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Craig-Fawr with Foel Grach behind - February meet.

Photograph by Richard Taylor, from Gledrffordd

ARTICLES

TREKKING IN NORTHERN PERU

CLIMBING IN GREENLAND

CAVES AND KARST OF TURKMENISTAN

BIANCOGRAT, PIZ BERNINA, SWITZERLAND

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OUR NEW PRESIDENT

John Whalley was elected President at our recent AGM.

John joined the Club in 1973

“It came as quite a surprise when Michael asked me to succeed him as President, a somewhat daunting honour when I reflect on the long list of illustrious past post holders! However, I knew that it would always be a matter of regret if I did not step up to the plate. Also I knew that I could always rely on the sound guidance and support of the officers and Committee. Nevertheless Michael will be a hard act to follow, and I would like to thank him for his invaluable guidance during my term as President Elect.

The Meets sub-committee (Messrs Smith, Borroff, Elliot and Syme and yours truly) has produced a full, varied programme for your delectation, including overseas meets to Bulgaria, Spain and the Himalayas, as well as a proposed caving expedition to Guangxi, China.



On the home front, support for the Long Walk has been disappointing recently. Thinking back though, Ian Crowther's Borders walk was very well supported so thinking something a bit further afield may attract more interest, the Long Walk 2015 will be in the Mts of Mourne. The basic round is about 20 miles but that would leave energy for the other excellent walks and attractions the area has to offer. I ask you to support this meet, co-ordinated by our local member Tim Lofthouse.

As for the 2016 programme, we would very much welcome suggestions from members for future meets, and volunteers to lead them.

Ged Campion is leaving the committee after many years service. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done for the club over the years. He is continuing as Tackle-keeper and will I'm sure be on hand to give us expert advice on caving matters.

Members may not appreciate how much work Ged puts in identifying and pursuing caving prospects; and maintaining and fostering caving contacts at the highest International level. I am sure our best wishes go with him for his tenure as President of the European Speleological Federation.

We should not forget that, while the mountains we love represent our playground; caves give us the opportunity for true, original exploration: venturing where none have trodden before, so please continue to support our Caving projects.

Looking forward to your companionship on the hills and wishing you all the best for 2015!”

CHACHAPOYAS - PERU

4th - 18th July



This expedition was initiated between Phil Dover and his son Rob. Rob helped the BBC to make a splendid documentary on the area of north Peru about 2 years ago, (and there is another in the planning stage) and has lived and loved there for a decade and a half, so we had access to expert knowledge on the ground not only of the archaeology but the area in general.

We also had the benefit of knowledge of Anna Guengerich an American PhD student who has done extensive archaeological digging on Monte Viudo, a Chachapoyan settlement, south of Leymebamba.

Initial interest was from 20 people so I want to try and make those who didn't get there regret it.

- 4th July. We all met at The Grand Bolivar Hotel in Lima.
- 5th July. Museo Larco museum. Lima
- 6th July. Platform dig. Lord of Sipan Museum and Tucume Pyramids.
- 7th July. Minibus to Chachapoyas.
- 8th July. Gocta Waterfalls.
- 9th July. Kuelap.
- 10th July. Leymebamba, Mummy museum and the Kenti café.
- 11th to 16th July. Trekking about 60 miles.
- 17th July. Hotel Laguna Seca.
- 18th July. Visit the continental divide at Cumbe Mayo near Cajamarca.
- 19th July. We all go our separate ways.

Everybody knows of Machu Picchu and I feel that I have almost been there having seen so many images of the place but in the north of Peru there are some absolute gems which until now are off the main tourist routes.

Many of the graves have been robbed but one site, with two graves, thwarted the robbers at the last minute. The artefacts found are compared to Tutankhamun and indeed they are fabulous. Layer upon layer, about eight, of beads, gold and silver all incredibly restored and displayed in the new Lord of Sipan museum plus reconstructions of the grave sites and much more.

Museo Larco was/is the vision of Rafael Larco Herrera and his son who amassed a huge collection of amazing ceramics and gold artefacts. Amongst the comparative poverty of Peru these museums are a beacon of light and air and must have considerable national funding.

After lunch we did our own thing in Lima before boarding the overnight bus, with fully reclining, you could lay out flat, seats to Chiclayo.

The Tucume Pyramids are over a huge 540 acre site and in fact are platforms, some of which are built on volcanic plugs. Successive dynasties built successive platforms so they progress upwards. As they were built of mud bricks they have been considerably eroded by what little rain they have so all the lumps and bumps that can be seen to have vertical flutings all over them are the remains of these constructions. Many are being excavated now.



After a long ten-hour but fascinating minibus journey to Chachapoyas crossing the continental divide on the way to the Marañon River, which is one of the main Amazon tributaries, we climbed up and over the divide which separates water that drains into the Pacific from that going into the Atlantic.



On the road to Chachapoyas

All the towns and cities have very attractive “colonial” squares which are very well maintained. Even small towns like Tingo on the way to Kuelap had a smart, flowered and neatly trimmed square, some with an impressive church along one side.

The 3 hour walk in to the Gocta Falls was a test of our fitness and a good preamble to the main trek.

An impressive fall and amongst the ten highest in the world.

Kuelap is what appears to be a lozenge shaped, stone fortified curtain wall of up to 19 meters high enclosing up to 400 circular structures and measuring 600 x 110 metres. Radio carbon dating indicates that it was started in the sixth century AD. It is situated on a summit 3000 metres above sea level. We were silent after that visit considering the enormity of it all as it probably was not defensive.

The Mummy Museum in Leymebamba was as impressive as the others and contained hundreds of undisturbed mummies and other artefacts including bone flutes.



We now started our trek and 7 nights under canvas with 15 horses and seven trek crew led by Eyrien head horseman and Maddy the chief cook. There was also: Gidmar (Kid), Manuel, (there had to be one of those), Roberto, Daniel, and Magno our trusted and sure driver.

Place names vary a lot as the South American Pre colonial civilisations had no written language but I will use the names that I have.

We walked mainly through verdant valleys and rugged peaks. The Quinas Valley was huge and spacious and the 4100 metre Ulila Pass was the “summit” of the trek. We camped at between 3000 and 3500 metres often waking to hard frost on the tents.

George caught a good sized trout (or two) in Lake Huayabamba, the fresh fish making an enjoyable addition to our diet. We also lunched by the large Lake Las Quinuas on the penultimate day.

The food, three hot meals a day and the atmosphere throughout the trek was really good. An alarm call was not needed as you could hear the crew laughing and joshing from about 05:30 onwards. A lamb was slaughtered for our benefit and 2 chickens shared our camp until they were on the menu.

There were many birds and alpine type plants but also huge spiny succulents and other cacti. We passed many small holdings, one run by a couple called Digna and Wilson Rodriguez, with pigs, cows and in one case, lamas but it was evident from large collections of roundhouse ruins and huge areas of terracing that in the past the population had been huge and self-sustaining. The Incas depopulated and moved large sections of the old tribes such as the Moche and the Chachapoyans and then the Spaniards did the same to the Inca period people. Many people had Western Christian names including Hitler. There were Inca bathing pools in the village of Atuen upon which we had looked, the night before, from our camp site 1400 metres above.

Amazing sights were the cliff burials! Shear cliff walls with buildings - tombs and red pictograms and no visible access. Skulls and ribs still visible and some flat areas taken over by huge, shaggy bird nests. Rob brought along a prismatic telescope so that we could have a really good look. Vira Vira was the last of the archaeological sites that we visited and was possibly one of the best. Similar to Kuelap in that it had part curtain walls and ruins of round houses but the all-round view from there at 3753 metres was breathtaking.

Hotels:

The Grand Bolivar, Lima was old colonial with very high ceilings in the centre of Lima. The food was good.

Mochiks, Chiclayo. Good

La Casona, Chachapoyas. Good

Laguna Seca, Cajamarca. A spectacular spa, with steam pools everywhere, excellent food.

The weather was very kind to us. It rained quite heavily the night before we set out but was dry all the time we were walking. That made a big difference,

Vaccinations, for me, are always a problem. I do not want to put un-necessary stuff into my body but neither do I want the disease. Both Yellow Fever and Malaria precautions were recommended by our local surgery but in the end we took neither. Time will tell.

Hygiene is vital for the enjoyment of such trips. Antiseptic hand gel must be used after toilet and before each meal, even after shaking hands with a local. It is not that they are dirty it is just that their bacteria is different from yours. Drink only bottled water. The other thing which is difficult to get used to, is that you cannot put loo paper down the loo on account of the narrow plumbing!

Thanks.

I thank the clumps of grass and way side vegetation that I used to steady my way, I thank the crew for a splendid effort on our behalf, I thank my fellow trekkers for all of their input from their particular fields and general good humour and I thank Rob (Vilaya Tours) and Anna for the expert input. I thank Sadie, Rob's partner, for looking after Ken and Paul who had to come off the mountain. Finally I thank the wooden loo seat. AaaHhhh!!

Peter Hodge

Camp one:	S	06d	49.721m	W	77d	48.647m	3069m
Camp two	S	06d	51.515m	W	77d	49.237m	3670m
Camp three	S	06d	54.285m	W	77d	47.281m	3670m
Camp four	S	06d	58.659m	W	77d	46.079m	3472m
Camp five	S	06d	59.025m	W	77d	44.211m	3319m
Camp six	S	06d	59.025m	W	77d	44.211m	3319m
Camp seven	S	07d	02.777m	W	77d	48.154m	2513m

As supplied from Michael Smith's GPS.

Peru bird list (Michael Smith)

Chiclayo:

Mocking Bird
Turquoise Tanager
Vermillion Flycatcher
Burrowing Owl
Black Vulture
Cattle Egret
Great Egret

En route to Chachapoya:

Roadside Hawk
Turquoise Jay
Masked Yellowthroat
Scarlet Tanager
Eared Dove
Amazilia Hummingbird
Chachapoya area:
Russet-crowned Warbler
Torrent Duck
Black Crowned Night Heron
Amazonian Kingfisher
Scarlet-fronted Parakeet
White-bellied Hummingbird
Sparkling Violeteer
White-bellied Woodstar
Amethyst Woodstar
Chestnut-breasted Coronet
White-browed Antbird
Glossy-black Thrush
Andean Solitaire
Golden-bellied Grosbeak

On trek:

Great Thrush
White-capped Dipper leuconotus
Andean Flicker
Black-crowned Night Heron
Brown-bellied Swallow
Collared Inca eisenmauni
Rainbow Starfrontlet
Great Sapphirewing
Plumbeous Sierra-finch
Mountain Caracara
Andean Goose
(White-striped, possibly Black-and-white Hawk-) Eagle
Bi-Coloured Hawk
Black and chestnut Eagle



Sixth century Kuelap.

Hut circles inside the fortified ridge surrounded by crags and stone walls up to 19m high

Campsite looking down at Atuen village



Lake Huayabamba
And campsite



Lunch at Kuelap



Las Quinuas campsite



Heading for the pass



Rob, Lake Quinuas



Photos
by
Phil
Dover

BIANCOGRAT

Richard Gowing

My photo "Climbing Biancogratt, Piz Bernina" on the cover of the last edition of our Journal was taken on 26th July 1960, while on the OUMC (Oxford University Mountaineering Club) summer meet at Pontresina.

I never wrote it up for the YRC journal at the time as I wasn't climbing with YRC companions. I did include it in my article "My Climbs with Colin Taylor" for the 2008 Centenary Edition of "Oxford Mountaineering", a copy of which I deposited in the YRC library.

In 1960 I was still climbing regularly with the OUMC – I still had good friends and valued climbing partners in that club and they appreciated the benefit of my experience, while I was also developing my climbing partnerships in the YRC.



That year's alpine meet was at Pontresina, based at the campground at Plauns, below the foot of the Morteratsch Glacier. Our first outing was to the Boval Hut, from which we climbed Piz Morteratsch. This gave the fine head-on view of the north ridge, or Biancogratt, of Piz Bernina (13,284 ft) which was published in YRC journal Vol. 9, facing page 200. We next went up to the Tschierva Hut, in poor weather which cleared after a couple of days to allow us an ascent of Piz Roseg by its north ridge or Eselsgratt, led by Colin Taylor. We traversed the lesser summit, the Schneekuppe (3920m) to the saddle before the slightly higher main peak but found the rocks ahead covered in snow, so returned the same way.

Next day our plans for the Biancogratt were changed into a descent to camp, where we found that Alan Wedgwood had arrived. We went up to the Diavolezza hut at 2973m and from it, in 2 ropes led by Alan and Colin, traversed Piz Palu to Fuorcla Bellavista, from which we set off up Piz Bellavista, only to turn back when driving spindrift iced-up Colin's specs, making it unwise to proceed. We then descended by the Fortezzagratt and so down to camp. There is a fine photo of Piz Palu and Bellavista over the fireplace at Lowstern.

Next day we set off again for the Tschierva Hut, intent on the Biancogratt; on our way we met a disconsolate English party coming down; they'd been turned away by the hut warden saying the hut was full. We carried on, resolved to bivouac outside if necessary, but we found room on or under tables etc. for a brief sleep before waking at 2 to a cloudy but possible morning. Away at 3, in two ropes led by Alan and Colin, we went up the steep hanging glacier to the Fuorcla Prielvusa at 3430 m., following quite a large crowd. These all stopped to de-crampon at the foot of the ice-covered rocks, but we kept ours on and took over the lead, apart from a solo climber, visible at the top right corner of my "Climbing Biancogratt" photo.

He turned back at the top of the snow ridge, at 3578m where the snow ridge, the Biancogratt proper, begins.

This superb ridge, in perfect condition for both climbing and, with the cloud blowing off it, for photography (see my recent cover photo). This ridge led us up in an hour and a half from the col to the 3995m summit of Piz Bianco, with a fine view of the icy, serrated rock ridge leading to the ultimate summit.

Alan, heading our first rope with Colin the second (with me his middle man), gave us a fine lead along this, to reach the 4050m summit of Piz Bernina in 2 1/2 hours from Piz Bianco.

From the cloud-covered top we followed the pleasant snow ridge of the Spallagratt down to Fuorcla Crast Aguezza on the Italian border, and (fortunately) a well-trodden trail in mist down a quite complex icefall to the easier glacier below, where we met the party who'd turned back from the hut the day before, practising ice techniques. We hadn't the heart to say too much about the splendid day we'd had.

I rate this as the most beautiful ridge of my Alpine climbs; it's graded AD, described by Martin Moran in his AC guide to the 4000m peaks of the Alps as "a sublime snow route, unsurpassed by any of its standard in the Alps". It would be interesting to learn of any more recent ascents of this route by club members.

GREENLAND

Background

Greenland is big, really big, at ten times the area of Britain but with only one thousandth the population, just sixty thousand. West Greenland has most of the population as the east coast is ice-bound for longer. Of the four thousand Tunu or East Greenlanders, only 450 live in the far eastern settlement, Ittoqqortoormiit, at the southern tip of Liverpool Land. To avoid that tongue-twister, I'll use its former name of Scoresbysund.

Born in 1789 at Cropton near Pickering, Yorkshireman William Scoresby Jnr followed his father into whaling. His father had made a fortune at it and, incidentally, invented the barrel crow's nest (look out for the commemorative statue in Whitby).

The son had an enquiring mind and, thanks to their whaling fortune, a university education. He gained election to the Royal Society, presented reports on magnetic variation and worked with Joule comparing energy sources. On whaling voyages he established that the polar current running at great depth was warmer than the surface seas and impulsively sought the elusive North-West Passage.

Then in 1822 he surveyed the coast of Liverpool Land accurately from the Liverpool-based whaler 'Baffin', publishing his map and reporting the first significant account of the geography of East Greenland. Sadly that was the end of his Arctic exploration as while he was away his wife died and this together with his piety compelled him on his return to study divinity and enter the church.

Accurate though the seaward side of his survey was, he was mistaken in believing that Liverpool Land was an island with Hurry Inlet (named for his ship's owner) being a continuous sound. Later, in 1895, Lieutenant Carl Hartvig Ryder of the Royal Danish Navy found a neck of land when he travelled north over Ryders Elv and Klitdal between what are now called Hurry Fjord and Kangerterajitta Itterterilaq or Carlsberg Fjord (after the lager brewers). As Ryder reached Carlsberg Fjord he would have seen close by on his right the ice cap which covers the far north of Liverpool Land. Almost 120 years on, this was the intended area for our expedition.



William Scoresby and his 1823 map



This area is a less frequented part of the peninsula which apart from parties skiing hurriedly south on the glacier to traverse the length of Liverpool Land, has seen only three mountaineering visits. Jim Gregson, veteran of a dozen or so trips to Greenland, was there in 2007, in 2012 two Australian parapenters made several ski ascents and effortless descents and then a South African party ascended a couple of peaks a little further north.

Jim with wife, Sandy, and a friend, Geoff, wanted to explore more of the area in the spring of 2014. Now, moving about on a remote crevassed ice cap has its hazards and Jim judged it sensible to have a few others in the area to help out if necessary and to help spread the costs of the logistics.

Peter Chadwick and I heard of this in November 2013, we made contact and I met up with Jim and Sandy at the Alpine Club Dinner and it was fixed up that we and a couple of others would go out together. Tangent Expeditions provided the logistical support and Peter dropped off our skis, boots, axes, rope and tent in February for container freighting from Immingham to Iceland and onward air freight. That left getting fit and keeping well until late April.

Meanwhile information was sparse. There was a topographical map at 1:250k, an old aerial photograph and the reports from these earlier visitors. However, Tangent had everything in hand having a forward base 40km northwest of Scoresbysund settlement, on the

side of Hurry Fjord at an airstrip on Constable Pynt with the grand title of Nerlerit Inaat Airport. This airstrip was first established to support mineral extraction operations but is now used by Scoresbysund residents in conjunction with a helicopter shuttle service and by expeditioners heading into the many surrounding mountain groups, undoubtedly including Rory Newman and Sue to explore the island of Milne Land. We left everything to do with feeding and logistics to Tangent.

Transport

With an early start Peter and I made the EasyJet flight from Manchester to Iceland's Keflavik which is almost an hour's drive short of Reykjavik. An overnight at Snorri's Guesthouse meant we were just a ten-minute drive from the small Reykjavik airport and the 2½ hour charter flight out to Constable Pynt. A local baggage-handlers' dispute delayed take-off a few hours and the route was mostly shrouded in cloud. There were few formalities on arrival and after a safety briefing we moved into a Weatherhaven (a large robust Nissen hut-like tent) buried in 3m of snow and 'sinking' fast as more spindrift blew in on the increasing wind.

Worse weather the next day pinned us down but clearer weather then allowed the skidoos to take us about 4 hours north to the head of Calrsberg Fjord then with, some preparation of the route, up the glacier snout to about 500m. This was several kilometres short of our intended basecamp so we needed to shed clothing before starting the work of pulling pulks (sledges with shafts to a hipbelt) to relay our kit up to a more sheltered spot nearer the peaks. Once basecamp was established most of the seven of us remained based there. Peter and I though moved to an advance camp further north for a few nights to extend our range.

The return transport arrangement was similar though flying in a King Air and a Twin Otter respectively they landed in central north Iceland at Akureyri (the smaller aircraft for Greenland generally operate from there), drove the next day the five hours to Reykjavik and two days later took the coach to Keflavik and flew home.

Camp

Our basecamp (N 71°21.656' W 22°07.378') was a cluster of four tents surrounded by a bear 'trip wire' alarm with a grand trench toilet several metres downwind. We were surrounded by drinkable water but our MSR Dragonfly stoves would be running for 3 hours on a petrol-like fuel to melt and boil it for our dehydrated food. All the hot food only required boiled water to be poured into the packet, stirring and leaving for several minutes. Over the last forty years those meals have improved markedly.

We packed out all waste other than human waste.

The site was reasonably flat, slightly inclined and partly sheltered by the rise to the north. In strong winds spindrift piling up against the tent was more of a problem for our



Basecamp with Bird Bone Point on the left, Karoo behind and loo in foreground

tunnel tent than the others' geodesics but that has to be set against its greater useable space – it was the one tent where four could gather in comfort, play cards and still have room to shuffle about. Long (31cm) snow stakes proved good tent 'pegs'.

In steady winds we built half-metre tall wedges a few metres from the tents, rather like a snowplough blade and designed to lift and split the brunt of the wind. At higher speeds and especially when there was a lot of turbulence these deflectors were less effective and spindrift gathered behind them. Instead we resorted to higher walls and digging out. Geoff's almost 1½m tall surrounding wall was effective. Snow saws were used to cut blocks and make construction easier. A block would make a stool and removing a half-metre cube just outside the inner tent doorway made getting in and out of the tent easier and sitting cooking in the porch more comfortable.

Besides the bear alarm we had a supply of pepper sprays and hand-held and rocket flares. As a last resort we had a rifle (about the same calibre as a 303) and a pump-action shotgun though this was prone to jamming. While Jim's many visits had not spotted a polar bear we saw a mother and two good-sized cubs about 120m away as we passed through Klitdal. Camping so high we did not expect trouble from bears and saw no others.

Night time temperatures often fell to around -20°C in the first week of clear weather despite 24-hour daylight and direct sunlight from 6:30 to 21:30 bringing the midday temperature up to just above zero. Later when we were in cloud the variation was less: -8°C up to zero.

A good sleeping bag was essential and a PHD Hispar 600 used with a thin liner was more than adequate. A simple closed-cell foam mat and a self-inflating mat provided ample insulation. The tents all had thin, closed-cell foam floor liners. As soon as one had stopped moving about additional clothing was needed. My solution was a down pullover, trousers and, if in the tent, socks (from the PHD Minimus range).

A thin pair of hut booties for short excursions around camp saved having to don ski boots.

Bamboo canes marked the way to and from the toilet. That toilet was built two navvies known to you and to our trip organiser's specification. It was tall enough to not be engulfed by spindrift, gave ample shelter for the necessary operations, withstood a strong blow would have lasted the seven of us at least two months. For decoration it included a simple lancet gothic arch on the western façade.

Given the single tent, advance basecamp (N 71° 24.577' W 22° 4.152', 665m) was a simpler affair though still having a bear alarm and a waist-high wall close around the tent. The site was on a broad, wide col and exposed though we had no strong winds there. It was noticeably colder.

Mountaineering

Our ski excursions explored the mountains to the east, northeast (with multiple visits), far north and south of the basecamp. Each of these areas will be described in turn rather than in chronological order of visits.

To the east 'cabin-fever' made us take a short excursion in poor weather a couple of kilometres to the first of two nunataks, mistakenly supposed by the Australians to be Jim's Cone Nunatak. It gave a short scramble and was surrounded by impressively tall near-vertical ice faces. Tony and Alex had climbed this earlier and called it 3pm Attack Nunatak – i.e. not noon, get it?



Peter ascending the Nunatak, skis and Gregsons behind him

To the northeast is a line of peaks ending in Scoresby's Cape Hewitt, some of climbed by the Australians. Our first tentative venture took us over a small pair of rocky outcrops we called Bird Bone Point and further back to the high point of that area, Bird Bone Peak. The latter can be reached more easily by keeping to a ramp east of the ridge missing out the Point. Further along the line of peaks after a dip we approached Karoo, changed from skis and walked to its summit then north along a narrow spur a few hundred metres to find a steep but safe descent to the north.

The most of the northwest flank of this mountain stood back from the glacier separated by a deep wind scoop and melt area scattered with boulders and re-frozen pools. Later, from advanced basecamp, we explored further east and southeast along the line aiming to reach point 960. Traversing the Australians' Diamond Peak we crossed another couple of bumps before being thwarted by a modest rock tower which needed more equipment and longer necks than we possessed. The way onwards looked harder. Instead we turned south and climbed short steep névé to the high point of a spur and named it Consolation Point.



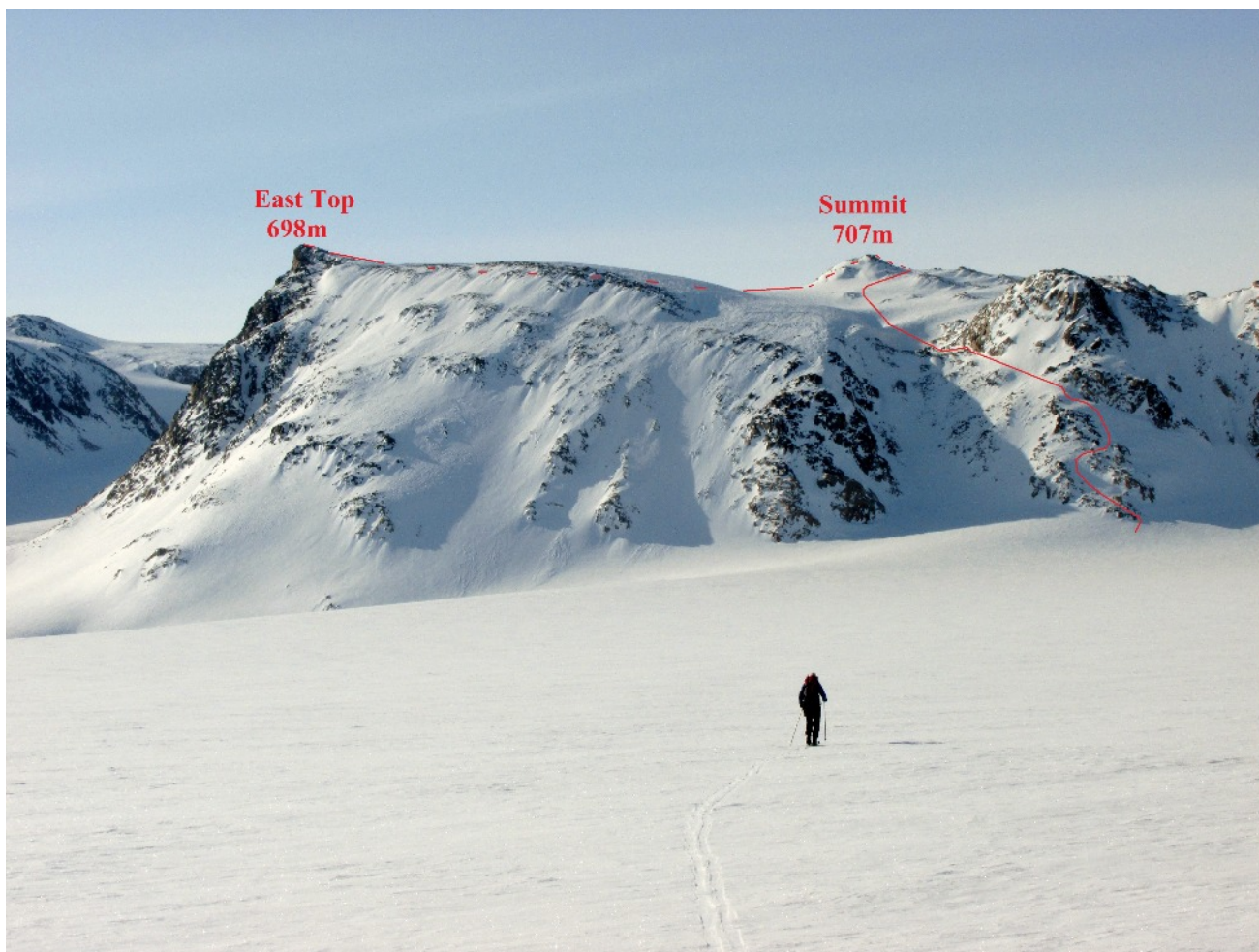
The Tower blocking progress to Pt 960

To the far north and from the advanced basecamp, we made a ski circuit of several tops. The Knoll a kilometre northwest of camp had been reached a few days earlier by Ian Barker and his client, Pam, and was traversed to reach, via a sweeping curved ridge, the top we called the Snow Dome. Next we moved north to point 810 which was marked by what looked like a surveyors' cairn placed on a ledge below the summit and backed by a snow slope. Tracks were retraced back over the Snow Dome and from the next col turned northeast to descend into a broad shallow bowl. This gave easy access southeast (due east from the col) to a long narrowing ridge heading northeast. This had crags and impressive cornices to the east. This was followed to its highest point and named The Wedge for its uniform slope and broad appearance as seen from our camp.



Peter on The Wedge

To the south of the main basecamp was a broad fronted mountain we called Old Mens' Mountain with a few north-facing gullies on the side we could see. This was the far western end of the ridge rising from Stensund's northern shore. In good weather it was just an hour's ski away. Arriving at the foot of the ridge to the right of the deepest gully we changed into mountain boots and picked our way up the ridge until a traverse could be made across an east face to the top of the gully and onto the plateau above (F/PD-). This soon gave straightforward skiing further south to what we thought was the summit at about 707m_{gps}. Standing there looking east we could see another high point – was that the true summit? Skiing over to the crag top point we discovered it was a mere 698m_{gps} but at least we were sure. There were good views of glacier down to the head of Neild Bugt and the backs of the peaks southeast of our base. Our mountain's plateau narrowed and extended a long way south so we traversed that over minor tops until we could look part way down into the next large east-west valley to the south where we knew others were climbing. At the far end of the ridge a turn to the right gave a gentle slope down to the glacier and a few hours skiing back to basecamp.



Peter heading towards Old Men's Mountain

Future possibilities

The area is by no means worked out. The northwestern flank of Bird Bone Mountain and Karoo had several buttresses and ridges which looked climbable and might be warm in the afternoon sun. Between Karoo and point 960 there are unclimbed parts of the ridge. There were many possibilities for ascents to the east of Old Men's Mountain. Further north, opposite The Wedge to the east were many unclimbed peaks, in particular, an elegant snow-plastered one, perhaps point 750. The seawards ends of the capes are untouched. The Gregsons and Alex are intending a return visit in the spring of 2015.

Known Ascents:

2014: Our ascents (Peter Chadwick and Michael Smith)

- Bone Point N71°22.214' W22°06.350' 853m 1st ascent 27 April
- Bone Peak N71°22.736' W22°05.251' 726m 1st ascent 27 April

Karoo	N71°23.184' W22°02.686'	909m	2 nd ascent 28 April
Pt W of Diamond	N71°23.516' W22°01.335'	661m	traversed 2 May en route to...
Diamond Peak	N71°23.469' W22°00.658'	854m	2nd ascent 2 May then on to...
Snow top	N71°23.174' W21°59.941'	788m	1 st ascent 2 May
Old Men's Mt	N71°19.024' W22°06.795'	707m	1 st ascent 29 April (In Inuit: Iggikarjayukaksm)
...ditto... East top	N71°19.165' W22°06.064'	698m	1 st ascent 29 April
Knoll	N71°25.118' W22°05.967'	722m	2nd ascent after
Snow Dome	N71°25.442' W22°06.218'	816m	1st ascent 1 May
Map Pt.810m	N71°25.871' W22°06.037'	793m	2nd ascent 1 May
The Wedge	N71°25.734' W22°01.530'	708m	1st ascent 1 May
Consolation Pt	N71°22.921' W21°59.699'	808m	1st ascent 2 May
3pm Attack Nunatak	N71°22.042' W21°03.272'	571m	4 May after Alex and Tony's ascent

Tony and Alex also climbed Mt Thistle, 1040m N71 19.000' W22 03.00', by its NE face glacier; made a first ascent of Mount Hulya 1, 830m N71 21.372' W21 56.564', by the Marmotte (N)W Ridge at PD+; and climbed 3pm Attack Nunatak, 528m (N71 22.038' W22 03.295')

Jim, Sandy and Geoff made a first ascent of Charlotte Road, the NW spur of Kuldefjeld (Cold Mountain) 980m N71°21.219' W21°59.522' a 450m climb at AD- descending by the NE face and later Carlsberg Dome, 845m N71°22.929' W22°04.851'. Sandy and Jim ski E to climb a W arête to an exposed, isolated top they named Varmtind (Warm Peak), 750m N71°23.036' W21°56.156'. leaving base to go N then up onto Carlsberg Dome, 845m N71°22.929' W22°04.851'. In 2007 the Gregsons also crossed an area to the west of our Old Men's Mountain.

2012 ascents by Australians Gemma Woldendorp and Natasha Sebire from a basecamp at 71°21.88N 22°04.88'W were: Castle Peak, 71°20.78'N 22°03.32'W, 744m; Mount Mighty, 71°21.33'N 21°58.65'W 1,001m; Karoo 71°23.184'N 22°2.686'W 909m; Diamond Peak (see above), Icecream Peak (possibly our rock tower N of Consolation Point) and another nunatak they mistook for Cone Nunatak and nearer to point 960 than the one we climbed.

2012 ascent by Scots Alan Halewood, Duncan Robb and South Africans Rod and Joanne Callum and Richmond Macintyre was to a point measured as 790m which was probably the map's point 810m.

Reflections on past expeditions

There is no equivalence between the two-week 2014 jaunt we enjoyed and Nansen's 1888 first crossing of the Greenland ice cap. It is though entertaining to compare some aspects of our experiences.

Their groundsheet made a sail for Nansen's wood sledges. At the coast the dismantled sledges were made into a boat from and covered with the tent/sail.



Our individual pulks had low-friction PTFE runners.

We used individual best quality eider down sleeping bags with hoods and collars. Nansen's three-man sleeping bag was made of two year-old does' reindeer skin.

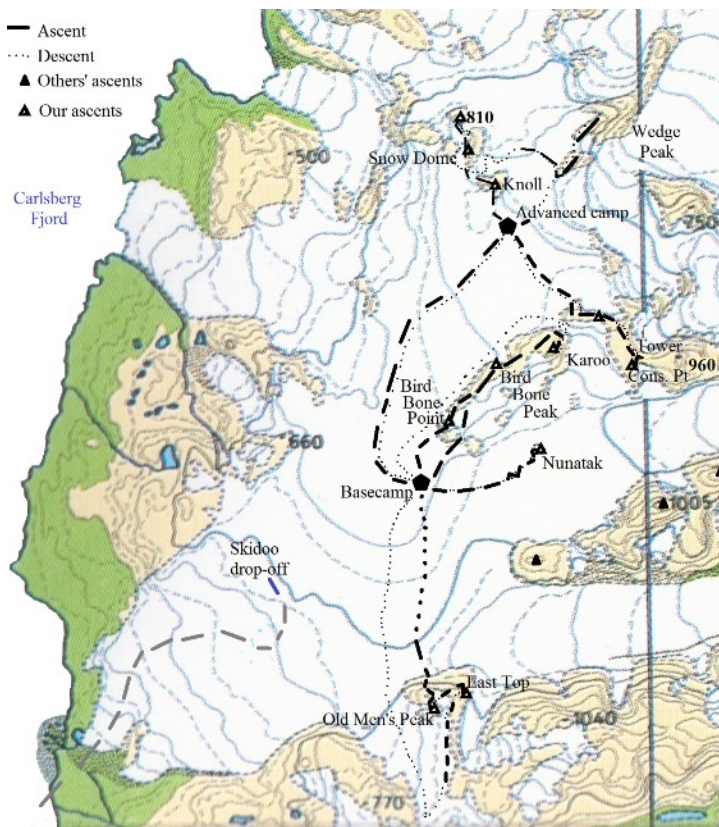


While eating our varied lunch packs we could check our GPS position. Nansen's party nibbling a biscuit or dried meat lunch while he uses the sextant if sun and horizon were visible.



Two hot meals a day and lots of snacks between kept us going. Our tent had a sewn-in groundsheet and a porch area for cooking.

Nansen's team mostly took only cold drinks and food except on a weekend when they had hot rations plus chocolate and a pipe.



Participants:
 Jim Gregson,
 Sandy Gregson ,
 Geoff Bonney,
 Michael Smith,
 Peter Chadwick,
 Tony Hoare
 and
 Alex Buisse.

Sources:

Dehydrated foods: expeditionfoods.com, mountainhouse.com and fuizionfreezedriedfood.com

Logistics: Tangent Expeditions, www.tangent-expeditions.co.uk

Accommodation in Reykjavik: Snoori's Guesthouse, walking distance from the city centre, door-to-door service for Keflavik airport bus, www.guesthousereykjavik.com

Map: Saga Maps 1:250k Saga Maps Ittoqqortoormiit sheet is the readily available sheet. However, heights shown on the Geodatastyrelsen map appear to be 10m or so lower than those on the Saga Maps sheet and agree better with the GPS readings we took.

Down gear: PHD (Peter Hutchinson Designs) www.phdesigns.co.uk

Information:

Exploring Greenland (2012): Jim Gregson. Sheffield: Vertebrae Publishing.

East Greenland, Liverpool Land (2013): Genna Woldendorp's report in The American Alpine Journal, 185-185. also <http://nunataks.info/> for images

Greenland: Liverpool Land Peninsula North-South Traverse: April 2012 (2013): Richmond Macintyre. In Journal of the Mountain Club of South Africa 2012 pp25-33.

Tangent Expeditions Ltd. Logistics specialists for Greenland. Paul Walker. www.tangent-expeditions.co.uk

First crossing of Greenland (1890): Fridtjof Nansen and translated from the Norwegian by Hubert Majendie Gepp.

London: Longmans. Courtesy of Phil Dover who loaned his grandfather's 1897 edition 'awarded to Fred W^m Dover by the Leeds School Board for good conduct and punctual attendance at every meeting of the school during 1897'

EDITOR'S NOTES

The Club holds some spare copies of most of the recent journals and if new members would like to have some please contact the editor. Similarly if for whatever reason other members have a gap in their collection we may be able to fill it. (The Treasurer would appreciate a contribution towards the postage)

Whilst it is perhaps something none of us wish to contemplate, can I remind members that if you wish to ensure that we can produce an accurate obituary when the time eventually comes, please send me a potted biography and possibly a favourite photograph. I can keep these in a private place and the few I do hold are very helpful. I have used two in the recent past.

The very nature of the YRC is such that few members resign and older members like to keep in touch with what we are up to by receiving the journal. The nature of our activities does seem to keep a good few of the members going well past the normal sell-by date and these facts do mean that we sometimes outlive our friends. I have recently had an unfortunate first. A long standing member who had been inactive for many years has passed away and nobody left in the club can recall anything about him.

Can I also remind readers that I am always on the look out for material. Members of the YRC or indeed of other kindred clubs must have tales of present exploits or past experiences they would like to share with us. I am particularly interested with material to give ideas for future activities or are salutary warnings of things which can go wrong.

I am also interested in photographs. There are always odd corners I need to fill up.

If you wish to retain copyright of any material it can be ensured.



One I wish I had taken, photographer unknown

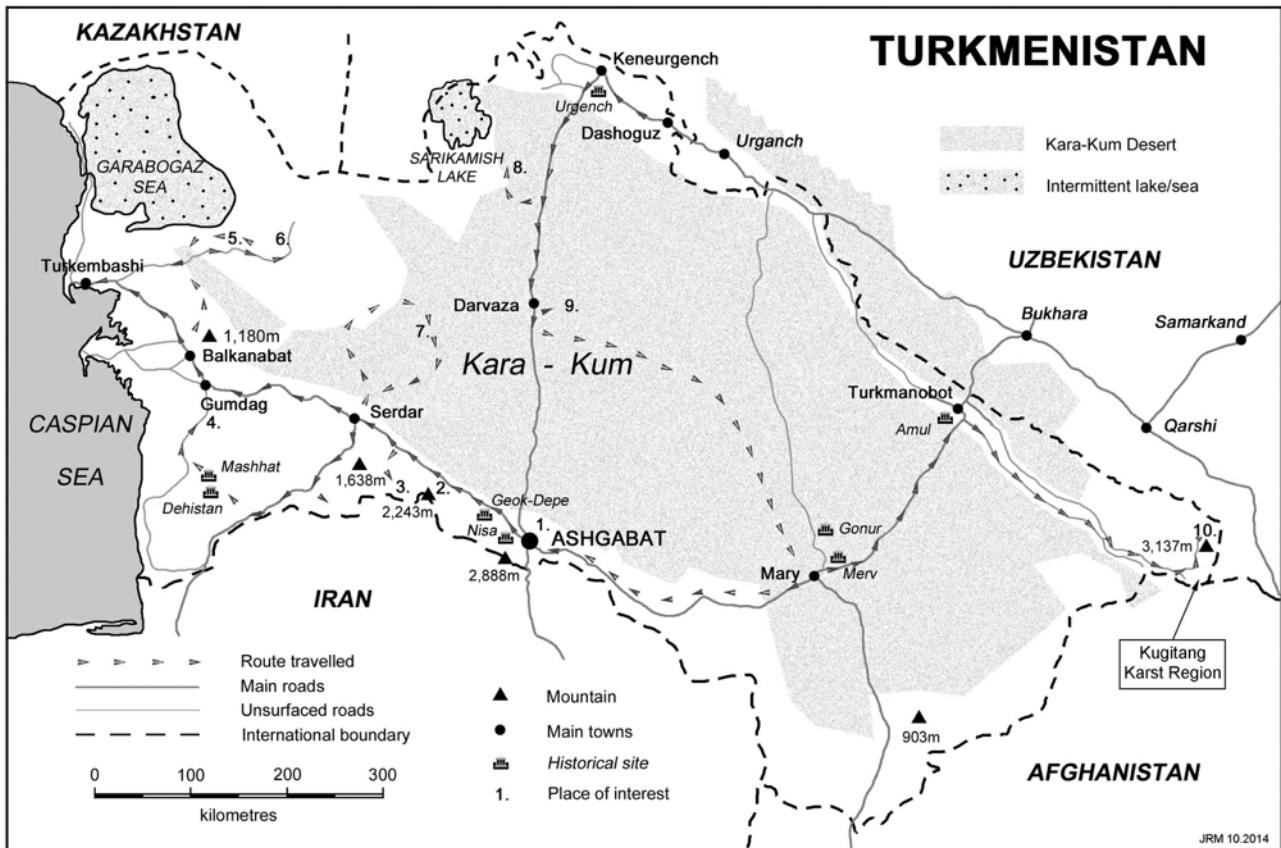
RJD

CAVES AND MORE IN TURKMENISTAN

John & Valerie Middleton

During the autumn of 2014 the authors spent 21 days exploring some of the many amazing landscapes to be found in this historically rich and little known country.

This short article is an attempt to briefly summarise highlights of that visit with a bias towards any karst, caves and other natural phenomena.



AN INTRODUCTION

WHERE IS IT?

The Republic of Turkmenistan is one of the many countries in Central Asia whose name ends with “stan”*. It is bounded in the north-west by Kazakhstan; to the north and east by Uzbekistan; Afghanistan and Iran lay to the south whilst the western boundary belongs to what is the Earth’s largest body of inland water, the Caspian Sea.

**the word ‘stan’ is of Persian origin and translates as ‘the country or people of...’*

WHY TURKMENISTAN?

For us with a relatively wide range of interests the reasons were many. It is little known; the Kugitang mountains of the south-east are home to at least 85km of cave passageways rich in unusual mineral formations; the Silk Road makes several crossings of the Kara-Kum desert leaving behind a trail of crumbling ‘Caravanisaries’ and fortified towns; other archaeological sites date back to the Bronze Age with the remarkable ‘Gonur-depe’ whilst many equally impressive citadels remain from the Parthian era

(300BC); geologically and geomorphologically the whole country is fascinating as it was once covered by the great Tethys, Paratethys and a much enlarged Caspian seas; there is the desolate wilderness of the great Kara-Kum desert that covers much of the country; the beautiful mountain ranges of Kugitangtau and Kopetdag that are home to a rich flora and fauna and finally the very welcoming and culturally rich Turkmen people who are the result of a turbulent past. Others might prefer investigating the rich oil and gas fields, the great cotton plantations, the futuristic marble city of Ashgabat, riding the magnificent ‘Ahalteke’ horses or simply soaking up the sun on the Caspian Riviera. There is something here for everyone.

A FEW STATISTICS.

This is a land-locked state of almost 488,100km² which is just a little less than the size of mainland Spain. The estimated population is currently quoted as 6.3 million. This number is made up of 89% ethnic Turkmen, 10% Uzbeks and Russians and 1% Kazakhs, Tatars and Kurds. Turkmen and Russian are the principal languages with

Uzbek being spoken by almost 9% of the population. English or other Western European languages are little known outside the fledgling tourist industry although this situation is improving.

The government is known as a “Secular Democracy” however the only legally registered party in the Republic is the Democratic Party of Turkmenistan, which is what the Communist Party was itself renamed in September 1991. This is currently headed by the charismatic President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow who took control in February 2007. The Sunni Muslim faith, which is under the control of the government, is followed by 89% of the people with the remainder belonging mainly to the Eastern Orthodox Church.

Ashgabat is the new capital city with an expanding population in excess of 700,000 - the old city was almost totally destroyed by an earthquake in 1948 that reached magnitude 9 on the Richter scale. It is now a futuristic place of modern buildings with the majority being built in either Italian or Turkish marble! Other major urbanisations are the coastal towns of Turkmenbashi (60,000), cosmopolitan Turkmenabat (203,000) in the east, industrial Dashogus to the north (160,000) and Mary (123,000), capital of the southern cotton region. The economy is based on extensive reserves of oil and gas, various minerals and cotton production. Gas, electricity and water are supplied free of any charge to all consumers whilst tax is at a basic 7%.

The very arid Kara Kum (*Black Sea*) desert occupies more than 80% of Turkmenistan and is home to various nomadic peoples whose survival is based on goats, camels and occasionally drought resisting sheep. Temperatures can frequently reach 50°C during the summer whilst rainfall for the whole country barely averages 25cm! Additional water originates mainly from the great Amu Darya River in the east together with the 1,375km long ‘Kara Kum Canal’ that takes this water across country to Ashgabat and beyond. Countrywide snow cover is expected most winters together with temperatures down to -20°C. The highest point of 3,139m is found in the south-eastern Kugitangtau range whilst the lowest point of -81m is reached at ‘Vpadina Akchanaya’ in the countries north-central region.

OUR HIGHLIGHTS. In a clockwise journey from Ashgabat.

1. The ‘National Museum of History and Ethnography’. Housed in a magnificent marble building just off the centre of Ashgabat this museum is an essential first stop for any visitor. All the extensive displays and descriptions are of a world class standard and make understanding anything seen later in the country more easily understood. The large ground floor covers the known historical sites whilst the equally fine first floor concentrates comprehensively on all aspects of Turkmenistan’s natural world. As there are few publications in English on this latter aspect of the country

much of what we saw here made us realise that we may need to plan a return trip...or two.

2. ‘Kow Ata’ (Father of Caves)



Kow Ata is the largest known limestone cave in the Kopetdag mountain range. It is situated 107km north-west of Ashgabat and about 7km west of the main road to Turkmenbashi. This cave is unique in several aspects. Firstly it is the only ‘show cave’ in the country and secondly at the very bottom of the cave is a large 36°C lake containing sulphur and some 30 other minerals. It is recognised for its therapeutic value and bathing in the water is allowed. The cave itself is rather like a giant tube boring deep into the mountainside as the following dimensions show. Length 230m, depth 65m from the tourist entrance with a further three smaller skylights further up the hillside that extend this to 85m; passage width varies between 10m and 47m, height reaches 27m and the size of the crystal clear lake at the end measures roughly 72m x 30m and 10m deep. The cave air temperature is a constant 33°C. It takes 266 steps (not counted by us) to reach the bottom so some degree of fitness is required for the return! On our visit we were initially prevented from entering as there was an apparently not uncommon power failure. However a party of well-built Russians duly arrived who did not want to take ‘no’ for an answer and were duly allowed in with a couple of torches – we were kindly invited to join them although we did not participate in their water splash. There are a number of rather insignificant formations and a considerable population of bats the species of which we were unable to determine.

3. The ‘Ush-Deshik’ Cave.

Ush-Deshik is a tectonic fissure cave situated high on the Kopet Dag range with spectacular views over the surrounding mountains. It consists of a 3m high triangular shaped entrance that then leads down some rough steps for 10m into a chamber measuring up to 4m across, 20m in length and 10m in height. There is no continuation. Russian graffiti adorns the walls and wild pigeons seem to favour the higher ledges. It is reached from the delightful mountain village of Nokhur by following a rough uphill

route through stunning scenery until an abandoned Russian military border observation site is reached. It is necessary to ask at one of several houses here as the cave is only 300m away but difficult to find. Nokhur itself is also worthy of a stop for its situation, its friendly people, a magnificent hollow ancient Oriental Plane tree (*Platanus orientalis*), an unusual cemetery, Qyz Bibi shrine and several seasonal waterfalls.

4. Geok Patlavuk and Boyadag Mud Volcanoes.

In Turkmenistan there are reported to be at least 25 mud volcanoes situated close to the Caspian coast. The most impressive of these are the two mentioned above that are both found around 40km south of Gumdag. Each volcano reaches almost 70m in height above the surrounding plain and cover several square kilometres in extent. Both are still active and the area contains many unusual mud and mineral formations. Unfortunately, in order to reach the volcanoes that are situated about 3km from the main road, it is necessary to first cross an area of salt and mud flats which are usually dry. On our visit these were anything but dry and access was impossible although we did get tantalisingly good distance views.

5. Yangikala and Yangisuw Canyons

(See photo page 21)

These two breathtakingly beautiful contiguous regions are to be found some 160km east of Turkembashi edging the south-eastern corner of the Garabogaz basin. They are basically escarpments formed and then eroded through the shrinking of the Paratethys Sea. The result is over 40km of multi-coloured cliffs up to 100m in height that may often be formed in several levels and are incised by a multitude of canyons. The time of day and the moving shadows ensure that the spectacle constantly changes and equally no two photographs can possibly be the same. We have never seen any rock formations so spellbindingly magnificent anywhere on our many travels! The route from the coast to the edge of Yangikala is via a good dirt road but to progress further on the 4-6 hour round trip definitely requires a 4x4 and a very good guide. Yangikala tends to overlook blisteringly hot and barren plains whilst Yangisuw frequently overlooks the even more hostile Garabogaz Sea* and its surrounding evil smelling salt swamps. The area above the cliffs is generally flat and covered with sparse vegetation. Mixed accommodation and food is available in a 'Pilgrims Resthouse' close to the commencement of the cliffs. Camping here is possible but usually windy as we found out! Also close by is the mausoleum of 'Gozli Ata'.

* *The Garabogaz Sea* is itself a unique feature in that it lies 3-4m below the level of the Caspian Sea to which it is connected by a 100m wide gap. When the Caspian Sea water level is high, as in Spring, it overflows into the shallow Garabogaz from whence it quickly evaporates thereby creating highly toxic mineralised water that solidifies around the edges as sodium sulphate. Nothing can live in or near this. It is now rare for the Caspian to overflow due to a continual lowering of that sea's level.

6. Kemalata Concretions (see photo page 21).

By following a complicated series of tracks eastwards from the Yangikala Canyons the small mausoleum of Kemal Ata can be reached. Kemal Ata was thought to be a disciple of Gozli Ata who did many good deeds locally during the late 14th century AD. About 100m from his mausoleum many ellipsoidal concretions* can be found standing on both bare limestone and within a small stream valley. Most of these concretions, of which there are an impressively large number, measure around one metre in diameter and 60cm in height. The short-lived stream previously mentioned emerges from 'Kaitarmysh Spring'. This is found amongst the concretions in a well weathered limestone gully. It is a favoured drinking place for shepherds and their flocks as no further surface water is available for many tens of kilometres.

* *Hard rock concretions develop within layers of sedimentary materials before the sediment itself has hardened. They form when a considerable amount of cementing material, often but not always calcite, develops around a nucleus such as a shell, leaf, fossil etc., The resulting shape normally varies between ellipsoidal and spherical.*

7. Uzboy River Salt Lakes



The Uzboy River was once a major tributary of the mighty Amu Darya River that itself originally flowed through the north-western part of the Kara-Kum Desert. During the 17th century the Amu Darya unexpectedly changed course causing the Uzboy River to completely dry up. This event proved disastrous for the Khorezmian civilization which had up until then thrived upon its banks. Small reservoirs of water were left in the river bed and were augmented by some ground water seepage, minor springs and rare rains. This was insufficient however to prevent concentrations of salt building up so that now this ancient river bed holds some amazing examples of dazzling white halite crystal formations. The best displays can be seen around the ancient Parthian frontier fortress of Ygdy Kala* not far from the small settlement of Melegoch and some 150km NE of Serdar. We did observe that there seemed quite a lot of wildlife around the river-bed which is contrary to what would be expected in excessively salted and barren areas.

On later checking the possible reason for this we found that in certain areas of the river both fresh and salt water were found together. Apparently in the coolness of the desert night the upper salty layer, due to its greater heaviness, sinks beneath the fresh water. During the heat of day the positions are reversed so that in the short window of dawn wild animals and birds can come to these small reservoirs to drink.

* *Ygdy Kala is a particularly interesting Parthian fort (100BC-400AD) as it was built with local stone as opposed to the normal straw and mud bricks. It stands impressively on the edge of a gorge above the Uzboy River giving it commanding views over any unwelcome visitors. The site, possibly due to its remoteness, has as yet been little investigated.*

8. Tarym-gaya Cliffs (See photo page 21)

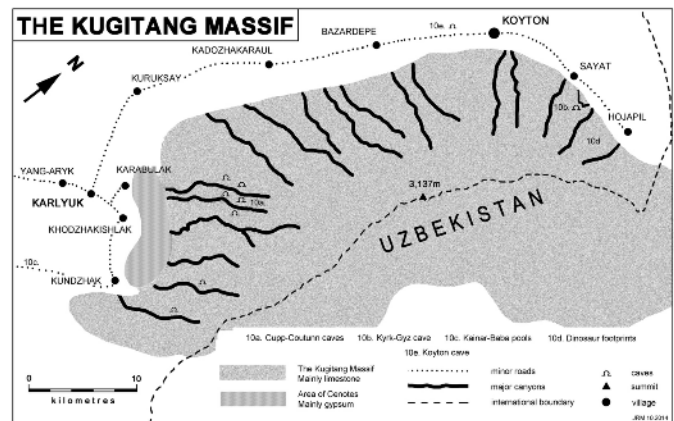
These exceptionally beautiful soft white chalk cliffs reach up to 50m in height and extend for almost 23km above the 'Tarym-gaya' basin. The cliffs themselves once formed the diminishing eastern boundary of the great Paratethys Sea during the Pliocene epoch (5.3 – 2.6 million years ago). The chalk has been considerably eroded leaving harder rocks as spectacular pinnacles in many places. The latter have probably been formed by an intrusion of mineral-rich thermal waters. Thick bands of glittering selenite crystals are also to be seen and can be collected as such on the sandy surfaces. We drove and frequently stopped for around 4km along the base of the cliffs and were totally mesmerised by their setting and beauty. Several rock shelters were also noted and one short cave has been reported called 'Ayaz-kala' but we could not find this – it may have collapsed or it could have been further on. This site lies about 120km south of Keneurgench and about 7km to the west of the road to Ashgabad. The turn-off is just before a major police check-point.

9. Darwaza Gas Crater



The region around Darwaza, situated just over halfway between Ashgabad and Dashoguz, is rich in natural gas. It

was whilst drilling here in 1971 that Soviet geologists tapped into a gas filled cavern. The ground beneath the drilling rig collapsed, leaving a large hole with a diameter of almost 80 metres and depth of up to 20m. In order to avoid poisonous gas discharge, it was decided the best solution was to simply burn it off. This gas still burns spectacularly today and makes a visit well worthwhile. The site is found on an open plain after first traversing through impressive sand dunes some 7km to the east of the main road. Camping overnight within view of this crater is a particularly impressive experience. The few people who still live locally have named the hole, in Turkmen, 'Gateway to Hell'. There are several similar collapses in the vicinity but this is the only one still burning.



10. THE KUGITANG REGION

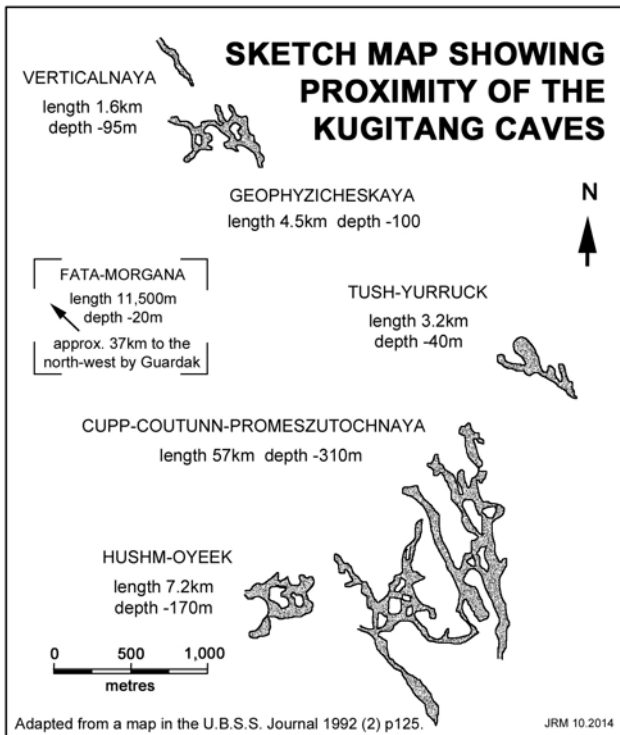
This beautiful and mainly limestone mountain range in the far south-east of the country measures roughly 50km x 25km and forms a boundary with Uzbekistan. The lower levels resemble gently rolling hills whilst the upper section, much of which is permanently snow covered, is of a more rugged nature. Into this a reputed 165 canyons (*unconfirmed*) have sliced their impressive way most of which are very narrow and may have walls over 300m in height.

The highest point in Turkmenistan is also to be found here on the 3,173m summit of 'Airy-baba'. These inaccessible higher levels inevitably provide one of the last refuges for many animal species including 'Markhor', a long-horned mountain goat; 'Urial' a very rare mountain sheep; wolves, caracals, foxes and many more. The flora is equally extensive with over 900 different species recorded. Birds account for a further 122 and include the Griffon Vulture with their great 2.8m wingspan.

One of the largest concentrations of dinosaur footprints to be found anywhere on earth occurs here.

Caves, cenotes, springs and other karstic features are to be seen in many areas. Almost all this range is given National Park status with certain regions requiring a permit to access.

10a. Caves and karst of the Southern Kugitang area



Whilst this region contains a considerable number of caves several, that are considered to be of international significance, are situated around the canyons of Cup-Coutunn-say, Gugurtee and Hashm-Oyeek-say. The major caves here are Cupp-Coutunn-Promeszutochnaya, Hushm-Oyeek, Tush-Yurruck, Geophyzicheskaya and Verticalnaya with a combined length of maze-like passageways totalling over 74km. These passageways may be on several levels and are characterised by giant galleries (Cupp-Coutunn has an entrance passageway 20m high, 50m wide and 1,500m in length!) and large chambers (Hushm-Oyeek has one up to 270m in length, 95m in width and 25m in height!). However what really sets these caves apart from any others is their speleothem mineralogy, their many forms and their considerable quantity. This richness developed when, in very simple terms, original and early passageways were invaded by thermal waters rich in various minerals from a nearby fault (See Maltsev & Self 1992 and Self 2004 for detailed reports). Other caves are recorded from the Ab-Dara and Chindjeer canyons further to the east and close to the Uzbekistan border. Most notable here are the 5km Bezuimyanaya and 2km long Chindjeer systems together with two small resurgences.

One of our main objectives in visiting Turkmenistan was to investigate these very special caves and their surroundings. Unfortunately when we approached the National Park HQ for permission we were informed that this entire southern Kugitang region, as from the previous year, had now been designated a Military Zone. In consequence permits from the Ministry of Defence, the National Parks themselves and the local military were now needed – a daunting and no doubt slow process!

10b. Kyrk-Gyz Cave



'Cave of the Forty Girls' is a popular place for a weekend pilgrimage located a 15 minute walk up a narrow gorge close to Hojapil. Legend has it that 40 young girls once fled into this cave when bandits launched an attack on their nearby village. Once well hidden they managed to remain safe until the fighting was over. It is actually a quite impressive 'rock shelter' with a small, slightly hidden, 10metre long cave and chamber at its rear. The roof and much of the walls are covered with pieces of colorful 'wishing-cloths'. These have been stuck to the rock with the aid of a small amount of mud. The canyon, which continues well past the cave, is worthy of inspection as it has many water eroded features and the possibility of some good long rock climbing lines.

10c. Kainar-Baba Spring. Two large springs with a constant year-round flow of 1,000 to 1,500 litres per second flow into the Kainar Pool. This is presumed to be the major surface resurgence for much of the southern end of the Kugitang range. Water is also seen in several cenotes up to 37m deep on a gypsum plain several kilometres to the north-east. The lake, which measures roughly 60mx40m and is up to 5m deep has a hydrogen sulphide smell but remains popular as a warm 'therapeutic' swimming area. Large fish, probably carp, are also present. The water flows from the lake via a channel and sinks in a large stand of reeds some hundred metres away. Only minor springs are to be found elsewhere in the southern half of the range. Parking and several small cafes adjoin the site.

10d. Dinosaur Footprints

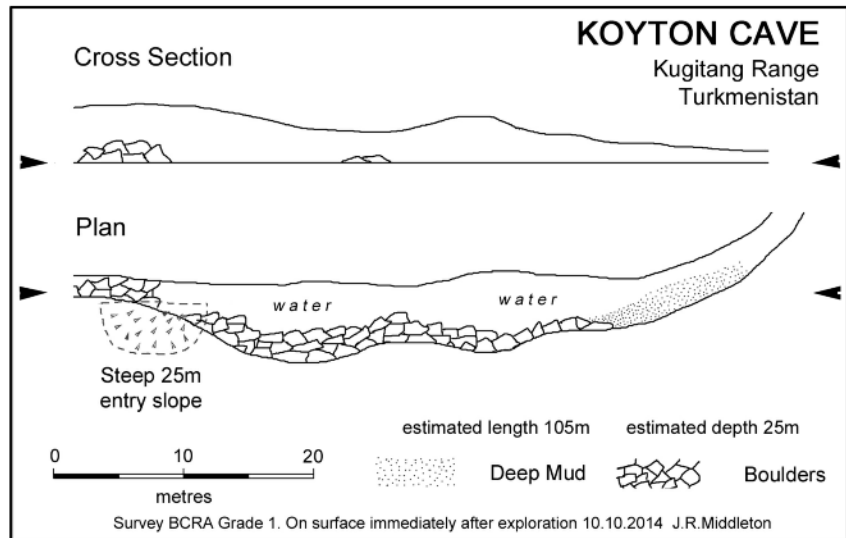
Above the beautifully verdant Hojapil valley a steep but easy 30 minute track leads through low scrub and past several ancient juniper trees (*Juniperus seravschanica?*) to a 25° inclined slab of smooth Upper Jurassic limestone. This slab measured roughly 290mx180m and imprinted on the slab are 913 footprints of at least two different species of dinosaur (*Megalosariopus uzbekistanicus* and *Therangospodus pandemicus*).



These three-toed prints range up to 80cm across and may be as much as 15cm deep. One single set of tracks extends for 311m! With the splendour of the scenery and mighty raptors soaring overhead it did not take long to imagine being in a Jurassic setting with all else it might contain! This site is freely accessible and unfortunately mindless graffiti has occurred on some of the lower parts of the slab. A similar inclined slab occurs about 350m higher and 2.8km away that is known as the 'Ak-Gaya' site where 727 further prints have been noted. We did not have time to visit this area.

10e. Koyton Cave

On our last afternoon in the area, Farhaf, a local friend who would also have acted as our guide in the Cupp-Coutunn area, informed us of a new cave that he had recently investigated close to Koyton. This was situated about 300m from the main road and half way down a steep slope overlooking a wide valley. Upon arrival it gave the immediate impression of being a fairly recent large cavern collapse some 15m in diameter. This had resulted in there being a solid hill-side wall, loose looking rock to either side and a very steep friable rock and soil slope leading down 25m to water.



Farhot had been to the bottom with a friend but had not explored further due to having no lights. At the base of the entry slope there was a large chamber some 15m high and wide with quite deep water covering half the floor. The stream and passage to the left was partially blocked by unstable boulders that we preferred not to risk whilst to the right an 8m wide and 6m high passage continued past many beautiful but small rock covered formations to a further chamber. Here we came across a small number of bats and in the water several blind cave fish (these are not uncommon in other caves of the region). Continuing, the passage reduced in size to around 5m by 3m high with the floor becoming progressively deeper in a very thick mud covered by water until we found it difficult to proceed.



At this point the passage curved to the left and became distinctly lower. We estimated this point to be about 80m from the bottom of the entry slope plus a further 15m that we could see. There could not have been a better finale to our stay in the Kugitang region, or Turkmenistan itself, than this. It also helped to console us for not being able to achieve our main caving objective.



Yangisuw



Tarym-gaya cliffs



Kemalata - Concretions

Kemalata - concretions

ORGANISATION AND OUR TRIP.

After many years of being an almost closed country Turkmenistan is again starting to open its magnificent doors.

For UK citizens it does still take some time to organise but the procedures are not difficult. Initially it is necessary to obtain an official 'letter of invite'. This can be achieved by either finding a notable person, an organisation or a tour company who will act as sponsor and guarantor. The latter option is usually easiest and can be done either through a tour operator in Turkmenistan. (*many – highly recommended are Owadan Tourism at www.owadan.net*) or in this country (*not many yet but highly recommended are Undiscovered Destinations – www.undiscovered-destinations.com*).

One condition of entry is that the traveller(s) must be with a local guide throughout their journey although he/she may go almost anywhere they wish. To reach the most interesting places and certainly all the sites mentioned above a 4x4 and driver is required which can again be obtained through the tour company sponsor. The 'letter of invite' took us about 5 weeks to obtain but once possessed a Tourist Visa can then be applied for either at the Turkmenistan Embassy in London or on arrival at Ashgabat airport. The airline carrier will also insist on seeing this letter, or visa, at 'check-in' before allowing carriage. We flew with Turkish Airlines via Istanbul but Turkmenistan Airlines also fly direct from Birmingham.

Our trip was made between mid-September and mid-October when daytime temperatures varied between 24°C and 39°C whilst nights often plummeted to zero particularly in the desert.

Eleven of our twenty-one nights were spent under canvas with equipment provided by the tour company. I enjoyed every night under canvas but Valerie might have a different story! We did experience drizzle for short periods on a couple of days. Note that desert travel is quite rough and arduous. For an experience we also took the 20 hour return train journey from Kerk (3 hours from Kugitang) to Ashgabat in a 4 berth compartment. Once more I enjoyed every minute although Valerie's comments may again differ!

Wherever we went the friendliness of the local people was unparalleled. We would be asked to join in with weddings, be invited into houses, have communal photographs taken, join in weekend celebrations and have help offered whenever we looked worried. We must thank everyone we met for doubling our pleasure at being in their country. We must also thank our excellent drivers and guides – Izat, Davilet, Misha and Farhaf – without whom we may still be lost.

REFERENCE SOURCES.

Bradt Travel Guides Ltd. 2005. Turkmenistan. 246 pages. *NB. Currently out of print but available to download as a pdf from www.bradtguides.com - excellent.*

Hill, Carol and Forti, Palo, 1997. Cave Minerals of the World. *Mineralogical Society of America*. 463pp. *NB. Includes an article on the Cupp-Coutunn caves (6 pp) as well as various other cave mineral references.*

Lonely Planet Publications Pty. Ltd., 2010. Central Asia. 561 pages. *NB. There are only 44 pages on Turkmenistan.*

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CHIPPINGS



RAMBLING ON

I'm a Rambler; I'm a Rambler from Manchester way....

I don't get all my pleasures the hard moorland way but still enjoy every opportunity I can to get out on the moors. For that I am eternally grateful to the campaigners and participants in the mass trespass of Kinder.

The story does not end there however, and the battle still goes on. Before the creation of National Parks folk wishing to escape the towns and cities, to walk over moorland or climb mountains risked harassment at best or actual threats and even arrest.

Campaigners and user groups, in particular the Ramblers Association, still push for more rights and last September was the tenth anniversary of the winning of the right to roam over mountains, moor, heath, down and common land in England and Wales. In Scotland, we are even freer and can walk almost anywhere. Many of us have been pushing for more access to woodland and thwarted the selling off of parts of the forestry estate and as I pen this we have just had a promise from the government that the coastal access strip round England will be completed by 2020. The government has also finally agreed to include the Isle of Wight in the process.

At present over a third of our coastline remains out of bounds. The Marine and Coastal Access Act, which passed into law in 2009, provides for the creation of a complete way around England's coast, as well as access to all the beaches and foreshores. This law guarantees that, when complete, the 'path' will 'roll back' on to the land immediately behind it should coastal erosion occur. It is not so much a path as a margin providing right of passage with spreading room. When the Act came into force, it was hoped the new coast path would be completed within a decade but four years on, very little has been opened. Perhaps now we will see some real progress.

In a similar way protecting areas is as important as providing access to them and the Scottish authorities are working on identifying specific boundaries round as many as 33 areas of the seas to be designated as Marine Protected Areas.

Let us hope they conclude the exercise more quickly than is happening in England where of 127 proposed round our coasts, only 31 have finally been confirmed for possible designation this year.

The Scots have just given our parliamentarians a scare and they now more than ever realise that they must take note of the wishes of the populous so with a general election looming, if any of you get a chance to speak to your MPs, do press them to support more access not only for our general enjoyment but for the boost this can bring to rural economies.

F.I.F.A GETS SOME GOOD PRESS

The present regime at the football H.Q. are getting some apparently bad publicity but Albert Chapman has some good memories of them.

"How F.I.F.A. helped a little in my ascent of the Jungfrau.

Long ago Tim Smith wanted to climb the Jungfrau. He booked a flight to Switzerland and inquired the cost of a Swiss Alpine Guide. On finding the high cost of a guide he invited me to join him and be paid for my flight. I was delighted with the offer and packed my gear with speed as the notice was short.

On arriving in Grindlewald on the Saturday just prior to Swiss National Day I found my old crampons did not fit my newer climbing boots.

Some years before I had had an ice axe made for me by messes Bhend but on an urgent visit to his workshop I found it closed and understood messes Bhend had recently retired.

Locating his detached villa in late evening I reminded him of the ice axe he sold me some eight years ago and asked if he would alter my crampons to fit my boots. Recognizing I was from the UK he lead me back to his former workshop and altered my crampons perfectly.

With a smile and a handshake he made no charge because that afternoon England beat Germany in the 1966 final of the World Cup.

Tim and I enjoyed a great day on the Jungfrau.

EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN COVERS GUIDEBOOK AND MAGAZINE.

<http://tinyurl.com/ojnczx6>

The above link will open up a copy of this magazine which has a biography of Carol Whalley



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MOUNTAINS

Since its foundation in 1945 the United Nations has been establishing set days, weeks, months and years and even decades dedicated to specific issues. The IDM is backed by their Food and Agriculture organisation and is aimed at focusing the world's attention on issues affecting mountains. It takes place annually on December 11.

The theme this year was Mountain Farming and the main symposium was held at the Russian Geographical Society.

Different countries give these 'days' varying amounts of attention but some take them very interestingly.

It is a national holiday in Japan for example.

Allocating dates to the start of such 'days' is not easy and some like this one predate their adoption by the UN. 2006 was deemed to be the centenary of this event and Italy brought out a commemorative stamp.

Alan Linford



A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY

Mike Dent (Club guest and Archivist of the Rucksack Club) enjoyed the Dinner and our hospitality.

When signing the guest book he took the opportunity to look back to 1901 and among the guest signatures was Dr Joe Collier's.

Collier from Manchester commented on the civil war rivalry of Yorkshire and Lancashire when proposing the toast to the YRC, stating that he regretted that no similar Club had arisen in Lancashire.

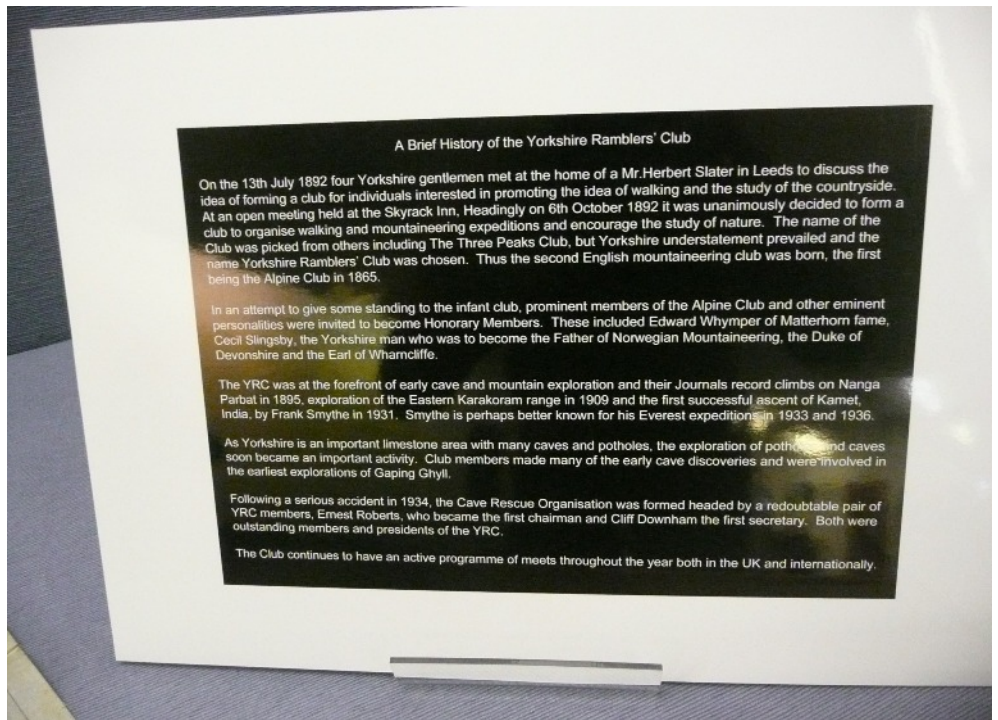
This was reported in YRC Journal vol.1(4).

Quite by chance the next summer in Snowdon's Pen-y-Gwryd hotel two Manchester chaps on a walking tour, Burns and Entwistle, read this and that autumn they called a meeting of those interested and in October 1902 the Rucksack Club was formed.

This gave the Archivist quite a (self-reported) thrill!

ARCHIVE UPDATE

Two further items have been added to the YRC Archive at the North Yorkshire County Records Office Northallerton: Two volumes of club minutes, 28 Nov 1974 to Nov 1989 and 22 Jan 1990 to Nov 2000.



Back in May the records office mounted an exhibition including a display of YRC artefacts. Children were welcome, entry free and there were refreshments. Apparently the YRC gear attracted considerable attention and the Record Office asked if the artefacts could be used in a long term Display in the Record Office window.

12 pictures from the YRC glass slides were enlarged to form the backdrop to some of the old potholing gear.

The display included YRC contact information.

WORKING MEETS

Can we remind members that the wonderful facilities we enjoy at our huts is down in no small amount to the members who volunteer to assist the wardens on working meets. They do get good support but more is always welcome. Equally those who cannot attend should appreciate the work of those who do. Back in June Richard Sealey, Hut Warden at Lowstern, commented that once again they had a jolly good working meet with enough workers to carry out most of the jobs on his list. (i.e. painting, tile grouting, electrical installations, cleaning, shaving the bottom of a door, watercourse and gutter cleaning and not to be forgotten, preparation of food.) One or two members turned up just for the evening entertainment! Many thanks to Gail who did not attend this year but did prepare the evening meal for him to bring along.

He thanks all the workers and points out that non member Aaron Campion was excused duties this year as he was revising for his many exams.

Members present: Ian Crowther, Mick Borroff, David Handley, Michael Smith, Chris Hilton, Bruce Bensley, Albert Chapman, Ged Campion, Alister Renton, Harvey Lomas, Eddy Edkins
and guests: Imogen Campion Bev Campion, Aaron Campion, Tang Li, Jane Renton, Neave Renton and Joan Renton

Later in the year it was LHG's turn for some sprucing up. 26-28 September saw work started early on Friday with the painting of the gable end of the cottage, digging a trench to reduce dampness from the back walls of the drying room and repair work to the drying room fascia board. The stove was black-leaded to reduce rust damage.

Arthur Salmon provided meals and a welcome beer and the conversation flowed until midnight. Saturday started mistily and did not clear until mid afternoon. By that time rewiring, repainting, window cleaning or repair work had been carried out in most rooms with road-edge strimming and more wall painting outside.

While transferring food to the new refrigerator the fresh chicken were inadvertently placed in the freezer resulting in a 40 minute defrosting delay to the evening meal.

The original list of tasks being almost exhausted, Sunday saw additions being made with more filling, repainting, woodworm treatment, cleaning, car park clearing, hole-plugging at the back of the barn and even sheep-exclusion measures placed for the drying room roof. A new toaster and a replacement microwave oven/grill were fitted and thoroughly tested.

This was a hard-working meet with clear evidence of progress made. Book the cottage to see the results for yourself.

The President having called in on Alan Brown's birthday celebrations on the way to the meet arrived with large pieces of birthday cake which supplemented the breaks' cups of tea.

Thanks go to Madge and Sammy for those.

Thanks go to Arthur Salmon for all his preparation which made this such an effective and enjoyable meet.

The Humphreys generously donated the new electrical appliances to the Club.

In attendance	
Arthur Salmon,	Jason Humphreys
Frank Wilkinson	Michael Smith
David Hick	Derek Bush
Iain Gilmour	Paul Dover



Frank repairing a light switch before sitting down to lunch with Derek and Iain



David wielding a paint brush and Jason fitting a microwave

MY FATHER FRANK

Tony's book about his father was nominated and short listed for the Boardman Tasker prize.

Tony is still offering the same deal on the book to YRC members at £10 + postage £2.80, for a signed copy. Ring Tony directly for this price on 01539 821829.

Info also available at www.franksmythe.co.uk

POT HOLES

Richard Gowing has turned up an interesting snippet about the origin of the term "pot-hole". He'd always assumed that those we in the YRC go down came first, but in a programme about building a medieval castle, "Secrets of the Castle", shown on TV, it indicated that in that period people used to dig clay out of holes at the side of the road to make their domestic pots, leaving "pot-holes".

THE OTHER FRANCE

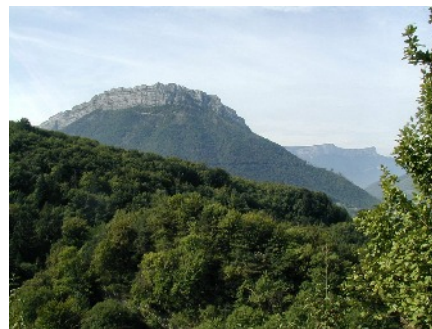
We can all go rushing off to the really high hills and occasionally the great ranges but as I find myself spending more and more time in France I keep being surprised by wonderful hill country that barely gets a look in.

Just to the west of the French Alps the Vercors and the Belledonne provide great opportunities.

Le Moucherotte (1901 m) is the easternmost peak of the Vercors Massif and the pinnacles of its shoulder, Les Trois Pucelles 1451m (the three virgins) One can only guess how they got their names but asking locally nobody knew of them ever being climbed.



The shoulder of Belledonne in the Chamreuse area



Across the valley and sometimes considered on the edge of the Alps, the Chartreuse range is not only the source of a lovely drink

Further south and within an hours drive of the Mediterranean there are surprising wild areas affording other interesting walks

Les Gorges de la Clamoux in the Black Mountains

Rock formations by Les Baux de Provence

Ancient Castles above Lastours



There's an awful lot of France to go at and the natives are friendly (at least away from the metropolitan cities)

HIMALAYAS UPDATE

If anybody is contemplating a trip with Rimo Adventure Travel next summer you might like to note that Bob Gait who has returned from a tour of duty in Afghanistan and leaves the army next April will be joining Motup working with Rimo in the Himalayas for three months.

LUNCH STOP

If wandering across Cross Fell or doing this stretch of the Pennine Way, the cross-shaped shelter on the top at 2,930 feet has always been welcome.

To celebrate the anniversary (50th) of the Pennine Way it has had an immaculate makeover and now offers even better refuge.

MARTIN WOODS

Martin has resigned from the Club. He joined us in 1990. He wishes me to pass on a message to the other members who remember him.

“Age is a rather a bore when infirmities limit what we would like to do. Whilst I very much enjoy reading the YRC Journal I find it does rather add to my frustration at not being more active and sadly, since it is so long since I was last fully participating, my recollection of individual members becomes increasingly hazy.

The net result is that I have become a rather sad voyeur of other peoples activities with little chance of my joining them. I have now finished building a house in Italy and expect to spend most of my time here. I think the time has come to look forward to what I can do here and quietly let the past fade away.

I have very fond memories of the YRC and the friendship both on the hills and in the evenings. I wish the club and members every success and fulfilment in the future but think it is now best for memories to remain fond and to forgo the angst of no longer participating.”

MCSA

The YRC is in the process of becoming a kindred club of the Mountain Club of South Africa and sharing facilities.

We are currently negotiating a suitable agreement.

We have again received the latest journal if this club, courtesy of Stephen Craven and we have been sending our ours in a regular basis for many years. It has now been decided to formalise these arrangements.

The MCSA was formed in 1891 and has very similar aims to ourselves, apart from ambitions underground.

ROY, THE GREAT CARTOGRAPHER

We have a strong tradition of mapping in this country and whilst most people know the OS stands for Ordnance Survey few look beyond the actual words and take in the meaning. These surveys were done for military purposes to make best use of an army's guns, its ordnance.

When the skills available started to match the needs, the biggest area of conflict was Scotland. You may well have heard of Wade's military roads but the story is more complicated than you may think.

After the Jacobite uprising in 1745, a William Roy headed up a project to map Scotland in considerable detail. Roy was a brilliant cartographer and his efforts were a major component of what we know as the Ordnance Survey created in 1791. Under the overall control of a Lieutenant-Colonel David Watson they were instructed to undertake 'The Military Survey of Scotland', after Culloden

Good maps and new roads helped troop movements but

early road builders such as General Wade and Major Caulfield struggled without decent maps.

Roy had been a civilian surveyor with the then Board of Ordnance but was commissioned into the army to complete this task and numerous teams, normally of 6 soldiers, were organised under an NCO and whilst not fully accurate by today's standards they gave a good impression of the countryside as it was then and these maps at about two inches to the mile are still invaluable when looking back for comparison purposes.

Roy achieved the rank of Major-General and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Institution and his name is engraved on the glass doors on the Ordnance Survey HQ for all to see, a mark of the esteem afforded to him. He also made comprehensive maps and drawings of Roman archaeological sites in Scotland which were the first accurate and systematic study of the subject, and have not been systematically improved upon even today. Roy was consequently made a Fellow of the Royal Society and a member of the Society of Antiquaries of London. For an example of his work see - http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/0/0e/Ma_nsewood1747-1755.jpg

GEORGE SPENCELEY

When George finally passed away he was well advanced on writing his autobiography. Sylvie, his widow, has ambitions to complete them as a blog.

Because he was a life-long climber, his experiences on many mountains round the world may be of interest to other climbers and Sylvie hopes those who have memories of him and climbed with him will contribute to this blog as it progresses.

Her ambitions are admirable but I would suggest challenging as George packed a lot into his very long life.

The blog is georgespenceleley4.wordpress.com

Have a look at it and see if you can add anything.

A VERY GOOD YEAR

1944 saw the end of war in Europe, the birth of your editor and the formation of the BMC.

Winthrop Young, President of the Alpine Club looking ahead pushed to set up a British Mountaineering Council and in London on 2nd December 1944, the British Mountaineering Council was formally established as an association of clubs. It now has 270 affiliated.

The YRC were invited as guests at the 70th anniversary celebrations in Buxton because of our involvement in the establishment of the BMC. The president and his wife attended - and were on the winning team for the mountain quiz.

Its structure has changed over the years and is now more member orientated with over 75,000 members.



NATURAL HISTORY



WILDLIFE, ECOLOGY AND THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

FLUTTERBIES

2014 gives up hope for species teetering on the brink of local extinction.

The year began with a mild spring, seeing many species appear weeks earlier than usual. Two endangered species in particular, the Duke of Burgundy and Glanville Fritillary were both seen in April, a good few weeks earlier than the previous year.

Peacocks butterflies seemed to be everywhere this summer as buddleia bushes and flower beds were besieged by them. The Small Tortoiseshell has also bounced back after decades of decline. There were even numerous sightings of Scarce Tortoiseshells last visiting the UK in 1953.

In June Continental Swallowtails appeared along the South Coast and the indications are they may stay for good.

As ever the weather played a major part and it has been a very unusual year. A lovely, warm July was followed by the coldest August for 20 years.

Some butterflies struggled as a result, with the common white species floundering. Autumn came along dry and remarkably warm with October then very wet. As I pen this November is the warmest for many years. Not very good if you want to plan ahead.

WATER WATCH

The Scottish authorities are working on identifying specific boundaries round as many as 33 areas of the seas to be designated as Marine Protected Areas. Let us hope they conclude the exercise more quickly than is happening in England where of 127 proposed round our coasts, only 31 have finally been confirmed for possible designation this year.

If we want to watch coastal wildlife we have another problem at present. At present over a third of our coastline remains out of bounds. The Marine and Coastal Access Act, which passed into law in 2009, provides for the creation of a complete path around England's coast, as well as access to all the beaches and foreshores. This law guarantees that, when

complete, the path will 'roll back' on to the land immediately behind it should coastal erosion occur. It is not so much a path as a margin providing right of passage with spreading room. When the Act came into force, it was hoped the new coast path would be completed within a decade but four years on, very little has been opened.

Two items of good news have come out recently. The government finally agreed to include the Isle of Wight in the process and early in September they confirmed they were targeting 2020 to get the job completed.

OSPREY PROGRESS

If you want to watch Ospreys you no longer have to go the remote corners of the kingdom. The Rutland Osprey Project celebrated a record year last year with 14 chicks hatching in five nests across the Rutland Water area. As many as 70% of juveniles do not survive so it is crucial that the number of offspring increases each year if the Rutland osprey population is to continue to expand.

The Rutland Osprey Project, a partnership between the Wildlife Trust and Anglian Water, is now in its 18th year and a total of 75 young ospreys have already fledged from nests in the area. Rutland Water became home to the first ospreys to breed in England for 150 years following a translocation programme that saw six-week old ospreys brought from north-east Scotland and released at Rutland Water.

OH DEER

A recent working visit to Charlecote Manor, a Victorian home set in landscaped deer park in Warwickshire countryside on the edge of Shakespeare's Stratford on Avon, turned up contrasting situations.

Two pairs of barn owls were raising their second clutches of the year with 7 and 5 chicks respectively and the adults were so busy trying to feed them that they were flying back and forth in the daytime within 20 feet of us. A wonderful sight!

The next thing that struck me however took a bit of time to sink in. Tracks pass through long avenues of trees throughout the Park and they were strangely tidy.

The removal of all low branches and shoots by heavy deer browsing was responsible and almost certainly reduces the suitability of woodland for some species of birds.

The National Trust who manage this Park try and balance things by having fenced-off copses where the deer cannot interfere.

Studies have apparently shown that numbers of birds especially migrants like nightingales were much lower in deer-browsed coppice than areas protected from deer.

Some species however, prefer open woodland created by grazing so a balance has to be struck. Another trick the Trust uses is not to mow back nettles which grow under some species of tree as these deter the deer to some extent.

Other problems that deer cause are hard to prevent and a case can be made that we need to start culling in some areas to reduce their impact. They can strip bark killing quite well established trees.

Deer can reduce the diversity of tree species and regeneration, by eating seeds, that also hits food supplies for birds. Management is easier in enclosed estates but even at Charlecote wild muntjac are present and they grub about in the soil killing off a number of rare wild flower species. Wild boar do the same and there are culls of these creatures being organised.

I hope some come my way as they are rather tasty.

NO MOOR TO GROUSE ABOUT?

Our moorlands are struggling. These wild areas of peat bog and rocky and outcrops are coming under increasing pressure, not only having an impact on the wildlife they support but having a direct affect on our lives. Only about 4% of uplands are in "good ecological condition" and we need to start encouraging them back to a healthy ecosystem. These moors are carbon sinks cleaning up poor air and fighting climate change and also hold back water preventing fast run off and flooding down stream.

Fortunately at last if somewhat belatedly, many environmental organizations are campaigning for protection and restoration.

One of the creatures most hit by the state of our moorland is the iconic Black Grouse. This is one of the most rapidly vanishing birds in the UK. Once found all over Britain, not only have overall numbers dived in

the last 30 years but populations have become isolated from each other, weakening the gene pool. Now only found in a few upland areas of England and Wales they are not doing much better in Scotland.

The Welsh population is clawing its way back with serious help from conservationists, but numbers are still small and confined to a few areas. There is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan for black grouse.

There are now thought to be about 5000 lekking males. Numbers, whilst low, are stable or increasing in Wales and northern England, but it is a mixed picture in Scotland where populations in some areas are still seeing severe decline.

In England, they have vanished from many counties. A hundred years ago they could be found on the heath lands of southern England, in Hampshire and Dorset and as late as the 1960s, a small number leeked on Dartmoor and Exmoor. These have all gone now. The Staffordshire moorlands including Cannock Chase saw them as recently as 1997, as did Lancashire but no more.

The bird is now restricted to the North Pennines and parts of Northumberland and North Yorkshire. The bulk of the population is found on the fringes of moorlands managed for red grouse. We did see one close up on the Hardraw meet looking as wet and miserable as we were.

As with all threatened species, it is probable that no single factor is responsible and it will not be the same in different parts of the UK. Major landscape changes, especially in the uplands with more intensive farming and large-scale forestry, played a large part due to loss of habitat but to differing extents, predation, shooting and weather have played a part.

Black grouse tend not to disperse very far, so there is less chance of new blood and isolation of groups with weakening genetic make up makes them more prone to disease.

The weather can have a substantial affect on breeding, with chicks very susceptible to bad weather during midsummer when they are hatching.

Changes in weather patterns and the overall global climate are unlikely to help in this regard. Global warming actually leads to more extremes including colder and wetter snaps when nature does not expect it. Generally warmer weather helps some creatures and we have seen an extension in range of some butterflies. Trends may be kinder to creatures in general but the increasing brief anomalies can be disastrous in breeding seasons.

OBITUARIES

DAVID LAUGHTON 1929-2014

A member of the Club, until fairly late in his life, David died in November. He joined the YRC in 1973 and was for five years the Club Treasurer and followed that with three years as our Auditor.

Born in Skelmanthorpe, then a mining and textiles village between Huddersfield and Wakefield, David is quoted as saying that he thinks his lifelong interests began as he roamed around slag heaps and disused colliery workings or went bird nesting in pleasant countryside. His love of travel started with cycling to Wakefield to watch canal boats. He remembers the village barber telling him that as he had a double crown, he was destined to travel. He is on record as having said he should like to write a book with that title but to the best of my knowledge he never did.

Camping with the Boy Scouts at Askrigg in 1945 probably really set him in his ways leading to much moorland walking and local rock climbing. Since leaving school David's leisure interests had passed through several different phases but all with a common theme - travel.

David moved to York in 1943 and qualified as a Chartered Secretary and Chartered Management Accountant. He worked in local government and for an Electricity Board for 9 years. Then during 32 years at Rowntrees, later Rowntree Mackintosh, he travelled extensively in Europe and the old Commonwealth countries as an internal auditor before retiring in 1986.

He was a founder member York Mountaineering Club in 1949. This led to mountaineering and trekking in all parts of the world (including four Alpine seasons, three months as member of the Yorkshire Himalayan Expedition in 1957. By the time he joined the Club in 1973 he had climbed in Scandinavia, Central Europe, Kenya and had been to Everest base camp.

Sailing was another love and he had his own 29-foot sailing cruiser for 14 years taking it round the North Sea and West Scotland and later with friends in Scandinavia, the Channel and the Mediterranean. He also enjoyed, trips on small cruise ships and ice breakers in the North West Passage, Bering Sea, North East Passage, and to Spitzbergen, Greenland, Antarctica (Peninsular and Ross Sea), the Chilean Fjords, Aleutian, Pitcairn and Easter Islands.

He delighted in what he described as "Exploratory travel" - Russia (mainly Siberia and Kamchatka), China, Central Asia, South America, Australia, New Zealand, Alaska, Java and a crossing of the Sahara by land rover. He gave slide presentations on the Club's winter meets following some of those trips.



David 1991, in Scotland, on his boat Tya

Later in life he took an increasing interest in natural history (as his hard walking ability declined) birds and flowers, again in many parts of the world. Unfortunately a leg injury resulting from a car accident in 2001 very much restricted his subsequent participation in the Club's and other outdoor activities.

David had visited mountain and remote areas all over the world and at least 80 different countries.

A full life indeed.

The Club was well represented at his funeral.

Roy Denney

HANS LOBENHOFFER 1916-2014

This renowned German climber has died aged 97. He was one of the team of four German on the 1939 reconnaissance expedition to Nanga Parbat, at 26,658ft the world's ninth highest mountain, ending with their internment by the British on the outbreak of the WW2.

His early climbing experience was in the Allgäu Alps. From 1937 to 1939 he took every opportunity to undertake serious trips to Berchtesgaden Alps whilst a soldier in the Berchtesgaden Mountain Regiment.

Nanga Parbat was subject to five reccies by the Germans between 1932 and 1938 which led to the deaths of eleven German mountaineers and eighteen porters.

In 1939 an alternative, shorter and steeper, but hopefully safer, three-mile route from the Diamir side of the mountain became the focus of their attentions and this four man team including, 23-year-old Hans, was selected to scout an alternative route for a summit attempt the following year. Back in 1895, this route had been attempted by the Brit. Mummery, who disappeared, assumed to have been killed by an avalanche.

Lobenhoffer and a colleague climbed the Mummery route, setting up two camps before abandoning the route in the face of huge avalanches, which took out their second camp. This was not before they had found some burnt wood at about 18,000 ft.

The four of them then tried a middle route and managed to establish four camps and located a potentially safe route to the summit. Two of them including Hans reached 20,300ft where they set up the fourth camp.

Nanga Parbat itself was finally climbed in 1953, in a remarkable solo attempt, by Hermann Buhl.

Hans was to spend most of the war as a PoW in Nova Scotia, until part of a prisoner exchange towards the end of the war.

He then returned to the mountains and could claim the first ascent of the south-east wall of the Kleinen Mühlsturzhorns in 1946, and the following year, the first winter ascent of the Gölltrichters. In 1948 on Schüsselkarturm he made the second ascent of the extremely challenging "Haystack". In 1949 he did the first climb of the south-west wall of the Kleinen Mühlsturzhorns.

Other remarkable climbs included the north wall of the Grand Charmoiz, the south-west wall of the Marmolata, the western battlements of the Cassin-Führe in winter, and the Dent du Crocodil on Mont Blanc.

During the fifties he was Chairman of a section of the German Alpine Club.

MIKE PINNEY

1951 2014

Mike died in March following a fall descending Pen yr Helgi Du in Snowdonia. He was Treasurer of the Alpine Club and also Chairman of Yeovil Mountaineering Club.

Originally from Warwickshire he made his home in the West County and worked for Westland Helicopters.

Always interested in hill walking, he first started going to the Alps in the early seventies and never looked back.

He also put a lot into the administration of the sport and after joining the Alpine Club, ran Alpine meets for many years. Following his retirement he had the chance to go even further afield, taking in Canada, Antarctica, India and Nepal.

As recently as 2012 he was climbing in the Himalayas knocking off several previously unclimbed peaks over 5000 metres.

This was followed by an AC trip to Antarctica and the following year, he was back in India adding to his list of first ascents in the Zanscar region.

GORDON TREVOR BOWRA

1936- 2014

Gordon Bowra was medical officer with the British Antarctic Survey in 1963. He was awarded the Polar Medal in 1971.

Gordon who died earlier this year aged 77, climbed all but one of the peaks in the Tottanfjella range in Antarctica while serving there for two years having been recruited by the explorer Sir Vivian Fuchs.



These climbs were part of a six-month long expedition spent nearly 200 miles from their base, surveying this area.

Their base was an underground research post at Halley Bay in an area of glaciers and crevasses on the edge of the Weddell Sea and the four climbers were part of a complement of 24 scientists.

Not unexpectedly many crevasses were hidden under recent snow and one colleague was lost to one. Bowra himself fell thirty feet into one but survived.

He had something of a charmed life as his primary school in the 'safe' area to which he had been evacuated was hit by a V2 rocket.

JOHN SCHOFIELD

1933 - 2014.

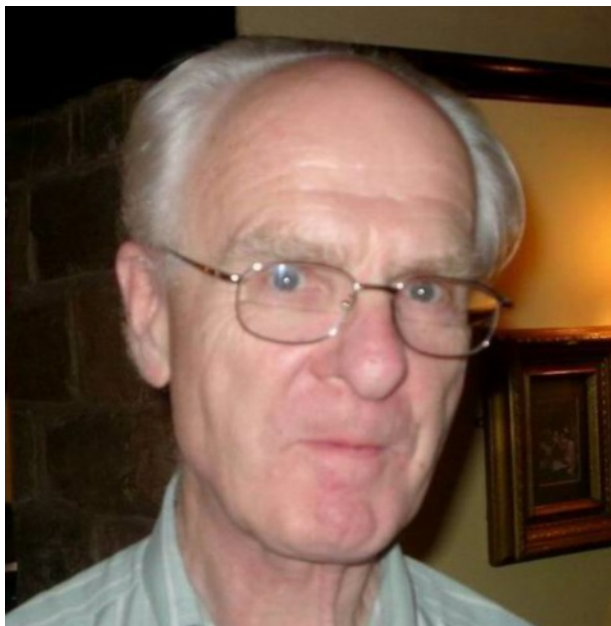
John joined the YRC in 1955, when his main interest was potholing – he was a member of the group that in 1957 accompanied John Hunt, leader of the successful Everest expedition, in the descent of Bar Pot and Gaping Ghyll.

With the demands of a growing family, John left the YRC 1965 for family reasons. He rejoined in 1988 becoming Club Secretary and then Auditor until 1997.

John initially returned to potholing, but his main interest became fell walking. His first meet back was down County Pot when Tim Josephy suggested members might like to try some easy potholing into the Lancaster system. About forty took up the offer and it took some handling.

It was unfortunately one of Brian Nicholson's last caving trips.

John was one of the organisers of the Club's meet to Iceland, and in 1992 was a member of the group in Norway commemorating the YRC centenary, when he was instrumental in organising some of the rescue facilities. He watched Derek Bush and Derek Smithson slide many hundreds of feet down a gully and then with Ken Aldred had to organise a helicopter rescue. Roger Allan had been killed a day earlier further North.



One of John's favourite phrases was "life is for living", and in fulfilling that aim, in addition to his YRC activities, he took part in fishing, fly-tying, sailing, scuba diving, water skiing, canoeing, family caravanning, carpentry, making jewellery, and in more recent years, foreign travel.

He and Pat travelled round the world in 2003 visiting a host of countries, including Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Hawaii and South Africa. John and Pat were strong supporters of the Ilkley U3A Travel Group, and with that group travelled to most European capital cities, as well as to Uzbekistan, Turkey, Cuba, Georgia and Armenia; it was in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, that in 2011 John stoically underwent emergency surgery, from which he made a complete recovery.

In recent years he had great pleasure in taking his grandchildren camping and introducing them to the outdoor life that he so much appreciated.

John's interests were many and diverse, but first and foremost he truly adored his family, Pat, Rachel, Matthew and four grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed.

Alan Kay.

BERNARD STONEHOUSE

1926 - 2014

This experienced polar scientist spent three consecutive winters in the Antarctic — and unlike many in that era, was fortunate to live to talk about it later.

There is an old saying about from Hull to hell and back and Bernard could claim that accolade.

He was born in Hull.



He first went to Antarctica in 1946 as a naval pilot of the Fleet Air Arm, with the Falkland Islands Dependency Survey which subsequently became the British Antarctic Survey.

His roles were also acting as a meteorologist and biologist, and handling the dog sleds.

Drama intervened in 1947 when crewing their Auster aircraft and bad weather forced them into an emergency landing on sea ice, flipping over onto its back after a ski hit a hummock of ice.

The crew of three was forced to make an improvised camp using a two man tent and one sleeping bag and almost no food.

Next day unable to attract the attention of a rescue aircraft they had to attempt to walk the seventy miles back to base but after ten grueling miles, the snow set in. Fighting on the next few days they managed at best only four miles a day, dragging their meager possessions on a sled improvised from the plane's fuel tank.

It got worse — a tremendous gale saw them tent bound for a further three hungry days.

After the gale they set off again. A week after their crash, they heard the welcome drone of an aircraft engine and used their last flare to attract it and they were rescued by an American aircraft. Done in but otherwise largely unharmed!

During his second year he made long dog-sled journeys, for Vivian Fuchs, who by then was in command of the base.

His polar career took him all over the place, studying seabirds on Ascension Island and king penguins on South Georgia.

CLUB PROCEEDINGS

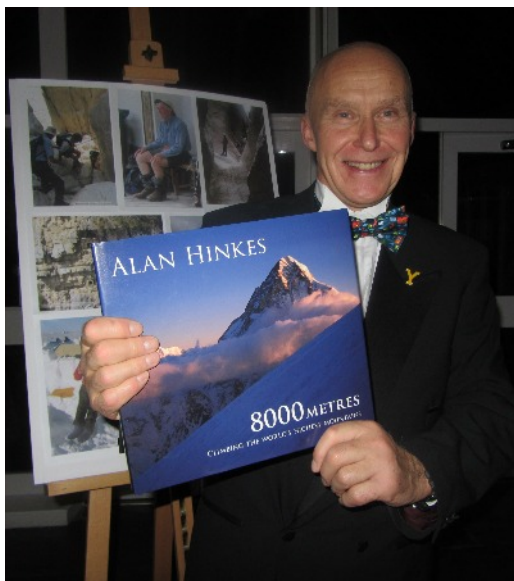
ANNUAL DINNER

The formal dinner was held at the Coniston Hall Hotel on 15th of November preceded by a presentation by our Principal Guest Alan Hinkes OBE. Alan was born in Northallerton.

Alan gave a very interesting and amusing talk on the benefits of being from Yorkshire and touched upon his experiences of climbing all fourteen of the 8000 metre peaks. A number of dramatic photographs were shown portraying the harsh reality and risks inherent at high altitude in the mountains.

In the gap whilst places were being laid members had a chance to look at a display of photographs by members and Alan had the chance to show us his book.

At the end of his presentation our President, Michael Smith gave him a boxed scroll declaring him to be an Honorary Member of the Club which he was delighted to accept.



Alan Hinkes donated two copies of his book to the Club; one each for our Lowstern and Low Hall Garth Cottages.

Members and our guests then sat down to an excellent meal.

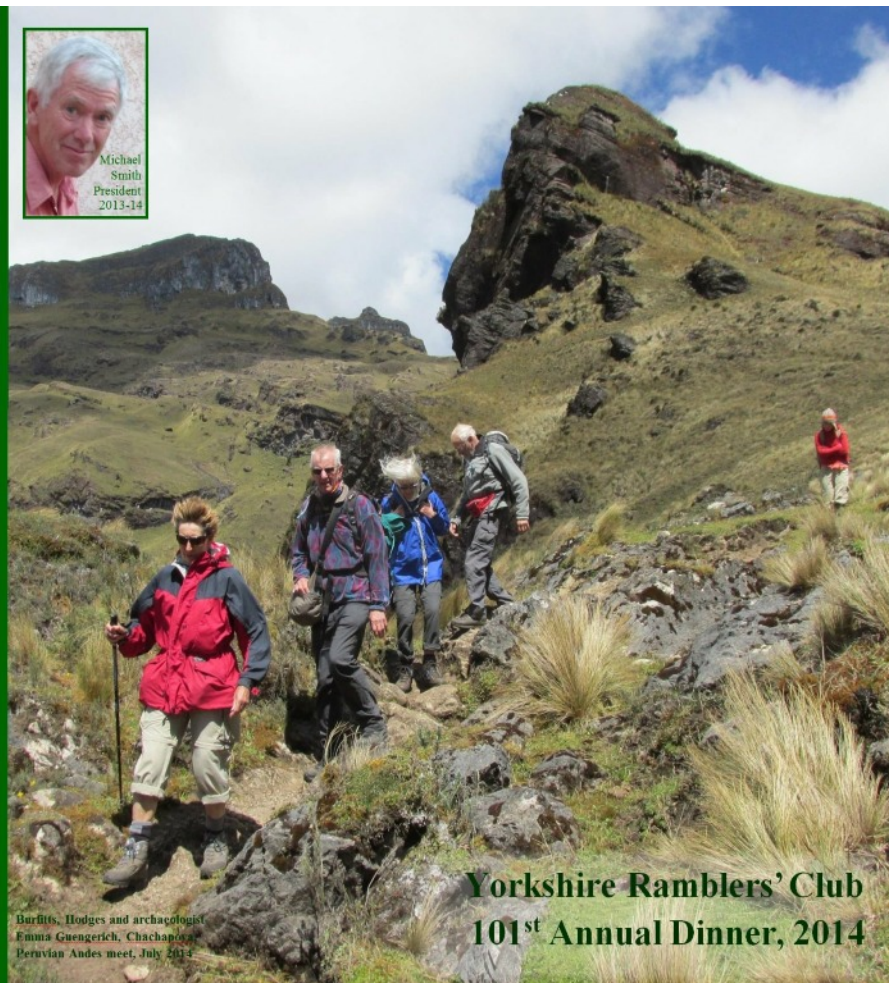


John Brown and Tim Josephy
Barranco del Inferno ascent,
Costa Blanca meet, March 2014



Michael
Smith
President
2013-14

Barfitts, Hodges and archaeologist
Emma Guengerich, Chachapoyas
Peruvian Andes meet, July 2014



Yorkshire Ramblers' Club 101st Annual Dinner, 2014

The Club's Guests

Principal Guest – Alan Hinkes OBE

Craven Pothole Club – President, Steve Pickersgill

Gritstone Club – Vice President, Chris Ambler

Rucksack Club – Archivist, Mike Dent

Wayfarers' Club – President, Bruce Hassell

Toasts

Master of Ceremonies – David Large

The Queen proposed by Tim Josephy

Absent Friends proposed by John Hemingway

Kindred Clubs and Guests proposed by The President

Yorkshire Ramblers' Club proposed by Alan Hinkes



First ascent of Iqjarjayukaksu, 'Old Men's Peak', in North Liverpool Land, Greenland, Michael Smith & Peter Chadwick (photographer), 29 April 2014

Menu

☺ Starter ☺

Beetroot Gravadlax, Pickled Quail Egg, Horseradish Dressing and Anchovy Mayonnaise

or Braised Yorkshire Pig's Cheek, Pork Ballotine, wrapped in Parma Ham with Apple and Black Pudding Croquette

or Seasonal Soup with Freshly Baked Bread Roll

☺ Main ☺

Rump of Yorkshire Lamb, Dauphinoise Potatoes, Warm Tomato and Red Pepper Layers with Watercress Black Pepper Dressing

or North Atlantic Sea Bream, Potato Rosti, Fennel Tomato and Balsamic Dressing

or Butternut Squash Risotto with Pine Kernels and Sage

or Roast Sirloin of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding

☺ Dessert ☺

Chocolate Marquise with Raspberries and Cream

or Sticky Toffee Pudding with Butterscotch Sauce and Yorkshire Parkin Ice Cream

or Selection of Local Cheeses, Celery, Grapes, Biscuits, Dundee Cake and Mrs B's Chutney



Tea or Coffee and Petit Fours

Yorkshire Ramblers' Club
101st Annual Dinner
Coniston Hall Hotel, Coniston Cold,
15th November 2014

Members and other guests attending

G	John Farrer (Ingleborough Estate)				
G	Jane McOuat	M	Frank Walker	M	Carol Whalley
M	John Whalley	M	Iain Gilmour	M	Harvey Lomas
M	Michael Smith	M	Richard Josephy	M	Peter Moss
M	Shaun Penny	G	Alexa Wightman	M	Richard Smith
G	Margaret Dent	M	Tim Lofthouse	G	Laura Cavanagh
M	Alan Kay	M	Dave Martindale	M	Frank Wilkinson
M	Tony Smythe	M	Trevor Salmon	M	Paul Dover
G	Sonia Smythe	G	Ann Salmon	G	Anne Dover
M	David Hick	M	Gordon Humphreys	G	Roger Horn
M	Helen Smith	G	Fiona Humphreys	M	Derek Bush
G	Barbara Pickersgill	M	John Middleton	M	Iain Chapman
M	Alan Linford	G	Valerie Middleton	G	Anne Chapman
G	Angie Linford	M	Richard Gowing	G	Claire Chapman
M	Ian Laing	M	Richard Dover	G	Ian Ferguson
G	Una Laing	G	Ann Dover	G	Caron Ferguson
M	Phil Dover	M	Jason Humphreys	M	Ged Champion
G	Evelyn Dover	G	Judy Humphreys	G	Bev Champion
M	Dennis Armstrong	G	Rebecca Humphreys	G	Imogen Champion
G	Joan Armstrong	M	Tim Josephy	G	Aaron Champion
M	Robert Crowther	M	Rachel Evans	G	Tanya Wild
M	Harry Robinson	M	Martyn Trasler	G	Holly Wild
M	John Hemingway	M	Roy Denney	G	Lucas Wild
M	Peter Chadwick	M	Richard Taylor	M	Tony Penny
M	Ken Aldred	M	Arthur Salmon	G	Valerie Penny
G	Kevin Walsh	G	Conrad Murphy	M	Mick Borroff
M	Albert Chapman	M	David Handley	G	Hilary Tearle
G	Sammy Chapman	G	Liz Holmes	G	Garry Chapman
M	Ian Crowther	M	Derek English	G	Jo Chapman
M	John Jenkin	M	David Large	G	Rory Chapman
M	David Gamble	M	Cliff Large		

52 Members, 44 Guests

AGM

Prior to the annual dinner we held our annual general meeting. As a part of those proceedings our retiring President reflected on his time in office.

“ Firstly I thank all you gentlemen and ladies for your support in so many ways over these two years of my Presidency. Though demanding it has been an interesting two years and through it I have been more than ably supported by Harvey Lomas as Vice President, all the Officers, and meet leaders.

Since the 100th Annual Dinner last year, your Committee have not been resting on their laurels. Meets are perhaps the most prominent aspect of their work. The Scottish winter meets were not kind to us and despite battling the weather few tops were reached.



The first meet organised by a female member was at Hardraw where we were filmed by the BBC albeit inadvertently and just round the corner was the social meet at Simonstone Hall - both those gave us some poor weather. What a contrast it was between those two meets: one amidst scores of friendly beery leather-clad bikers, the other in soft-cushioned splendour with silver service. A similar contrast was observed between the two early-season options, caravans in the Kielder Forest for the bike ride meet and the magnificent Costa Blanca Villa in Calpe complete with tennis court, pool and fountain.

Better luck with the weather was experienced overseas on that Spanish meet and on the cultural trek in the Chachapoya area of Northern Peru. Both were well attended meets with a variety of activities. I missed the Galloway meet and the joint meet but I hear they went well. I'm certainly looking forward to our return to Hag Dyke.

That summarises another good year of official meets. There were more besides with the Tuesday Lowstern walks, monthly grave-dodgers meets and small groups of members continuing to go off on their own adventurous and exploratory trips above and below ground.

Your Committee are working at attracting new members and there are new faces here now, and more due at the dinner tonight.



The AGM was held at the Coniston Hotel, Skipton on November 15th with 47 members present.

After a minutes silence to remember members who had passed away since the last AGM, officers' reports were debated and adopted and the President, officers and committee were elected for 2015.

The appointments were:

President	John Whalley
Vice President	Robert Crowther
Hon Secretary	Tim Josephy
Hon Treasurer	Martyn Trasler
Huts Secretary	Richard Josephy
Membership Secretary	Mick Borroff
Lowstern Warden	Richard Sealey
LHG Warden	Alister Renton
Webmaster	Andy Syme

We have contracted out improvements to the website and the re-programming needed to restore and sustain some of its lost functions - especially signing up for meets online and being able to see who else is going. Once that is sorted we have a pilot of an advert planned to widen our catchment.

Last year I asked members to consider taking on some of the Club's posts and I am pleased to see two new faces taking on responsibilities. After a couple of years with perhaps more emphasis on the mountaineering than the caving I hand over this weekend to John Whalley who will undoubtedly help to redress the balance.

Another new face we will welcome later this evening is Alan Hinkes OBE who I will invite to accept honorary membership of the YRC.

Incidentally, talking to the officers of other Clubs they are surprised that we secured Kenton Cool last year and Alan this year at no more cost than their overnight accommodation. Both those generous acts of support, our regular invitations to the SMC Dinners and to the BMC's 70th anniversary Dinner all testify to the esteem in which the Club is held.

Thank you for a packed two years which I finish physically incapacitated but pleased to see the Club in good health.

Michael Smith

Other committee members:

Rachel Evans
Peter Elliott
Harvey Lomas

Officers not on the committee

Honorary Editor	Roy Denney
Hon. Auditor	Richard Taylor
Hon Librarian	Arthur Salmon
Hon Archivist	Alan Linford
Tacklemaster	Ged Campion

At last year's AGM we had 167 Members including Honorary Members. Since then, we have gained two new Members but have lost eleven; four who died, five who resigned and two who are deemed to have resigned. We therefore end the year with a headcount of 158 but we have increased the number of Prospective Members currently on file to six.

New Life Members: Ken Aldred, Peter Elliott and Richard Lee.

New Members: Pete Latham and Helen Smith.

Died: Dr John Farrer, Dr Paul Roberts, Bill Todd and John Schofield.

Resigned: Nick Beale, Martin Woods, Adrian Dixon, Frank Platt and Alan Wood. Deemed to have resigned: Graham Dootson, Ian Willcock.

Prospective Members: Liz Alderson, Peter Bann, Richard Garbutt, Pat Jeffcoate, Louise Robinson and Daniel Rumble.

The outgoing President, Michael Smith thanked those officers and committee members who were leaving their posts, in particular Arthur Salmon and Derek Bush, having given so many years of service to the Club.

Derek Bush has had his name in the Handbook holding some sort of position in the Club continuously since 1972 when he was put on the Committee. He is stepping down as Auditor but still coordinates the Tuesday walks based on Lowstern.

Michael Smith announced that John Schofield's widow, Pat, had made a donation to the Club in John's memory. The committee had decided to have a bench made to be sited opposite the entrance door of Low Hall Garth.

He closed the proceedings by announcing that he intended to offer Honorary Membership to the Principal Guest, Alan Hinkes after his lecture. This was approved by the meeting

1892 - 2017 Club's 125th Year's Journal.

As part of our celebrations to mark this milestone in the clubs history I have started work on a special bumper edition reflecting our past but principally covering the last 25 years and 'selling' the club. That leaves me about two years to pull it together. It will include reworked material from our journals but if members have any really good photographs they will make it a brighter publication. It will make more use of colour and be about twice the size of a normal journal. The committee has yet to decide on how many to print and where to distribute them.

Our electronic record is such that I can only capture older photographs in a form fit to reproduce going back for about 10 years. A few older ones are available but not many. I want to give details of the many places round the world that we have visited either formally as a Club or as informal groups of members or solo trips.

In recent times I have tried a to attribute photographs but earlier articles did not, and as such a good a part of the material I will probably use cannot be put down to named individuals and so I intend that in the interests of consistency, I attribute nothing. I don't intend to mention names at all but just talk of what we do and where we go.

If you have any good photos especially from distant parts please email them to me with a brief note on when and where, even if they have been used before.

If you want to post them to me I can scan them here and return them to you

Roy Denney, Editor

LIBRARY

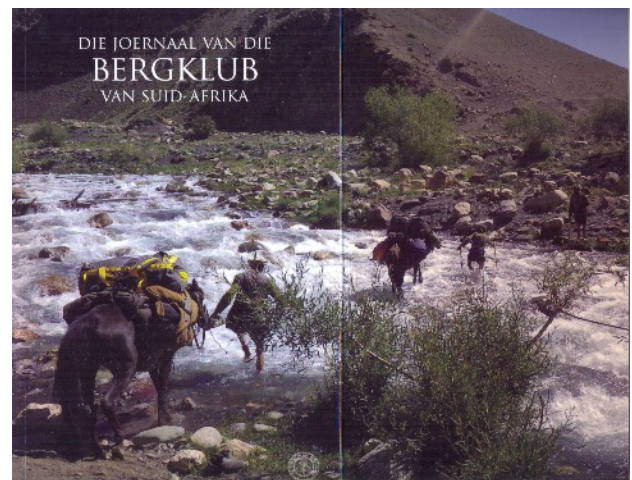
Latest additions to material in the library at Lowstern
Include:

Latest Journal of the Grampian Speleological Group

Latest Journal of the Alpine Club

and just received to be added shortly:

Latest journal of the Mountain Club of South Africa



ROLL OF HONOUR

PRESIDENTS

1892-93 Geo T Lowe
 1893-03 Wm Cecil Slingsby
 1903-06 Alfred Barran
 1906-09 Rev LS Calvert
 1909-12 Lewis Moore
 1912-19 Walter Parsons
 1919-22 WA Brigg
 1922-23 JC Atkinson
 1923-25 EE Roberts
 1925-27 F Leach
 1927-29 HH Bellhouse
 1929-30 TS Booth
 1930-31 T Gray
 1931-32 AE Horn
 1932-34 WV Brown
 1934-36 A Rule
 1936-38 JM Davidson
 1938-46 C Chubb
 1946-48 H Armstrong
 1948-50 CE Burrow
 1950-52 Davis Burrow
 1952-54 J Hilton
 1954-56 HL Stenbridge
 1956-58 S Marsden
 1958-60 TH Godley
 1960-62 FW Stenbridge
 1962-64 RE Chadwick
 1964-66 WPB Stonehouse
 1966-68 EC Downham
 1968-70 EM Tregoning
 1970-72 AB Craven
 1972-74 BE Nicholson
 1974-76 JB Devenport
 1976-78 FD Smith
 1978-80 JP Barton
 1980-82 WR Lofthouse
 1982-84 WA Linford
 1984-86 JD Armstrong
 1986-88 PC Swindells
 1988-90 AC Brown
 1990-92 DA Smithson
 1992-94 GA Salmon
 1994-96 CD Bush
 1996-98 TW Josephy
 1998-00 WCI Crowther
 2000-02 AR Chapman
 2002-04 TA Kay
 2004-06 K Aldred
 2006-08 FM Godden
 2008-10 AD Bridge
 2010 -12 PRP Chadwick
 2012 -14 M. Smith
 2014 - JC Whalley

HONORARY MEMBERS (PAST)

1892 Edward Whympier
 1892 Wm Cecil Slingsby
 1892 Clinton T Dent
 1892 8th Duke of Devonshire

1892 Charles E Matthews
 1892 The Earl of Wharnccliffe
 1893 Charles Pilkington
 1893 Charles F Tetley
 1893 Gerald W Balfour, MP
 1893 Sir W Martin Conway
 1900 Horace Walker
 1907 Sir Alfred Hopkinson
 1907 EA Martel
 1907 G Winthrop Young
 1909 Dr Norman Collie
 1909 James Anson Farrer
 1921 George Yeld
 1921 George T Lowe
 1923 Charles Scriven
 1925 Canon AD Tupper-Carey
 1939 Sydney J Farrer
 1939 Walter Parsons
 1946 Robert de Joly
 1949 Ernest E Roberts
 1955 Sir R Charles Evans
 1956 Harry Spilsbury
 1959 Fred Booth
 1959 Davis Burrow
 1965 Clifford Chubb
 1965 Jack Hilton
 1968 E. Cliff Downham
 1968 Stanley Marsden
 1968 HG Watts
 1977 HL Stenbridge
 1985 A David M Cox
 1988 Dr John Farrer
 1998 Major W Lacy
 1990 F David Smith

HONORARY MEMBERS (CURRENT)

1997 Derek Bush
 2001 Alan Brown
 2003 Alan Linford
 2008 Iain Gilmour
 2008 Gordon Humphreys
 2008 John Lovett
 2008 Motup Goba
 2010 Albert Chapman
 2012 Arthur Salmon
 2014 Alan Hinkes

VICE PRESIDENTS

1892-93 H Slater
 1919-22 EE Roberts
 1892-93 G Arnold
 1921-23 F Constantine
 1893-94 G T Lowe
 1922-24 P Robinson
 1893-94 L Moore
 1923-25 JF Seaman
 1898-00 Rev LS Calvert
 1924-26 M Botterill
 1899-01 JC Atkinson
 1925-27 L Moore

1900-02 A Barran
 1926-28 W Villiers Brown
 1901-03 Dr Tempest Anderson
 1927-29 CE Benson
 1902-04 Dr FH Mayo
 1928-30 CE Burrow
 1903-05 W Parsons
 1929-31 WA Wright
 1904-06 JA Green
 1930-32 C Chubb
 1908-10 F Leach
 1931-33 GL Hudson
 1909-11 C Hastings
 1932-34 FS Smythe
 1910-12 A Rule
 1933-35 JM Davidson
 1911-13 JH Buckley
 1934-35 GA Potter-Kirby
 1912-14 CA Hill
 1935-37 J Hilton
 1913-19 AE Horn
 1935-37 H Humphreys
 1914-19 H Brodrick
 1937-46 A Humphreys
 1919-21 CRB Wingfield
 1938-46 H Armstrong
 1946-48 D Burrow
 1946-48 AL Middleton
 1948-49 GS Gowing
 1948-50 GC Marshall
 1949-50 HG Watts
 1950-52 S Marsden
 1950-53 J Godley
 1952-54 FS Booth
 1953-55 FW Stenbridge
 1954-56 RE Chadwick
 1955-57 GB Spenceley
 1956-58 CW Jorgensen
 1957-59 JA Holmes
 1958-60 JE Cullingworth
 1959-61 J Lovett
 1960-62 WPB Stonehouse
 1961-63 MF Wilson
 1962-64 EC Downham
 1963-65 BE Nicholson
 1964-66 JA Dosser
 1965-67 FD Smith
 1966-68 MD Bone
 1967-69 AR Chapman
 1968-70 JD Driscoll
 1969-71 J Hemingway
 1970-72 EJ Woodman
 1971-73 WA Linford
 1972-74 AJ Reynolds
 1973-75 JG Brook
 1974-76 JP Barton
 1975-77 WR Lofthouse
 1976-78 J Williamson
 1977-79 N Newman
 1978-80 J Stuttard
 1979-81 GA Salmon
 1980-82 PC Swindells
 1981-83 DA Smithson
 1982-84 TW Josephy

1984-86 GR Turner
 1985-87 AC Brown
 1986-88 R Cowing
 1987-89 CR Allen
 1988-90 DRH Mackay
 1990-92 WCI Crowther
 1992-94 H Robinson
 1994-96 K Aldred
 1996-98 IFD Gilmour
 1998-00 DA Hick
 2000-02 DJ Handley
 2002-04 G Champion
 2004-06 FM Godden
 2006-08 RA Kirby
 2008-10 M Borroff
 2010 -12 PA Dover
 2012 -14 HA Lomas
 2014 - RM Crowther

MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE ALPINE CLUB (CURRENT)

MB Borroff
 G Champion
 AR Chapman
 PRP Chadwick
 R Gowing
 DA Hick
 A Renton
 M Smith
 CM Goba

LIFE MEMBERS

Aldred, K
 Armstrong, JD
 Bush, CD
 Casperson, JD
 Chadwick, PRP
 Clayton, WD
 Crowther, WCI
 Denney, RJ
 Elliott, PA
 Ellis, J
 Errington, RD
 Farrant, DJ
 Gowing, R
 Hamlin, JF
 Handley, DJ
 Harben, R
 Hemmingway, J
 Hobson, MP
 Holmes, D
 Hooper, JH
 Humphreys, H
 Humphries, RG
 Ince, GR
 Jones, G
 Josephy, TW
 Kay, TA
 Kinder, MJ
 Laing, IG
 Large, C

Lee, Richard
 Lofthouse, TR
 Lofthouse, WR
 Lomas, H
 Mackay, DRH
 Marr, AM
 Middleton, JI
 Middleton, JR
 Middleton, RM
 Oxtoby, DM
 Pomfret, RE
 Renton, K
 Roberts, PD
 Robinson, H
 Rowlands, C
 Salmon, RT
 Salmon, TW
 Short, J
 Smith, M
 Smith, SH
 Smith, TH
 Smithson, DA
 Stemberge, DW
 Stemberge, SW
 Sterland, JH
 Sykes, PW
 Tallon, A
 Tetlow, DM
 Thompson, MJ
 Varney, JA
 Whalley, JC
 Wilkinson, B
 Wilkinson, F

TREASURERS

1892-93 HH Bellhouse
 1893-99 H Slater
 1899-04 J Davis
 1904-21 AE Horn
 1921-24 C Chubb
 1924-51 BA Bates
 1951-78 S Marsden
 1978-83 D Laughton
 1984-90 JD Armstrong
 1990-98 TA Kay
 1998-12 GA Salmon
 2012 - MB Trasler

AUDITORS

1967 - 83 GR Turner
 1983 - 90 JH Sterland
 1990 - 93 JA Schofield
 1993 - 97 D Lawton
 1997 - 14 CD Bush
 2014 - RM Taylor

SECRETARIES

1892-93 JA Green
 1893-98 HH Bellhouse
 1898-09 L Moore
 1910-20 F Constantine
 1920-24 CE Burrow
 1924-29 J Buckley
 1929-46 D Burrow

1946-52 FS Booth
 1952-56 JE Cullingworth
 1956-57 CR Allen
 1957-66 EC Downham
 1966-68 FD Smith
 1968-79 EC Downham
 1979-83 J Hemingway
 1983-93 CD Bush
 1993-96 JA Schofield
 1996-08 RG Humphreys
 2008-12 RA Kirby
 2012 - TW Josephy

ASSISTANT SECRETARIES

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

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

2008- M. Boroff

MEETS SECRETARY

1996-09 JH Hooper

EDITORS

1899-09 T Gray
 1909-20 W Anderton Brigg
 1920-49 E E Roberts
 1949-70 HG Watt
 1970-83 AB Craven
 1984-90 AC Brown
 1990-93 DJ Atherton
 1993-03 M Smith
 2003--- R J Denney

HONORARY ASSISTANT EDITORS

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

HUTS SECRETARIES

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

WARDENS

LOW HALL GARTH

1952-55 GB Spenceley
 1955-59 A Tallon
 1959-73 JD Driscoll
 1973-76 FD Smith
 1976-78 GP Postill
 1978-84 N Newman
 1986-89 WA Linford
 1986-98 FD Smith
 1998-01 D English
 2001-02 M Edmundson
 2002-07 IFD Gilmour
 2007 -08 G Dootson
 2008 - 12 RG Humphreys
 2012 - 14 GA Salmon
 2014 - A Renton

WARDENS

LOWSTERN

1958-64 J Lovett
 1964-67 J Richards
 1967-72 CG Renton
 1972-74 JTM Teasdale
 1974-76 A Hartley
 1976-78 JA Varney
 1978-79 GP Postill
 1979-82 WCI Crowther
 1982-86 C Bauer
 1987-88 J Lovett
 1988-90 H Robinson
 1990-93 FM Godden
 1993-96 GR Salmon
 1996-00 FM Godden
 2000-05 RA Kirby
 2005-09 J Lovett
 2010-12 DB Wood
 2012- RJ Sealey

WEBMASTERS

2001-08 CG RENTON
 2008-09 A Renton
 2009- A Syme

LIBRARIANS

1899-03 F Constantine
 1903-24 JH Buckley
 1924-27 C D Frankland
 1927-29 JK Crawford
 1929-30 W Allsup
 1930-35 J Buckley
 1935-39 R Rimmer
 1946-48 HS Booth
 1948-49 DS Blair
 1949-58 HL Stemberge
 1958-62 JG Brook
 1962-71 AB Craven
 1971-79 JG Brook
 1979-96 R Harben
 1996-98 MP Pryor
 1998-03 WN Todd
 2003- 12 AR Chapman
 2012 -14 RG Humphreys
 2014 - GA Salmon

TACKLEMASTER

2010 - G Champion

ARCHIVIST

2009 - 11 JH Hooper
 2012 - WA Linford

GETTING ABOUT

By spring we should see the Deregulation Bill pass into law. It is currently going through its various review stages in parliament. It is likely to have far reaching effects across a lot of British life but will also impact on our ability to enjoy the countryside.

It will introduce new legislation as to how footpaths are protected and the legal processes for the adoption, diversion and extinguishment of rights of way. It is intended that that it should simplify and speed up the process allowing them to introduce the 2026 cutoff date for any footpath claims based on historical evidence.

The Coalition has committed to having our coastal 'path' and spreading room all agreed by 2020. Many of us are a bit cynical about government promises as we approach an election but this right to walk round our coast looks fairly secure now regardless as to the complexion of our next government as it was the Labour party that introduced this programme.

A new digital green-space map for walkers setting out which parts of the countryside they can wander through is to be published by the Ordnance Survey as was confirmed as part of the autumn statement. The OS is creating a free online map of all publicly-accessible green space in England and Wales, and have called on the local authorities for details. The data will be made freely available on the internet but cannot be in tablets of stone and money has been set aside to keep it up to date. New maps setting out cycle paths and named trails will be able to be published using the information. We have never had all areas that people can walk in and enjoy shown together in one place and hopefully it means more people can find green space near where they live and enjoy it in their daily lives and is a logical extension of the benefits of our 'Right to Roam' created under the CRoW Act and introduced in 2005.

The extent of this new map is not yet entirely clear but will show our right of access to most areas of mountain, moor, heath, down and common land, presumably the coastal path/spreading room being created, national and public parks etc and hopefully permissive access land.

As always there is a down side.

As we quite rightly encourage more people to enjoy the great outdoors for the sheer pleasure of it and their health and general wellbeing we do need to ensure they feel safe out there, know where footpaths lead to and how to behave in what to many of them is an unknown environment.

This is an educational matter. People do walk on private land, mountain and off road cyclists do use 'foot'paths and cyclist on shared routes do go too fast for the safety of other users. People do get lost and do go out wearing inappropriate gear.



Better sign posts where footpaths near population centres leave public highways would help.

A finger post saying footpath is of little help or encouragement to a novice walker who does not have a map. How far to where would be useful. We have all seen boards in Alpine villages which show sketch maps and detail whether there are stiles etc.

One of the more popular types of walks for people new to the concept is unfortunately very popular with occasional cyclists. Converted rail tracks made into long distance trails can be a nightmare. Cycle hire centres abound but few give out any codes of conduct or details of where hirers can and can't ride. Even in schools most cycling proficiency work does not include such material.

If things do go wrong the rescue organisations have to pick up the pieces and many of these are voluntary organisations (Lifeboats, air ambulance, fell and cave rescue etc). At last the government has recognised this and has made changes to taxation rules aimed at removing this burden from them.

Eighty years after the 1932 Kinder Scout Trespass we do seem to be getting somewhere on where we can walk but I am not sure we can say the same about the overall traffic strategy of the UK.

Those of us trying to go north for a meet on a Friday know only too well how the road system is grinding to a halt. Two of us spent well over five hours driving from the Midlands to get to the AGM meet near Skipton.

The Chancellor's Autumn Statement promised a lot of major improvements and whether you think this is electioneering or not or doubt many of them will really happen it all begs the question as to whether we are just moving the problem further up the road. Unfortunately providing additional capacity for cars should be avoided, not only due to the impacts on the environment etc, but also as such additional capacity just generates new traffic and undermines a shift to more sustainable forms of travel.

We basically have too many people on the road at the same time and whenever we build more roads we encourage more driving and nothing improves. The biggest issue is that so many people live in the North but work most of the week in the South East travelling home for weekends.

In the most congested spots next to or in urban areas, public transport should be given priority as part of any junction works and subsidies into bus and coach travel might well prove cheaper than building bigger roads.

Coaches are highly efficient users of roads; the average scheduled coach apparently removing the equivalent of one mile of other traffic off a motorway.

Many major roads pass through and by wonderful areas doing absolutely nothing for the peace and tranquillity of the area and are often visually obtrusive blots on the landscape. Busy motorways, such as the M6 next to the Lake District, or the M1 cutting through Charnwood Forest, contribute very negatively to the landscape due to their sheer size and the street 'furniture'; the clutter of signage and gantries, roadside advertising and in some cases lighting.

The government is talking about laying of an additional 1,300 miles of concrete over our once green and pleasant land. As a motorist I welcome anything that might help but I fear the impact on ancient woodland and the scenic environment not to mention wildlife.

More rail capacity would help and, despite the economic case for HS2 being impossible to make without wild assumptions, a new line or lines would be good but forget the high speed bit. If designed for the present day speeds it could have more curves and could avoid many of the sensitive bits of our countryside it is at present going to spoil. It would come in a lot cheaper; saving a few minutes seems to come in at a very high price.

It is good to see they plan to improve the Hull to Liverpool route and there are other rail options about which could be and perhaps should be considered.

There is a detailed plan to reopen the Great Central railway as much of its track bed is still there. It is backed by several large retail companies as a freight line but could also have passenger capacity between London and the Midlands.

It could no longer run through Leicester and it is doubtful it could run into the centre of London because of subsequent developments and track capacity there. They are building a major freight gateway by East Midlands Airport and such a line could easily swing west of Leicester to reach this interchange which is also on the route of HS2 although not, for some inexplicable reason, the site of the East Midlands station.

In coastal areas, National Parks and areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty more efforts could be made to encourage a switch to public transport. In these areas expensive new roads might only be needed on a few days each year. These places of high leisure value are popular for their peacefulness but visitor numbers can destroy that. Wrynose and Little Langdale could shed much of its traffic if there was a regular Mountain Goat service.

The arguments usually go along the lines of car driver versus the environmental lobby but in reality it is just

patching up a dilapidated major road network totally failing to cope with today's demand. We have a rapidly expanding population who all want or need to get about and no matter what we do it will not be fit for purpose again within a few years. Whilst immigration means we have to build a new city the size of Leicester every year the road network is always going to be distorted.

We have to look at fundamental changes in the way we organise ourselves as this little island is full.

We keep destroying irreplaceable habitats, further endangering species already in trouble; losing green wedges and seeing communities swallowed up by their neighbours, all to little avail. Air quality and noise and light pollution get ever worse.

A number of campaigning groups got together recently, urging the Government to consider what they have called a green retrofit. I hate these jargon terms but their ideas seem to have considerable merit. The present network was built with little care about its effects on the environment and the communities through which roads run. By a programme of retrofitting older roads to new standards, they are looking to reduce noise, air and water pollution levels; improve landscape and visual impacts; mitigate wildlife and biodiversity impacts; and improve facilities for cyclists and pedestrians. Whilst it is too late to resolve the issue of severance of communities work can be done on bridges etc to try and redress the balance.

They look for the widening of travel choices and improving the quality and reliability of public transport together with reducing congestion and the general level of traffic with an associated reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

The extent that their suggestions have been taken on board will be judged when the fine print on these new schemes is issued.

As far as can be seen from reports an environment fund will get £300 million, 'retrofitting' the existing network is to receive £300 million with another £100 million for air quality. The breakdown of the environment fund includes £75 million for dealing with noise pollution by using noise barriers and resurfacing.

As large, linear infrastructures, main roads present a huge barrier to the movement and migration of wildlife: they split habitats reducing some species gene pools to unsustainably small numbers and harming ecosystems. Strangely though the Highways Agency's verges and roundabouts are one of the biggest land estates in the country and if appropriately managed could become valuable wildlife corridors. We do need some land bridges to try to mitigate the effects of new roads and many existing roads.

Major road and rail routes often cut ancient rights of way and if land bridges were created they could both allow for wildlife passage but also allow walkers to cross such routes safely.

This would be one sort of green retrofit that I would certainly support. These natural green bridges could create a valuable network of wildlife corridors and provide leisure walkers with ongoing routes.

Where would you start though?

The Wildlife Trusts have identified more than twenty large areas suffering from severe road impacts and that would be a good starting point.

In the past year, cycle-friendly improvements by the Highways Agency has seen fourteen projects given a total of £5 million.

CTC, the national cycling charity, and Sustrans are planning further schemes running into the hundreds but £15 million currently planned to be invested in these projects during the next year will not go very far.

HS2 is a major threat but it is also an opportunity. For example as the HS2 goes through Leicestershire, assuming it ever gets built, it will cut 64 rights of way and both the Ramblers and the Local Access Forum started a dialogue with them about how to manage the situation and use bridges and underpasses to provide network links with walkers and wildlife in mind.

As a major strategic issue it circumvents the normal planning system and rules but it does enjoy considerable powers and they can use compulsory purchase powers to buy land well off the track line. This does allow them to reroute footpaths from some way out rather than do weard diversions along trackside. This has meant that in Phase 1 some much improved paths have been created through better features. It is certainly advisable to get into discussions with them as early as possible.

It seems to have gone fairly quiet of late however and I suspect things are a bit on hold till the election.

Where woods and trees are concerned, the Lords have made a number of beneficial alterations to the Deregulation Bill, not least a clarification that the clause allowing for the transfer of so-called 'surplus' government land will not apply to the forest estate.

The Bill having passed through the House of Lords, now passes back to the Commons, for a 'Second Reading' and then more detailed scrutiny at Committee Stage, Report Stage, and finally a Third Reading. Final amendments are then considered by both the Lords and the Commons (at best probably early March), before the Bill is presented for Royal Assent.

Since this legislation was suggested there has been a lot of uncertainty and many projects put 'on hold' and it seems we must wait a little while yet.

There is no doubt that we need a complete rethink and a comprehensive transport and travel strategy but I don't expect anything to happen soon if ever so getting to meets is still going to be a drag.

We used to have one mid-week meet each year for the long bike riders but several of us used to attend with

walking in mind. The problem with such meets is of course that those still working are excluded but it may be something we should consider again. Apart from this an increasing number of members arrive for weekend meets on Thursday nights and /or leave on Mondays thus extending the meet and avoiding the worst traffic.

Perhaps again we should think of formally extending weekends to more than 2 days. When in our own properties we can do this informally but when hiring other clubs premises it needs to be organised.

Next time I crawl along in a queue of toxin belching vehicles heading to a meet and wonder whether it is really worth it I will have to grin and bear it in the knowledge that once there it will be a great release from the bustle of normal existence.

Whatever the time of year the wilder parts of the country have always something magical to offer.

Those members living further north may not realise it but quite apart from the obvious attractions of the hill country, until we get as far north the Three Peaks area, those of us from the South East and Midlands can almost never see more than a few stars because of the light pollution from our roads and urban areas.

The other option for the Club is to have occasional meets further south.

When they have been tried before they are not very well attended and we have to be careful about pre-committing for accommodation.

There are however many very good, if not high, upland areas and moorlands etc and there are there are of course the coastal paths. These can have considerable ups and downs and can equate to the climb of sizeable hills.

We have had well-received meets in Shropshire, Charnwood, South Wales and Cornwall and Devon and there is no reason why we should restrict our 'long walks' to the annual meet of that name.

There are lots of long distance trails we could tackle stretches of. One of the newest is the National Forest Way. (<http://www.nationalforestway.co.uk>)

This is over 75 miles from the National Forest Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to Beacon Hill Country Park in Charnwood Forest. Those who enjoyed the joint cycling and walking meet in Charnwood a few years ago can testify to how attractive the granit outcrops, rolling hills and the clear streams of Charnwood are. The first 25 miles going west is a very good walk with fine views.

There are numerous locations like this probably only worth using as a club once every 10 years or so but would give some variety and avoid the south north rat run. Doing it in reverse is against the tide so to speak and a lot easier.

It is really up to southern members to come up with suggestions and be prepared to help organise.

Roy Denney

MEETS REPORT

LOW HALL GARTH, LITTLE LANGDALE

July 18th-20th

This meet was attended by a select, high quality group from the club as several members were on the Peru trip. The week leading up to the meet had recorded the highest temperatures of the year, so we expected rain.

The first activity for the weekend was a walk to the Three Shires Pub. An advance party of our more senior members, who understand pubs, had been advised that booking a table for dinner was essential and that 7pm was the latest slot available. The staff are predominantly not born and bred in the Lake District (or even the UK) and we were surprised that few diners appeared after us. Possibly there was an error in translation. Mick B (as the sole full time employee paying taxes for our pensions) arrived after we had stumbled back to LHG. He has decided to remedy this injustice by retiring later in the summer.

Saturday dawned with heavy threatening cloud covering the tops. The more junior members (with Iain as guest) set off towards the Old Man of Coniston Massif. At the col above Greenburn Copper Mine the party split, and the heavens opened. MB, TJ, RMT proceeded by way of Swirl How to Dow Crag, although we could have been anywhere. Fortunately Mick was well supplied with electronic aids and assured us that we had reached our goal. We then traversed back to Coniston Old Man (and visibility).

A descent to Coniston Mines youth hostel was followed by no rest stop and an ascent to Hole Rake en route for Tilberthwaite. There was a weak suggestion that we should return by way of Wetherlam but the sounds of mutiny had their desired effect and we continued back to the Hut.

The splinter group had decided for a shorter and easier day by proposing to climb from the col to Wetherlam from where it was believed it was a hop and a skip back to the hut. In this they were sadly disappointed. They identified that they had summited by observing that from the cairn at which they were standing that it all looked downhill. This occurred several times. Eventually they resolved to return to the Hut by way of the footpath on the ridge. Neither was found but they were rewarded with plenty of scree.

IC and JJ had forewarning of the inclement weather and had booked a series of boat trips from Ambleside. Walking was involved (to and from the car park) followed by intimate relations with Queen of the Lake, Tern and Muriel II. IC let slip that the last time he had been on board Muriel had been at a 1948 Scout Camp and nothing had changed. Whether this feeling was reciprocated was unclear. Following this trip they advised us that they had returned using the most direct route which for future reference is by way of the Old DG.

By this time our leader, who had taken to his bed after the scree incident, had revived sufficiently to provide a wonderful dinner, enjoyed by all.

Sunday dawned with patches of blue. MB, IG, TJ, RMT and NW set off for Tilberthwaite to ascend its notorious Ghyll, so deep that its depths are invisible from either footpath. After they had reached the top they felt fresh enough to tackle the four tops of Tilberthwaite- Blake Rigg, Haystacks, High Fell and Great Intake. This was achieved without major incident and was rewarded by excellent views.

IC and JJ left early to retrieve some items that Ian had left at his other Dales accommodation and managed to repeat this trick by leaving a sentimental goblet at LHG.

All in all it was a most enjoyable and interesting weekend which demonstrates how lucky we are to have a hut in a location offering such challenges on our doorstep.

RT

Attending: Nick Welch (leader), Mick Borroff, Ian Crowther, Iain Gilmour, John Jenkin, Tim Josephy, Richard Taylor



JOINT MEET WITH WAYFARERS ROBERTSON LAMB HUT, GREAT LANGDALE. 12- 14 September

The weather was very good and many people got out on the Friday. Steve Auty, Colin Smith, Mike Godden and Jack Middleton were able to get to Pike o Blisco and did a round returning by Little Langdale. Martyn Trasler climbed Helvellyn from Wythburn, Thirlmere.

On Saturday Bruce Hassell Dave Webster and Nigel Musgrave went to Hellvelyn, while Dave Carpenter and Stuart Cox did a round to Scafell Pike. Ian Crowther and John Jenkin went on a circuit of Derwent Water. Andy Hawkins and Dave McKie went climbing and Tim Josephy and Martyn Trasler went to Scafell Pike and Esk Pike, coming back by Bow Fell and the Crinkles. Mike Godden and Jack Middleton did a low level walk down the dale and got the bus back to the ODG

Catering was a last minute job. George Chambers provided the Friday evening meal of stuffed breast of lamb followed by Apple strudel, and two breakfasts all at short notice and very reasonable cost and Richard Dickinson also at short notice provided the Saturday evening meal of Moroccan style chicken with rice and a vegetable ratatouille.

In attendance from the YRC were: John Jenkins, Ian Crowther, John Lovett, Harry Robinson, Tim Josephy, Martyn Trasler and Mike Godden

Members of the Wayfarers also present: Steve Auty, Colin Smith, George Chambers, Mick Poulter, Richard Dickinson, Bob Ferguson, Dave McKie, Paul Rhodes, Nigel Musgrove, Andy Hawkins, Jack Middleton, Dave Webster, Dave Carpenter and Bruce Hassel - Stuart Cox attended as a guest.

NEWTON STEWART, GALLOWAY October 17-18

A group of 19 members and a guest, Roger Horn, gathered in the Stronord Outdoor Education Centre (Dumfries & Galloway). David Hick, Peter Chadwick and Iain Gilmour joined the throng after an excellent week's sailing in Scottish waters! For many, this was their first visit to the rugged Galloway Hills.

The centre was an old adapted primary school set in the beautiful surroundings of the Kirroughtree Forest outside Newton Stewart and provided all the conveniences for a good meet.

The weekend got underway with Mick Borroff organising a last minute but fabulous evening meal at the House O'Hill Hotel near Glen Trool, with fine food and some great 'Orkney' real ale to refresh us all after long journeys. All were satisfied bar one, whose venison casserole 'resembled poor stewing steak out of a tin' and didn't meet his usual high standards of cuisine, but nevertheless, convivial conversation and Guinness helped Harry have a sound night's sleep!

Saturday got underway with a hearty breakfast and some serious logistical transport arrangements being made by Mick Borroff (thanks to Iain and Ian for car/passenger

ferrying), who was intending to traverse the Minnigaffs range. A gruelling 15+ mile torturous walk then ensued for Mick, Tim Josephy, Pete Latham, Peter Chadwick, Roger Horn Richard Smith and Richard Taylor starting from Craigencaille, with a steep ascent into the clag sat on Cairngarroch, then on to Millfore and Red Gairy. Down to the Loup of Laggan for lunch, then an ascent of Curleywee and a ridge traverse over Bennanbrack to the high point of Lamachan (a Corbett). At this stage, winds were gusting to 50 miles an hour making the going very tough - with hardly a sign of a path and with visibility very poor, we were in the hands of our leader's GPS ... ah but this is Borroff heaven and out came the gadget more frequently and although the rest of us were completely lost, the GPS knew exactly where we were and we got to our destination in Glen Trool, finishing along the never ending forest road with a few "klicks" and a bit of hitch-hiking near the finish! The group went back to base, but not before they had returned to the previous night's hostelry and drank it dry of the good old 'Orkney ale', whilst contemplating whether or not anybody could or would do the same walk again, back to back, for the £100k offered by Roger Horn There were a few takers but no cash forthcoming!



Ian Crowther and John Jenkin climbed the very boggy Criffell near the Solway coast on Friday, Mike Edmundson and Harry Robinson, I believe, did a short walk along the Estuary and Harvey, after his usual full fry-up, disappeared for the best part of the day.

Meanwhile a group of four (David Hick, Alan Kay, Derek Bush and Martyn Trasler) decided on a much simpler arrangement than the Minnigaffs party by walking out from the outdoor centre to ascend Cairnsmore of Fleet. However very cloudy conditions meant some use of the compass was required and even though they had a serious blip or two with suspected UFO interference, they managed a safe return. Carol and John also set foot on Cairnsmore.

All enjoyed an excellent four-course dinner of homemade Leek and Potato soup, Sausage, Lentil and Prune Hotpot, Swedish Apple pie and lump-free custard (lovingly prepared by Mike who had joined us for the evening) and the usual selection of cheeses and biscuits! A big 'thank you' must go to Iain Gilmour and his helpers for the excellent food. Harry gave it full marks and Dave worked wonders with the huge oven. PS, recipes are available from Iain at no cost!

Sunday saw a slightly later start as many of the previous days walkers were somewhat fatigued. Two younger members (Pete Latham and Richard Smith) decided to opt out and hire mountain bikes from the Seven Stanes Mountain Bike Centre in Stronord and proceeded to explore the excellent trails in the forest behind the centre (with the odd stop for coffee and cake, and later homemade soup and bread). Pete was keen to continue the exploration and seek more of the adrenalin rush, but Richard had to get back to Newcastle before he could conquer the remaining black runs!

With the cloud still very low and with no sign of the sun, a few members decided to make an early return home, but with Mick's machine now operational with 1:25,000 mapping, four of yesterday's heavyweights set off to do the Cairnsmore of Fleet walk. So Richard Taylor, Tim Josephy, Mick Borroff and Roger Horn braved the heavy winds, cloud and rain once more, but with an excellent footpath made light work of their target before returning to the centre for the journey south. All in all an excellent weekend.

The Meet saw the following attendees: Mick Borroff, Derek Bush, Peter Chadwick, Ian Crowther, Mike Edmundson, Iain Gilmour (leader), Roger Horn (guest), Tim Josephy, Dave Hick, John Jenkin, Alan Kay, Pete Latham, Harvey Lomas, Harry Robinson, Richard Smith, Richard Taylor, Martyn Trasler, John and Carol Whalley.

PL

GARGRAVE DINNER MEET

November 14-16

The meet was wrapped around the Club's AGM and 101st annual dinner and was held at Coniston Hall Hotel. Members arrived during Friday and Saturday morning with some staying at Lowstern, some at the Hotel and some at the nearby Premier Inn.

The early arrivals took opportunities for varied local activities before the 4.00 AGM on Saturday at the Hotel. Two of the walking wounded did a 10 mile stroll along the Leeds Liverpool Canal.

After the festivities of the annual dinner, Sunday starts were later than on usual meets. The cavers were the first to leave Lowstern at around 10:30. Their departure was complicated by car battery failure near the gear shop in Ingleton. Six went through from Lancaster Hole to Wretched Rabbit taking the higher, drier, route on account of the heavy recent rainfall. It was after 5pm when they arrived back at Lowstern. The novices thoroughly enjoyed the trip and departed back to London leaving their father to sort out the 'dead' car on Monday. Cavers were Ged Champion and Tim Josephy in the lead, Aaron Champion (Ged's son), Ed and Tom Chadwick (Peter's sons) and Richard Smith.

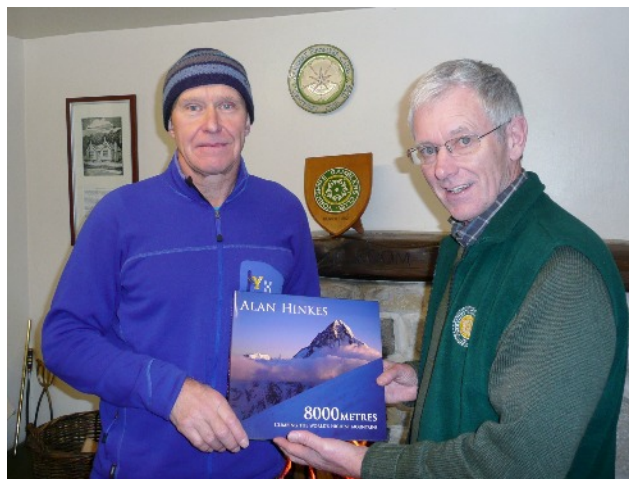
A Presidential party of twelve members and Club guests left Lowstern spot on 10:30 as planned surprising another member in Clapham who was expecting them to be a few minutes late. They eventually met up.

They passed Norber and Crummack to reach Moughton and returned via Sulber Nick, Trow Gill and Long Lane.

The advance guard headed straight back to Lowstern on discovering that their ham and eggs were almost ready. The rearguard though, snatched a quick pint in Clapham before returning. On this walk were Arthur Salmon, the walk leader, John Whalley, our new President and Bruce Hassell, President of the Wayfarers. Also there were Conrad Salmon, Phil Dover, Iain Gilmour, Carol Whalley, Richard Taylor, Helen Smith, Frank Wilkinson, Richard Gowing, and Derek Bush. Several other members walked to same area but out of phase with them.

Daves Hick and Martindale parked at the sinks above Malham and walked to the Tarn over to Street Gate and back along Mastilles Lane. Others, some new to the area, explored the delights of Bernie's picking up replacement caving gear, visited Clapham Village, Ingleton, Settle and Austwick.

Our newest Honorary Member and principal guest, Alan Hinkes, spent much of the afternoon in Lowstern chatting and presenting to the Club two copies of his lavishly illustrated book describing his round of the 8000m peaks.



Alan presented two copies of the book to the Club.

While many driving south did so in poor weather conditions, including meeting quite substantial fog, those who stayed and walked were rewarded with a dry and pleasant day.



Duncan Mackay and Vice President, Robert Crowther on the top of Long Scar



The Presidential party
out on Sunday

Derek Bush on Long Lane

CHRISTMAS MEET, HAG DYKE, KETTLEWELL Dec 5-7

Members arriving at the Hostel on Friday evening were blessed with a glorious moonlit night. Supper of soup and / or cheeses were enjoyed after which Mike Smith showed videos of trips to Corsica, Peru, Greenland & Knoydart. Mike had walked over the Barden Moors on the Friday taking in Rylstone Fell Cross, Cracoe Obelisk & Thorpe Fell Trig.

A party of five had delayed their arrival by indulging in the delights of The Blue Bell Hotel.

A bright, sunny Saturday morning saw the numbers augmented by the arrival of the Meet Leader's wife, Verity and Lizzie Alderson who was accompanied by the delightful Charlie.

Strong walking groups made for the gritstone top of the fell where a group of six turned towards Buckden Pike. From the monument on the summit they dropped down to Buckden before returning to Kettlewell over Old Cote Moor.

Peter and Verity, having set off in the same direction descended to cross Park Rash then back along Top Mere Road.

Two other groups set off intending to reach Meugher summit. The successful pair made their return via Sandy Gate, along the track under Mossdale Scar, then back to the Hostel passing above Providence Pot. The second group found direction finding difficult in the misty conditions which now prevailed on all the neighbouring ridges, carried on a bitter wind from the north west. The mist descended to lower levels as the day progressed and with a hint of rebellion in the air, the the three wanderers found their way to the track and returned.

The less adventurous had walks along the river to Starbottom and back along the Dales Way, or were content to descend to Kettlewell for lunch. The Buckden six were entertained by a group of carol singers from Keighley when they interrupted their return journey for a break at the Blue Bell.



Back at the hostel Ged Campion, who would leave after the evening meal had cycled up from Kettlewell with his son, Aaron.

Robert Crowther then produced tasty Eccles cakes which were hastily consumed.

The evening meal started with hors d'oeuvres being served in the lounge after which Chilli con Carne was the main dish. Fruit pies for dessert were welcomed by all, especially the Vice President who didn't want another Hag Dyke turnover.

(Editor's note - For newer members and those with poor memories, at a previous meet at Hag Dyke many years ago when our VP was a very young man he was practicing driving his father's Landrover when he turned it over.)

Alister Renton, another cyclist, arrived to find he had to play catchup as we were by then on the last course.

A Vice Presidential vote of thanks was given followed by another slide show from the much-travelled Michael Smith; this time videos of Pontresina, Nepal, Malawi and Scotland meets were seen.

Foxup was the starting point for two pairs on Sunday morning, by which time the sun had returned, although snow and hail showers were reported. A round of Plover Hill was done after starting up Cosh Beck while the other pair ascended Pen-y-Ghent and Plover Hill.

Michael Smith interrupted his journey home with a 9k walk from Eastby to Brown Bank by way of Eastby Crag, returning on the track and RofW to the east.

Everyone else headed straight home.

During the weekend Dowber Gill was visited and evidence of the results of a flash flood in July showed that huge boulders had been washed down by the torrent.

Thanks to Peter and Verity Elliott for their organisation and meals. Thanks also to the Ben Rhydding Scout Group for the use of their Hostel and finally, thanks to a very helpful warden, Andrew, who was resident for the weekend.

DM

Attendees:	Frank Wilkinson
Mick Borroff	Lizzie Alderson (g)
Iain Gilmour	Michael Smith
Richard Taylor	Ian Crowther
Tim Josephy	John Jenkins
Pete Elliott	Derek Smithson
Verity Elliott (g)	
Robert Crowther	and for
David Hick	Saturday dinner,
David Martindale	Ged Campion
Paul Dover	Aaron Campion (g)
Chris Hilton	Alister Renton
Arthur Salmon	



Hag Dyke photos Richard Taylor

Bottom:

Tim Josephy and Mick Borroff, Sunday

Photo Peter Elliott

INTRODUCTORY MEET- LOWSTERN 15th-17th August.

With just two juniors and two adults to introduce to new activities so there was plenty of experience on hand to lead the new comers in these pursuits. This also gave the experienced more time to enjoy their days out.

Most arrived on at some stage during Friday. Paul Dover, Katrina Devenport and Oliver Devenport parked in The Dales Car Park in Malham and then walked to Janet's Foss, and on the way Oliver explored a two ended cavern, disappearing in the entrance and re-appearing on the rocks some way above. Janet's Foss had plenty of water tumbling down. They then went on to Gordale Scar with a thoroughly enjoyable scramble up the waterfall, over the interestingly sculpted rocks.

Some of the scrambling Oliver did at least three times, not just to get his photo taken but because he enjoyed it so much. They then continued on to the limestone pavements above Gordale Scar where they stopped for lunch before continuing on to Malham Tarn.

After breakfast on Saturday it was agreed to take advantage of the reasonable weather to take our guests and youngsters to experience some outdoor climbing at Hutton Roof. Michael, Tim and John Brown giving instruction and displaying great patience.



Above: Matthew Trasler practices his moves

Left: Katrina Devenport assisted by Tim Josephy

Photographs, Martyn Trasler

The group then explored the area around Hutton Roof with a circular walk taking the scenery and good views on offer from this high point.

Richard Josephy walked over to Crummackdale, around the valley and back via Clapham Bottoms and the Ingleborough estate. Fine weather with very few people around. Carol and John walked to Gaping Gill via Trow Gill. After sharing a cuppa from CPC acquaintances at the Winch Meet, they ascended Ingleborough where they were driven off the summit plateau by high winds and zero visibility. After more tea at GG they headed for the shoulder of Simons Fell then followed sheep tracks which led to a dodgy scramble down scars into Clapham Bottoms to return to Clapham via Long Lane and a pint at the Bunkhouse Bar.

A convivial evening was spent at the hut enjoying dinner and a bit of a chat over a bottle or two of wine. Sunday morning brought the suggestion of some caving experience for our younger guests and Matthew and Oliver duly joined a group of adults to experience the world below ground. Katrina managed the through trip. Thanks to Tim, Richard, John and Michael for taking them under their collective wings for this.

Another party consisting of John, Carol, Paul and Martyn took a leisurely walk through heavy showers across Thwaite Lane towards Austwick to get a bit of a stretch whilst the others caved before heading off for various parts of the country.

Attending:

Martyn Trasler
Matthew Trasler junior family guest
Richard Josephy
Katrina Devenport
Oliver Devenport junior family guest
Michael Smith
John Brown
Rosalynd Brown family guest
Claire Woolston family guest
Michael Woolston family guest
Paul Dover
Tim Josephy
Ian Crowther
John Whalley
Carol Whalley
Albert Chapman Saturday dinner
Harvey Lomas Saturday dinner

MT

HAWES SOCIAL MEET 3-6 June

The venue for this year's Social Meet was at Simonstone Hotel and provided a welcome and pleasant return following our previous visit two years ago. The scenery was as beautiful as ever, the hospitality excellent and apart from some rain on Wednesday the weather was largely good. Everyone enjoyed catching up with old friends and companions.

Excursions by various parties included visits to Middleham and Bolton castles, Buttertubs Pass, the Dales Museum in Reeth and other local attractions in Swaledale and Wensleydale. Walks were made to Dodd Fell, Sedbusk and Hardraw and on Thursday the main party walked to Bainbridge via Wether Fell and Cam High Road, returning through the fields on the north side of the River Ure.

This year, the striking feature in both Dales was the high level of enthusiasm and promotion which local communities had put into the forthcoming Tour de France which started in Yorkshire with le Grand Depart on 5 and 6 July. We witnessed the build up by the many cyclists following the route. It was also evident that considerable effort has also gone into repairing some of the roads along the route to eliminate potholes, a much overdue improvement.

After Dinner on Thursday our President showed his photographs of the recent recent members' visit to Greenland and the YRC meet based at the Costa Blanca's Clape, which were much admired.

Our thanks are due to Paul Dover for his excellent organisation of a very enjoyable occasion.

PC

Attendees-

Paul and Ann Dover
Richard and Ann Dover
Ian and Una Laing
Richard and Elizabeth Gowing
Cliff and Cathie Large
John and Janet Hemingway

Tim and Elaine Josephy
Mike and Marcia Godden
Michael and Helen Smith
Peter and Ann Chadwick
Richard and Gail Taylor
Iain and Sarah Gilmour

John and Pat Schofield
Alan and Angie Linford
Dennis and Joan Armstrong
Juliette Todd

Editors Note

One way or another, the YRC saw a lot of this area in 2014. We had the Hardraw meet there in mid April and between these two meets my wife, Doreen and I had a week in Wensleydale and another in Swaledale.

To add to the comments above, by the time the social meet gathered it sounds like things had settled down a bit. When we were there the road works were in full swing and there were detours of many miles all over the place. At good number of places we intended to visit were never reached but I did see bits of Yorkshire I had not seen for years.

Not only was it challenging to get from A to B by car but walking country lanes you took your life in your hands as hundreds of would-be Yellow Jerseys and novice cyclists were haring about all over the place.

My lasting memory of those two weeks is one that I will never forget. If we saw one yellow bicycle we saw a thousand!

There were plywood cut outs, wire ones and old wrecks painted yellow hanging on walls everywhere and shop window displays were all bike. We saw Tour de Yorkshire pies, buns, sausages and any number of le somethings.

Every field seemed to be a competing temporary campsite, village pubs had special days lined up etc. The pubs in villages which were to be effectively cut off for hours were arranging all sorts of entertainments. The locals certainly took it to their hearts and from the few hours I watched on TV that first day as it went past so many of my favourite haunts it appeared a great success. I am curious as to how the thousand of spectators got to some of the higher and more remote locations. They were hard miles up hill from anywhere to park cars and there was minimal evidence off bikes there.

It is a pity that the Yorkshiremen doing the TV commentary did not know their own county better. This Lancastrian spotted several errors. They obviously had pocket histories they reeled out at agreed spots along the route but whenever they were ad-libbing to pictures from the helicopters they were out of their depths. Some were fairly minor but how they could mix up Bolton Castle sitting proudly on a rural hillside with Richmond Castle centred in that town is beyond me.

Vive le Yorkshire!

MEMBERS MONTAGE



Those yellow bicycles



Soled on a new hinge design?



The president on the Social Meet

Lunch stop,
Christmas Meet
Hag Dyke



SCOTTISH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Our president John Whalley and his wife Carol were rather looking forward to Peter Elliott's Christmas meet at Hag Dyke, but instead were posted in the direction of Scotland to attend the Scottish Mountaineering Club's Annual Dinner.

The weather wasn't particularly good for travelling large distances but they packed the car with the usual winter stuff i.e. shovel, blankets, biscuits, hot flask, water etc... and made their way gingerly northwards. Much to their relief the temperature hovered just above freezing most of the way, but on reaching Loch Lomond they did notice a terrific amount of water on the road, which slowed down their progress. Flooding was to be the main feature from now on until they climbed up to Rannoch Moor into a frozen wasteland. they appeared to be the only car on the road as they cruised past Glen Etive under a heavy sky, only to arrive at the Ben Nevis Hotel and Leisure Club in good time for the reception.

After introducing themselves they were escorted into the bar where a very cheerful 'chappie', in a kilt, bought them a drink. Quite a few members gathered round and related tales of coming to past YRC Dinners; which they said they enjoyed immensely. Not long afterwards they were introduced to, and looked after, by the President of the SMC: John Mackenzie. John told our John that he was to be 'piped in' along with the other kindred club guests, following the President with his badge of office: Harold Raeburn's ice-axe. Meanwhile, Carol was taken to her seat at the top table by Simon Richardson, one of the top Scottish Winter Climbers, famous for putting up alternative routes. Carol thought it rather nice that top table guests were all given a personalised key ring, carved from deer antler, complete with a tartan ribbon.

Their chief guest was to be Stephen Venables: first Brit to reach the top of Everest without bottled oxygen. He's also a prolific writer, has appeared in films, and is a very busy man. Unfortunately, he didn't turn up, so their table was one short. Carol recounts they had a lovely meal accompanied by lots of interesting conversation – it transpired that John Mackenzie (though of course he didn't mention it) is Lord Macleod, Earl of Cromartie: a Clan chieftain. He and his wife, Eve: Countess of Cromartie, live in Leod Castle.

Morning came all too soon. They put the TV on for news of the local weather conditions and the encouraging news advice was for essential journeys only. Anyway, they went down for breakfast, where they found out that most people were meeting in Glen Nevis for a low level walk. Having a couple of hours to kill they watched the weather with great interest. They had a fine view of the mountains from their room, or did for about 10 minutes, and within the hour they experienced the following: sunshine, heavy rain, a thunderstorm, followed by hail, then the snow came, and so they decided to limp back home.

BOOK REVIEW

Alpine Exposures (Photo Book) - Jon Griffith

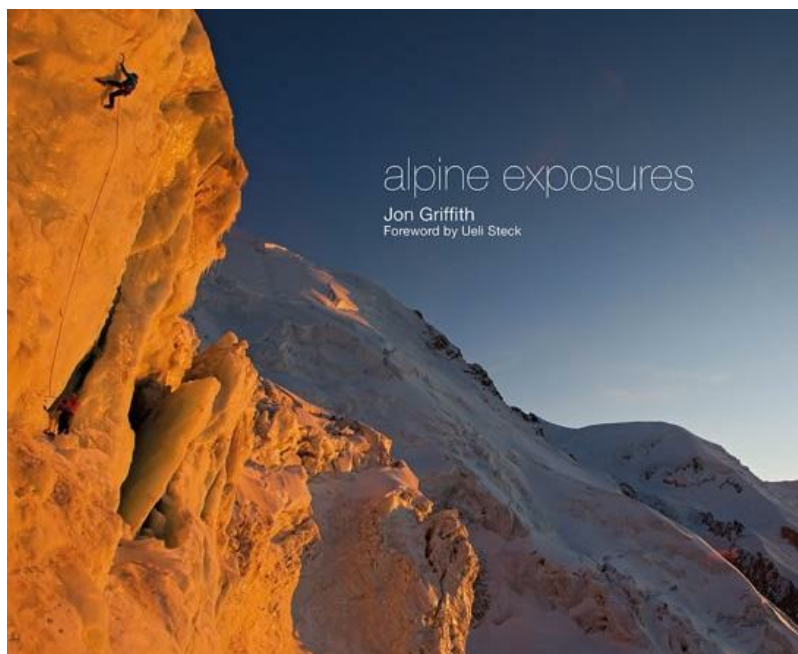
Based in Chamonix, Jonathan has established a reputation as one of the world's leading mountain sports photographers and is no mean Alpinist himself. He angles to shoot what has never been shot before which involves embarking on cutting edge climbs to visually document expeditions in the Alps, not to mention Patagonia, Alaska and the Himalayas. This is no mere coffee table pictorial but shows high level climbing in harsh and dramatic reality.

I love photography and high places and have to say I have only one other book of mountain pictures that even gets close to this one.

This 288 page book has something for all mountain disciplines, covering skiing, alpinism, ice climbing, paragliding and other activities and displays landscapes to die for, being packed with over 500 photos all taken on real climbs or mountain days out with no staging.

The book covers the Alps in particular with a main focus on Mont Blanc. I have not yet seen it in full but have seen a dozen or so of the pictures and all I can say is Wow!

Roy Denney



INDEX OF RECENT ARTICLES/REPORTS
WHICH CAN PROVIDE REFERENCE MATERIAL FOR FUTURE TRIPS.

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Winter 2014 includes:
 Turkmenistan
 Greenland
 Peru
 Biancograt, Switzerland

Issue 17, Series 13
Summer 2014 includes:
 Chamonix to Zermatt
 Cycling in Keilder
 Malta & Gozo
 Calp, Costa Blanca
 Walking the length of Pyrenees

Issue 16, Series 13
Winter 2013 includes:
 Baya California, Whales
 Mulanje Mts, Malawi Trekking
 Trekking in Haute Savoie
 The Mysterious Mrs Johnson
 Ironman Eventing

Issue 15, Series 13
Summer 2013 includes:
 Chachapoyas, Peru
 Pontrasina, Switzerland
 Walking on La Palma
 Early caving
 Ilkley Moor

Issue 14 Series 13
Winter 2012 includes:
 Oman and its Karst
 Treks in the Écrins
 Mera Peak, Nepal
 France, The Vercours

Issue 13 Series 13
Summer 2012 includes:
 Turkey, Rock climbing
 Ireland, cycling & hillwalking
 China, caving

Issue 14 Series 13
Winter 2011 includes:
 Oman Kirst
 Treks in the Écrins, France
 Mera Peak, Nepal
 The Vercours, France

Issue 13 Series 13
Summer 2012 includes:
 Rock climbing in Turkey
 Activities in Ireland
 Caving in China
 Three Counties Pot

Issue 12 Series 13
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 The Monte Roosa Circuit
 Climbing in the Haute Savoie
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 Cecil Slingsby (background)

Issue 11 Series 13
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 Rock climbing in New Zealand
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 On snow shoes in France
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Winter 2010 includes:
 Yosemite, California
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 Britain's three peaks from
 Barmouth by boat
 Bom Jesus de Lapa , Brazil
 Yorkshire Three Peaks by Ski

Issue 9 Series 13
Summer 2010 includes:
 The Vercors, France
 Caves & Karst of Brazil
 Trekking in Sikkim
 Australia, walking & wildlife
 Pulking on Svalbard
 Condors, Peru

Issue 8 Series 13
Winter 2009 includes:
 Caving in the Levant (Lebanon
 & Syria)
 Ice climbing in Norway
 Kalymnos Rock Climbing
 Tramping etc New Zealand
 Stubaital, Austria
 El Chorro, Spain

Issue 7 Series 13
Summer 2009 includes
 Images of Lhakang
 Socotra Island
 The Snow Leopard
 New Caledonia
 Morocco, Anti Atlas

Issue 6 Series 13
Winter 2008 includes:
 Early Gliding
 Southern Iran
 Images of Bhutan
 Fengshan, China –Caves & Karst
 Lhakang Expedition
 History of caving in N Pennines

Issue 5 Series 13
Summer 2008 includes:
 Mapping of South Georgia
 The early days of Skiing
 Climbing Saint-Jeannet, France
 Ice pack crossing Spitzbergen
 Caves & karst in Libya
 Trekking in Bhutan

Issue 4 Series 13
Winter 2007 includes:
 A history of Yorkshire Rock
 Telemarking with Pulks, Norway
 Gunung Ledang, Malaysia
 Jade Dragon Snow Mountain China
 Skye
 Oparara Basin, New Zealand
 Costa Blanca rock
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Issue 3 Series 13
Summer 2007 includes:
 19th century caving in Nidderdale
 Jotenheimen, Norway
 Fauna of Gran Paradiso
 Bosnia
 Loengpo Gang, Himalayas
 China Caving
 Flora of Ladakh

Issue 2 Series 13
Winter 2006 includes:

Tafraoute, Morocco
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Isles of Scilly
Annapurna Sanctuary
Ladakh
The Langdales, a history
Valnontey Aosta, Italy

Issue 1 Series 13
Summer 2006 includes:

Monte Rosa
Madagascar
Skiing in Austria
Arêtes du Sapey, Lake Annecy
Japan
Ladakh
China Caving (56p. supplement)

Issue 24 Series 12
Winter 2005 includes:

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

Issue 23 Series 12
Summer 2005 includes:

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

Issue 22 Series 12
Winter 2004 includes:
The US High Sierra & Appalachians
Caves in Ethiopia
Early exploration of Alum Pot

The history of Carabiners
Caving Tian'e, Guangxi, S W China
High level walking in Scotland
The Lakes
The French Alps

Issue 21 Series 12
Summer 2004 includes:

Caves & Karst of Madagascar
The History of Dunald Mill Hole
Erta Ale & The Danakil
Sailing off Croatia
Walking Morecambe Bay
Climbing on Clogwyn
Sardinia

Issue 20 Series 12
Winter 2003 includes:

Activities in Mongolia
Crete
Galloway
Ireland
Switzerland
The Prehistory of Saddleworth

Issue 19 Series 12
Summer 2003 includes:

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

Issue 18 Series 12
Winter 2002 includes:

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

Issue 17 Series 12
Summer 2001 includes:

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

Issue 16 Series 12
Summer 2001 includes:
Nanda Devi Inner Sanctuary
John Muir Trail
Skye
Sinai
Scafell

Issue 15 Series 12
Summer 2001 includes:

Guangxi Caves 2000 Expedition
A cave in Palawan and 3 in Laos
The Bradford Caving Community
a century ago
Fantan B
Gondogoro La
The Karakoram

Issue 14 Series 12
Winter 2000 includes:

The Corbetts Spring Bank 2000
Svalbard
Ingleborough Cave Box
and Giggleswick School
Mount Kinabalu in Rainy Season

Issue 13 Series 12
Summer 2000 includes:

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

Issue 12 Series 12
Winter 1999 includes:

Cordilleras Cocapata
Real, Bolivia
Table Mountain,
Weissmies
The Lagginhorn
The Julian Alps
Lundy
The Cullin
Kanchenjunga
Seana Bhraigh

Issue 11 Series 12
Summer 1999 includes:
Catamite Hole
Macedonian Caves
Blue Mountain Peak, Jamaica

Issue 10 Series 12

Winter 1998 includes:

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

Issue 9 Series 12

Summer 1998 includes:

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

Issue 8 Series 12

Winter 1997 includes:

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

Issue 7 Series 12

Summer 1997 includes:

Roumania in winter
Irish potholes
Caving in Oman
Monte Baldo, Italy
Cave exploration, Trou de Ver
France
Exploring Iceland

Issue 6 Series 12

Winter 1996 includes:

Roumania
Easter Island
The Tatras, Poland
Exploring Chile
Hill walking in the Canaries
Darien gap, Panama/Colombia

Issue 5 Series 12

Summer 1996 includes:

Dorje Lakpa, Nepal
Eastern Greenland
Cueva del Gato, Spain
Paragliding over Tenerife

Issue 4 Series 12

Winter 1995 includes:

Hardangervidda, Stoinostinden
and Hurrungane, Norway

Swedish Lapland

The English Lakes
The Mönch, Switzerland
Rock climbing, S E Spain
Elidir, N Wales
Caving Guatemala

Issue 3 Series 12

Summer 1995 includes:

Annapurna & Langtang
Kamchatka, Russia
The 'Moon' Gogarth
Newfoundland

Issue 2 Series 12

Winter 1994 includes:

Lofoten, Norway
Mont Blanc
Fisherfield & Letterewe trek
Dorje Lakpa Expedition, Nepal
Sea cliffs climbing, Cornwall

Issue 1 Series 12

Summer 1994 includes:

Climbing the Geita, Norway
Descent of Gouffre Berger, France
Bolivia Expedition
Sulphur mines, Java
Nepal Expedition

USEFUL WEB SITES

Climbing search engine	worldclimb.com
AA	theaa.com
Alpine Club	alpine-club.org.uk
Alpine Refuges (in French)	Refuges.info
Bowline Club	bowline.f9.co.uk
Brecon Beacons Nat Park	breconbecon.org
Brittany Ferries	brittanyferries.com
Cairngorm Club	cairngormclub.org.uk
Caledonian Macbrayne	calmac.co.uk
Carlisle Mountaineering Club	carlislemc.co.uk
Coast to coast walk	coast2coast.co.uk
Crag access database	climbingcraggs.co.uk
Fell & Rock Club	frc.co.uk
Fell Runners Association	fellrunner.org.uk
Fylde Mountaineering Club	fyldemc.org.uk
Fjord Line	fjordline.co.uk
Grampian Club	grampianclub.org
Gritstone Club	gritstoneclub.org.uk
Irish Ferries	irishferries.com
John Muir Trust	jmt.org
Long Distance Walkers Ass.	ldwa.org.uk
Maps & books	cordee.co.uk
Maps & books	stanfords.co.uk
Maps- Ordnance Survey	ordnancesurvey.co.uk
Maps - Harveys	harveymaps.co.uk
Maps etc, Michelin Guide	viamichelin.com
Medical advice, high altitude	high-altitude-medicine.com
Midland Ass. of M'taineers	themam.co.uk
MOD- access to military land	access.mod.uk

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Mount Everest Foundation	mef.org.uk
Mountain Biking	trailquest.co.uk
Mountain Heritage Trust	thebmc.co.uk/mht
Mountain Rescue Council	mountain.rescue.org.uk
Mntneering Council Scotland	mountaineering-scotland.org.uk
Mountaineering Ireland	mountaineering.ie
National Trails	nationaltrail.co.uk
National Trust	nationaltrust.org.uk
National Trust for Scotland	nts.org.uk
North York Moors National P.	moors.uk.net
Northumberland National P.	nnpa.org.uk
Oread Mountaineering Club	oread.co.uk
Peak District National Park	peakdistrict.org
Snowdonia National Park	eryri-npa.gov.uk
Southern Uplands way	dumgal.gov.uk/southernuplandway
Speyside Way	speysideway.org
Summits information	peakware.com
The Climbers Club	climbers-club.co.uk
Walking in Scotland	walkingwild.com
Walking in South West	cornwall-devon.com
Walking in the Lakes	lakedistrictoutdoors.co.uk
Weather BBC	bbc.co.uk/weather
Weather forecasts	accuweather.com
Weather Met. Office	meto.gov.uk
Weather, Mountain Info	mwis.org.uk
Weather, Scottish Avalanches	sais.gov.uk
West Highland Way	west-highland-way.co.uk
Wolverhampton M C	wolverhamptonmc.co.uk
Yorkshire Dales National P.	yorkshiredales.org



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

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 to gather and promote knowledge of natural history, archaeology, geology, folklore and other kindred subjects.

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

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THE YRC

www.yrc.org.uk



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Established 1892**

The Mountaineering, Exploration and Caving Club

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