



The Mynydd Journal



September 2003

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Presidential Thought

Psssst!.....Soon be
 Dinner Time!.....Awards!.....
 What do YOU know that
 others hoped nobody had
 noticed? It is now very
 much time to furtively dish
 the dirt! (Truth should be
 used sparingly and merit

ignored.) Don't be shy! This is your chance!
 Just let me know! I can be reached by all the
 usual channels!

Colin

Chairman's Column

Well once again winter returns, but this year
 you can spend it on the Mynydd website,
 keeping up with all the local news and gossip. I
 have to thank Norman and Steve for all the
 hard work they have put in and they really
 have spent a lot of time on this, so many
 thanks to both of you. I take back all I have
 ever said about you!

However now we have it let's use it, please
 keep it updated and eventually it will be fully
 interactive so you can air your views without
 waiting for a Journal.

My thanks also go to Martin for putting
 together this bumper fun book and remember
 the editor's views are not always mine- but
 freedom of speech etc etc....

A full list of winter meets and lectures has
 been organised so let's see you there and
 don't forget the bonfire and the dinner in
 particular. To attract even more people to the
 dinner, it seems at the present time there is
 no threat of a club show but we do seem to be
 sharing the venue with the Alpine Club- I
 wonder if their disco will be better than
 ours? Don't forget your subs are due at the
 end of December so start saving up now.
 See you again in the next Journal!

Keith

Editorial

Don't believe everything they say.

With each day of sunshine and clear sky that comes and goes, I become more aware of the imminence of rain, sleet, hail and all the usual weatherborne misery that accompanies the winter months. Nothing really changes and, as has happened every year since I started climbing, it's time to get to the wall, contract tendonitis, and fill my lungs with chalk dust. It's also time, which a climbing wall mailshot was rash enough to remind me late last week, to forget the outdoors, and to get strong and motivated for the new season. Perhaps I've been spending far too much time with Ken Wilson recently, but this really got me going.

Inertia is not always a good thing.

It's too easy to become trapped by The Climbing Wall Thing. This manifests itself in the regular thought that "This is Sunday/Tuesday, so it must be wall day". No-one, to my recollection, has ever had a memorable day out at a wall. This simply doesn't happen unless they've got a very sad life and problem 17 *with only smears for the feet*, is an important addition to their lives. The best days out are exactly that: out. Sure, climbing's not so great when there's a gale blowing, but have you been out for a walk along the edges when that's happening? It's wild, and you'll see the land and sky in a way you've never seen them before. The Langsett moors are a good place for just such a day, as are a hundred other places that you could think of. Walk round a lake or reservoir and watch the waters change through a myriad of dark colours. Take your boots and chalkbag along on a moorland or mountain walk and find a boulder that no one else has ever climbed on and climb it in the teeth of a gale. Get on your bike, be it a road bike or a mountain bike, and go somewhere (but make sure there's a pub or café along the way). Climb something easy in the rain, or at night or in the fog when you could be at the wall in comfort, warmth and boredom: Matterhorn Ridge in the Winnats, Mam Tor on a clear and frozen night, or Mercury Crack up at Dovestones. Take up caving, and crawl around in the mud, or swing wildly above waterfalls hundreds of feet underground and then, after all this and before you get home, call in at the chippy, or have a swift half somewhere and glow in the warmth and memories of a few hours well spent in foolishness. If you still can't quite bear to do this, then cook a big pie or a massive bowl of broccoli and stilton soup, and then invite people round to eat it all. Whatever adventures you have over the next few months, take some friends along, even if they think you're daft, because nothing is ever quite as good or quite as memorable without them.

See you out there,
Martin

The Wasteland

(The place for articles that have no place)

MYNYDD SLIDE COMPETITION

I now have a cunning plan to resurrect this once popular event for early in the New Year having found a suitably qualified judge, to be held at The Royal on Thursday 15th January (2004).

Rules will be as previous:-

**Four categories - Scenic Home; Scenic Abroad
Climbing Action; Humorous/ Human Interest**

Maximum three slides for each category which must have been taken during the years 2002 (we didn't have a comp last year), or 2003. Prizes will of course be awarded for each 1st, 2nd, 3rd placed slide in each category and the lucky winners will have their pictures entered in the 'Hall of Fame' on the website.

One major diversion from previous years is that for the first time digital images and scanned prints/ negatives will be allowable, although these will be judged in a separate category for each of the four sections. Please provide jpeg images on CD for downloading to myself or committee folk - do not e-mail or send to Norman. Deadline for entries will be Thursday 4th December 2003.

Steve

Approaching Fifty (again)

Tony Shaw is keen that he and Brian can get some sort of move on with the club history. There has been a notable lack of interest and enthusiasm from the vast majority of the club. You are all very naughty indeed! You don't actually have to do anything; just get in touch with Tony to see what he needs. As most of you will be aware the club will be 50 years old in 2005 and we intend to mark the event by publishing a history of our first half-century.

Of particular interest:

**Photos of members past and present, Photos of Club activities
Early Meets Lists, Membership Cards, letters etc., Old Hut Log Books
Writings of Club Members published in other books & journals**

Please start digging in the attic and emptying out those old slide boxes and photo albums. You helped to shape the Club's history; this is your chance to show it. If you have any suitable material, which could add to the sum of Mynydd knowledge, please let either Tony Shaw or Brian Royle know and they'll tell you what to do with it! All contributions of a scurrilous nature might be treated in the strictest confidence. If you have any queries you can either email me antonyshaw@aol.com or give me a bell most nights after 7.30 p.m.

Tony Shaw

Fairbridge at B-y-N

Most members will know that nearly one third of our hut income (around £2000) comes from the Fairbridge bookings. This is an inner city organisation, which does excellent work with young people who are in difficulties. Their bookings suit us admirably, they generally come midweek so they don't interfere with other groups, and seldom impinge on club members.

However, there are some occasions when we meet up with them, and when this happens, the consumption of alcohol is a bit of a problem. The youngsters are on a strict alcohol free regime at B-y-N, and whilst obviously, we cannot ask our members not to drink in their presence, we would ask you to be discrete, and not leave alcohol around, as this makes the job much harder for the Fairbridge team leaders.

Cheers, Liz

Roger Bell Photo Album

At the AGM I offered to put together an album of photos of Roger's time with the Mynydd. I have received photos from a few people already but would like to see many more. Either prints of transparencies will be OK. I will obviously return these when the necessary copies have been taken. Could you please let me have these as soon as possible? Thanks

Derek Peterson

The 8th Paul Nunn Memorial Lecture

This year, it's on Wednesday 22nd October at Sheffield Hallam at 7pm, with exhibits from 5.30pm. It features both **Ian McNaught-Davis** and **John Dunne**. Tickets (£8/£5) can be purchased via 0114 225 2050, or at www.paulnunnfund.com

Martin

Meets Reports 2002- 2003

Mystery Ice Meet / March 15-16th

The Mystery Ice meet took place in Scotland with Phill, Keith, Simon and Keen John heading up to Fort Bill early Friday afternoon. The plan was to climb on the Ben on Saturday followed by an easier day at Aonach Mor on Sunday. The weekend forecast looked excellent with high pressure over the whole country. Saturday's departure plans were made for 6am from the Smiddy Bunkhouse, with Keith and Phill intending to try one of the Ben's classic ice routes and Simon and John planning to climb Tower Ridge.

On arrival at the North Face car park several teams had already started the long walk in. 1½ hrs later we were at the CIC hut considering possible routes. There wasn't much snow but clear overnight skies had produced some good ice conditions. We decided to try Hadrian's Wall Direct.

The approach to the route was on good hard snow with Phill wisely deciding to gear up before we got any higher. Keith continued ahead, aiming for

that elusive winter gearing up spot that is always just a bit further but usually results in a one-legged balancing act while trying to fit crampons on steep terrain (we've all been there!). Phill arrived at the start of the route ready to go, whilst Keith had a fuff of 'Bowkeresque' proportions (in Phill's words!) attempting to untangle a new harness. A typical start to the first route of the season.

Phill made light work of the first pitch whilst Keith was joined at the start by 2 other teams. After allowing a guide to move ahead, Keith arrived at the belay. The guide, who had earlier crossed our climbing ropes, then asked Phill if he could clip into his belay because 'he was a little exposed'. Thankfully, there wasn't room.

Keith led up the second pitch through a steep chimney, to a welcome in situ belay. After swapping leads, Phill ran out a full rope length before the terrain eased and we continued moving together. Keith then led a final pitch to reach the summit plateau.

The climb had been excellent, with interest maintained right to the top. Looking across to Tower Ridge we could see several teams strung out along the entire route.

Departure times on Sunday were adjusted to take advantage of the easy approach to Aonach Moor using the lift system.

After down climbing easy gully Keith & Phill were greeted to the sight of some routes in summer conditions, although it didn't deter one group climbing sun baked rock devoid of any snow in full winter gear!

Despite the initial lean appearance, we did find some excellent ice hidden at the side of a deep gully. We soloed up the initial pitch before belaying just below a very steep wall which Phill then led. Unable to get a satisfactory belay above, we decided to continue moving together with running belays. Keith managed to take a belay as Phill was stopped just below the summit cornice. This proved nearly impossible to exit despite the help of a top rope from a friendly climber who took pity on Phill. Moments later, Keith was resigned to a similar struggle to reach the same point.

We walked over to the far side of the plateau to take in the excellent views provided by a clear blue sky before heading down and meeting up with Simon & John who had climbed one of the 'Twins'.

We left Aonach Moor for the long drive back, only interrupted by the obligatory stop at Lesmahagow for bacon, egg, sausage, and chips - wonderful!

Keith Todd

Eskdale: 12th/13th July

I promised them sunshine and they came. Twenty three ruffy-tuffy mountain men camped in the shadow of Esk Buttress and Scafell. This would be the sort of weekend of which legends were made...

Saturday saw six of us brave the heat on the rock: heroic ascents of Trespasser's Grooves and Bridge's Route; perilous retreats off Moss Ghyll Grooves and West Groove.

The main expedition was on the Eskdale railway (it's proper steam and everything) with ice creams on the beach at Ravenglass. Don't you all know you can get the train from New Mills to Blackpool and there are donkeys there as well!

Sunday was even hotter, but we weren't to be deterred. Eight braved the heat on Heron Crag. Four managed the river afterwards. Joyous picnics and sticky toffee meringue in the pub entertained the onlookers

Lessons Learned:

"When it's too hot to climb everywhere else, you can always find somewhere cold, damp and green" Keen John

"The National Trust car park is locked at 10pm, it takes 1½ hours to walk down from Scafell and there's no bus back to the campsite" Keen John

Worst Excuses:

"It was too hot to be away camping" Elise and Jason

"The river's cold, it's not always the size of a cocktail sausage" Dave Palmer

Jim Trueman

Gogarth 6th and 7th September

It really looked as if the astounding summer was at last at an end and that "autumnal" weather was on the way - i.e. wind, rain, café. An early rain shower on Saturday confirmed fears, and it seemed at first that the poor demented souls who had stayed away from this prime venue might just have made a good decision. Wrong!

The weather improved steadily throughout the day ending with a brilliant afternoon and evening. Derek, Simon, Vic, Liz, and Dave opted for Gogarth Upper Cliff, and all did the Ramp and Gauntlet. Seth and Alex (with broken elbow) went to Castell Helen

With Ian Nettleton prostrate at home with a bad back, Wendy and their friend Norman, dog Holly and twins Josie and Laura went to the beach (I think!) Sandra and friend Lynn went walking. The walk back from pub past Rhosclyn bay in the moonlight was awesome!

The weather on Sunday was rather more like the Met Office promised, with proper rain arriving in the afternoon, but not before we had sneaked a route in. Vic and Dave did Bezel, Liz and Derek the Imitator, Simon and Norman-Central Park, and Seth and Alex (the elbow) did Gauntlet (in the rain)

Derek and Liz rather surprised us all by setting off on a second route in the rain when we were all feeling lucky to have got away with the first one. They did eventually retreat. An excellent meet, enjoyed by the cognoscenti who were prepared to take a chance with the weather.

Present: Liz, Dave, Derek, Vic, Simon, Seth, Alex, Wendy +Twins and Norm.

Dave

Jeffing and Blinding

A regular column in which a randomly selected member of the club airs their views on something to do with climbing. This issue, Jeff Wincott and the Stanage guidebook debacle.



"Stanage guidebooks? What's the bloody point? If you've got an ounce of common sense, you'll be able to spot the routes and you can soon tell how bloody hard the things are by climbing 'em. I can't be doing with all the "BMC this, Rockfax that, topo the other" bloody nonsense. I mean, if you know anything about climbing and you're not one of these bloody wall-bred climbers then you don't need a poncey guidebook to tell you where Right Unconquerable is, do you? You just turn up t' bloody crag, open your eyes and you'll soon see it. Unmistakeable...and if you don't have a guidebook, then you don't have to waste your time on all those bloody eliminates and fillers-in that litter the bloody crag. Stick to the proper obvious lines, get 'em climbed and be done with it. If you can't climb 'em because you're too crap 'cos you go to the wall all the time and never get any proper climbing done, then take up bloody knitting. Bloody Stanage guidebooks! If I don't need one, then no other bugger does. Alan James got rich from it all though. Did I ever tell you I pissed up Requiem without friends? Made it bloody easier, I reckon."

Personality or person?

A quality feature in which you get to discover the inner workings of a prominent club member, and which also gives me the chance to ask a load of cheeky questions. This issue, it's the man with the steady head, wise words and who knows how to wield his impressive chopper, or is he just a highly disagreeable bearded gentleman? You decide: Dave Wilson- personality or person?

What's your full name?

David Henry Wilson

Where and when were you born?

St Martins, Shropshire, 1941. My mother was a wartime evacuee from Birkenhead, where I was subsequently brought up.

Who do you most resemble without that beard?

Bloody hell, that's going a long way back in time! I've no idea!

That Liz, she's quite short, but is it wise to give her the runaround?

Moi? Never!

What's the most massive epic you've ever had, and can you blame it on someone?

I'm tempted to cite being marooned in the Hunku valley, and being rescued by helicopter, but that's just trumped by capsizing a GP14 in a Force 9 at Llandudno. I blame God, and the race officer for farting around and delaying the start of the race until a storm was brewing.

What are your six favourite routes, and why?

- *Skeleton Ridge, Isle of Wight*, last year. It was the very best sort of day out- a brilliant adventure with good mates in fine weather

- *Jones Route Direct - Scafell Crag*. Liz and I did this not long after I re-started climbing after a 20 year break. A great route, finding an intricate way up through serious territory on a superb crag.
- *Sacre Coeur, Blackchurch Rock*- just because it's the hardest route I've ever done!
- *Hammer -Efive Slabs* with Derek and Liz. I like slabs, and I love the Western Highlands.
- *Dream of White Horses* - of course! Again with Derek and Liz
- *Aonach Eagach* with Liz in winter and a blizzard.

Being the hut warden's a bit rubbish, isn't it?

Not a bit of it! It's by far the best job on the committee- interesting, fulfilling, rewarding, gratifying -anyone want a go?

I remember you being impressively drunk at one of my early dinners, but I also noticed that you concealed it rather well. How?

First of all, I strenuously refute this. Secondly, if I concealed it so well, how come you noticed? You'll be hearing from my lawyer, you bastard.

How's your 'work/life balance' ?

Happily unbalanced

What are your three best mountain memories?

Topping out on Parchemo, Nepal at 6280m

Climbing the Romsdalehorn in Norway, when I was a slip of a lad in 1960

Climbing Monte Disgrazia in Italy with Liz, Pam and Colin

What's the best move you ever made?

Marrying Liz (of course!) and (a year later!) moving from Preston to New Mills to live with her.

What's really changed your life, and the way you live it?

Redundancy!

Of everyone you've ever known and no longer see, who do you miss most?

Nat Allen

What crags should everyone climb on before they die?

No surprises here, I'm afraid;

Scafell Crag, Cloggy, Gogarth, and just one bit of esoterica—a crag in the Costa Blanca that Brian Royle, Joe Brown and others know as the "Almesiras" in the Echo Valley (aka the Senyera). Get on it before it's all bolted.

How do you look in women's clothing?

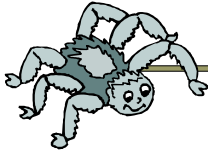
Unlike some others I know, I'm not obsessed with that kind of thing.

If you had to give up the sea or the mountains, which would you choose?

Actually, no contest. The sea.

Give us some advice, Dave.

Some of the best times I've had have been on meets with unpromising forecasts that have come good. So go on meets! It won't necessarily rain, and even if it does, you'll have some good crack with good mates. That, and the climbing, is what it's all about.



Get on t'internet!

Still nothing to do with Steve saying he's definitely going to turn up somewhere, but all things to do with the internet and our "Most Glorious Website in the World".

Firstly, a note from Steve about the excellent website Norm has created over the summer.



www.mynydd.org.uk

By the time you read this, the new-look Mynydd website will be up and running! (The website can be accessed at the above address)

After a huge amount of hard work from Norman and a bit of writing by myself and the committee, the new site contains quickly accessible information on all the key interests for members and prospective newcomers alike.

It is hoped the new site will be dynamic and contain up to the minute information on forthcoming meets, booking arrangements, evening lectures, local weekend outings, Blaen-y-Nant bookings and discussion forums (to follow soon). However, this can only happen if our meets leaders put fingers to keyboard and provide some hype for their forthcoming meets! So don't be shy - I'll be hassling everyone who has meets coming up to provide some promotional information (factual or fictitious), to go on the site to help get interest going.

The website will include meets lists with links to meet leaders reports, Membership details (with a name and shame section for those who don't pay their subs), a club hut section with details of outside bookings and information useful to outside clubs, a club history, newsletters past and current, Committee details, Links to useful climbing related sites and a Photo gallery which all members can add to. So if you use your camera on a meet, send those compromising digital images to Norman for loading and disclosure to the wider audience they deserve.

We are also working on having a forums section up and running before the end of the year where we can accommodate discussion groups, host For Sale and Wanted ads, lifts offered/wanted and generally air our views on which direction the club is heading. The Forums will be accessible to club members only by use

of a password. It is to be hoped the Forums pages will be up and running sooner than expected, and assuming this happens before the next newsletter a password will be required to log-in to prevent external unauthorised access. This will change on a regular basis and will be printed in the newsletter. Initially the password will be...(only printed version will have the password).

Meantime if anyone has any information of major importance they would like to share, i.e. a party you would like to invite everyone to, Buxworth Railway Crag closed due to nesting Ring Ouzels, climbing partner wanted for Right Eliminate, chaperone wanted for vulnerable teenage daughter etc.....then forward to Norman who will place it under the Hot Issues tab.

Can everyone submitting meets information please do so via myself (bowkes@clara.co.uk), for inclusion on the website and please continue to forward reports on completed meets to Martin (mynyddnews@hotmail.com) for inclusion in the Journal.

If you would like to submit photos for inclusion in the Photo Gallery, or anything else until we get the Forums pages going, please do so via Norman who is our Webmaster at mynyddwebmaster@blueyonder.co.uk

Hopefully the new site will be a useful step forward and help get everyone connected with what's planned for our meets without having to wait for the next newsletter as well as gathering suggestions for local crag outings, bouldering, climbing wall, and pub activities. PLEASE USE IT!

Happy Surfing,
Steve

The Mynydd guide to what's on the web

An utterly remarkable site that caters for your every need in the tea and biscuits arena. Full and frank discussions about the pitfalls of dunking, types of cups and mugs, innovations in the world of tea and biscuits and, vitally, a biscuit of the week. After a hard day's climbing, what could be more useful than a site that offers all this (and more)?

www.nicecupofteaandasitdown.com

With the onset of colder weather, bouldering really comes into its own. What could be better than spending the day slapping for rounded sloping holds and sticking them all, or smearing up the most unlikely of roundnesses and topping out? Well, apart from cake, great sex and massive pies, nothing. Try this:

www.fatsloperaction.com ('ave it!)

Meets To Be

2003 HOLIDAY SLIDE SHOW, FOOD & GRITSTONE



SUNDAY 12TH OCTOBER

Well, it's that time of year again, time to dust off those fast receding memories of heroic deeds in the mountains and bring out the holiday snaps.

Format for this years slide show (or digital images if you wish), will be similar to last year's, though hopefully without the storms and force nine gales. Plan is to meet up on the grit on Sunday morning, climb for the day, then make our way to The Navigation at Buxworth for 6pm, who will be providing a room for the evening and a set two course meal at the bargain all-in price of £7.95 !

There will be a choice of two roast dinners, Vegetarian options and no less than choice of four desserts, after which the slides will commence; anything will do, so long as it's from the last twelve months - holiday or local weekend shots.

I will be collecting deposits from everyone who wishes to eat in the next couple of weeks and will provide the detail menu. Basically it looks like Roast beef & Yorkshire, Turkey roast or Poached Salmon with Mushroom Stroganoff veggie option.

If everyone can provide own carousels/ straight magazines it would help. I can get hold of a digital projector if anyone has digital images, so long as there's enough to make it worthwhile.

Look forward to seeing you there. Climbing in the daytime will be Stanage.

Yorkshire Three Peaks /Mountain Biking Meet Lowstern, Clapham 17th- 19th October

Which do you fancy? For those not averse to an early start, the Three Peaks Walk over Pen-y-Ghent, Whernside and Ingleborough is a good day out (approx. 24 miles and 4750 feet of ascent). Alternatively the mountain biking in the Yorkshire Dales is excellent- and of course, you could always go cragging.

Accommodation is booked in the Yorkshire Ramblers hut at Lowstern, near Clapham, SD736691 for the Friday and the Saturday night, cost about £5 /night. There are only 16 places, so to make sure of one, get your money in advance to Steve Bowker, or you might be disappointed!

Brian will be leading the 3 Peaks walk on Saturday, starting from Horton in Ribblesdale at 0700hrs sharp. Bring a head torch! Horton is about 15 minutes drive from Lowstern.

The New Inn at Clapham is about half a mile from the Hut, and serves bar meals until 9 o'clock. Should be a great weekend- get yourselves there!

Dave Wilson and Brian Shelmerdine

Bonfire Meet- 8th and 9th November

To the woods! It's that time of year again when we can all play at lumberjacks and gather in the hut wood supply for the coming year. Gnarly men (and women), chainsaws, trailers, and 4x4 vehicles with a tow-bar all welcome! Please contact Dave or Rob if you can help with any of these items.

After the hard day collecting the odd ton (or ten) of wood, there will be the usual communal nosh, followed by the bonfire (springing, as always, immediately into an impressive inferno), and pyrotechnic display.

A modest charge will be made to cover the cost of the evening meal and fireworks. Please contact Pat Spencer (01663 743114) if you're coming so that we can cater for the right numbers. This is the premium family event of the year. Don't miss it!

Dave Wilson & Rob Pettener

Forthcoming indoor meets

Just a reminder that as Autumn approaches the first indoor climbing wall meet is due to happen on Tuesday 30th September, venue;- Rope Race, Marple closely followed by our first evening lecture.

Ruth Taylor will be coming to The Royal on Thursday 2nd October to talk about deep water soloing..... and maybe a little bit about her Yosemite trip from last year. The show will start at 8.30p.m. so be there early.

Following on from this we hope to have 'Tufty' down at The Royal on Thursday 30th October to talk about his recent Greenland exploits this summer, ably supported by Norman (Abnormal Productions), complete with an audio visual compilation.

The next lecture (and last before Xmas), will be on Thursday 20th November for which details will be announced soon.

Three more lectures will hopefully be arranged for the New Year, one of which will be a combo of Norm (bouldering video)/ Steve (Alpine odyssey).

The Mynydd slide competition has also been resurrected for next year and will take place in January 2004. Final date to be arranged and published in the next newsletter and on the website. Usual rules will apply, with the rider that slides may be entered from 2002 and 2003 only. Owing to increased use of digital format pictures, it is intended that these may be entered in a separate category

so long as they are submitted in jpeg format of reasonable file size on CD to me please. Deadline for all entries will be Thursday 11th December to enable sorting and scanning of slide entries. Winners will be entered in the hall of fame on the new club website as well as being eligible for the usual prizes.....so get digging through your last two years of pictures.

2004 MEETS PROGRAMME

Well, its like this - I need meets ideas and offers of meet leaders for next year as soon as you can put fingers to keyboard and press Send..

No original offers refused! In order to draft out a meets list and get it printed by close of December for the membership card I need to get busy, and I can use that like a tax demand at the moment. If you visit the meets list on the new Website you'll see a few suggestions for 2004. If anyone would care to proffer any sage ideas I would welcome them (though preferably with an offer to lead them).

It actually takes a good few weeks to check availability, shuffle meets and book accommodation once we have the draft plan, so the deadline is really end of October latest for any fresh proposals. Does anyone have any thoughts for an Easter trip?? School holiday dates for half terms would be particularly useful if anyone can inform me Thanks for your help.

Steve

Weekend and Day Meets 2003

<i>Date</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Meet Leader/s</i>
4 th -5 th October	Swanage - Camping	Colin Foord
Sun 12 th Oct	Gritstone/ Hot pot & Hol. Slides	Steve Bowker
18 th -19 th Oct	Yorkshire Three Peaks <i>Lowstern</i> , <i>Clapham</i>	Brian Shelmerdine
8 th -9 th Nov	Bonfire Meet - Blaen-y-Nant	Rob Pettener/ Phil Darlington
29 th - 30 th Nov	Annual Dinner - Lake District, Shap wells Hotel	The Committee
Thurs 18 th	Windgather - Royal Hotel	-

Quiztastic

What do you know about climbing and climbers? Bugger all, I bet.

1. What do Syringe, Hypodermic and Needle all have in common?
2. Which book features a picture of Keith George's arse on the front cover?
3. Complete the route name: "Partially Obscured by a Tall _____?"
4. To convert from a grid to a magnetic bearing, do you add or subtract the difference?
5. In which year did Fergus Graham publish his seminal work 'Further Developments on Gritstone'? (five years either way will do)
6. Who was the first recorded explorer of Stanage?
7. What will you find at the top of 'Extinguisher Chimney' (Kinder)?
8. What is the only thing that costs 80p at The Quiet Woman in Earl Sterndale?
9. Where is Cucklet Delf?
10. Who hammered a load of pegs into Ramshaw, thirty-odd years ago?

Answers below, due to lack of space...



Climbing Clinic

Are your nuts old and useless? Can't get anything to fit into that virgin crack? Salvation is at hand...write to our resident climbing and lifestyle guru, Sir Steve Bowker-Bonnington, to receive indispensable advice for all your climbing ills. Now read on!

Dear Sir Steve,

I would very much like to get involved in climbing, since I am a healthy and fit young person with incredible awards for bravery and derring-do. Can you suggest a first route, perhaps a combination of rock climbing, potholing and scuba diving? Rumour has it you might just know of a route that meets such strict requirements. Perhaps one on which you yourself have had a near death experience? (See 'The Gallery' for further photographic reminders)

Yours hopefully,
Mr Muppetry
Chinley

Sir Steve replies: Dear Mr. Muppet, I have no idea what you're on about. All my expeditions go ahead flawlessly and without even the slightest epic (see 'Preposterous Tales' in the last journal for proof) You'll be hearing from my lawyers at once you sleazy, fat, worthless piece of filth! (Many thanks for your letter, by the way)

Dear Sir BB,

I have recently been chastised by a number of old dears (within my local climbing club in Hayfield) for my lewd and sometimes drunken antics whenever I'm in civilised company. Just because I enjoy dressing up in women's clothing, singing loudly out of tune, dancing dangerously and generally making a spectacle of myself these old farts just have to have a go at little old me. Shall I bravely ignore them and try not to let them hurt my pride, or shall I show them my arse and be done with it?

Like I care,
George Keith

Sir Steve replies: Dear Sir, I have seen your arse and frankly, it's caused me no end of psychological problems since. Show it immediately so that others may share my fate and we can form a self-help group. My lawyers will be pursuing your giant arse for damages.

Sir,

I am a madly keen chap, and this climbing's all a bit of a jolly wheeze. The thing is that everyone I meet seems to think that I'll come to a sticky end because, although I'm as strong as an ox, I've got bugger all technique. Any tips? Oh sorry, wrong person to ask!

Enthusiastically yours,
John McYoung (63)

Sir Steve replies: Dear Youth, you obviously DO have the wrong person! My climbing style has oft been compared to a vertical ballet, a choreographed performance of unparalleled brilliance, timing and artistry (by myself). You'll be hearing from my lawyers.

Sir Steve Bowker-Bonnington can be reached via the editorial address.

This is our valley

After all, we do own the Crafnant (actually). There are lots of people in the club who love this place, and this is where all things to do with Crafnant will reside. Write something, draw something, photograph something, and send it in: we'd love to see it.

Blaen y Nant Diary

Check with Liz if you want more details. Remember that there are always six beds in the members' room, and also some groups are only small, so no problems sharing.

Nights of	Group
10-11 Oct	GS Exiles
12 -14 Oct	Fairbridge
17-18 Oct	Yorks MC
24- 25 Oct	Salford Uni
26-28 Oct	Fairbridge
31Oct- 1 Nov	Karen Jaques
7-8 Nov	Bonfire night -Mynydd
14-15 Nov	Alison Heard Group
21- 22 Nov	Dave Johnson Group
23 -25 Nov	Fairbridge
28-29 Nov	Bristol Uni
5-6 Dec	Macc Wheelers
12-13 Dec	Buxton Club
14-16 Dec	Fairbridge

Working Meet 12th and 13th September

A short meet, this one, finishing at 4 o'clock on the Saturday on account of a certain party in Poynton; however much was achieved by the few who went:

- Chimney pots were changed around, with the result that the Rayburn flue should now draw properly (for the first time ever, I suspect!), and that the rain will not now come down the lounge chimney, bringing with it disgusting globules of tar.
- An additional style has been put over the fence at the top end of the enclosure to our water supply reservoir- to protect tender parts from the barbed wire (ouch!)
- Rotten sills on the landing and Crimpiau windows have been replaced and renovating plastering done on the landing
- The increasingly invasive bracken to the side of the track down from ByN to the gate has been cut back
- Wood has been sawn and logs split using Phil D's prodigious splitter. We now have a full woodshed.
- The septic tank has now been emptied, so we can now sleep easy for another couple of years.

Thanks from Dave, Derek, Phil, Rob, Heather, Andy, and Liz.

On The Rocks

The section of the Journal where you get to relate some amazing feat of derring-do, or a near death experience, or the best/worst day you ever had. As long as it's about climbing it'll get published!

This issue's information comes as a result of my having taken on the task of writing up both Castle Naze and Windgather for the forthcoming BMC Staffordshire guide. Although it may seem odd that these two crags are going to be lumped in with The Roaches *et al.*, geographically it's actually not all that daft. Anyway. Whilst writing and checking at Castle Naze, it became obvious that there were several lines left to do. So I did them, and (as it *occasionally* proved) if I was far too fat to lead the routes myself, I drew upon my supply of 'hard men' to haul my lardy carcass up the routes and so get my name into the first ascents list. So without further ado, here's some fame and glory:

All the routes are on the quarried face that is home to 'Peg Crack' (route 54 in the old 1990 BMC Kinder guide), and are described from left to right.

***Chamonaze Blues**

14m E4 6b (2003)

The first crack in the face ends its usefulness at half height. From there, hard crimping, technical climbing and some very small wires may be of some use!

FA: Olly Allen, Martin Kocsis

***Peg Crack**

14m E1 5c (1960s)

A good route up the crack in the middle of the face. The start is the hardest part of the climb.

****Iron Age Fortitude**

14m E4 6b (2003)

The striking crackline right of the last route. Hard moves will get you to the first jam; from there only determination will see you to the top. Well protected and extremely good value!

FA: Neil Foster, Graham Hoey, Clare Reading, Martin Kocsis

***Keith George: The Movie**

14m E2 5b (2003)

Climb directly to the niche at the right hand end of the quarried face, and then make a couple of hard pulls up and left from a scary undercut onto the face. Finish up the thin crack above. Like Keith, better than it looks!

FA: Martin Kocsis, Laurie Carefoot

***Stoke the Engines**

14m E1 5b (2003)

Just to the right of the previous route climb easily into the corner. From here, step up and left onto the base of the clean slab, and climb it boldly to a steeper finish.

FA: Laurie Carefoot, Martin Kocsis

Martin

Any more new routes to report? Send 'em in!

The Annual Dinner, 2003

Keith Todd's organised this year's dinner at the excellent **Shap Wells Hotel**, Cumbria. For those of you who were there about four years ago, you'll remember the good food, great staff and general niceness of it all. Even if you camp, or doss on someone else's floor, you can still sneak in for a **crafty free breakfast** in the morning (unless you're Olly or Parky and you get locked in the back of Olly's van after a cosy night together)

Here's all the relevant information you might need. If I've missed anything off, then the best thing to do is to give one of the committee a ring and they'll clarify things for you.

The dinner's on **Saturday 29th November**, and you should be ready to eat and drink by 7pm. The cost of a ticket is £18.50, with accommodation costing £25 per person in a twin or double, and £31 for a single room, crammed with yourself and as many cheapskate dossers as you don't manage to fend off (Olly). Phone **01931 716628** to book a room. Send your room money to the hotel, and your dinner money to:

Keith Todd, 3 Newby Road, Heaton Norris, Stockport SK4 2JJ

Why pay all this money for a boring old dinner? Good question. For your money you'll get:

1. Food
2. Entertainment in the form of a decent guest speaker.
3. Abuse in the form of Keith's speech.
4. Ribald laughter from our esteemed President's oratory.
5. Prizes, if you've made an arse of yourself this year.
6. Drunken debauchery, if you have any sense of what's right.
7. A chance to abuse members of the Alpine Club who'll share the venue with us that evening.
8. A chance to steal bottles of wine from wealthy members of the Alpine Club (i.e. every member of the AC)
9. A disco.
10. A host of memories to last a lifetime etc
11. Erm...
12. That's it

The Menu

Starters

Melon Trio
Broccoli & Stilton Soup
Chicken Liver Pate

Main Course

Supreme of Chicken
Poached Salmon
Roast Beef
Roasted Vegetable Tatin

Pudding

Double Chocolate Temptation
Raspberry Meringue Shortbread
Ice Cream
Cheese & Biscuits

Please make clear your choice of food on the form below, and send it off to Keith with the correct loot for the number of tickets you require. As you'll no doubt notice, vegetarians are well catered for, with a highly imaginative dish of vegetables, served with (you've guessed it) vegetables: **a winner!**

-----cut here-----

Names of people attending:

.....
.....

No of tickets needed	
Starter choices
Main Course choices
Pudding choices

Gallery

Only a few shots here, but you can see the fear in Steve's eyes as we wait to get drenched by yet another hundred foot high wave on 'Preposterous Tales' (see last issue for full details!)



