COLLIE Dr John Norman	Hon Member 1909		Died 1942
COLLINS J Derek	Elected 1986		
CONSTANTINE Frank	Elected 1893	Asst Secretary 1894-10 Secretary 1910-200 Committee 1920-21 Life Member 1931 Vice President 1921-23	Died 1948
<b>CONWAY Sir W Martin</b> (Lord Conway of Allington)	Hon Member 1893		Died 1937
COOPER Frank Bruce	Elected 1928		Died 1942
*COLTON John	Elected 1986		
COULTON John	Elected 1920		Resigned 1923
COURTNEY Basil Tosswill	Elected 1919	Committee 1921-24	Resigned 1929
COOK Richard	Elected 1962		Resigned 1980
COWPE Geoffrey	Elected 1919		Resigned 1928
<b>COX Anthony David Machell</b>	Hon Member 1985		Died 1994
*CRAVEN Arthur Braithwaite	Elected 1956	Asst Editor 1960-70 Editor 1971-83 Librarian 1962-71 <b>President 1970-72</b> Life Member 1991	
CRAWFORD John Basil	Elected 1928		Resigned 1931
CRAWFORD Dr James Stirling	Elected 1921		Resigned 1925
CRAWFORD J Kenneth	Elected 1923	Librarian 1927-29	Resigned 1957
CREIGHTON Ernest	Elected 1921		Died 1946
CROWE B James	Elected 1931		Resigned 1936
CROFT Edward Hugh	Elected 1914	Life Member 1944	Died 1978
CROSSLEY Roland Thomas Fearby	Elected 1928		Name Deleted 1937
CROWTHER Henry	Elected 1921		Resigned 1928
*CROWTHER William Charles Ian	Elected 1962	Asst Secretary 1964-68 Committee 1968-71 Lowstern Warden 1979-82 Vice President 1990-92 President Elect 1997-8 <b>President 1998-2000</b>	
*CROWTHER Robert Michael	Elected 1981		
CULROSS Colin Campbell	Elected 1926		Resigned 1932
CULROSS Douglas Gordon	Elected 1928		Died 1929
CULLINGWORTH John Edwin	Elected 1939	Committee 1949-52 Hon Secretary 1953-55 Life Member 1974	Resigned 1990
CURTIOS H	Elected 1894		Resigned 1894
CUTTRISS Samuel Wells	Elected 1892 R-elected 1929	Comm 1893-99, 1902-05 Vice President 1905-07	Resigned 1922 Died 1932
DALTON H E J	Elected 1906	Committee 1909-12	Resigned 1923

DAVIDSON Joseph Murison	Elected 1910	<b>President 1936-38</b> Life Member 1941	Died 1950
DAVIS John	Elected 1897	Treasurer 1898-1906	Resigned 1906
DAVIS Neville Ryland	Elected 1930		Resigned 1948
DAWES G H	Elected 1901		Resigned 1904
DAWES Thomas Richard	Elected 1923		Resigned 1929
DAWSON E W	Elected 1892		Resigned 1895
DEAN Frank	Elected 1892		Resigned 1895
DEAN Lawrence	Elected 1892	Committee 1892-93	Resigned 1899
DeCOURT Walter J	Elected 1955		Resigned 1961
DeLITTLE Alec	Elected 1927		Resigned 1931
DENBY James Simpson	Elected 1919		Resigned 1922
DENNY F W	Elected 1899		Resigned 1915
*DENNEY Roy J	Elected 1974	Editor 2004-	
<b>DENT Clinton T</b>	Honorary Member 1892		Died 1912
DEVENISH Henry Purcell	Elected 1920	Committee 1922-26	Resigned 1941
DEVENPORT John Bede (Jack)	Elected 1949	<b>President 1974-76</b> Life Member 1974	Died 1974
*DEVENPORT John C	Elected 1974		
<b>DEVONSHIRE 8th Duke</b>	Hon Member 1893		Died 1908
DICKSON James	Elected 1924		Resigned 1928
*DIX Roger E	Elected 1999		
*DIX Stuart B	Elected 1998		
*DIXON Adrian	Elected 2002		
DIXON Francis	Elected 1901		Resigned 1906
DIXON H H	Elected 1893		Resigned 1887
DODGSON E D	Elected 1897		Resigned 1900
*DOOTSON Graham	Elected 2004		
DOSSER John Denis	Elected 1954	Committee 1956-59 Vice President 1964-66	Died 1983
DOVER Paul L	Elected 2004		
<b>DOWNHAM Ernest Clifford</b>	Elected 1950	Asst Secretary 1954-57 Secretary 1957-66, 68-79 Vice Prsident 1966-68 <b>President 1966-68</b> Homorary Member 1968	Died 1996
DRISCOLL John Denis	Elected 1948	LHG Secretary 1956-59 LHG Warden 1959-73 Vice President 1968-70	Died 1983
DUDLEY James	Elected 1902		Resigned 1906
DUNFORD J Anthony	Elected 1967		Resigned 1980
*DUXBURY Andrew J	Elected 1984	Committee 1985-89	
DWERYHOUSE A R	Elected 1904		Resigned 1909
DYSON David W	Elected 1962		Name Deleted 1992
EARLES Cecil Montague Dormieux	Elected 1923		Resigned 1926
EDDISON George	Elected 1933	Committee 1937-46	Name Deleted 1950
*EDMUNDSON Michael John	Elected 2001	LHG Warden 2001-02	
EDWARDS T Edwin (Eddie)	Elected 1983		Died Wharfedale 2000
EDWARDS Glyn	Elected 1968	Committee 1971-73	Resigned 1984
EDWARDS MC Lt Col Prof Walter Mandel	Elected 1943		Died 1948
*ELLACOTT Michael	Elected 2000		
ELLET Frank	Elected 1896	Life Member 1931	Died 1932
ELLIOTT Douglas	Elected 1906		Resigned 1915
*ELLIOTT Peter A	Elected 1970	Committee 1990-93	
ELLIOTT Norman Percy	Elected 1924	Life Member 1959	Died 1988
ELLIS John Devonshire	Elected 1919	Life Member 1950	Died 1951
*ELLIS John Roger	Elected 1961	Life Member 1996	
*ENGLISH Derek	Elected 1997	LHG Warden 1998-01	
EMSLEY R G	Elected 1902		Resigned 1908
*ERRINGTON R Douglas	Elected 1968	Life Member 2003	
EVANS Arthur Wallis	Elected 1957	Life Member 1992	Died 2003
EVANS Edgar Dewhirst	Elected 1925		Resigned 1932
<b>EVANS Sir R Charles</b>	Hon Member 1995		Died 1996
EVANS Walter Edmund	Elected 1931		Killed in Action 1943
EXLEY Arthur	Elected 1894		Resigned 1897

FALKINGHAM Arthur F	Elected 1942		Died 1964
*FARRANT Darrall J	Elected 1964	Life Member 1999	
<b>FARRER James Anson</b>	Hon Member 1909		Died 1925
<b>FARRER Dr John Anson</b>	Hon Member 1988		
*FARRER Reginald John	Elected 1906		Died 1920
<b>FARRER Sidney James</b>	Hon Member 1939		Died 1946
FENTON Alexander M	Elected 1928		Resigned 1947
FIELDING Clifford	Elected 1954	Life Member 1989	Died 1998
FIRTH Rev H J R	Elected 1906		Resigned 1909
FISHER George Annesley	Elected 1928		Died 1954
FITZPATRICK Finbar	Elected 1976		Resigned 1984
*FLETCHER Alan	Elected 1997		
FOLEY Innes Cliffe	Elected 1931		Name Deleted 1936
FOLEY Capt Percy Fitzgerald	Elected 1929		Resigned 1952
FOX Capt Crosby Ian Wallace	Elected 1948	Committee 1951-53	Killed YRC Himalayan Expedition 1957
FRANKLAND Claude Deane	Elected 1919	Committee 1920-24 Hon Librarian 1924-27	Killed Gt Gable 1927
FREEMAN G F R	Elected 1900		Resigned 1910
FRY Sidney	Elected 1948	Life Member 1973	Died 2001
GAMBLE David J	Elected 2003		
GARDNER Wilson	Elected 1895		Resigned 1895
GAUNT Arthur	Elected 1912		Resigned 1913
GAUNT Corrie Cecil	Elected 1957		Resigned 1977 Died 1984
GAUNT Maurice	Elected 1924		Resigned 1931
*GILMOUR Iain Finley Dunn	Elected 1990	Committee 1993-96 Vice President 1996-98 LHG Warden 2002	
GLAZEBROOK Arthur Rimmington	Elected 1921		Resigned 1948
*GLENDEENING Paul	Elected 1991		
*GODDEN F Michael	Elected 1988	Committee 1989-93, 2002- Lowstern Warden 1990-93, 96-2000 Vice President 2004-06	
GODLEY David	Elected 1966		Resigned 1972
*GODLEY Thomas Hugh (John)	Elected 1937	Vice President 1950-52 <b>President 1958-60</b> Life Member 1972	
GOGGS Arthur Bernard	Elected 1930		Resigned 1953
GOODMAN Prof John	Elected 1909		Resigned 1910
GOODWIN Ian C	Elected 1983		Resigned 1991
GOODWIN Simon J	Elected 1983		Resigned 1995
*GOODWIN Ronald	Elected 1967	Committee 1985-89	
GOTT John	Elected 1967	Committee 1970-75	Killed on Wetherlam 1983
GOUGH J H	Elected 1912		Resigned 1928
GOULDEN Stephen Arthur	Junior Member 1956	Life Member 1991	Resigned 1995
GOWING Geoffrey Senior	Elected 1928	Committee 1935-36 Asst Editor 1938-47 Vice President 1948-49 Life Member 1963	Died 1984
*GOWING Richard	Elected 1956	Committee 1962-67 Vice President 1986-88 Life Member 1991	
GRANT Alan G Surrey	Elected 1947		Resigned 1950
GRANT S Gordon Surrey	Elected 1947		Died 1986
GRAY Thomas	Elected 1894	Com 1894-96, 1909-10 Vice President 1896-98 Editor 1898-1909 <b>President 1930-31</b> Life Member 1931	Died 1951
GREAVES Clarence	Elected 1924		Resigned 1931
GREEN Eric William	Elected 1952		Resigned 1958



GREEN John Arthur	<b>FOUNDER MEMBER</b>	Secretary 1892-93, 10-12 Committee 1893-95, 1896-98, 1906-9, 12-13 Vice President 1904-06	Died 1926
*GREEN Peter S	Elected 2004		
GREEN Ralph	Elected 1957		Died 1961
GREENWOOD Walter H	Elected 1908 Re-elected 1919		Resigned 1913 Resigned 1922
GRIFFIN Arthur Henry	Elected 1950		Resigned 1957 Died 2004
GRIFFITH Dr T Wardrop	Elected 1899		Resigned 1920
GRIFFITHS George Eric	Elected 1969		Resigned 1972
GLUICK John Davis	Elected 1922		Resigned 1932
*HAGUE Ralph	Elected 1984		
HALFORD Jeffrey J	Elected 1998		
HALL Archibald Alexander	Elected 1912	Life Member 1942	Died 1948
HALL David	Elected 1989	Committee 1997-	
HAMLIN John F	Elected 1964	Life Member 1999	
HANCOCK John Ernest	Elected 1951		Resigned 1953
*HANDLEY David J	Elected 1966	Committee 1967-72 2002- Vice President 2000-02	
HANNAH W S	Elected 1896		Resigned 1910
*HARBEN Raymond	Elected 1962	Committee 1970-74 Librarian 1979-96	
HARDING John Burnard	Elected 1947		Resigned 1976
HARE Oswald	Elected 1928		Resigned 1934
HARNEY Desmond Edward St Aubyn	Elected 1951		Resigned 1953
HARRIS A Philip R	Junior Member 1965		Resigned 1987
*HARRIS Peter R	Elected 1958	Lowstern Secretary 58-60 Life Member 1993	
HARRIS Will Smith	Elected 1927	Committee 1928-30	Resigned 1930
*HARTLAND Michael	Elected 1995	Committee 1999-2003	
HARTLEY Alton	Elected 1973	Lowstern Warden 74-76	Died 1996
HARTLEY Brian	Elected 1955		Resigned 1972 Died 1984
HARTLEY Cecil Ernest	Elected 1948		Resigned 1961
HALFORD Jeffrey J	Elected 1998		
HASELL John A E	Elected 1954		Resigned 1960
HASLAM David Christopher	Elected 1955		Died 1975
HASLAM Edward Mark	Elected 1933	Life Member 1968	Died 1997
HASLAM Harry	Elected 1955		Died 1989
HASSE Alexander Eric	Elected 1922		Resigned 1931
HASTINGS Cuthbert	Elected 1900	Committee 1905-09, 11-19 Vice President 1909-10 Life Member 1931	Died 1943
HASTINGS Geoffrey	Elected 1894		Resigned 1897
HATFIELD James	Elected 1962 Re-elected 1968		Resigned 1977
*HAWKINS William H	Elected 2000		
HAZARD John de Vars	Elected 1908		Resigned 1913
*HEMINGWAY John	Elected 1953	Hon Secretary 1979-83 Asst Sec'y 1957-62, 1973-79, 1983-85 Vice President 1969-71 Life Member 1988	
HENDERSON Donald M	Elected 1962		Resigned 1988
HEPWORTH Joseph Bulmer	Elected 1949		Resigned 1952
HEPWORTH Joseph	Elected 1907		Died 1942
HEYS Alan Edward	Elected 1931		Name Deleted 1946
*HICK David A	Elected 1986	Committee 1987-92 Vice President 1998-00	
HICKMAN John	Elected 1957		Resigned 1977
HIGGS Arthur Hilton	Elected 1922		Died 1926
HIELD Peter Douglas	Elected 1933		Resigned 1943
HIGGINS William Frederick	Elected 1931	Life Member 1966	Died 1980
HILL Dr Charles Alexander	Elected 1903	Vice-President 1912-14	Died 1914

HILL E	Elected 1893	Resigned 1895	
<b>HILTON John</b> (Jack)	Elected 1922	Comm 1922-34, 51-52 Vice President 1935-37 <b>President 1952-54</b> Hon Member 1965 <b>Rock Climbed age 90</b>	Died 1981
HINKS Trevor B	Elected 1960		Resigned 1964
HIRST H	Elected 1893		Resigned 1898
HIRST H R	Elected 1900		Resigned 1906
*HOBSON Michael P	Elected 1968	Committee 1975-79 Life Member 2003	
HOBSON Ralph W	Elected 1969		Died 1993
HOLDEN Blackburn	Elected 1913	Committee 1921-22	Died 1946
HOLDEN Blackburn (Junior)	Elected 1927		Resigned 1946
HOLLIS Ernest Denzil	Elected 1924		Resigned 1954
HOLLIS Geoffrey Arthur	Elected 1954		Resigned 1957
*HOLMES David	Elected 1956	Life Member 1991	
*HOLMES John Aubery (Jack)	Elected 1947	Committee 1947-48 Vice President 1957-59 Life Member 1978	Vice-President 57-59
HOLMES Robert Lewis	Elected 1948	Committee 1949-51	Resigned 1967
HOLMES Samuel Hartley	Elected 1911	Life Member 1941	Died 1957
HONEYBURNE Dr R	Elected 1897		Resigned 1902
HOOD Leslie	Elected 1904		Resigned 1920
HOOD Noel L	Elected 1904		Resigned 1922
HOOD W Wells	Elected 1904	Life Member 1934	Died 1965
*HOOPER Jeffrey H	Elected 1962	Life Member 1997 Meets Secretary 1996-	
<b>HOPKINSON Sir Alfred</b>	Hon Member 1907		Died 1939
HORN Arthur E	Elected 1901	Treasurer 1906-21 Committee 1903-06 1921-22,30-31 Vice President 1913-15 <b>President 1931-32</b> Life Member 1931	Died 1954
HORNER R T	Elected 1901		Resigned 1910
HORSELL Frank	Elected 1905		Resigned 1919
HUDSON Guy Louis	Elected 1905	Committee 1922-23 Vice President 1931-33 Life Member 1935	Died 1948
HUGGUP Malcolm A	Elected 1969		Resigned 1976
HUME Frank Broughton	Elected 1937		Name Deleted 1955
HUMPHREYS Albert	Elected 1920	Vice-President 1937-48 Life Member 1955	Died 1979
HUMPHREYS Harold	Elected 1929		Died 1953
HUMPHREYS Henry	Elected 1920	Vice-President 1935-37	Died 1953
*HUMPHREYS Howard	Junior Member 1956	Life Member 1991	
*HUMPHREYS Jason H	Elected 1990		
*HUMPHREYS Robert Gordon	Junior Member 1953	Life Member 1988 Secretary 1996	
HUNT Ian Richard	Elected 1991		Resigned 2001
HURRELL Peter Michael	Elected 1946		Resigned 1967
*IBBERTSON W R ( Rob)	Elected 2002	Committee 2002-	
INGOLD Chirstopher Kelk	Elected 1928		Resigned 1931
*INCE George Raymond	Elected 1962	Life Member 1997	
IRELAND Eric G	Elected 1907		Resigned 1927
JACKSON George	Elected 1892		Resigned 1893
JACKSON Richard Anthony	Elected 1954		Resigned 1963
JEFFREYS J M	Elected 1904		Resigned 1929
*JENKIN John	Elected 2001		
JEPSON Christopher	Elected 1984		Resigned 1991
*JOINT Christopher James	Elected 1992		
<b>JOLY Robert de</b>	Hon Member 1946		Died 1968
*JONES Daniel Michael Howard	Elected 1948	Life Member 1983	
*JONES Graham	Elected 1977		

JONES Norman Kendall	Elected 1914		Resigned 1928
*JORGENSEN Conrad William	Elected 1948	Committee 1950-52 Vice President 1956-58 Life Member 1983	
*JOSEPHY Richard	Elected 1991	Huts Secretary 1996-	
*JOSEPHY Timothy W	Junior Member 1965	Vice-President 1982-84 <b>President 1996-98</b>	
JUDSON David M	Elected 1965		Name Deleted 1995
*KAY Thomas Alan	Elected 1977	Committee 1983-87 Treasurer 1990-98 President Elect 2001 President 2002-04	
KAY Jeremy A	Elected 1967		Resigned 1986
KAYE Peter William	Elected 1972		Resigned 1990
KEIGHLEY Gilbert	Elected 1932		Resigned 1936
KELSEY H T	Elected 1900	Committee 1904-5	Resigned 1912
KELSEY William	Elected 1947		Resigned 1958
KENTISH Lieut Harold Edward	Elected 1910		Killed n Action 1918
KERN Hans Ewald	Elected 1935		Resigned 1959
KERR R	Elected 1914		Resigned 19
KILBURN G H	Elected 1901		Resigned 1908
KILLICK Henry	Elected 1898		Resigned 190
*KINDER Michael J	Elected 1964	Asst Secretary 1992-95 Life Member 1999	
KINNAIRD Frank D	Elected 1905		Resigned 1916
*KIRBY Richard A	Elected 2000	Lowstern Warden 2000-04	
KIRK A E	Elected 1896	Committee 1899-1902	Resigned 1922
KITSON R H	Elected 1898		Resigned 1905
KITSON Sidney D	Elected 1898		Resigned 195
KNIGHT John Geoffrey	Elected 1950		Resigned 1961
<b>LACY William (Will)</b>	Elected 1937	Life Member 1972 Hon Member 1997 <b>Visited Both poles in his eighties</b>	Died 1998
LAING Andrew N	Elected 1980		Died 2000
LAING Jonathan R	Elected 1985		Resigned 2000
*LAING Ian G	Elected 1970		
LAMB Percy H	Elected 1904		Resigned 1905
*LARGE Clifford	Elected 1953	Life Member 1988	
*LARGE David	Elected 1999		
*LAUGHTON David	Elected 1973	Treasurer 1978-83 Hon Auditor 1994-97	
LAWSON Frederick Henry	Elected 1924		Resigned 1954
LAWTON Douglas Harold	Elected 1935		Resigned 1952
LEACH Edmund Arthur	Elected 1931		Resigned 1935
LEACH Frederick	Elected 1892	Secretary 1893-94 Committee 1894-08, 1910-11, 1913-19 Vice President 1908-10 <b>President 1925-27</b> Life Member 1931	Died 1954
LEACH Frederick Herbert	Elected 1931		Resigned 1935
LEACH James M	Elected 1921		Resigned 1932
LEDGARD W G	Elected 1906		Resigned 1922
LEE Fred H	Elected 1906		Resigned 1921
LEE George A	Elected 1961		Resigned 1990
LEE John Gerald	Elected 1957	Life Member 1992	Died 2001
*LEE Richard	Elected 1979		
LEES Douglas Savidge	Elected 1933		Resigned 1934
*LEE William	Elected 1993		
LEESE Arthur	Elected 1957		Died 1972
LIEGH Percy T	Elected 1895 Re-elected 1908		Resigned 1897 Resigned 1921
LEONARD F	Elected 1900		Resigned 1901
LEATHER Joseph	Elected 1952		Died 1982
LIVERSEDGE Douglas Gordon	Elected 1951		Resigned 1958

LINDSAY Andrew Scott	Elected 1971		Resigned 1989
*LINFORD Paul William	Elected 1990		
<b>*LINFORD William Alan</b>	Elected 1956	Committee 1966-67 Huts Secretary 1967-82 Vice President 1971-73 <b>President 1982-84</b> LHG Warden 1986-89 Life Member 1992 <b>Honorary Member 2003</b>	
LISTER James M S	Elected 1896	Life Member 1931	Died 1940
LISTER R N	Elected 1892	Committee 1892-94	Resigned 1894
LIVERSAGE Dr Douglas Gordon	Elected 1951		Resigned 1958
LLOYD G W	Elected 1909		Resigned 1927
LOCKWOOD Arthur	Elected 1928		Resigned 1952
*LOCKWOOD Dr Peter	Elected 1951	Life Member 1986	
*LOFTHOUSE Timothy Redvers	Elected 1978		
*LOFTHOUSE William Redvers	Elected 1951	Committee 1953-56 Vice President 1975-77 <b>President 1980-82</b> Life Member 1985	
*LOMAS Harvey Anthony	Elected 1972	Committee 1992-98	
LONGFIELD John Norman	Elected 1923		Resigned 1925
*LOVETT John	Elected 1950	Committee 1952-56 Lowstern Warden 1958-64, 1987-88 Vice President 1959-61 Life Member 1985	
LOVETT Dr Thomas	Elected 1919		Resigned 1932
LOWDEN Arthur Sheridan	Elected 1923	Asst Secretary 1924-25	Killed on motor cycle 1925
LOWE L A	Elected 1903		Resigned 1916
LOWE George Harold	Elected 1926	Life Member 1961	Name Deleted 1972
<b>LOWE George T</b>	<b>FOUNDER MEMBER</b>	<b>FIRST PRESIDENT</b> 1892-93 Vice President 1893-95 Hon Member 1921 Comm 1895-97, 13-19 Life Member 1931	Died 1941
LUND Percy	Elected 1896	Committee 1897-1900	Resigned 1901
LYTHE John	Elected 1965		Resigned 1974
McCANDLISH Arthur Gordon	Elected 1928		Resigned 1932
*MACKAY Duncan James	Elected 1972		
*MACKAY Donald Roderick Hubert	Elected 1962	Vice-President 1988-90 Life Member 1997	
McKELVIE Donald R	Elected 1947	Committee 1953-56	Resigned 1966
MACKIE Alec Coleman	Elected 1921	Committee 1922-23	Resigned 1935
MACKIE Philip Coleman	Elected 1924		Resigned 1930
MACKIE Stewart A	Elected 1892		Resigned 1893
MACKIE Dr Norman	Elected 1973		Resigned 1993
MACKIE Stewart A	Elected 1892		Resigned 1893
MACKINTOSH Ian Brine	Elected 1952		Resigned 1967
*MACLEAN Dr John	Elected 1991		
MACPHERSON Eric Gordon	Elected 1928		Name Deleted 1934
MAHONEY Douglas	Elected 1962		Resigned 1991
MAIL Irving Erik	Elected 1949		Resigned 1980
MALLORY E P	Elected 1896		Resigned 1897
MALONEY Victor J P	Elected 1998		Resigned 2003
MARGETTS Anthony J	Elected 1964		Resigned 1973
MARPLES F	Elected 1895		Resigned 1901
*MARR Andrew McL	Elected 1963	Life Member 1998	
*MARTINDALE David M	Elected 1988	Huts Secretary 1991-96	
<b>MARSDEN Stanley</b>	Elected 1936	Committee 1947-49 Treasurer 1951-78 Vice President 1950-52 <b>President 1956-58</b> Hon Member 1968	Died 1997
MARSHALL Rev C C	Elected 1906	Committee 1909-12	Resigned 1932

MARSHALL George Cyril	Elected 1928	Committee 1938-47 Vice President 1948-50 Life Member 1963	Died 1989
<b>MARTEL E A</b>	Hon Member 1907		Died 1938
MATHER Ronald McA	Elected 1922		Resigned 1930
MATHESON Alasdair William Archibald	Elected 1936		Resigned 1968
MATTHEWS Charles Edward	Hon Member 1893	<b>Founder Member AC</b>	Died 905
MAUDE A K	Elected 1979		Died on meet 1979
MAUDE Stanley Morgan	Elected 1952		Name Deleted 1959
MAYO Dr Frank H	Elected 1897	Committee 1899-01, 02-06 Vice President 1901-03 Life Member 1931	Died 1951
MEDLEY John Albert	Elected 1954		
MIDDLETON Alan Lomas	Elected 1912		Died 1970
*MIDDLETON David	Elected 1945		
MIDDLETON Gilbert	Elected 1901		Resigned 1914
MIDDLETON H D	Elected 1903		Resigned 1909
*MIDDLETON John Rushford	Elected 1962	Committee 1963-68 Life Member 1997	
*MIDDLETON John Ievan	Elected 1948		
*MIDDLETON Richard Michael	Junior Member 1954		
MIDDLETON Ralph	Elected 1946		Resigned 1948
MIDDLETON Richard Noel	Elected 1901		Died 1951
*MILNER Frank	Elected 1995		
*MITCHELL Clive	Elected 1985		
MITCHELL Frederick	Elected 1897		Resigned 1901
MITCHELL Thomas Corlett	Elected 1930		Resigned 1937
MOHUN Herbert Forster	Elected 1924		Resigned 1925
MONSARRAT Dr Keith W	Elected 1904		Resigned 1905
MOORE John	Elected 1931		Resigned 1934
MOORE Joseph	Elected 1931		Lapsed 1939
MOORE Leonard	Elected 1892	Vice-President 1925-27 Life Member 1931 <b>Last surviving 1892 MEMBER</b>	Died 1956
MOORE Lewis	Elected 1892	Vice-President 1893-4 1895-96 Treasurer 1894-95 Life Member 1931 Comm 1896-8, 1919-20 Secretary 1898-09, 12-19 <b>President 1909-12</b>	Died 1933
*MOORHOUSE Denny M	Elected 1963		
MORFIT Henry	Elected 1894		Resigned 1900
*MOSS Peter Timothy	Elected 1981		
MORGAN David P	Junior Member 1986		Resigned 1991
MORGAN Leslie	Elected 1976		Resigned 1990
*MURRAY A Craig	Elected 1976		
NETTLETON Thomas	Elected 1930		Resigned 1957
NELSTROP Bernard	Elected 1931	Committee 1937-47 Life Member 1966	Died 1999
NELSON George Henry Fox	Elected 1931		Died 1985
NEWBERY N C	Elected 1954		Resigned 1957
NEWBOULD W W	Elected 1903		Resigned 1904
NEUMAN Charles Frederick	Elected 1912		Resigned 1923
NEWMAN Christopher	Elected 1978		Resigned 1998
*NEWMAN Nevil	Elected 1951	Vice-President 1977-79 LHG Warden 1978-84 Life Member 1986	
*NEWMAN Rory R	Elected 1989		
NICOL John Main	Elected 1899		Died 1905
NICHOLSON Brian Edward	Elected 1954	Comm 1956-63, 67-68 Vice President 1963-65 <b>President 1972-74</b>	Died 1988
NONHEBL Brian Martin	Elected 1964		Resigned 1975
NORRIS Woodford Stanley	Elected 1933		Resigned 1958

NOSWORTHY Martin J K	Elected 1976		Resigned 1996
ODGERS William Billing	Elected 1919	Life Member 1954	Died 1958
ORMEROD John A	Elected 1905		Resigned 1923
*OXTOBY David Metcalfe	Elected 1948	Life Member 1983	
PALMER W E	Elected 1908		Resigned 1914
PARKER Granville William Bryan Watson	Elected 1951		Resigned 1956
<b>PARSONS Walter</b>	Elected 1896	Committee 1897-98, 1900-02,1904-10,19-20 Vice President 1902-04 <b>President 1912-19</b> Life Member 1931 Hon Member 1939	Died 1944
PAYNE Frank	Elected 1907		Died 1919
*PAPWORTH Howard M	Elected 1983	Committee 1990-93	
*PAPWORTH Murray	Elected 1991		
*PATCHET Arnold Newton	Elected 1950	Life Member 1985	Died 2004
PENFOLD Douglas P	Elected 1960	Committee 1967-72 Ass't Editor 1972-77	Died 1977
*PENNY Anthony	Elected 2001		
*PENNY Shaun	Elected 1992		
PETRIE Paul Douglas	Elected 1946		Died 1951
PETIT Thomas	Elected 1968		Died 1988
PIERCY Harry	Elected 1958		Died 1997
PILCHER F H	Elected 1895		Resigned 1898
<b>PILKINTON Charles</b>	Hon Member 1898		Died 1920
PILKINTON-ROGERS Charles William	Elected 1934		Resigned 1949
PILLING W	Elected 1893		Resigned 1894
*PITT Michael J	Elected 1997		
*PLATT Frank	Elected 1997		
PLATTEN Gerald	Elected 1933		Resigned 1952
POLLARD Joseph Lister	Elected 1928		Resigned 1930
POMFRET Neil	Elected 1993		Resigned
*POMFRET Roy	Elected 1966		
*POSTILL George P	Elected 1974	LHG Warden 1976-78 Lowstern Warden 1978-79 Committee 1979-84	
PORTER Dr A E	Elected 1904		Resigned 1906
PORTER Robert James	Elected 1929		Resigned 1930
POTT Walter	Elected 1892		Resigned 1893
POTTER George	Elected 1919		Died 1950
POTTER Ian M D	Elected 1983		Resigned 1994
POTTER-KIRBY George Arthur	Elected 1910	Vice-President 1933-35 Life Member 1940	Died 1967
PRESTON W E	Elected 1905		Resigned 1909
PRINCE-SMITH W Richard	Elected 1953		Resigned 1960
*PRICE David	Elected 2002		
PRICE Peter St John	Elected 1992		Lapsed 1998
PRIESTMAN Howard	Elected 1894		Resigned 1908
PRYCE Rev Arthur	Elected 1931		Resigned 1934
*PRYOR Mark P	Elected 1995	Librarian/Archivist 96-98	
PUTTRELL James W	Elected 1900	Life Member 1931	Died 1939
*RABY Keith	Elected 1998		
RATCLIFFE Jack	Elected 1962 Re-elected 1977 Died 1988		Resigned 1975 Died 1988
REED David Lawrence	Elected 1930	Committee 1932-34	Resigned 1949
*RENTON Alister	Junior Member 1993	Committee 1998-2002	
*RENTON Christopher George	Junior Member 1963	Lowstern Warden 1967-72 Committee 2002- Life Member 1998	
*RENTON Kevin	Elected 1970		
*REYNOLDS Anthony John	Elected 1956	Committee 1957-61	

		Vice President 1972-74	
	Life Member 1991		
RAYNER F	Elected 1896		Resigned 1896
RICHARDS John	Elected 1963	Lowstern Warden 1964-67	Resigned 1978
RICHARDSON Clive William	Elected 1924 Re-elected 1946		Name Deleted 1952
RICHARDSON Steven	Elected 1997		
RIGG Jack	Elected 1937	Life Member 1972	Died 1982
RILEY Arthur	Elected 1893	Committee 1898-1901	Resigned 1910
RILEY Cecil Edgar Evelyn	Elected 1915	Life Member 1945	Died 1952
*RILEY Jonathan	Junior Member 1990	Committee 1993-94 2002-	
RIMMER Robert	Elected 1927	Committee 1927-30 Librarian 1935-39	Died 1939
ROBERTS Alexander Bruce	Elected 1919		Resigned 1928
<b>ROBERTS Ernest Edward</b>	Elected 1908	Editor 1920-48 Vice President 1921-23 <b>President 1923-25</b> Life Member 1949 Honorary Member 1949	Died 1960
*ROBERTS Paul Douglas	Elected 1951	Life Member 1986	
ROBERTS Walter Meakin	Elected 1926		Died 1953
ROBERTSHAW Wilfred	Elected 1906		Resigned 1912
ROBERTSON James Ralli	Elected 1935		Resigned 1936
*ROBINSON Harry	Elected 1978	Lowstern Warden 1988-90 Committee 1982-85 Vice President 1992-94	
ROBINSON John Robert	Elected 1954		Resigned 1988
ROBINSON Percy	Elected 1906	Committee 1915-19 Life Member 1936 Vice President 1922-24	Died 1948
RONSON David George	Elected 1962		Resigned 1982
*ROWLANDS Clive	Elected 1968	Committee 1971-73 Life Member 2003	
RULE Alexander	Elected 1907	Vice-President 1910-12 <b>President 1934-35</b> Life Member 1937	Died 1960
RUSH Leslie	Elected 1976		Resigned 1984
RUSHER Rev James Victor Francis	Elected 1948	Life Member 1984	
RUSHTON Prof Arthur Gough	Elected 1932		Resigned 1936
*RUTTER Harold	Elected 1981		
SALE Eric Hanson (Rummy)	Elected 1928	Life Member 1963	Died 1985
SARGENT Rowland Ernest	Elected 1935		Killed Gt Gable 1944
SALLIT Thomas Woodford	Elected 1947	Resigned 1954	
*SALMON George Arthur	Junior Member 1951	Committee 1982-90 Vice President 1979-81 Life Member 1986 President Elect 1991 <b>President 1992-94</b> Treasurer 1998-	
*SALMON Graham Roy	Elected 1987	Lowstern Warden 1993-96 Committee 1994-99	Committee 1994-
*SALMON Roy Thornton	Elected 1950	Life Member 1985	
*SALMON Trevor William	Junior Member 1953	Committee 1959-60 Asst Secretary 1962-65 Life Member 1988	
*SCHOFIELD John Anthony	Elected 1954 Re-elected 1988	Auditor 1990-93 Secretary 1993-96	Resigned 1965
<b>SCRIVEN Charles</b>	Elected 1892	Comm 1892-95,1901-03 Treasurer 1895-98 Vice President 1906-08 Hon Member 1923 Life Member 1931	Died 1938
SCOVELL Geoffrey Philip Ashton	Elected 1950	Life Member 1985	Died 1995
SEALEY Richard	Elected 1993		
*SEAMAN John Fredric	Elected 1914	Comm 1919-23,1928-29 Vice President 1923-25 Life Member 1944	Died 1966

*SEATON Euan	Elected 1998		
SEED Ernest Carl	Elected 1931		Resigned 1953
SELBY John Michael	Elected 1959		Resigned 1966
SELBY Dr Peter L	Elected 1984		Resigned 1987
SHARP Anthony Douglas	Elected 1971		Name Deleted 1987
SHAW Donovan	Elected 1930		Died 1969
SHAW Trevor Ian	Elected 1947		Name Deleted 1959
*SHIELD Ernest	Elected 2004		
SHERMAN Patrick	Elected 1952		Name Deleted 1954
SHERWOOD James Barlow Brooks	Elected 1938		Name Deleted 1955
*SHORT Jack	Elected 1958	Life Member 1993	
SIMONS Albert Edward Joseph	Elected 1951		Name Deleted 1955
SIMPSON James David	Elected 1959		Resigned 1963
SIMPSON J H	Elected 1901		Resigned 1907
SIMPSON William	Elected 1905		Died 1915
SLATER Herbert	<b>FOUNDER MEMBER</b>	Vice-President 1892-94 Treasurer 1893-94 Committee 1894-96	Resigned 1900
SLATER Malcolm Hunworth	Elected 1952		Resigned 1953
SLINGSBY Arthur Morris	Elected 1912		Killed in Action 1916
SLINGSBY Francis Hugo	Elected 1924		Died 1963
<b>SLINGSBY William Cecil</b>	Hon Member 1893	<b>President 1893-1903</b> Vice President 1903-08 Committee 1905-08	Died 1929
SLINGSBY William Ecroyd	Elected 1906		Resigned 1908
SMALLPAGE Fredric Hartley	Elected 1913		Resigned 1922
SMITH David Roger	Elected 1962		Resigned 1991
<b>*SMITH Francis David</b>	Elected 1955	Committee 1958-60, 90-95 Vice President 1965-67 Hon Secretary 1966-68 Asst Secretary 1968-73 <b>President 1976-78</b> Lowstern Sec 1959-66 LHG Secretary 1959-66 Life Member 1990 Hon Member 1990 LHG Warden 73-76,86-98	
SMITH Geoffrey Ridsdill	Elected 1924		Resigned 1929
*SMITH Michael	Elected 1977	Committee 1979-85 Asst Secretary 1985-92 Editor 1993-2003	
SMITH Ralph	Elected 1892	Committee 1893-97	Resigned 1904
*SMITH Stephen Hatersley	Elected 1958	Life Member 1993	
*SMITH Timothy Hatersley	Elected 1956	Life Member 1991	
*SMITHSON Derek Alan	Elected 1955	Committee 1979-81 Vice President 1981-83 President Elect 1989 <b>President 1990-92</b> Life Member 1990	
*SMYTHE Anthony George (Tony)	Elected 1954 Re-elected 1986		Resigned 1959
SMYTHE Francis Sidney	Elected 1919	Vice-President 1932-34 <b>Everest 1933,36,38</b>	Died 1948
SMYTHE Peter John Francis	Junior Member 1951		Resigned 1956
SPRATT Joseph Thomas	Elected 1913		Resigned 1914
SPRAY Douglas Charles	Elected 1966		Resigned 1968
<b>*SPENCELEY George Browning</b>	Elected 1941	LHG Warden 1952-55 LHG Secretary 1955-57 Vice President 1955-57 Committee 1960-66 Life Member 1976 Hon Member 1997	
<b>SPILLSBURY Harry S</b>	Hon Member 1956		Died on Alligan 1970
STANSFIELD David Ian	Elected 1963		Resigned 1968
*STEMBRIDGE David William	Junior Member 1956	Life Member 1991	
STEMBRIDGE Frank William	Elected 1933	Committee 1936-46,52-53 Asst Secretary 1946-52	Died 1991



		Vice President 1953-55 <b>President 1960-62</b> Life Member 1968	
<b>STEMBRIDGE Harry Leighton</b>	Elected 1933	Committee 1934-36, 46-48 Librarian 1948-58 <b>President 1954-56</b> Asst Editor 1959-60 Life member 1968 Hon Member 1977	Died 1977-97
*STEMBRIDGE Simon William	Junior Member 1958	Life Member 1993	
*STERLAND John H	Elected 1974	Auditor 1984-90	
STEVENS Harry	Elected 1936		Resigned 1960
STEWART Hugh	Elected 1927		Resigned 1930
STIRLING Hugh	Elected 1960		Resigned 1994
STOBART John Geoffrey	Elected 1912		Killed in Action 1915
STOBART Ralph Forester	Elected 1910		Resigned 1932
STOCK John Anthony Threfall	Junior Member 1957 Re-elected 1966		Resigned 1959 Resigned 1971
STONEHOUSE Oliver	Elected 1948	Ass't Secretary 1953-54 Committee 1954-55	Resigned 1976
STONEHOUSE Walter Patrick Bowman	Elected 1953	Committee 1956-60 Vice President 1960-62 Life Member 1988 <b>President 1964-66</b>	Died 1998
STONEY William	Elected 1946		Resigned 1966
STORRY Alan	Junior Member 1952		Resigned 1956
STRINGER Horace Sutcliffe	Elected 1939	Committee 1951-52	Died 1982
STUTTARD James	Elected 1957	Vice President 1978-80	Died 1988
SUGDEN Robert	Elected 1892		Resigned 1893
SUMMERSCALE Alec	Elected 1927		Resigned 1929
SURREY GRANT Alan G	Elected 1947		
SURREY GRANT S G	Elected 1947		
SUTCLIFFE William Leslie	Elected 1926		Resigned 1929
SUTTON George Allen	Elected 1949		Resigned 1952
SWALES Horace Kidson	Elected 1926		Resigned 1929
SWALES Robert Kidson	Elected 1914		Died 1931
SWALES Sydney James	Elected 1926		Name Deleted 1938
SWANN Michael Henry	Elected 1950		Resigned 1954
SWITHINBANK Joseph William	Elected 1892 Re-elected 1919	Committee 1892-96	Resigned 1902 Died 1926
SWINDELLS Peter Calverly	Elected 1964	Committee 1967-70, 73-79 Vice President 1980-82 <b>President 1986-88</b>	Died 1997
SYKES Arthur William	Elected 1911	Life Member 1941	Died 1959
SYKES Ernest	Elected 1894		Resigned 1895
SYKES Edwin P	Elected 1901		Resigned 1902
SYKES Philip W	Elected 1956	Life Member 1991	
SYKES James R	Elected 1978		
*TALLON Arthur	Elected 1952	LHG Warden 1955-59 Life Member 1987	
TATTERSALL-WRIGHT J W	Elected 1921	Committee 1924-27 Life Member 1956	Died 1986
TAYLOR Harry Burrow	Elected 1927	Committee 1928-30	Resigned 1946
TAYLOR Herbert Gate	Elected 1921		Resigned 1934
TAYLOR M P	Elected 1896		Resigned 1897
TAYLOR Robert	Elected 1905		Resigned 1922
TEESDALE J Timothy	Elected 1970	Lowstern Warden 1972-74	Resigned 1984
<b>TETLEY Charles</b>	Honorary Member 1893		Died 1934
*TETLOW David Max	Junior Member 1955	Life Member 1990	
THOMAS Peter D	Elected 1905		Resigned 1908
*THOMSON A R	Elected 1909		Resigned 1917
*THOMSON Stuart C	Elected 1997		
*THOMPSON Michael J	Elected 1978		
THOMPSON Geoffrey	Elected 1923		Resigned 1945
THOMPSON Harry	Elected 1942		Resigned 1952
THOMPSON H W	Elected 1902		Resigned 1907

THOMPSON James Leonard	Elected 1937		Resigned 1940
THOMPSON Sidney	Elected 1937		Killed in Action 1945
THOMPSON A R	Elected 1909		Resigned 1917
THORNTON E T	Elected 1898		Resigned 1905
THORNTON Philip Whitehead	Elected 1935		Resigned 1959
TILLY Charles S	Elected 1962		Resigned 1971
TIMMS G B	Elected 1948		
TIMMIS John Barrie	Elected 1948		Resigned 1950
TITLEY Richard Gerald	Elected 1939	Committee 1946-47	Resigned 1972
*TRANSLER Martyn B	Elected 1998		
TREGONING Edward Mallinson	Elected 1957	Committee 1962-68 <b>President 1968-70</b>	Died 1980
TREMAINE Jeremy C	Elected 1979		Resigned
*TODD William N	Elected 1991	Archivist-Librarian 1998-2004	
TOWERS Joseph	Elected 1892		Resigned 1893
*TRASLER Martyn B	Elected 1998		
<b>TUPPER-CAREY Canon A D</b>	Elected 1894	Honorary Member 1925	Died 1943
TURNER Geoffrey Redman	Elected 1957	Auditor 1964-86 Vice President 1984-86	Died 1987
*TVRANGER Kjetyl	Elected 1997		
ULLEN Erik	Elected 1905		Resigned 1910
UNWIN S Philip	Elected 1905		Resigned 1907
UMPLEBY Jack	Elected 1956		Resigned 1959
VINT Rev J S	Elected 1900		Resigned 1905
VIGERS Brian Edmund Allen	Elected 1932		Name Deleted 1938
*VARNEY John Arthur	Elected 1958	Committee 1975-81 Lowstern Warden 1976-78 Life Member 1993	
WADE David Harold	Elected 1927		Resigned 1946
WAGGETT F	Elected 1892	Committee 1892-93	Resigned 1893
*WAKEMAN Martyn D	Elected 1993		
Walker Frank	Elected 2003		
<b>WALKER Horace</b>	Hon Member 1899		Died 1907
WALKER J C	Elected 1903		Died 1954
WALTON Lt Col Alan Rowland	Elected 1973		Died 1984
WARDLE John Frederick	Elected 1938		Killed in Action 1942
WARDALE Richard J	Elected 1979		Died 1983
WARSOP Peter Alfred	Elected 1955		Resigned 1975
*WATERFALL Sidney	Elected 1955	Life Member 1990	Died 2004
WATSON James Falshaw	Elected 1904		Died 1937
WATSON John Stuart	Elected 1949	Life Member 1974	
*WATSON William H	Elected 1924		Died 1965
*WATSON W A Graham	Elected 1965		Died 2003
WATSON W G	Elected 1928		
WAUD Wilfred E	Elected 1901	Committee 1912-15	Killed in Action 1916
<b>WATTS Harold Garfit (Tim)</b>	Elected 1932	Vice-President 1950-52 Editor 1950-70 Life Member 1957 Hon Member 1967	Died 1970
WATTS H R	Elected 1940		Resigned 1950
WELLS Andrew	Elected 1984		Resigned 1994
*WELSH Nicholas	Elected 1996		
*WHALLEY John Christopher	Elected 1973	Committee 1977-82	
WHARLDALL Richard Brotherton	Elected 1950	Committee 1955-58 Ass't Editor 1958-59	Died 1983
<b>WHARNCLIFFE 1<sup>st</sup> Earl</b>	Hon Member 1893		Died 1999
WHITAKER Samuel Henry	Elected 1927		Resigned 1937
*WHITBY James	Elected 2001		
WHITE Alec R	Elected 1965		Resigned 1968
WHITE Dr John Crosby	Elected 1938	Life Member 1973	Died 1999
WHITE Paul	Elected 1931		Resigned 1933
<b>WHYMPER Edward</b>	Hon Member 1893		Died 1910
WICKET Anthony J	Elected 1976		
WILKES F	Elected 1892		Resigned 1897

WILKIN W R	Elected 1908		Resigned 1920
WILKINSON Britton(Tubby)	Elected 1951	Life Member 1987	
WILKINSON Edgar Arthur	Elected 1927		Resigned 1932
*WILKINSON Frank	Elected 1957	Committee 1962-63 Life Member 1992	
WILCOCKS	Elected 1894		Resigned 1897
*WILLIAMS David L	Elected 2004		
WILLIAMS George Clarke	Elected 1938		Resigned 1946
WILLIAMS Dr Robert Stenhouse	Elected 1906		Resigned 1931
WILLIAMSON Henry	Elected 1903	Committee 1908-12,19-20 Vice President 1915-19	Resigned 1921
WILLIAMSON John	Elected 1931	Life Member 1966 Vice President 1976-78	Died 1979
WILLIAMSON Maurice Metcalfe	Elected 1931		Resigned 1937
WILLS Wilfred Dewhurst	Elected 1928		Died 1954
WILSON Arthur Winn	Elected 1936		Died 1949
WILSON Charles Henry	Elected 1935		Name Deleted 1946
WILSON Graham	Elected 1927		Resigned 1930
WILSON Maurice Frederic	Elected 1951	Vice-President 1961-63 Life Member 1986	Died 2000
WILSON Robert Arthur Noble	Elected 1929		Name Deleted 1933
*WILSON Roy	Elected 1980		
WINGFIELD Charles Ralph Borlase	Elected 1908	Vice-President 1919-21	Died 1923
WITHERBY W H	Elected 1900		Resigned 103
*WOOD Alan	Elected 1997		
*WOOD Butler	Elected 1912		Reigned 1915
*WOOD D Barrie	Elected 1979		
WOOD Basil John	Elected 1930		Name Deleted 1950
*WOOD Michael	Elected 1993		
WOOD Peter	Elected 2001		Died 2002
*WOODS Martin W	Elected 1990		
WOODMAN David Guy	Elected 1961		Resigned 1981
WOODMAN Edgar John	Elected 1927	Life Member 1962 Vice President 1970-72	Died 1981
WOODMAN Henry H	Elected 1967		Resigned 1981
WOODWARD Arthur Maurice	Elected 1920		Resigned 1947
WOODWARD William	Elected 1962	Committee 1963-71 Life Member 1997	Died 1999
WIGGLESWORTH Anthony	Elected 1961		Resigned 1988
WRIGHT John P	Elected 1978		Died 2000
WRIGHT John William	Elected 1921		
WRIGHT William Arthur	Elected 1901 Re-elected 1912	Vice President 1929-31	Resigned 1904 Died Pontresina 1931
WYNNE-EDWARDS Rev J R	Elected 1905		Resigned 1907
YATES Harry(Hal)	Elected 1928		Died 1979
<b>YOUNG Geoffrey Winthrop</b>	Hon Member 1907		Died 1958
<b>YELD George</b>	Hon Member 1921		Died 1938

\* Current Members 2004

# CHIPPINGS



## INGLEBOROUGH FIND

Signs of early residents of the Dales have been uncovered by members of the Ingleborough Archaeology Group. After weeks investigating a remote site on the slopes of Ingleborough to the west of Selside they discovered the first seventh-century construction to be positively identified in the park – and one of the first in the north of England.

They uncovered a small, rectangular, partly stone-built building with two rooms and in it found sixteen pieces of charcoal impressed into the compacted soil floor. Two of these were sent for radiocarbon dating and returned identical dates – between AD 660 and 780, which puts the end of the site's use firmly within the Anglo-Saxon period. That makes this the only firmly-dated, post-Roman archaeological site in Ribblesdale; something of more than local significance. They also found small pieces of chert, the dark, rock-like flint that was knapped to make small tools and these are likely to date from the early Neolithic period, possibly 6,000 years ago, and it was probably pure chance that the pieces found their way into the building – they may have been trapped in turfs used for sealing the walls or roof.

A more detailed report is to be found in the January edition of the Dalesman.

Ed

## FEEDBACK

Following our last edition, Stephen Craven has commented on material in the last edition. On the John Snod paper about Cecil Slingsby he points out that Cecil, back in 1906 was also elected an Honorary Member of the Rucksack Club. He also offers a thank you to Jeff Hooper for the Gaping Gill archive. It will save him from going through the early YRC Journals as part of his historical research.

By coincidence the Craven Herald have done an article on Cecil since our last edition but more on that later.

He also comments on the Three Counties Pot and points out that it is interesting to note that the late Eli Simpson was, in the 1930s, of the opinion that there was no speleological potential under Leck and Casterton Fells.

John Colton also comments that he read my piece about Leicestershire rock with much interest. He was at Loughborough College of Art from 1967-70. Already an active climber, born in Malhamdale and a pupil at Settle High School, he was responsible for a few new routes and early ascents on the local limestone. Apart from ULC Mountaineering Club meets (he was Chairman in 69) a couple of them from the art college ploughed their own furrow, mostly hitching to North Wales most weekends.

Loughborough was not the most inspiring of places so they were soon exploring the surrounding countryside, obtaining a guidebook, which he had in front of him as he wrote to me. They got into scrapes over access a few times; Huncote and Hangingstone rocks spring to mind, escaping the police and some stuffy golfers. They had a lot of fun and did a smattering of what may have been new routes at Whitwick (they required gardening) and other places. One may have been The Brand as the owner kindly let John take some large pieces of granite from his property for his sculptures. John asked "was he the High Sheriff of Leicestershire?" Sir Andrew Martin was in fact the Lord Lieutenant of the County and passed away a few years ago. I knew the gentleman and Lady Mary, his wife as they also let the orienteers run round their 'garden' His son Colonel Robert Martin lives there now and as it happens, I am currently updating our map of these grounds. I will attempt to describe the area to you but it is difficult to find words to do it justice.

John comments that my piece did strike an optimistic note as to the future and we do have experience of places where previous quarrying has not led to climbers losing out but he supposes many of those Leicestershire venues would not now be recognisable to him and I am sure he is correct.

Trowbarrow is an aesthetically pleasing site nowadays and Horseshoe, where he spends a lot of time in winter, is much improved.

John has spent a few Summers recently camping at Bondo in Bregaglia. There is a large tonnage of granite extracted from that area and to preserve the visual tranquility of the area some of the granite is mined, rather than quarried, as at Promontongo. If mineral extractors care about such things as much as they make out at the early planning stages then they should seriously consider mining. Extraction from Coniston Old Man, Horton in Ribblesdale and above Castleton, to name three in National Parks reveal the powers of lobby available to the owners and operators of such large scale desecration.

## THE BRAND

Let's have ago anyway, as this is a fascinating area for which the term garden is a joke although that is actually what it is.

Old climbing guides talk of the larger quarry in the garden "this crag-like quarry offers some very fine climbing on steep, often perfect, slate. The setting is idyllic especially in the sun on a summer's evening. The rock is smooth but blocky, some of the blocks having razor sharp edges. The routes are long."

This garden is also an area of special scientific interest because of rare lichens and other plant rarities.

Before the Enclosures, each year stock used to be driven off the hills of Charnwood Forest to places on the edge to be marked with the brands of the owners. The Brand was one such place.

Slate quarrying was a growth industry in the Brand area in the 17th and 18th centuries with the product being used for headstones, gate posts, buildings, walling and flagstones. Swithland slate is still in high demand for matching work as it is almost indestructible.

The Brand is almost like something out of Lord of the Rings. The quarrying works cut the solid slate hill into a myriad of large and small quarry workings and pumping stations were built; rivers were diverted and considered on one level the area is a mess.

Eventually however quarrying ceased and the owners of the Big House landscaped the site amongst other things by part filling the middle of a long thin quarry to give Trout Water and Perch Water (the main climbing quarry).

The Brand Estate was sold to the Martins in 1887 and further landscaping has been done and the area allowed to naturalise.

You now have an ecological oddity rich in wildlife but with streams appearing to run through rock faces and complexity of landforms such that people get lost in there without any difficulty at all!

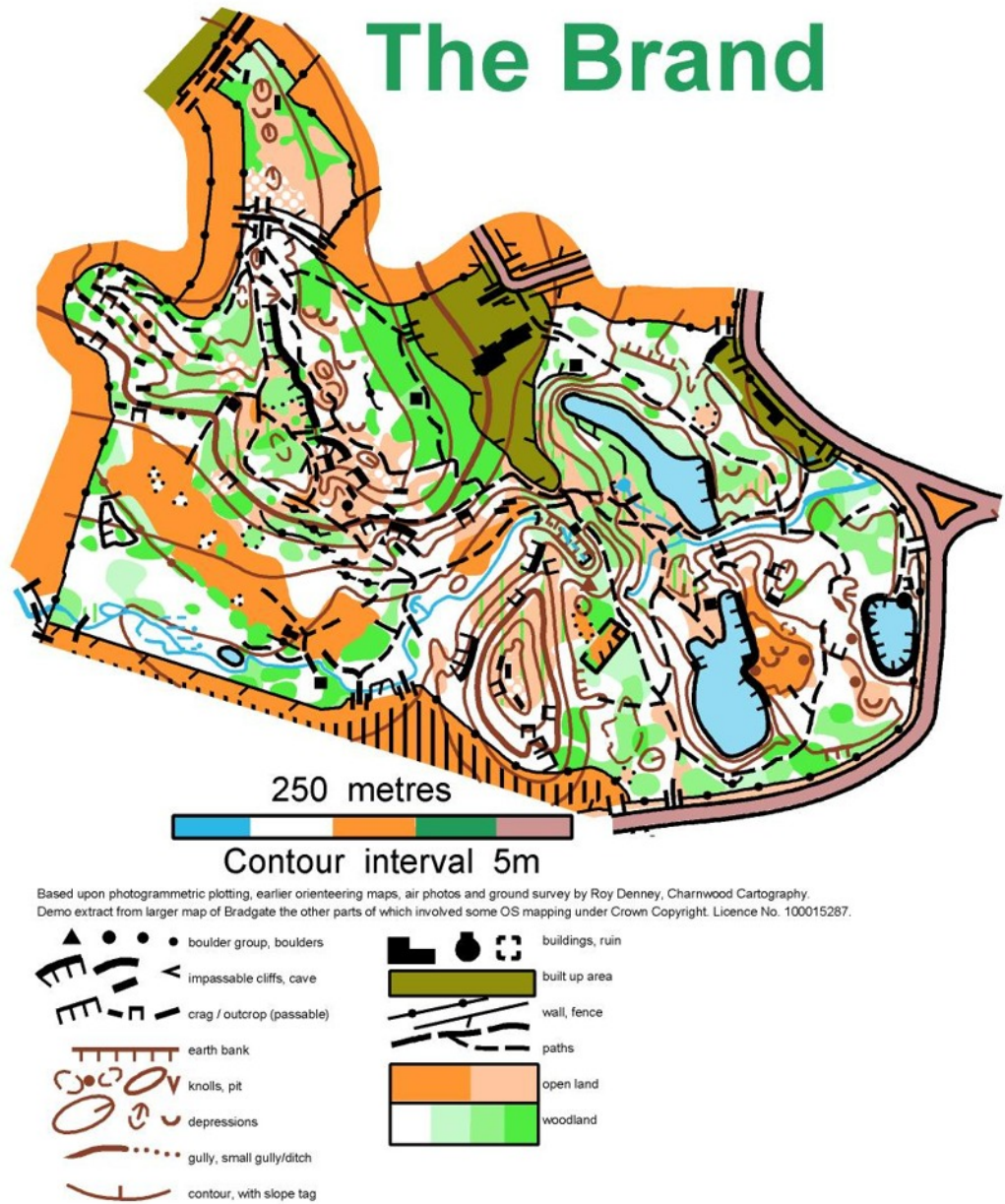
Ten foot high bracken in areas does not help.

I cannot imagine any area of a similar size having so many landform features.

The land is strictly private but any reasonable approach is usually accommodated. I have bumped into Scouts, pond dippers, birders, bug collectors and all manner of people in there. One good reason for asking permission is that shooters are also allowed in occasionally.

Both the walkers and cyclists passed by the Brand on our recent meet and I did make brief reference to it to the walkers.

If we do have another meet in this area and any of the climbers choose to join us I do not imagine I would have any difficulty getting permission to go in there.



Roy Denney

## EATING THE CLUB HUT

John Casperson's son and his bride Parminder (Pin) have spent 3 or 4 very happy weekends with some of their friends as grateful guests in the YRC club hut.

His wife had a studio in Covent Garden making props for the West End theatres, and many years ago one of her assistants moved to Kent and started decorating cakes as a business. (what prop making and decorating cakes have in common - don't ask John!)

So unbeknown to Bride and Groom John sent many photographs of LHG to her and she then did a "proper job" making a cake and decorating it.

All was edible including the Herdwicks, stream, car and trees.

The cake was the second most talked about subject of the day!

Photographs by Sarah Evans.



## BY THE SEASIDE

The Government Department for Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has announced the route of the first stretch of the English coastal path, bringing the vision of a continuous coastal path one step closer to reality.

The path runs around Weymouth Bay and we can only hope the government can find the fairly modest monies to press on with the next stages of this exciting project and bring the benefits to the rest of England. The Minister responsible has however warned against holding our breath.

DEFRA are now visiting all the land on the stretches of coast in the first phase that are likely to be affected by the proposals and discussing the options in detail with people who own or manage the land. The Weymouth section is now open and the process continues in Norfolk, Kent and Somerset.

Slightly further advanced are County Durham and Cumbria where draft proposals are open for public consultation. The closing date for comments is Friday 3 August.

Perhaps of most direct interest to us is Cumbria and details of the consultation can be had at – <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/coastalaccess/cumbria/default.aspx>

Wales has however put them to shame. The 870 mile (1,400 km) all-Wales coast path is now complete and was officially opened in May.

The path stretches from the Dee estuary in north east Wales, west to Anglesey, Gwynedd, and down the south west Wales coast going east to Cardiff and Newport with views over the Bristol Channel.

It is as near to the coast as legally and physically practicable, and in tourist speak – "The Coast Path winds its way through towns and villages, across cliff tops and sandy beaches, sometimes darting inland before emerging once again at a sheltered cove or tiny hamlet that you would forever miss when travelling by car, bus or train."

Chester in the north to Chepstow in the south might be too much for a Club long walk but new stretches of it might open up possibilities.

Ed

## CAVES OF LEBANON

Following the review in our last journal Steve Craven in South Africa has purchased a copy. For information to anyone else interested in a purchase the cost is \$US 50 plus postage from the Lebanon

Ed

## TSITSIKAMMAS

Not a name which trips off the tongue!

The Tsitsikamma range of mountains in the south-eastern Cape in South Africa, stretches about 50 miles from the Louterwater area to the Kareedouw Pass. There are several peaks along the main ridge line with the most prominent Formosa at 1675 m. The range consists almost exclusively of tough local sandstone which is extremely erosion-resistant, just as well as with an annual rainfall in excess of 100 cm, a number of fast-flowing rivers race down the southern slopes through spectacular tight gorges.

This little known and truly unspoilt area is covered in the latest journal of the Mountain Club of South Africa as they celebrate 50 years of the mountain hut on its slopes.

The excellent journal also has articles on other climbs throughout Africa, little known to most outside that continent and will shortly be lodged in the library at Lowstern under our journal exchange arrangements.

Another interesting if disturbing article is on the vanishing snow-cap of Kilimanjaro. It includes photos taken by NASA in 1993, 2000 and 2008 and the trend is dramatic.

Ed

## CECIL, THE FAMILY MAN

Quite coincidental to our piece in our last journal about Cecil Slingsby, the Craven Herald also published one in March. We have swapped material and, with their permission, I offer a few bits from their research that might broaden our knowledge of this Icon of a distant time and reflect the softer family man.

Much of the material came from Dr Bill Mitchell of Giggleswick who had met with Cecil's youngest daughter Eleanor and more recently one of his great great nephews.

They point out that the north east corner of the churchyard at Carleton-in-Craven lies William Cecil Slingsby.

The family home was on Beech Hill at Carleton, a village at the edge of the Aire Gap. It had its back to the moors. Cecil kept all his five children acquainted with crags and hills. An especially handy viewpoint was on Carleton Moor. From here, he would point out the gaunt fells of Lakeland and flat-topped Ingleborough, which he loved. Flasby Fell, another favourite, was visible from his home village, and with his family he frequently explored Carleton Gill.

Eleanor married Geoffrey Winthrop Young, who combined

mountaineering with composing poems. He was much older than his wife. After visiting the Slingsby home at Carleton for the first time, he displayed his flare for composition by recalling "a sundrift of wide-blue-eyed children with soft mischievous voices".

## FERRATARERS

No, for the Italian or Latin speakers this is not a corruption of the term Iron Men.

It will certainly help many normal mortals to think they are iron men. Those of us familiar with the Alps are used to Via Ferrata but they are comparatively new in England. Via Ferrata is Latin for "Iron Way" and the system was introduced during the First World War as a means to move thousands of untrained soldiers quickly through the Alps. They allow the average person on the street the opportunity to go higher and further than they ever imagined possible and these climbing/walking experiences are hugely popular in the Italian Dolomites and across Europe, being perfectly safe and not needing you to be a trained mountaineer to do it. Apart from providing quick access to high places we should applaud them as a means of introducing people to the mountains who may then move on to more traditional mountaineering.

The first V F in England was introduced in 2007 at the Honister Slate Mine and follows the ancient miner's cliff-edge footpath high on Fleetwith Pike (2,126ft) with stunning views as people inch their way across the to them daunting "Burma Bridges" suspended 2,000 feet above the Valley floor.

The HSM closed this recently and applied for permission to reconfigure it and create two more of increasing complexity and now allowing people to achieve the summit ridge by use of a 66ft vertical scramble net.

Planning permission has been approved by the Lake District National Park Authority but with an important caveat.

The area is open access land but the private mine workings are not. One aspect of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 is that where land does not automatically fall into open access owners can designate land for open access and such arrangements are in perpetuity.

A condition of this permission however is that the land is so designated Open Access 'where the public can walk freely on mapped areas of mountain, moor, heath, downland and registered common land without having to remain on paths.....the applicant cannot nor should not restrict or attempt to restrict access to this land by members of the public who are accessing the land under the terms of the Act'.

This permission will be good news for potential users of the Via Ferrata but will undoubtedly make it more difficult for the business model (of the potential guide/trainer having to create and equip the route) to be profitable.

If I understand the law in this regard, and I am a Chair of a Local Access Forum set up under this act, this does mean we can all have access to the land without charge or hindrance. I suspect we cannot of right use any iron works or ropes provided by the HSM but I wonder what is to stop us working some of the pitches in a traditional way.

It will be interesting to see how this ruling is interpreted.

Ed.

## WALKING THE BORDERS

Scottish Borders Council is in talks with the government over proposals for the establishment of a new army training range in southern Scotland to cope with some of the thousands of troops returning from bases in Germany.

A new army base is likely to be constructed at Kirknewton, near Edinburgh, and that the Borders was being considered as the site of the associated training grounds as the topography and geography could provide suitable terrain and training facilities for the different units of the planned new brigade, including armoured vehicles.

This is being supported by local business groups etc., but environmental groups and walking groups are against it.

The rumour mill has suggested numerous actual locations

## IN THE PEAK

Good news from the White Peak! The threat hanging over the Roaches appears to have been removed.

On the market since last year this area has now been withdrawn from sale and the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has taken out a 125 year lease on it.

The Trust has undertaken to keep it open to walkers and to keep the gritstone crags available to us.

## DAMP DIAMOND

After 60 years' service Her Majesty deserved better weather over the extended Jubilee celebrations; the rain-soaked pageant on the Thames was a dismal affair. Club members' conflicting engagements resulted in the postponement of the Caving meet planned for that weekend and in hind-sight down a hole in the ground might have been one of the drier places to be.

A few members did indeed make it to Lowstern with members of their families and they were not disappointed.

Michael Smith reports that on the way there the Smiths senior ascended Simon's Seat from Barden Bridge and at the head of the track up from the Valley of Desolation, noticed a parked Landrover. Its purpose was revealed as they stopped at the Truckle Crags for lunch and a more ragged Jubilee procession descended from the summit carrying

folding tables and empty food hampers. The 'street party' picnickers loaded the equipment into the vehicle and then walked back down, presumably to the Devonshire Arms.



That day was cold though there were only a few spots of rain.

Later, as the sun set, a full complement of Smiths joined David Hick and Beth Marriott for a fast walk up from Ingleton to the summit of Ingleborough. They were overtaken by torch-bearing fell runners and joined at Crina Bottom by Ged Campion and his son on their mountain bikes. With a hundred others in a lighter cold wind they stood on the brow looking west in the fading light watching fireworks explode over Ingleton. At 10:15 and the lighting of the British Gas beacon, three hearty cheers were raised.



As the last of the light faded they moved towards the summit cairn and looked at the many other beacons starting to blaze. Eventually, they spotted the one on Scafell Pike as the tiniest speck of orange.



That was forty miles away as the crow flies.

They descended to a deserted but police-patrolled Ingleton, tired but still dry.

The next day dawned wet and dull - no views of the transit of Venus for them - they headed west in search of better weather.

On the far side of the Trough of Bowland, overlooking Lancaster is Clougha Pike and Grit Fell. Parking near the Jubilee Tower above Quernmore, they read the inscription





"This tower was erected by James Harrison of Hare Appletree in commemoration of the Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, anno domini 1887." They made a round of these quiet farms and hills, again keeping dry. Along the way coming across several marker stones. One on Grit Fell near the 467m spot height had a benchmark and unusually an arrow marking south. Below this, on Abbeystead Fell, was one of a series of 1873 Lancaster Corporation Water Works marking the line of a buried aqueduct.



Michael suspects they had more fun than the crowds lining the Thames - they certainly kept drier.

Other members no doubt had similar experiences. Your editor had a full weekend wearing several hats simultaneously.



The weekend started with him helping set up a major event for the Woodland Trust when The Princess Royal came to open their flagship celebration woodland and then spent the day alternating between a promotional stand for the Ramblers' Association and helping run a small orienteering event as part of the festivities.



Two days later, for two hours, he walked some 27 villagers round the lesser known corners of his village to end up with BBQ on the village green culminating in the lighting of a beacon there.

Other members went well away from the activities for whatever reason. For example John Whalley spent most of

the weekend caving in Devon, taking in a misty walk on Dartmoor.

Mick Borroff and Hilary spent the Jubilee weekend up in Torridon, with Hilary still nursing her sprained ankle from the last day in Connemara. After driving up on the Saturday, Sunday was wiped out with a one-day virus with Mick spending the day flat on his back. Feeling much better on Monday, he did a the traverse of Beinn Eighe from Kinlochewe in glorious sunshine, finishing by walking out past the magnificent triple buttress in Coire Mhic Fearchair and down the glen to the car park. It was a superb day on the hill.

Tuesday was an easier day spent bagging Fionn Bheinn from Achnasheen. Wednesday was a rest day. Thursday he did Moruisc and Sgurr nan Ceannaichean from Glen Carron, the latter now demoted to Corbett status. Friday saw him on top of Slioch. On Saturday they drove to Glen Shiel and Mick traversed A'Chralaig and Mullach Fraoch-Choire from Loch Cluanie bringing the week's Munro total to 7, just nudging him to the 200 mark - 83 to go!

Harvey Lomas turned up at LHG with a special Jubilee medal in recognition of his services to the Cave Rescue Organisation. A number of these have been issued to long standing members of the voluntary rescue teams.

It is hoped to reschedule the caving meet on a weekend when so many members do not have other commitments

Ed

## SLINGSBY TRUST BOARD MEETING

Twenty years ago Derek Smithson had seemingly every active member and some of their families spread across Norway tackling the various peaks originally climbed by Will<sup>m</sup> Cecil Slingsby.

More recently John Snoad, a friend of several members around Ilkley, had summarised Slingsby's life near Skipton (YRC Journal, 12(13): 6-12) and more comment is to be found earlier in this Chippings section of this edition.

Throughout those years the Club has been represented on the Slingsby Trust, a Norwegian organisation encouraging various activities associated with our 1893-1903 President. Derek was a founder member of the Trust, later Kevin Brown was our representative and Michael Smith took over this year.

This year's meeting of the Board and the associated AGM were held on June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Klingenberg Hotel in Årdalstangen on the southern edge of the Jotunheimen.

The precursor hotel there was Slingsby's base in area. The hotel has a display of Slingsby-related items in the lobby and there are large photographs and paintings celebrating the mountain heritage throughout the hotel's rooms.



### Årdalstangen

The Trust has several projects in hand including a September symposium celebrating the interaction of men, the mountains and music; an annual award to a youngster from the area who had assisted others to get into the mountain environment; the production of films on safety in the hills and on a journey from fjord to Storen, the local mighty peak first climbed by Slingsby. There are other, larger projects in hand but it is too early for these to be announced yet.

Besides the Trust another organisation in the area is the Årdal Turlag. This is a hill walking group and one of our Kindred Clubs. Michael Smith met up with a couple of members of the Årdal Turlag, Bjarne and Marit Havro and was taken by a dramatic route along a rake across a cliff and past thundering waterfalls to one of the club's huts in Gravdalen.



Michael and Marit by the a Gravdalen hut

Both the Trust and the Årdal Turlag are keen to further their contacts with the YRC and the Jotunheimen is a magnificent area to explore with plenty of dramatic scenery, peaks and huts. Perhaps we should take a closer look

If anyone is thinking of visiting the area I'm sure the local contacts would be pleased to help with planning and troubleshooting any trip.

It is possible to fly to Bergen from several UK airports, then take the 5-hour express bus to Årdal (400 NOK or £45) or take an express boat most of the way from Bergen up Sognefjord to connect with the local bus.

An alternative with a slightly longer bus journey over the mountains is to fly to Oslo.

For anyone driving, there are now more and longer tunnels making the route shorter and faster – the longest tunnel being 25km

### REALLY NECESSARY?

From comments from various other members following my early articles about wind turbines I know a lot of you share my concerns about the desecration of our countryside to erect these inefficient machines in the cause of the government's 'green credentials'.

It sometimes seems like a lost cause to keep fighting against them but every time enthusiasm for the cause flags they come up with a greater sacrilege still to fire up my spirit for the fight. The latest suggestion is for three new wind farms round Loch Ness involving 200 giant turbines.

Some encouraging news is that the government is talking about removing the subsidy for these monstrosities and one of the world largest producers of turbines has cancelled plans to open an enormous production unit in England.

Unfortunately it may be to late for the areas we love. Despite the know leakage of power during transmission of long distances the existing turbines are mostly in remote places and there are plans in the pipeline for thousand of new and enormous pylons to get power to where it is needed .

There are plans for pylons, each the height of a 16-storey tower block, cutting across Snowdonia and mid Wales, the Lake District and other unspoilt countryside.. Massive offshore wind farms may be justified near major cities but those in the North Sea will require transmission lines through rural East Anglia and Lincolnshire and, in the Irish Sea, through the Forest of Bowland and Yorkshire Dales with many smaller and less intrusive pylons being upgraded to the 160ft standard, including some in urban areas.

Ed

### COME RIDE WITH ME

June saw the official opening in Clapham of the Pennine Bridleway, 7 years after the first section was opened.

From Derbyshire to Cumbria, it is 200 miles of old pack horse trails linked by new sections and gives an alternative to the badly over-walked Pennine Way itself.

Ed



# NATURAL HISTORY

## WILDLIFE, ECOLOGY AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



### BIRDS IN BOTHER

Statistics being compiled for the last year show depressing signs for several bird species. In the last 50 years hen harriers have been re-colonising England despite the activities of gamekeepers on the grouse moors. Last year however there were only 4 successful breeding pairs and they are close to vanishing from England for the second time.

The four successes were all on the Bowland moors to the west of Lowstern.

Another species rapidly vanishing is the turtle dove down 95% over the last half century. Habitat and food sources in England are a major problem for them but changing habitats in Africa where they migrate to and from are also a problem and as always they are hunted as they fly between these areas.

Farming practices have put lots of farmland birds at risk, in particular once fairly common skylark, grey partridge, yellow wagtail, lapwing and corn bunting.

The first two of these are doing quite well locally as the transition from once arable or pasture land to the new National Forest takes place. Until the newly planted trees suppress the wild grassland understory it is ideal terrain for them which does show they have a capacity for fighting back if we can recreate suitable habitats for them.

There are over 50 species in Britain causing real concern.

Amongst woodland species the tree pipit, wood warbler, lesser redpoll, hawfinch, lesser spotted woodpecker and willow and marsh tits are in trouble.

Recent widespread breeding failures have raised worries about important seabird populations, especially roseate terns, Arctic skuas and perhaps surprisingly, the herring gull.

Even that most iconic of visitors, the cuckoo is in decline.

One bright spot on the horizon is the Black Grouse. Still fairly desperately clinging on with man's help, in those areas where it has been re-introduced, the population in the north of England doubled last year to 1000 birds

Ed.

### A LOT IN RESERVE

As I prepare to go out to Australia and New Zealand again later this year I am encouraged by the levels of ecological protection now being granted in that part of the globe.

NZ has long enjoyed a good reputation on green issues and OZ is now following suit. It has recently announced plans for the world's largest marine park or series of parks covering 1.2 million sq miles that will limit fishing and oil and gas exploration in the seas off the entire continent.

The series of 60 reserves includes the Coral Sea, around the Great Barrier Reef, where I went snorkeling last visit and would hope to do so again. It will provide greater protection for threatened species including the green turtle, blue whale and dugong.

Environmentalists say it does not go far enough and did not place enough limits on offshore mining whilst fishermen say it will destroy their livelihoods. Compensation is being put in place but only time will tell how effective this protection is

Ed.

### IT'S ALL IN A NAME

An article in Bird Study, the journal of the British Trust for Ornithology, reports a study which suggests eagles were once quite commonly found across lowland and upland Britain and Ireland.

The mechanics used for the study are fascinating. Researchers looked at places named after eagles in our older languages to help estimate populations of the birds in 500AD when they now estimate there were 1,000 - 1,500 pairs of golden eagles. From the Dark Ages, they drew on historical material and studies to map pairs of the raptors to the present and thirteen centuries later with the industrial revolution gaining momentum, numbers of the eagles had fallen to as few as 300. Human persecution and the destruction of habitats have been blamed for the falling numbers.

Working just from the names associated with eagles leaves me wondering how they knew which were goldens and which were white-tailed sea eagles but perhaps those by the sea were discounted. According to the RSPB, up to 90% of sea eagles were lost over that same period and the species was extinct in Britain by the early years of the 20th Century.

The study drew on research of names representing the word "eagle" given to places when old Celtic language place names were replaced by Norse, Welsh, Old English and Gaelic.

In Scots Gaelic, 276 such place names were found, 152 in Old English, 84 in English, 66 in Scots, 63 in Irish Gaelic, 55 in Norse, 18 in Welsh and two in Manx.

White-tailed sea eagles were reintroduced to the Isle of Rum in 1975, followed by other programmes to bring back the birds to other parts of Scotland. Thirty-one pairs of sea eagles and 440 golden eagles were recorded by 2003.

Unfortunately birds are still being poisoned. In 2010, four were found poisoned. Even a huge white tailed sea eagle fell victim to poisoned bait that year. In total, 28 birds of prey were illegally killed in this way.

There were 16 confirmed poisoning cases in 2011, and let us hope this marks the start of a long-term downward trend.

We really do not know how many other birds were poisoned as their bodies often lie undiscovered even if not deliberately hidden. Ed.

## BOOM BOOM

Natural England have announced that the number of breeding male bitterns topped 100 in 2011 for the first time since they returned to the UK, exactly 100 years after they had been extinct for a period of 25 years.

I actually saw one last year in Norfolk but that is a very rare experience and even number-surveys are based on the distinctive "booming" call of the male. Ed.

# THE AGE OF EXPLORATION

Based on research by Albert Chapman

Some suggest that the great age of exploration is over and to an extent it is true that opportunities reduce as more distant places are documented. The Club has a long tradition of exploration and we do not consider those times are past. Exploration does not necessarily mean discovery although all expeditions to far off places must by definition involve exploration and some elements of discovery. Some years ago we formed an Exploration Group within the Club and are hopeful this will encourage members in such activities and new members to join us and go on the forthcoming exciting expeditions to the Himalayas, Malawi and Denali.

Last September at the joint meet we honoured George Spenceley with a life time achievement award for exploration. It was quite poignant as George may be one of the few true explorers left in our Club, in the fullest sense of that term.

To have been an active explorer one must have had copious free time, a good source of income and, if married, an understanding partner.

Whilst unknown corners of the globe are becoming rarer, travel is now a good deal easier and cheaper meaning we can get into the wilder parts of the world without having to invest quite as much time as was the case of old.

Many Club members are, or have been, as able as George was but put family and job security before exploration.

In the distant past we invited numerous distinguished explorers to be honorary members of the Club such as

Edward Whymper, Winthrop Young, Dr. Norman Collie and Sir Martin Conway

A good number of our 'ordinary' members, however, became explorers in their own right.

Frank Smythe was certainly an explorer who put exploration first having climbed Kamet and been on many Himalayan expeditions. He made money as a prolific mountain writer and put these activities before family.

Reginald Farrer, in his hunt for mountain flowers, had visited the Alps, Tibet, China, Korea, Japan and Ceylon. Natural history is of course one of the objects of the Club. He died as a Buddhist in Upper Burma.

W. C. Slingsby was an explorer and because his fifteen seasons of exploration were in nearby Norway and not in the Greater Ranges, he was able to work in his family firm in Skipton and enjoy married life.

Maurice Slingsby was certainly an explorer having been with Dr. John Longstaff discovering the immense Siachen Glacier in 1909. He made two attempts on Kamet and being in the army, was helped by them on his adventures. He was unmarried and sadly killed in the first world-war.

Geoffrey Hastings climbed with Slingsby, Collie and Mummery in the Alps, Norway and Lofoten before our Club was formed. He joined in 1893 and in 1895, with Mummery and Collie, made the first attempt on Nanga Parbat in the Himalayas. Albert Mummery and two Ghurkhas were lost. His exploration was not recorded in any YRC Journal; maybe the club did not know where the Himalayas were and concentrated on caving in those early days.

Motup Goma was an explorer long before he started organising Himalayan expeditions for us and ultimately was made an honorary member. Last year he was joint leader of the Indian-American team that climbed Saser Kangri II, which was then the world's second highest unclimbed mountain

Of our present long standing YRC members Albert would class Clive Rowlands, Michael Smith, Ged Campion and John Middleton as having been most involved in what he considers exploration.

Clive was a member of the team which finally climbed Biantha Brakk (The Ogre) in 1977. Amongst other team members were Chris Bonnington, Doug Scott and Paul (Tut) Braithwaite. Albert refers us to our 1979 Journal and notes his skill in choosing a climbing group!

"Doug and I picked our team carefully. Chris Bonnington because he could get as much free Bovril as we'd need; Mo Anthoine because he manufactures ice axes and other useful gear. He also knows everyone at our embassy in Islamabad. Tut Braithwaite because he has a gear shop and he's a painter and decorator by trade which would be very handy in marking a route up the glacier. Finally Nick Estcourt because he likes Bonnington and Bovril."

They were to spend seven days descending the Ogre helping Doug with two broken legs and Chris with broken ribs

Michael did many good routes in the Alps and Tatra but his main exploration was initially in the mountains of Bolivia and later, his many visits to Spitzbergen.

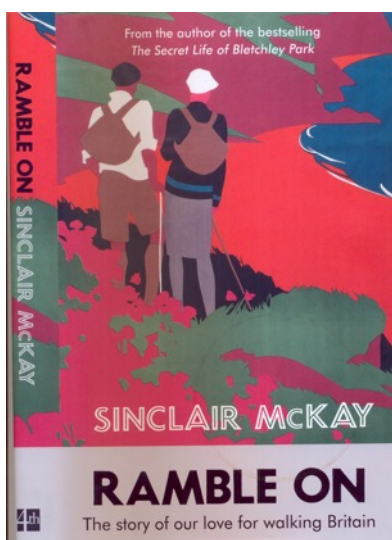
Ged explored glaciers and high passes in Eastern Nepal off the main trekking routes. He also led the YRC Dorji Lakpa expedition in 1995. His main exploration work was in caving; not just the many times with the China Caves Group but also exploring the longest cave in the Middle East which was in Oman and cave exploration with Brazilian cavers in their country. He explored with a French team the Gouffre Mirolda which was the first cave in the world found to be one mile deep.

John has caved in over thirty countries and has written over forty accounts of them for our journals. He is fortunate to have the advantage of financial security from his former company and an active wife who explores with him. Other than just visiting, he carried out exploration in many European cave systems and in addition in Madagascar, Brazil and Iran amongst others. His early exploration was of course of Ghar Parau. This autumn they are searching the Atacama Desert for cacti and other succulents.

## BOOK REVIEW

Ramble On by Sinclair McKay  
ISBN 978-0-00-742864-9

By Roy Denney



This is actually a very good read. Even if for many of us it contains a lot we already knew, there is a surprising amount I for one did not. It is basically a history of walking and our relationship with the British countryside. This book covers a lot of old ground and has been brought out to coincide with the anniversary of that afternoon on Sunday April 24, 1932, when a group of approximately five hundred men and women set out for the summit of Kinder Scout, on what is now known as the mass trespass.

Ramble On tells the story of how country walks and rambling were transformed from a small and often illegal pastime to the most popular recreational activity in the country. It makes the case that the story of rambling is not so much about parliamentary acts as it is about the remarkable people who campaigned for (and in some cases against) the pastime. There is mention of Alfred Wainwright, with his series of guides through to, in more recent times, the notorious Nicholas Van Hoogstraten and celebrities such as Madonna and Jeremy Clarkson -- who have done their level best (and worst) to keep walkers off their land.

It is both a history of Britain's favourite outdoor pursuit and a celebration of the countryside and waxes lyrical about exhilarating hill-top paths; the unease that a labyrinthine dark forest floor can induce; the feel of different textures underfoot be it peat bog or rock and the dappling effects of sunlight and shadow sweeping across vast valleys.

It does however go into far more detail covering items ranging from crossing Rannock in a gale to exploring the Tors on Dartmoor. It covers the poets and novelists who triggered the early interest in wild places. All in all it is very wide ranging and the only way to really understand its breadth is to read it.

Even though I can legitimately say "I'm a rambler from Manchester way" and am Chairman of my Area of the Ramblers Association, an organisation whose main aim is the preservation of footpaths, I had no idea that in 1826 the since defunct Manchester Association for the Preservation of Ancient Footpaths was formed.

I will be spending many weeks in New Zealand later this year where 'tramping' is their term for long distance walking. I did not know however whence that name came but apparently that was what it was called here in days of yore. By the mid nineteenth century most industrial towns had their tramping clubs often promoted by non conformist churches or temperance societies to encourage the working man not to spend his half day off in the ale house.

One thing which it has brought home to me is that in a way so little has changed. I have been campaigning for the coastal footpath and fighting entrenched opposition. We are still arguing for the right to roam woodlands and to follow riverbanks and wearing other hats I am constantly responding to consultations defending access to the countryside, seeking to register rights of way and protecting our open spaces. There are even locations where we are contemplating another mass trespass.

The working man still likes to go to the ale house even if he is happy to walk over hill and dale to get there.

## **JOINING THE CLUB**

The YRC welcomes application for membership from any person showing interest in the following Club objectives and who can demonstrate to the Club Committee eligibility for membership. Membership is however restricted to a minimum age of eighteen. Suitable individuals below that age can attend Club meets with a responsible adult.

The objects of the Club are to organise walking, mountaineering and skiing excursions, to encourage the exploration of Caves and Potholes and to gather and promote knowledge concerning Natural History, Archaeology, and Folklore and kindred subjects."

Anyone wishing to express an interest in becoming a member should write to the Membership Secretary, giving brief details of why they are interested in membership and how they feel they could contribute to the Club's objectives. They will then be contacted for a brief introductory talk and probably then be invited to attend one of the Club Meets as a Prospective Member and meet the existing membership. Somebody knowing an existing Club member can be introduced to the Membership Secretary for consideration as a Prospective Member and that member bring you to some Club Meets to meet the existing membership.

Prospective Member status expires after one year and candidates are encouraged within this period to formally apply to the Committee for election to ordinary membership, having satisfied themselves that they wish to join the Club. At the request of a member, the Committee can add a candidate's name to the list of Prospective Members who will receive Club mailings for an initial year.

The election of ordinary Members is at the sole discretion of the Committee. Candidates for admission must be proposed and seconded by Members of the Club. Application is made by submitting an Application Form stating the candidate's name together with qualifications, address, occupation, outdoor experience and age and signed by a proposer and seconder.

An application form for completion is available from the Membership Secretary and must be submitted via the Secretary for election consideration. Candidates' names will be posted to every member of the Club at least seven days before election. The election shall be by ballot of the Committee and a candidate must gain 75% of the votes cast.

As not all members can receive e-mail communications, this means that this information has to go out in the next posted Club communication after the date of receipt of the application. There may therefore be an unavoidable delay of a few months until the Committee can officially make a decision.

However, when a candidate's fully completed Application Form has been received by the Membership Secretary it will be acknowledged in writing, following which the candidate will become a Proposed Member and pending the committee's decision on membership, may use the Club's huts at members' rates.

The Membership Secretary (mick.borroff@tiscali.co.uk) will confirm the membership election result to the candidate.

The above is a summary only of the Club Rules appertaining to election to membership. The definitive official Club Rules are available from the Club Secretary and take precedence

# MEETS REPORT

## Low Hall Garth

13-15 January

Your scribe arrived with the President's guest on a glorious Friday afternoon with a forecast set for cold clear weather and we were not to be disappointed. While there was plenty of ice covering for most of the boggy ground, our thing missing was snow in the gullies to give some sport. Memories struggled to recall such encouraging weather on a January LHGmeet. To sharpen our appetite for a Friday evening meal members were strolling the lanes and going through Cathedral Quarry and Mine until darkness fell.



Well before nine on Saturday the first members were setting off up the valley with five making a full day convoluted circuit of The Carrs, Coniston Old Man, Dow Crag, Wetherlam and Tilberthwaite. Another group braved the ford, admittedly in a guest's car, and from Langdale tackled scrambles on Tarn Crag and Pavey Ark (complete with sizeable hound in tow) Harrison Stickle and the Langdale Pikes before refreshing themselves in the ODG.



Meanwhile, from the hut, Pike of Blisco and Cold Pike made a round for some and Tilberthwaite and Elterwater for others. Wherever they were, everyone had wide crystal-clear views of the surrounding hills.

With the Three Shires Inn being closed for its January break and Harvey bringing in ample supplies of beer, Saturday was a sociable evening with conversation late into the night. Rather than suffer another cold night sleeping in cars, two opted to relocate into the new barn making four in there.

We all slept a little sounder having had a tot of whisky courtesy of absentee David Martindale.

Sunday breakfast ran smoothly and started with porridge before a fried breakfast – well for some that is as one or two members who had ordered continental breakfasts depleted supplies by inadvertently taking fried breakfasts. A quick tidy around and the keen ones were off to the hills again.

Among other outings, Pavey Ark was again scrambled and Harvey took a party through Cathedral Quarry and Mine.

The weather was less sunny but still dry and cold with a biting wind. Our hard-working hut warden was waiting for a delivery of logs for the newly roofed log store.



The meet was catered in meticulous fashion by Rob Ibberson who insists that I include in this report his sincere thanks to those many attendees who assisted with food preparation, cooking serving and washing up.

It is such unprompted team efforts that make our meets practicable.

Altogether another memorable meet which our under-the-weather President was disappointed to miss.

MS

#### Attending

Dennis Armstrong  
Ian Crowther  
Robert Crowther  
Iain Gilmour  
Mike Godden  
Richard Gowing  
David Hick  
Gordon Humphreys  
Rob Ibberson  
John Jenkin  
Tim Josephy  
Harvey Lomas  
Michael Smith  
Andy Syme  
Alex Syme (G)  
Dom Kirkman (G)  
Richard Taylor (G)





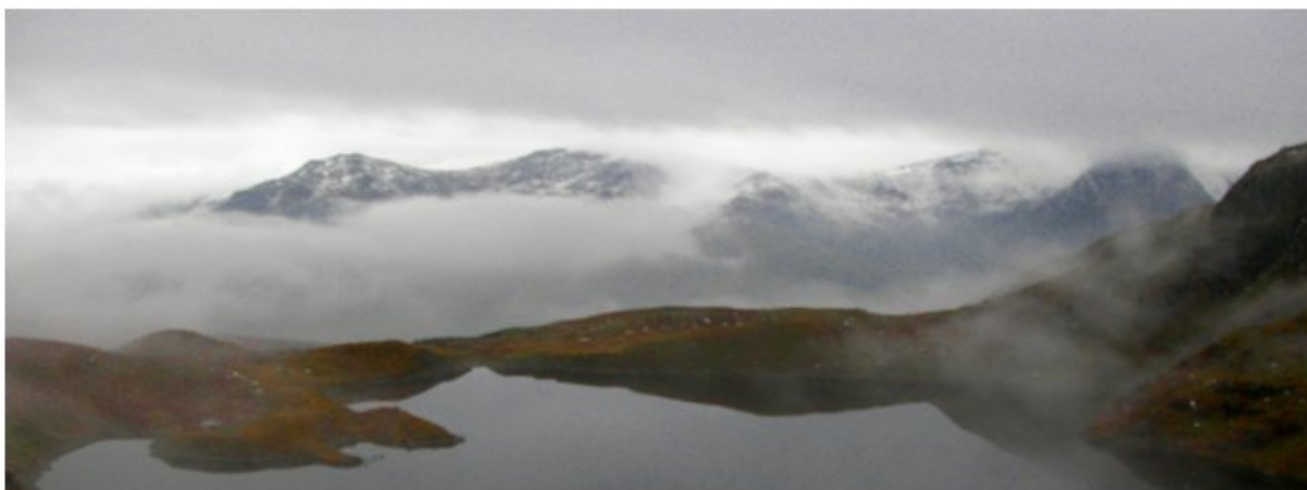
## GLAN DENA, NORTH WALES

10-12 February

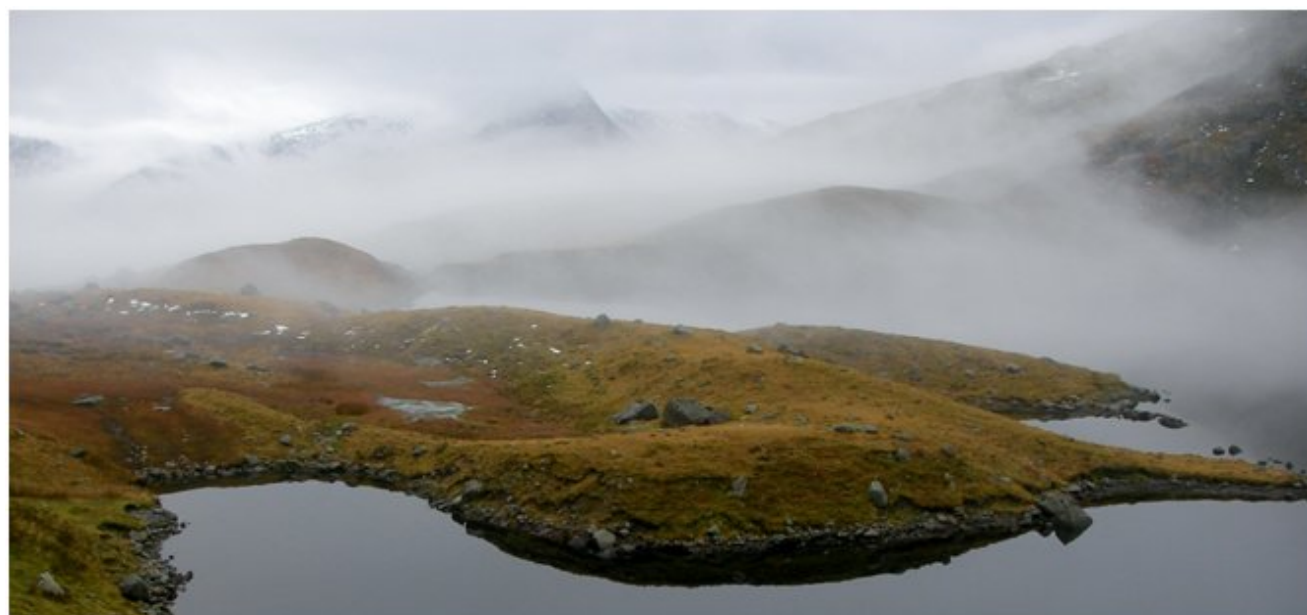
Glan Dena – the Imperial Palace of Club Huts! Who could resist a return to Ogwen valley, and savour the comforts of its marble halls, set amidst the gaunt Welsh hills? Twenty members could not resist the invitation. Enthused perhaps by the extraordinary weather at LHG three weeks earlier, surely our meteorological ‘bonne chance’ would hold? Your meet reporter has sadly to report that such hopes were dupes. The weather was uninspiring: no sun, no wind (at ground level), no rain, no change; just motionless cold misty weather.

The meet got off with an unfortunate hiccup. The secret PIN number to open the door to the Imperial Palace failed to work. Several members tried their undoubted Fingerschpitzengefuehl on the unrelenting keypad. No success. Then three more PINs arrived –“Try your luck with these,” and lo, one of them produced the desired result. The door sprang open, followed by the usual scramble as members rushed to grab the best beds. But such unseemly behaviour is out of keeping at the Imperial Palace; all beds there are of the best, with enough semi-en-suite facilities to relieve the feelings of the most anxious member.

While this PIN quandary was being resolved, the President and another member en route to Ogwen were ascending Moel Siabod, reportedly by a grotty scree and snow gully and where ice did not become prominent until the last 100m.



The Glyders from the Carneddts



Saturday morning was full of purpose. Ignore the weather, the tops must be scanned; very necessary because at ground level optical verification was in vain. Parties went clockwise round the Carneddts, parties went anti-clockwise round the Carneddts, with a brief encounter half way round; parties went on to the Glyders; parties went over the East shoulder of the Glyders. All reported ice and strong winds at higher levels, making conditions inhospitable. Others stayed below 2000' going to look at Llyn Cowlyd. Finally one person took on Rail Welsh and succeeded in going by train from Caernavon to Portmadoc.

Amidst gathering dusk, cyclopic headlights beamed the return of the last party back to the Palace. After a splendid evening meal – the pud being prepared personally by our Meet Leader - conversation ranged over general topics. One point should be recorded; the meaning of the name of the hill that stands as the gateway to the Carneddts, viz Pen-yr-oleu-Wen (970m)? It remains a mystery, although discerning scholars favour Peak of White Light. Research continues. If however on a dark night you should chance upon Pen-yr-Helgi-Ddu, beware! Our local member with knowledge of the Welsh language said it meant Peak of the Black Witch (and just hope that she's not in as you go by.)

The morrow dawned with the same immobile cold. However the resolve of the YRC remained firm. The parties who had been on the Glyders went to the Carneddts, while ex-Carneddts parties scrambled up the north ridge of Tryfan, reporting that the cannon is still there, pointing in the direction of Angelsey. Adam and Eve were ascended for good measure. In thick mist one member continued over Bristly Ridge and returned home via the Glyders.

culinary standards were absolutely in keeping with the splendour of the Imperial Palace of Huts, Glan Dena.

Dennis Armstrong



Richard Josephy



Tryfan from Carneddau

Attending

- Dennis Armstrong
- John Brown (Meet Leader)
- Peter Chadwick (President)
- Alan Clare
- Derek Clayton
- Ian Crowther
- Roger Dix
- Paul Dover
- Mike Godden
- Gordon Humphries
- John Jenkins
- Tim Josephy
- Richard Josephy
- Richard Kirby
- Harvey Lomas
- Arthur Salmon
- Michael Smith
- Richard Smith
- Richard Taylor (PM)
- Frank Wilkinson

Others encouraged by the cracking of the Rail Welsh (Linear B) timetable, became railway children for the day.

So ended a most enjoyable Meet. The weather was dismal, nevertheless a lot was done. My final word must be our grateful thanks to John Brown our Meet Leader and Provider, for all his preparation and care, and ensuring that our

## FESHIEBRIDGE - 22-25 March

I have a special affection for the YRC Scottish Winter meet. A long day on snow covered tops with mountain snowscapes stretching away in all directions was the main reason I joined the YRC. Subsequent crampon and ice axe adventures on Aonach Eagach Ridge, No. 3 Gulley on Ben Nevis and across the Grey Corries are still treasured memories. More recently rain, sleet and low cloud have been a less satisfactory feature so what was in store for 2012? Who could have expected bright sunshine - when was the last time the Winter Meet Leader suffered sunburn? And dry conditions under foot so boot were coated in dust rather than peat bog.

Michael and David had made an early start exploring the Blair Atholl area on Wednesday and Thursday. After mountain biking up Glen Tilt they bagged Carn a' Chlamain and the next day via Allt Slanaid to Beinn Dearg when David suffered a tumble from his bike and sported a black eye the rest of the weekend. Wild life abounded.

Arriving at Feshiebridge in good time on Thursday Aaron and Steve climbed Sgor Gaoith via the Auchlean path, a beautiful evening and a glimpse of the weekend to come.

Friday morning we woke to bright sunshine, a good covering of frost and birds singing loudly. Parties were away early. Peter and Adrian set off for Mullach Clach a' Bhlair and Sgor Gaoith intending to follow the Foxhunter's Path but missed a turn early on and had a long detour through deep heather before eventually gaining the Great Moss. Peter, Michael, Derek and Rachel took a much more interesting route via Meall nan Sleac. Both parties lunched together before heading north enjoying wonderful views across the Northern Cairngorms. While Peter and Adrian returned from Sgor Gaoith via Foxhunter's Path the others had a much more ambitious plan following the ridge over Sgoran Dubh Mhor, Clach Choutsaich and the Argyll Stone to Creag Dubh before descending via an indeterminate path off Allt Coire Follais and finally through the forest in the dark to Feshie Bridge where Albert was waiting to transport them back to the hut (mobile phones have their uses). An impressively long day out for Derek who smiled throughout and something of a tough introduction to the YRC for Rachel who enjoyed 'a good walk on the tops' in close company with Bushy.

Andy, Dom & Richard Smith went classic climb hunting. Driving over to Binnein Shuas and doing the 4\* , 180 m, Ardverikie Wall.

Aaron, Steve and David had a delayed start due to catering duties before heading to the ski centre car park from where they walked to Ben Macdui returning via Cairn Gorm and down the snow-free slopes.

Albert, Harvey, John and Richard K walked under Cairngorm from Coire Cas, through the Chalamain Gap and down the Lairig Ghru track back to Loch Morlich.

Sunshine, bird song but no frost on Saturday morning as the parties again headed for the hills. Inspired by their Thursday evening views Aaron and Steve ascended the Foxhunter's Path then across to Cairn Toul and Sgor an Lochan Uaine where Steve decided it would be a good idea to walk around Braeriach and contour above the headwaters of Loch Enich before returning to Auchlean as darkness descended to reach the hut just as the meal was being served.

Michael, Peter and Peter walked from Coire Cas to Coire an Sneachda and over boulders to the scramble up Fiacail a' Coire an Sneachda then across to Cairn Lochan where they watched the climbers starting their second pitch. Onward to Ben Macdui from where the Peters returned via Cairn Gorm while Michael went via the shoulder of Cairn Lochan spotting an eagle, snow buntings and roaming reindeer before joining the others at the car park café where Harvey had arrived via a circular route including two visits to Cairngorm summit (and snow buntings) then down to Cairn Lochan and a descent of the spectacular Fiacail ridge.

The climbers (Andy, Dom & Richard) early start paid off as they led the way up Savage Slit on Coire an Lochain. After 3 hours climbing they went on over to Ben Macdui and back to Cairngorm before dropping back to the car park for a well earned rest.

Albert and Rachel enjoyed a long walk in the great Forest of Rothiemurchus; the red squirrels failed to show themselves. Richard K, John and Derek took a gentle stroll around Loch an Eilein, Loch Gamhna and the Inchriach Nature Reserve before bird watching from the coffee shop.

David and Adrian headed for the Pass of Drumochter and did the round of Geal Charn, A' Mharconaich, Beinn Udlamain and Sgairneach Mhor. After the initial climb this



Derek Bush & Peter Chadwick  
on the East Glen Feshie Ridge  
Photo Michael Smith

proved an undulating upland route and in the dry conditions it was easy to make good time while enjoying the views and the changing terrain. A very good day despite the 4km walk by the A9 back to the car.

Sunday morning came unexpectedly early for some who had forgotten to put their watches forward. After another plentiful breakfast (don't mention the baked beans) everyone set to sweeping and mopping to leave the hut clean and tidy. Derek and party called in at Pitlochrie to see the fish ladders and had a short walk at Killicrankie. Michael and David strolled to the Bruar Falls. Peter, Richard S and Adrian stopped off at the Pass of Drumochter for a brisk trip to the summit of Meall Chuaich; glorious sunshine but a very cold wind.



From Sgor Gaoith looking across Loch Einich towards a distant Cairn Gorm  
Photo - Adrian Dixon (AD)

Feshiebridge had proved an excellent venue with enough hills, crags, lochs and forests to keep everyone active. Was it the weather or the mixed group that resulted in such a delightfully relaxed feeling over the weekend? Mill Cottage certainly helped - after the Saturday evening meal the 'senior' members lingered around the table recalling past glories while the younger folk settled around the wood-burning stove in the lounge to share dreams of future adventures both on the hills and in their careers. The cottage had an excellent kitchen and Aaron rose to the challenge of catering for the group with an appealing menu and a demonstration of new-found culinary skills - he was ably assisted by volunteer cooks and dishwashers (just don't mention those baked beans).

The bunk rooms and camping facilities were more than adequate and all coped well with the reduced washing and showering facilities due to a couple of inoperative water heaters. A Scottish Winter meet memorable for all the best reasons; thank you Aaron.

Attending: - Peter Chadwick, (President)  
Aaron Oakes, (Meet Leader) Steve Allison (G), Adrian Dixon  
Harvey Lomas, David Hick, Michael Smith, Richard Smith,  
Derek Bush, John Lovett, Albert Chapman, Rachel Evans (G),  
Andy Syme, Richard Kirby, Peter Elliott, Dominic Kirkman,  
AD



Peter Elliott on Moine Mhor (the Great Moss) looking towards Braeirach, Sgor an Lochaine Uaine and Cairne Toul and (bottom) approaching Sgor Gaoith



David Hick on Beinn Udlamain looking west  
AD

## CALDERDALE 20<sup>th</sup>- 22<sup>nd</sup> April

Based at the Hedben Hay Scout facility just outside Heptonstall ( SD 978 291) we met on Friday with arrivals throughout the afternoon and evening.

The weather throughout April had been consistently wet and the start of the meet was no different.

Of those arriving early, Michael Smith and Paul Dover braved the indifferent weather to walk from the White House inn across near Blackstone Edge reservoir to Blackstone Edge itself (in Lancashire) to complete a couple of low grade climbs, the first, a chimney they both complete and the second, a corner, (filthy green) ledge and a wide constricting crack was not worth following. They then continued walking taking in the Trig point at 472m and admiring the local engineering in the form of the aqueduct. Those attending met at the Scout facilities a various stage of the evening in worsening weather , just as well Arthur Salmon, ably assisting Frank Wilkinson our meet leader had prepared a chili that could be reheated numerous times!

Saturday started mixed but luckily after breakfast a break in the weather offered the opportunity for activities to begin. We seemed to fall into three distinct groups and head off in pursuit of our plans for the day.

Michael Smith and Derek Smithson headed to the Bride stones above Heptonstall with a walk round the nearby breached reservoir and aircraft navigation on beacon on Poole Hill. Short wall climb, Fish With (4c), enlivened with a hail storm. Then to Horsehold on the south side of Hebden Bridge and a failed attempt to reach the crag overlooking the valley. Retreat to the canal side and walk a few miles either side of Hebden Bridge.

A group of us lead by Arthur and joined for the day by George Buxton started from Mytholmroyd and after a steep start to the walk, climbing out of the town we were able to get into a good stride. It was unfortunate that Mick Borroff and I got out in front and whilst happily conversing failed to notice Arthur shouting to advise us that we were crossing the route that he'd planned to follow. Frank decided to follow us directly to Stoodley Pike whilst Richard, Paul, George and Arthur diverted S.E. towards Cragg Vale and then from Stony Royd back S.W. to Withens Clough Reservoir and then N to Stoodley Pike where they met up with Frank again and had lunch together braving a coolish wind on the escarpment by Stoodley Pike.

Arthur and party after lunch went S.S.W. along the Pennine Way to its intersection with the Calderdale Way, which we followed W. and then N. to Mankinholes. Then N.E. along the London Road directly below Stoodley Pike, which stands out very impressively against the skyline from this viewpoint. From the point on the London road due N. of S.P., they cut down to the main valley via a delightful grassy

lane that leads down the top side of the Eastwood to a bridge crossing the canal where Frank left them to walk along the canal back to Hebden Bridge.

Arthur's party climbed out of the valley on its northern side by the Pennine Bridleway and from the crest of the ridge down to the New Delight pub at the head of Culden Clough where they partook of the local ale from the Bridestones brewery. Just W. of the pub, Culden Water was crossed by the very fine clapper bridge and the Calderdale Way followed via Lumb Bank to the very impressive viewpoint of Culden Edge above the very steep sided, wooded valley of Culden Clough, and thence to Heptonstall. George Buxton left them at the end of the Edge to take the track down to Hebden Bridge to take his train back to New Pudsey.

In Heptonstall they viewed the ruined church, which stands besides the much later edifice, in the churchyard of which is the grave of the poet, Sylvia Plath, who was the wife of the poet laureate, Ted Hughes who was born locally in Mytholmroyd, but, unfortunately, due to shortage of time, they were unable to do justice to the things to be seen in and around the churchyard. From here they followed the Calderdale Way towards Midge Hole and then back to Hebden Hey via its access track.

After Mick and I had left Frank earlier in the day before he met up again with the other group we headed off, in a heavy downpour in the direction of Strait Hey Lane and down via Height Woods where we crossed the canal and followed this along to Burnt Acre Lane and crossed the Halifax Road and subsequently the railway line to the corner of Common Bank Wood where we followed a couple of delightful clough's bristling with Wood-sorrel and Wild Garlic plentiful the flora of spring life with dappled sunlight offering contrasting colour schemes. We worked our way north to the hospitality of those running the New Delight public house before working back to Heptonstall first via Hudson Mill Lane through Foster wood and Bob Wood turning off at Lumb Road and into Slater ing Wood similar to the previous party and plenty of the industrial history of the area clearly evident following the water course.

We left Heptonstall via Northwell Lane and into Lee Wood and then Hebden Wood to work our way back to the Scout Hut. Generally, the weather was very clement, considering the amount of rain that had fallen over the last few days.

With all gathered safely back at camp with the exception of our prospective member who had left Ian Crowther's group at lunch time, no idea what he had said, we sat down to enjoy an ale or two and a hearty meal prepared by Frank and Arthur followed by the delights of Derek's pickled Quails eggs!

On Sunday activity was affected by the weather I choose to head south dry whilst others such as Michael and Paul

headed from the hut to Walshaw, Widdop, PW to Slack and back to the hut, well watered walk both from above and below.

Frank and Arthur followed the other party up Hebden Dale, but instead of going up to Walshaw they continued up the right bank to where the Colne road crosses the river and then followed the lane along the west bank up to Walshaw Dean Lower reservoir where they joined the Pennine Way which crosses the embankment here. They followed this N. to just above the dam on the middle reservoir where branching off right crossing Wadsworth Moor going S. back to Walshaw. From here, Arthur had planned to go E. to Crimshaw Dean Beck and Lumb Falls, but decided to return with Frank to the scout hut to ensure that it was all cleared out and clean before the deadline of 4 o'clock.

During the day they only had one moderately heavy shower that lasted less than half an hour, otherwise enjoying good weather again.

Our thanks to Frank and his able assistant Arthur for putting the meet together in a very interesting part of the country.

Those in attendance:

Frank Wilkinson, Meet leader  
Paul Dover  
Richard Taylor  
Mick Borroff  
Arthur Salmon  
Ian Crowther  
John Jenkin  
Derek Clayton  
Alan Clair  
Michael Smith  
Martyn Trasler  
Rachel Evans PM

## **SOCIAL MEET - SIMONSTONE HALL HOTEL 22-25 MAY**

Our meet leader, Paul Dover, demonstrated his weather forecasting skills by selecting the first 3 days this May, when it was possible for those who chose to be so attired, to wear shorts.

Most of the party assembled on Tuesday afternoon for tea on the splendid terrace of the hotel. The views (and temperature) were more Italy than Yorkshire Dales. Our president, co-pilot and trusty hound arrived in customary style (and a cloud of steam) in time for the most important part of the day- pre-dinner drinks. Sadly, Bill and Juliette were unable to attend following a fall the previous day. The assembled despatched a suitably worded card wishing Juliet a speedy recovery. At dinner Paul promised an arduous selection of walks on the following day and, in view of the early start time, (10.00am) members decided to eschew the

fleshpots of Hawes. The president welcomed all and proposed a toast to Richard and Ann who had been married for an indeterminate number of years who used the occasion to celebrate.

Wednesday

At 10.25 prompt the main walking party left en masse after leaving transport at a strategic location en route 'to provide options'. The first stage of the ascent to Cotterdale was a descent to Hardraw and, for some, a dragging of feet as they passed The Green Dragon Inn, a 13th century pub who are now guardians and toll collectors for Hardraw Force



Setting off from Simonstone Hall on the descent to Hardraw, which is in the background.

The Pennine Way was joined and the (very) early slopes of Great Shunner Fell ascended until welcome relief was afforded by an escape path to the left and a well-earned rest as the party reunited. We continued, gently sloping down, to Cotterdale Beck and decided to lunch in the delightful adjacent meadow. Those who had elected to partake of the hotel's sustenance ensured, in true Yorkshire tradition, that not a morsel was wasted. Amusement was provided by the 3 dogs (and their owners) who were accompanying and shepherding the party and plumbing the depths of the adjacent beck.

It was therefore decided to find a bridge. The unerring guiding of our leader led us to one in 300 yards and gave access to our emergency transport.

Paul then presented a bewildering array of return options for our delectation which so confused one member of the party that they decided an early season swim was in order.

One group was pointed in a westerly direction and despatched with an inadequate 1:50,000 map dating from the previous century (*of which more later*) and a guide dog for good measure. Another returned along the West Bank, another re-ascended towards the Pennine Way and the swimming party returned home to dry off. Miraculously all groups returned to the hotel the same evening and some were even able to sample the delights of The Green Dragon, from where they had been so cruelly dragged earlier in the day.

### Other Activities

Included a tour of Semerwater, John and Janet Hemingway's self declared longest walk for several years. Richard and Elizabeth drove over the Buttertubs and down Swaledale, stopping for coffee in Muker & spending some time in Richmond.

We were joined for drinks and the rest of the stay by George and Sylvie, Gordon and Fiona.

Paul had promised an evening of entertainment following dinner-provided we ate quickly. It was thus at 10.20pm that John Hemingway was allowed to address the assembled company with amusing anecdotes. Paul then introduced the concept of volunteering –YRC style- and that the first beneficiary of this would be newest member Richard Taylor who was to write the meet report. This met with unanimous (-1) approval.

He followed this with the bombshell that we had another year of him organising the social meet and led a discussion on possible venues including a return to Simonstone Hall, where he could guarantee a repeat of the weather. The debate on this is expected to rage unabated.

The President rose stiffly to his feet and thanked Paul for the excellent arrangements so far, but would reserve final judgment until after Thursday's walk.

Ian Crowther ( sans veste) then took the floor as he felt moved to compliment the ladies on their choice of attire and remarked that it showed them at their best. After such a fitting finale to the evening everyone was ready for bed to face the unknown rigours of the 'morrow.

Thursday dawned with the sun still showing no mercy and the main walking party (smaller this time) embarked on a level walk on the North side of the Ure Valley which gives its name to Wensleydale. The route chosen was designed to hone the party's gate opening and negotiating skills to a new level and deposited the party at Bainbridge.

Much of the conversation on the walk was taken up with speculation on the purpose of the downward (on one side only) sloping 'through' stones in the ancient barns along our route. Despite receiving a clear and logical explanation from a busy stone waller this did not entirely satisfy the unending quest for knowledge from some members of the party.

Lunch was taken on the riverbank and entertainment on this occasion provided by the President being savaged by a crayfish which had recognised him as a competing fisherman by the shorts he was wearing.

A long discussion was held about the optimal return route but as it appeared that all alternatives involved multiple river crossings on stepping stones the newest (but not youngest) member of the club and his wife (who was already suffering from shock at this, her first meet) decided that a return by car, which had been strategically placed in anticipation of the confusion, was the prudent option.

The remainder of the party decided that further navigational challenges were not in order and decided to follow a (disused) railway track before crossing the raging torrent and a pleasant amble through Burtersett to Hawes. Amusement was provided by counting the number of gates and stiles crossed during the day; 70 in all!

### Other Activities

Mike and Marcia enjoyed a visit to Farfield Mill Sedburgh followed by a scenic drive back via Muker. Richard and Elizabeth visited Hardraw Force, explored Hawes and toured the Gayle Mill.

**Friday** – Peter and Anne, Alan and Angie and Paul and Anne enjoyed exploring the Hardraw gorge above the falls and visiting the museums in Hawes. Included was the newly restored Gayle Mill of which we had a fascinating conducted tour augmented by Alan's professional comments.

RT



Coffee stop looking south west across Cotterdale

Approach to Cotterdale.

Photos Paul Dover



Attending

Dennis Armstrong and Joan, Peter Chadwick and Anne, Ian Crowther and Dorothy, Paul Dover (meet leader) and Anne, Richard Dover and Ann, Mike Godden and Marcia, Richard Gowing and Elizabeth, John Hemingway and Janet, Gordon Humphreys and Fiona, Tim Josephy and Elaine, Ian Laing and Una, Alan Linford and Angie, Bill Lofthouse and Brenda, Ernie Shield and Ruth, Jack Short and Pat, George Spenceley and Sylvie, Richard Taylor and Gail

# MEETS MONTAGE

Domesticity, LHG, January



And more active endeavours  
In Wales, February



Above, Peter Elliott and Richard Smith sheltering on top of Meall Chuaich  
Left, David Hick descending into Glen Tilton, both Scottish Meet, March

Photographs - AS = Andy Syme, RT = Richard Taylor, MS = Michael Smith, AD = Adrian Dixon





Emerging from the rhododendrons above hostel, Connemara meet (BH)



Taking a breather on walk along Kallary Harbour (RD)



Breakfast (RD) and dinner (MS) Connemara Hostel



Lunch at Killary Quay (JW)



Admiring the 12 Bens (JW)



Taking respite in Gaynor's Bar Leenane (JW)

Photographs

JW = John Whalley

RD = Roy Denney

BH = Bob Haskins

MS = Michael Smith



Above - Gordon with boys' toy on maintenance meet - photo John Whalley



On left -Lunch beside the Cotter Gill and pre-dinner drinks on the patio Social Meet - photos Paul Dover

Below - Slater's Bridge in Flood, June Photo John Whalley



# OBITUARIES

**Augusto Gansser** died this January at the age of 101. He could not really be described as a mountaineer but was certainly a man of the mountains and a true mountain explorer.

Actually Italian by birth but of Swiss and German parents German mother, he was brought up and educated in Switzerland, studying geology and in 1934, was invited by the Swiss Alpine Club to join a Danish-led expedition to East Greenland. By all accounts that was nearly the end of his story as their ship became icebound.

He finally struggled back to Reykjavik, and then called it a day and went home to complete his doctorate.

Shortly afterwards, he took part in the first "Swiss Himalayan Expedition"; a scientific expedition to study the then geologically unexplored structure of the Himalayas along the Kali valley area through Nepal into Tibet.

Access was supposedly closed and conditions were appalling but they first crossed into the forbidden zone on the Api glacier, where the far north-west of Nepal meets Tibet. Gansser decided to visit the holy Mt Kailash, which only a handful of Europeans had ever seen. It stands 21,850ft high and is so sacred to Buddhists and Hindus alike that it remains unclimbed to this day.

Gansser dressed as a Buddhist pilgrim and, after crossing into Tibet via the 18,380ft Mangshang La pass, he left his companion and travelled with local pilgrims while hiding his geologist's hammer, camera, sketch book and compass amongst his robes.

Kailash was geologically unique, having been lifted to more than 20,000ft with its strata remaining horizontally undisturbed, despite being encompassed by steeply inclined bedrock. On its southern flanks, he found ancient rocks once on the sea bed supporting his colleague's Heim's idea that the Himalayas had been elevated by the collisions of ancient continents. The concept was further developed in the 1960s, when Gansser put it into the context of the now accepted concept of plate tectonics, whilst being instrumental in interpreting the origins of the Central Asian mountain.

He was later recruited by Shell to work as an oil prospector in Colombia where he organised three expeditions to the geologically unknown Macarena Mountains, and found time to climb the snow-capped Andean peaks of the Colombian Sierra Nevada del Cocuy. His wife Toti climbed with him, and after successfully ascending an unnamed peak of 16,400ft. he named it for her as "Pico Toti."

Between 1963 and 1977, he made five visits to Bhutan. Which had been closed to all but a few westerners. Highly respected and by now Professor Emeritus he continued to travel, and in 1980 and 1985 make two

tours of Tibet at the invitation of Deng Xiaoping. Between these trips he was given the honorary title "Baba Himalaya – Father of the Himalayas" by Peshawar University in Pakistan.

He was given numerous other awards, including the Wollaston Medal of the Geological Society, their highest award. They included the Prix Gaudry, the highest award granted by the French Geological Society and the Steinmann Medal of the Geological Society of West Germany. His technical papers and books are considered classics. He was awarded the Patrons Medal of the Royal Geographical Society for the book: "The Geology of the Himalayas"

**Hugh Carless**, died at the end of last year. Hard to pigeon-hole, he was perhaps one of the last true amateurs who muddled through and is best known for a classic mountaineering failure. His life seems to have been a series of chance occurrences rather than one of any preplanning.

He was immortalised in the famous book "Short Walk in the Hindu Kush", the story of an expedition which produced one of the best-loved travel books ever written, selling well over half a million copies. He featured as the long-suffering friend who accompanied the travel writer Eric Newby.

Carless was a career diplomat but seemingly did not take it too seriously as when posted at the British embassy in Rio de Janeiro in 1956 he chucked it all in when receiving a cable from Newby: "Can you travel to Nuristan, June?"

The two men got together in London and, with as training, a brief weekend's mountain climbing in Wales, set off for Afghanistan. The plan was to make an assault on Mir Samir, north of Kabul, an then unclimbed glacial peak of about 20,000ft. Mir Samir is at the top of the Panjshir Valley and on the frontier separating the Panjshir Valley from Nuristan. It was a little known part of Afghanistan at that time and few Western travellers had ever been there. Their ambitious project was of both climbing Mir Samir and going into Nuristan.

Newby's A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush, is considered the book that set the tone for all modern travel writing, and was noted for the hilarious tales of disasters that came the way of the inexperienced pair as they struggled across the Middle East and into the spectacularly vastness of Afghanistan.

Eventually arriving at their destination, several attempts were made on Mir Samir, but the only time they got close and indeed within 700ft of the summit they realised they would have to spend the night out and they had forgotten their sleeping bags.

Carless nearly went back a couple of times but chance played a major part again. The first was to act as leader

on a sort of up-market trekking tour in the mountains, to be organised by Cooks Tours, but a coup in Kabul put paid to that.

Then in 1998, plans were well advanced for him and Newby to go back and to make a television film for BBC 2. Unfortunately a few months before they were due to set out the Taliban captured Mazar-i-Sharif, the main town in Northern Afghanistan, and the BBC decided it was going to be too difficult and too dangerous.

Yet another man who was not a mountaineer nor even a man of the mountains but again, very worthy of an acknowledgment was **John Sperry**. John was not even an explorer in the normal meaning of that word but could justifiably be described as an amazing man who became very much at home in the wilderness.

Born in Leicester, in 1950 he followed his religious calling to travel to the remotest parts of the Canadian Arctic to a tiny mission where only seven Inuit families and twelve "outsiders" lived.

The native people had little experience of the outside world and spoke little English. Their homes were snow in the winter and tents in the less cold months and they survived by hunting and fishing.

Before he could pursue his calling he had to tend to his own needs; spending about eight hours each day on domestic chores. Not getting the Hoover out but learning how to hunt and dress caribou, fishing through the ice and sawing off blocks of ice to keep till required for drinking and cooking water. He even had to import wood from the south to build his mission house.

His ministry involved him in visiting small hunting communities spread over 3,000 sq. miles usually using a team of dogs, but on occasion in harness to the sled himself.

'Jack' or to give him his proper title, Bishop of the Arctic for the Anglican Church, was based in Kugluktuk, in the North West Territories and was instrumental in translating the bible and hymns into the Inuinnaqtun dialect having had to learn to speak the language.

Obviously not one to take life easy, when forced by passing years to retire he became chaplain to a local hospital; to the Canadian Rangers and to the Royal Canadian Legion.

He was appointed a member of the Order of Canada in 2002 and was awarded the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal just before his death.

The Rt Rev John Sperry, born May 2nd 1924, died in February this year; as I said, a truly amazing man.



**Jan Schwarzott** has also passed away. As part of the plan for the YRC centenary celebrations, Derek Smithson was asked to organise a meet in the mountains of Norway which would reflect the achievements of Cecil Slingsby. Slingsby was for ten years president of the YRC during its formative years.

To do this Derek had to learn about Norway and Slingsby and in the process Jan invited Duncan Mackay and Derek to visit him at the Klingenburg Hotel in Norway and they went in the middle of winter 1990. From then Jan, together with other Norwegians, was closely involved in all our plans to visit Norway. He helped and irritated us in many ways and we helped him in lesser ways to complete his book about Slingsby.

There are copies of this book in the library, unfortunately in Norwegian, but there is a folder in the library with a version in English which does not include the "Introduction", written by Jan.

He and two other Norwegians came to the Club's centenary dinner in their national dress.

Jan was born in 1944 and became famous when only 15 when he appeared in his own television programme, The Photo Club, a series designed for young people. Two years later he produced various cultural programmes for Norwegian radio. When only 18 he was head hunted by Ingmar Bergman as a photographer when he revolutionised theatre photography by photographing live performances rather than working in the studio, the norm at the time. He worked in all of Norway's theatres and those in Copenhagen and Stockholm. From 1980 to 1992 Jan created many blockbuster films for Norwegian television, mostly of a cultural or outdoor nature.

It was during this period that he developed his interest in the Årdal area of western Norway, of Utladalen and of Vetti and from this stemmed his deep interest in Cecil Slingsby.

His books were illustrated mainly from a helicopter which included hovering over the 275 metre high Vettifoss - when frozen! Jan's interests extended deeply into literature, music and natural history, in all of which he was most knowledgeable.

For several years Jan suffered from a catastrophic disease of the nervous system. He remained mentally active until the last but for a long time was bed ridden and needed twenty-four hour care, which he received in a nursing home in Oslo. He died on the 30th January this year.

Your editor is indebted to John Snoad for contributions to the above and John has also brought to my attention that **Jocelin Winthrop-Young**, O.B.E., born 25th October 1919 Heversham, Cumbria; died peacefully in his sleep 8th February 2012 at Hohenfels, (near Regensburg) southern Germany.

Jocelin was the son of Cecil Slingsby's youngest daughter, Eleanor Slingsby (1895-1994). He outlives his only sibling, his sister, Marcia.

## Dr Peter Lockwood

December 26th 1926 - December 23rd, 2011

Life member - joined YRC in 1952

Peter has passed away just a few days short of what would have been his 85th birthday. He had lived in Newfoundland for many years and was interred in the Anglican Cemetery in St Johns.

My last contact with him was in 2008 when he said how much he still enjoyed receiving the journal and reading about old friends and their activities.

Peter had to give up walking and skiing back in 2002 when as he put it ' his back packed up'.

In 2008 he had just had his second hip replacement which he had hoped would have allowed him to get about a bit more

Dennis Armstrong recalls Peter being on his first meet in January 1955. Why? He drove a left hand drive black Merc, quite unlike anyone else!

That day with others (Arthur Salmon?) we did the Three Peaks, but did not complete the circle back to the Hill Inn; we descended PYG down the shorter eastern side to the road. There waiting for us was our taxi home - the black Merc, looking as though it had come off the set of a wartime film. Peter was proud of the car, backed it to beat any 'Big Ford' and driving back to Leeds took any occasion to show its prowess.

Dennis remembers a Ford being on its heels as we went through Long Preston and Hellifield, but up the hill out of Hellifield, Peter with joy on his lips let her go and we shot up the hill leaving the Ford trailing.

I remember thinking - "This Yorkshire Ramblers has some good guys in it, I think I'll join!"

RD

We have previously carried an obituary on

## Howard Humphreys

but Albert Chapman would like to expand it to cover more of his activities.



Howard did more in the Himalayas than straighten metal tent pegs by hand.

In 1995 he was a member of Ged Champion's YRC team attempting Dorje Lakpa which was aborted high up due to wind slab avalanche conditions.

In the Autumn of 1997 he joined the YRC trek up the Rolwaling Valley, over the Teshi Lakpa pass into the Kumbu. He also attended a reception at the British Embassy in Kathmandu and spoke at the dinner at Dwarikis Hotel to celebrate the life of Harry Stembridge.

In the late Winter /early Spring of 1999 joined a private trek to the South and North base camps of Kangchenjunga crossing the Mirgin La during heavy snow.

The following year he was invited to join a special trek to the Inner Sanctuary of Nanda Devi to assess the possibility of it being opened. The Sanctuary was closed by the Indian Government in 1982 and remains so today.

This small group was led jointly by John Shipton, son of Eric Shipton, and Colonel Narinda Kumar. It included George Band (whose obituary we carried in our last edition) and Ian Macnaught Davis, President of the International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation.

In 2002 he climbed in the Altai Mountains in Outer Mongolia on the borders of China and Russia.

In 2003 Sammy and I joined Judith and Howard to tour Nepal and also the following year to Ladakh and Indian Kashmir accompanied by the occasional gun fire .

His last Himalayan visit was in 2009 when he was invited to lunch with Nawang Gombu in Darjeeling.

Gombu was the third person to climb Nanda Devi and the first mountaineer to have climbed Everest twice.



The YRC trek north to Sikkim which followed made his weakening condition more apparent.

ALBERT CHAPMAN



### **Constitution**

**The Club's rules and bye-laws are printed in journal series 13 issue 11 - Summer 2011**

**Enquiries regarding the possible hire of Club cottages should be addressed to**

**Richard Josephy  
135 Divinity Road  
Oxford OX4 1LW  
Tel. 01865 723630  
richard.josephy@ntl.world.com**

**Additional copies of this journal can be provided at a nominal cost whilst stocks last.**

**Articles or the entire publication may also appear on our web site and can be provided in electronic form and may be reproduced for any purpose other than for sale, providing that the author and the club are given proper acknowledgement.**

**The same applies to any photographs provided.**

**The copyright does however remain with the Club or the authors.**

**Requests should be addressed to the Club's Honorary Secretary who will advise on any costs and availability.**

**Journals occasionally include material from non-members who are happy for us to reproduce their work but we may not be able to pass these on in electronic form or show them on the web site due to copyright considerations.**

**Similarly where members wish to retain copyright it will be indicated and items may not be reproduced without their express permission and will not appear on the web site.**

**Members can be contacted via the Secretary and other authors via the Editor.**

**The current series 13 of the journals goes back to Summer 2006.**

**Series 12 was published under the title of the 'Yorkshire Rambler' and goes back to summer 1994. Both these series are held in electronic form.**

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

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

**Deadlines for material for the journals are June 15th & December 15th**

# **THE YRC**

**Established 1892**

**The Mountaineering and Caving Club**

**[www.yrc.org.uk](http://www.yrc.org.uk)**



The aims of the Club are to organise walking, mountaineering and skiing excursions; to encourage the exploration of caves and pot-holes; to conduct expeditions to remote parts of the planet, the pursuit of other outdoor activities and the gathering and promoting of knowledge concerning natural history, archaeology, geology, folklore and other kindred subjects.

## **Editor**

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

## **Secretary**

**Richard Kirby, 11 Beverley Drive, Clitheroe BB7 1HY  
Secretary@YorkshireRamblers.Org.UK**

**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**

## **Club Properties**

**Lowstern, Clapham, North Yorkshire**



**Low Hall Garth, Little Langdale, Cumbria**



Lodged with the British Library - Publisher ID L-42592

Printed by Alfred Willday & Son Ltd, Unit 1, Dunns Lane, Leicester LE3 5LX - 0116 251 8478