



## Forthcoming Meets

### Fallcliffe

29th April – 1st May 2006

May day weekend, so the chance of an extra day in the hills for those of us who are working. Will be able to have an all day walk or climbing session on the Sunday. Usually the weekend of the final Outside sales!

Contact Neil Brindley: 01708 765700 or  
nbrindley@lambethcollege.ac.uk

### Crianlarich

6th – 13th May 2006

4 cottages have been reserved at Portnellan Highland Lodges which are about 1 mile from Crianlarich on the A85 towards Killin. The cottages are available at 3pm. Bed linen, but not towels is 1 supplied. The cottages sleep 7, 6, with 2 more sleeping 4 each. The 6-bedded one (Kestrel) is on the S side of the road.

The cost will be about £100 per person per week. Dogs: £25 per week. Dog basket and own bedding essential (Portnellan conditions).

Contact Willie Butler: 01883 743289 or  
whbutler@btinternet.com

### Lands End (Camping) 26th-30th May 2006 (Spring Bank Holiday)

As last year, Margaret and Geoffrey Batten remind any members who are thinking of joining this year's meet at Trevedra Farm and who are not regular attendees to contact them so that we can try to increase our booking. Otherwise it might not be possible for us all to be together in one group. This is particularly important if a motor caravan is involved because of planning restrictions. Once again Wendy Nicholas has agreed to provide a communal meal (this year with a different menu) on the Sunday night (28 May).

Contact Margaret or Geoffrey Batten: 0121 475 660 or  
grb@batten.eu.org

### Fallcliffe

16th – 18th June 2006

Summer should have arrived by this time and, with luck, some good weather for walking and climbing. A communal meal may be arranged for Saturday evening for those interested.

Contact Bill Towlson: 01588 620422

### North Pembroke (Camping)

30th June – 2nd July 2006

A new venue! - Tycanol Farm Camping, Newport, Pembroke SA42 0ST The owner, Mr Harries, sounds quite a character on the 'phone, whilst extorting a hefty deposit! He promises a free barbecue nightly. The site is on the coastal path, 2 minutes from its own beach and 15 minutes walk from Newport. Only drawback – no on-site shop.

Directions to site: From Newport take the Fishguard road, the A487; the site is 1 mile from Newport. Grid ref: SN 043 395 Cardigan is 12 miles away, Dinas Head, just a couple of miles and further west lie Fishguard and Strumble Head.

Contact Sue Esten: 01442 864462 or sue@esten.nildram.co.uk

### Fallcliffe

21st – 30th July 2006

All week. Start of the school holidays. A chance to get away with the children, keep them busy and keep it cheap. The Peak is great during the week, you can park anywhere, and there are no crowds on the tops. Last year was a try out, it went quite well, mostly gentle walking, children are a great excuse for taking it easy. There are lots of things to do and see apart from the usual outdoor activities.

Contact Neil Brindley: 01708 765700 or  
nbrindley@lambethcollege.ac.uk

Want to submit a report?  
August 2006 copy date.

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# Meets Programme 2006

Date	Location	Meet	Organiser
Apr 29 – May 1 May 6 - 13	Fallcliffe Scottish Meet	May Day Bank Holiday Criar Larich	Neil Brindley Willie Butler
May 26 - 30	Land's End Camping	Spring Bank Holiday	Geof & Margaret Batten
Jun 16 - 18	Fallcliffe	Early Summer?	Bill Towlson
Jun 30 – Jul 2	N Pembroke	Camping	Sue Esten
Jul 21 - 30	Fallcliffe	End of term escape	Motts / Neil Brindley
Aug 4 - 6	Welsh Borders	Camping	Bill Towlson
Aug 25 - 28	Caseg Fraith	August Bank Holiday, PYB Climbing Classes aimed at 8-16 year olds	Keith Mott
Sep 15 - 17	Norfolk Mountains	Camping	The Motts
Sep 22 - 24	Fallcliffe	A sniff of Autumn?	Les Bailey
Oct 20 – 22	Caseg Fraith	AGM & Dinner, Glan Aber Hotel	Keith Mott
Nov 3 – 5	Fallcliffe	The Bonfire Meet	Neil Brindley
Dec 8 - 10	Fallcliffe	TBA	
Dec 22 – 2 Jan	Caseg Fraith	Xmas & New Year	Elsbeth Howell

## Welsh Borders

### 4th – 6th August 2006

Come and visit this quiet area. Walks of all lengths on the Shropshire and Welsh Border hills. Plenty of castles, N.T. & E. Heritage properties and gardens for non-walkers to visit.

The meet will be at Pam and Bill Towlson's house near Offa's Dyke at Montgomery. A few beds are available but most will have to camp in the garden (tents provided if required). As usual all food and drink (from Friday evening buffet to Monday morning breakfast will be provided and costs shared. (Contributions of puddings for the Saturday evening meal welcomed). If you are interested get in touch with the Towlsons for full details.

Contact Bill Towlson: 01588 620422

## Caseg Fraith

### 25th – 28th August 2006 (August Bank Holiday)

Another round of fun and games over the final week of the summer holiday. Single pitch instruction from PYB aimed at children aged 8-16 years and bigger kids if there is enough interest. Please let me know at least a month before the meet if you would like to book a place.

Cost is likely to be around £35 per person but this includes all equipment and the indoor wall if the weather is too bad. Last year it was the midges which forced us off the rocks!

Contact Keith Mott: 01379 677238 (Home), 07973 747756 (mob) or [ulgmc@mellon.demon.co.uk](mailto:ulgmc@mellon.demon.co.uk)

## Norfolk Mountains (Camping)

### 15th – 17th September 2006

Whilst not the highest meet of the year - the Mott house sits on the 50m contour - so no-one is going to get altitude sickness on the walks. The Norfolk Mountains weekend will have all the usual attractions, walking, cycling, sightseeing, train-driving and, last but not least, eating (and drinking).

Everyone is welcome, most people arrive on Friday but if you want to turn up earlier just let us know. And stay till Sunday or Monday or..... As usual, there is plenty of room to camp in the garden but there is also some bed space in the house. Give us a ring to book a tent space or a bed.

This year I have reached the big 40 and will be celebrating for the weekend and would really like everyone to join us for a birthday bash.

Contact Frances Mott: 01379 677238 or [ulgmc@mellon.demon.co.uk](mailto:ulgmc@mellon.demon.co.uk)

## Hon. Secretary - Vacancy

You are reminded that the post of Hon. Secretary to the Club will become vacant at the October 2006 AGM - The Club needs a volunteer - please contact Sue Esten if you'd like to know more. Telephone: 01442 864462, e-mail: [sue@esten.nildram.co.uk](mailto:sue@esten.nildram.co.uk)

## Past Meets

Caseg Fraith,  
24 December 2005 – 2  
January 2006

### Gill Stewart reports:

I was asked to write this at the meet and here we are in mid April and I'm trying to remember what we did – having had a gentle and kindly reminder from Sue. Hmm...

A weather limiting weekend as I recall. We arrived after a long journey, hampered by snow, to a white soft 2 am trek up to the hut with all our bits and pieces, surprising Reiko who wasn't expecting such late night arrivals. We were thoroughly looking forward to snowy conditions the next day and woke up to torrential rain – not a flake of snow to be seen.

Most memorable moment for me was watching my border terrier, Sam, trudging gamely up to Llyn Casaig in horizontal rain and knee to thigh deep water (measured on the dog's legs!). He was wearing his brand new 'Barbour jacket' coat which I had brought him in case of snow on our planned annual pilgrimage up Snowdon. On the way down he was so wet and cold that we placed him in a rucksack and carried him for a while. He was wrapped in Jen's fleece which had needed wringing out first because it had got very wet even inside her sac. On the same outing Ally's mobile phone and ipod (kids and gadgets!!) were both soaked and became inoperable, though I have to say the phone, a fancy Samsung one, recovered after drying out and a new battery. This beats my 'Nokia sports phone' which is supposed to cope with tough weather, and gave up the ghost after a few drops of water were spilt on it in the office!

We also had two very pleasant walks on the hills around Betws Y Coed. Again we were avoiding the high peaks because of the weather and Ally was on his mountain bike. Beautiful scenery and we didn't get too wet! An area worthy of exploration for those of you who haven't ventured out of the immediate Snowdonia area.

On New Year's Eve we followed tradition and enjoyed a lovely shared meal, eating wonderful Welsh lamb with all the trimmings and drinking just a glass or two (!) of wine. A select bunch of folk numbering about 11 people including my daughter and some of her friends from Cardiff University who were amazed to find they vaguely knew some of the other young folk who turned up at about 10pm and livened things up considerably. We

played a very silly game of Trivial Pursuit – where cheating was almost as accepted as downing the next beer and by the time mid-night arrived party poppers and Auld Lang Syne was followed bed for some (especially me!) and further revels till about 4 am for others. All in all a good time was had by all (I think) and we all recovered enough to clear up properly the next day.

The Cardiff gang did ascend Snowdon before they left as conditions improved slightly in 2006. Other walks also took place and I'm sure Stuart and Reiko climbed too... but you will have to ask them what they did as I have no memory for these details 3 months later – sorry guys!

A good weekend in true ULGMC tradition and with extra enlivenment due to the presence of young, lively and, in some cases, committed mountaineering university people!

Fallcliffe  
20 – 22 January 2006

### Keith Mott reports:

This, purely by accident, turned out to be a children free zone, which is just as well since the much-wished-for snow failed to turn up. Also, the weekend was curtailed by rain on the Sunday. Saturday, though, turned out to really enjoyable with quite an adventurous walk from Longshaw Estate across to the Robin Hood Pub for lunch.

The Peak Rangers were out in force with one giving a fulsome explanation of a stone settlement (used by the Army for target practice during WW2) on the top behind Curbar. Good food and ale were had at the pub before trekking back to a car at Curbar Gap. There were some spectacular views of the setting sun over Chatsworth as we left the pub.

Visits to the shops and an early departure were the recipe for Sunday.

Overall, good food and excellent company made the weekend complete.

Caseg Fraith  
17 – 19 February 2006

### Bill Towlson reports:

Eight members and 1 day visitor attended. On Friday evening we retired to bed spreading ourselves around all the various bunkrooms only to be surprised in the early hours by the arrival of a largish party (12) of students. It was all resolved amicably in the morning and we all rather enjoyed the slight chaos and enthusiasm generated by the new arrivals.

Saturday was cold and intermittently bright with snow above 1500 feet. Two groups walked on the Glyders and the students climbed! My group had a fine outing from Idwal, via the Devil's Kitchen over the Glyders with dramatic views, back to Caseg.

Sunday was colder, cloudier and more windy and the ULGMC contingent all found reasons to avoid the tops. A pleasant weekend!

Fallcliffe  
3 – 5 March 2006

### Keith Mott reports:

The threat of snow may have put some people off but to others it was a challenge. The snow began to fall on Friday evening. By late evening it had begun to settle. More fell overnight and drifted up to walls and trees. The wind must have dropped during the latter stages of the night for I took the branches to be covered in hoar frost rather than snow.

Instead of the usual long drive to start a walk it was suggested that we head for Eyam. This suited all of the party since it would mean a forced stop at the Bridge Inn. The children, who had so sensibly stayed away in January, had a whale of a time pelting all and sundry with balls made





from perfect snow. Unfortunately for them and to the relief of the others it became too wet in the afternoon. The church at Stoney Middleton is worth a visit. The Bridge Inn provided a perfect stopping and meeting place for the group. If you haven't tried it before it is to be recommended. Bill Towlson then led the group south and then west around Deep Rake and High Rake, ancient and more modern lead cuts around Bleaklow which are now being filled in. We then headed north, crossing Middleton Dale and approaching Eyam Hall through a nature reserve populated by bluebells and very tall ash and beech trees.

On Sunday we parked the cars at the Robin Hood (it really is very good) with considerable difficulty since the little snow that had fallen overnight had turned to ice in the shade of the trees. We walked into the Chatsworth Estate passed the edge and up towards the Hunting Tower. Since we were keen to get away soon after lunch we turned back there and walked back along the drive towards the road, turning off to the east to meet up with a well-made track which took us back to the Chesterfield road. The sun only hid behind clouds after we had left the pub. It turned chilly then but who were we to complain.

## News from Members

### Southern Alps, New Zealand, January 2005

David Roche writes:

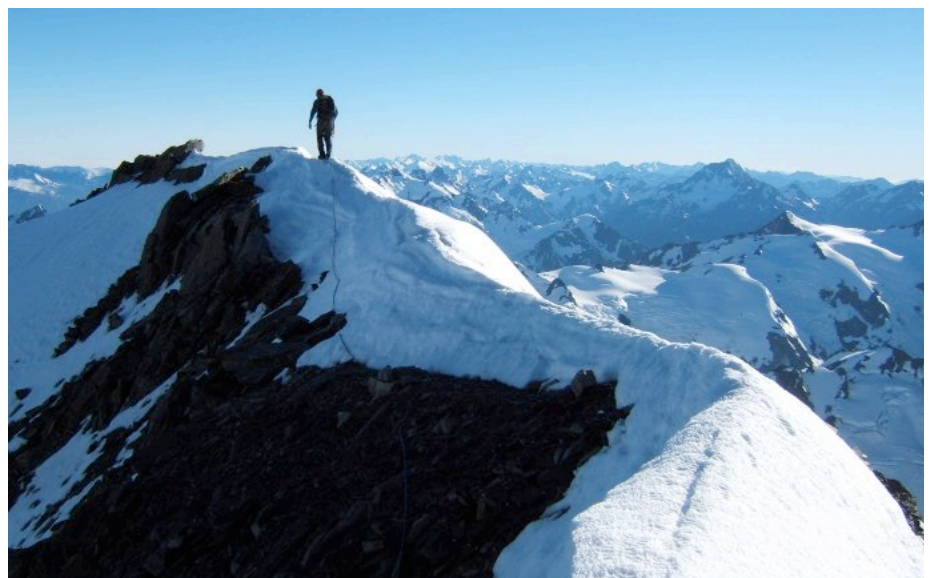
I am a rare contributor to this newsletter, I pay my subscription more or less regularly but once or twice Les has had to point out that I am a year overdue, or two. Climbing occupies much less of my life now, the knees are creaking and the back hurts more or less continuously. This did not stop me signing up for the 2004/5 'Global Challenge', a yacht race around the world .....but do not worry, that is not the subject of this article. Its benefit (amongst many) was that I ended up in New Zealand for five weeks with my hotel bills (unexpectedly) paid for by the yacht sponsor. There was no one else on the yacht interested in climbing so satellite email pinged messages from the Southern Ocean to the Alpine Guides office in Mount Cook village as we closed in on

New Zealand. Between Cape Horn and New Zealand the arrangements were cast in stone, climbing by credit card, details supplied from mid ocean at sixty degrees south. I had never climbed in New Zealand, though I had promised myself I would. I had never climbed with a guide and my legs were about as unfit as they ever have been. You cannot run far on a seventy foot yacht.

Confirming the degree of unfit was not take long, a few days hill walking around Queenstown, alternating with bungee jumping and white water rafting left me rather nervous about the week's alpinism ahead. I was honest with the guide; Danny had surely heard excuses like this before. A modest itinerary was drawn up and the realities of the Southern Alps explained, two day walk ins and twelve hour walk outs.....My hotel budget was going to be severely eaten into by a helicopter in and a ski plane out but the forecast was good, I only had a week and I was quite old. I did not have many excuses left to quote.

Market trading was the order of the day at the airport with payloads of climbers and kit being 'adjusted' to the most financially efficient combinations. There is nothing like the imprint of an aerial view to learn topography as we flew into the Tasman Saddle, installed ourselves in the Kellman hut and tore up the pinnacles behind the hut before sunset, clouds alternately immersing us and whisking away to reveal a dreamy alpine landscape. Rickety abseils over shattered rocks led back to a vegetarian meal of gigantic proportions. Yes, Danny was one, I am not. A great sacrifice as there is no red meat between Buenos Aires and Wellington.

An Alpine start was not much different to the 2am watch on board, except that there was time to warm up in the approach to the short steep face of Mt







Aylmer and no icy waves meeting you at the top of the companionway. Not all fun though, my calves screamed after about 20 metres on front points, Danny clearly was not going to have me introduce him to an impromptu glissade so we pitched the steepest bit and I 'got my breath back' by building a monster ledge to not front point on. Ahhhh!

A narrow ridge between Aylmer and Hochstetter Dome, tame to the guide felt unsettling to one who had not walked an arête for some time and gave glimpses of the heavily glaciated peaks around. The descent proved to be an introduction to that glaciation as we perforated a few crevasses. One a holiday was the average in the Alps, here it was twice a route and the careful rehearsal of crevasse rescue had been wise but why does every country do it differently and introduce you to a completely new knot?

Next morning the freeze was not complete at 3am and we punched holes through a short, steep approach face to the NE ridge of Mt Annan. Danny was confident it would freeze yet and be safe for the descent. I quavered and thought dark thoughts, the bugger was right though. Annan is the edge of the Malte Brun range, fabled for its rock routes. This one was about as loose as it gets, compression of the strata the only safe way to proceed on some of it and since there was no one around we clattered a few tons of rock down to the glacier. A route to ourselves, a pleasure rarely experienced in Europe, but then if there were too many parties on it it would lose height fast. My confidence was returning fast on the rock and my short legs, the shortest that Marks and Spencer cater for, made me more agile than Danny whose legs were unnaturally long (as all guides are). I suspect I knocked off less rock than he did.....An outward facing crampon descent and a brief mid flight panic over the bergschrund soon led us back to more vegetables and an afternoon sleep.

To be honest I was now knackered and although Danny was offering another route I took the financially efficient ski

plane out the next day and as the coach left Mount Cook village the weather broke. My face split into a grin, another few climbs done, a bit more time spent in the high mountains and I had got to climb in the New Zealand Alps just before age caught up with me. A yacht awaited me in Wellington and a tough leg through the Southern Ocean to Cape Town, no more front pointing though..... I just needed some red meat before we left again.

## Annapurna Sanctuary October 2005

### Carol Bristow writes:

"Would you like another cup of tea Carol." "Yes please Sylvia and another for Bill and Lennie." We were sitting in brilliant sunshine, tired but happy having tea and biscuits and looking at the view surrounded by Machhapuchhre and the vast range of the Annapurnas.

We were on our second trip to Nepal and having done the Everest trek it was time for Annapurna Base Camp. Our route was Kathmandu, Pokhara and then by foot northwards with sirdar, sherpa and three porters – a great gang. We stayed in lodges which provided basic accommodation, a hole in the ground and running water or hose pipe. Great places where you meet all the world and their sherpas and being on the 'older' side we were able to give advice and sympathy to the fit young things we met en route steaming past us who then became exhausted, dehydrated and suffered from altitude. We travelled through rhododendron forests, bamboo, bananas, monkey country and leeches.

We were stopped at Ghorepani where we met our first Maoists and all had to pay 12,000R to pass. We rose at 4.30 next day and climbed a rapid 1,000ft to see the first rays of the sun as they hit

Annapurna, an awesome sight. On the way down, there were our little Maoists fining everybody who had forgotten their receipts. I drew myself up to my full 5' 4" and challenged them on how much went to the local school and medical centre and how much on guns. As Bill made a rapid retreat he said that I obviously had them shaking in their boots!

We were following very much the route that Michael Palin took but didn't get altitude sickness but I must admit his photos were fantastic. So, on to our objective of Annapurna Base camp with very little altitude effects. Still in excellent weather we visited the memorial to Anatoli Boukreev (Into Thin Air) and Ian Clough which were festooned with Buddhist prayer flags. They both died on Annapurna. We climbed up to the glacier which we intended to go on the next day and had a go on the volleyball court, surely the highest in the world. As we went back to the lodge the sky started to change and the temperature plummeted. That evening we had 'comfort food' of egg, chips and ketchup to celebrate our achievement.

Over night there was more snow and a flaming row was going on with a party of Indians. By next morning our porters were feeling very miserable through lack of sleep and wanted to go down. It took two seconds to make a unanimous decision as the weather was deteriorating fast. We left rapidly but not before I had a few chosen words to the Indians ( is this the 'new' me at altitude?) We left at 8am in heavy snow which turned to torrential rain as we descended. We didn't find accommodation until 7pm as so many people were coming down.

We finished at a lodge surrounded by luxuriant cannabis plants, where we suspected a lucrative bit of trading was going on. Unseasonal heavy rain followed us then, falling to shoulder height at base





camp and causing avalanches and death further north.

We descended still in awful weather to Chomrung where Michael Palin had found the hours of going up and down steps so difficult (so did we!) On a steep descent there was suddenly a scream and we found Sylvia's rucksack on the path. She had gone over the edge. Within seconds our porters ran down and managed to get her out. She had plummeted down but was wrapped round a tree stopping her fall which could have been very serious. A sherpa from an ascending group took over. She had a gash right down the back of her head. He cut her hair, washed the wound in iodine and put on butterfly plasters and bound her up in crepe bandage. He then carried on upwards and was gone. A quick decision was made to cut short the trip to get medical help, sherpa dispatched to bring the porters down from where we were due to stay, one sent on to book us in for the night, then he was to go to Pokhara, book us into a hotel and arrange a minibus to collect us next day. All done without phones or mobile! We walked out, all went to plan and Sylvia had seven stitches put in without anaesthetic by a doctor who took head injuries in the mountains very seriously. Also pain killers for bruising and chest pain. A beautiful silk scarf was purchased to cover the bandages. After rest, we ladies managed some serious retail therapy in the lovely lakeside town of Pokhara where we seemed to be local celebrities. A reluctant return to the turmoil of Kathmandu and we came home. Not to be put off, we are all going to do the Annapurna Circuit next year with one member on a short lead!

## Antarctic Voyage, November and December 2005

Laura Hampton writes:

John and I joined an Australian trip to Antarctica in November/December to follow Shackleton's journey after the sinking of the *Endurance*. We sailed in a comfortable Russian ex-survey ship, with Russian crew and Australian guides and some 50 passengers from Switzerland (8), England (3) and the rest Australian. We started from Ushuaia in Patagonia and went first to the Falklands Islands where we visited Sea Lion Island (magellanic penguins, upland geese and caracaras), and, next day, Port Stanley. Then across to South Georgia via the Shag Rocks - 5 huge pinnacles, covered with nesting shags, sticking straight up out of the ocean - remnants of a volcano. On South Georgia, we first went to King Haakon Bay (Peggotty Bluff) where we landed the five intrepid mountaineers, led by Tashi Tensing (grandson of Tensing Norgay), who were going to follow Shackleton's route across the island. The rest of us landed and spent a happy morning amongst the seals (fur and elephant) and penguins (King) on the beach before going back to the ship for lunch and to sail round to Camp Cove where Shackleton had been washed up. Fur seals objected to our intrusion as we climbed up the tussock grass (like giant Scotchman's heads) to view the nesting skuas, giant petrels and albatrosses.

The next day we visited Grytviken where we saw Shackleton's grave, the excellent museum, the old whaling station and the BAS base. Then, back aboard, we sailed round to Fortuna Bay to meet up with our mountaineers who had done a very fast trip. A number of us then joined them to cross the final pass, where Shackleton had heard the hooter from the Stromness Whaling station and knew he was safe. We all did the famous "bum slide" down the long snow slope and on past a penguin rookery to the beach, now inhabited by numerous aggressive fur seals.

The following day we visited Salisbury Plain to view the hundreds of thousands of king penguins and their chicks (Oakum boys), the fur and elephant seals and a small colony of gentoo penguins. It was amazing to wander amongst all this life which, apart from the fur seals, ignored our presence. The afternoon was spent watching wandering albatrosses nesting on Prion Island. One lady got bitten by a fur seal and had to have 9 stitches inserted.

We visited other sites on South Georgia where we saw thousands more king penguins, Macaronies, chinstraps and

gentoo - an unforgettable sight- before we set sail for the South Orkney islands. We were prevented from landing by pack ice so we went on directly to Elephant Island where Shackleton's 22 men survived for 105 days during a dark, Antarctic winter before he was able to rescue them after his voyage to South Georgia. We arrived in a snow storm and rising gale. We managed to make a brief landing on the bleak, windswept beach where the men had survived by living under the two small upturned boats. We were glad to return to a warm ship for an excellent supper to revive us. Our admiration for Shackleton, Wild and the men abounded as we saw the places and conditions they encountered. The rest of our trip was spent on the western side of the Antarctic peninsula. We sailed as far as 65°S where we had an exciting time in the pack ice at the southern end of the Lemaire Channel. Six people did the "Polar Plunge" into the icy waters of Neko Bay. We went ashore in zodiacs to view the wildlife and visit several unmanned bases. It was an excellent trip of 3800 nm. and most enjoyable. If anyone wants to know more, please get in touch.

## New Zealand, a gentler way, January and February 2006

Sue Esten writes:

New Zealand! - we couldn't stay away! We came back with that same heartfelt appreciation of the country and its people as last time. My NZ rels are big into baking - so we had to take refuge in the odd mountain (or river) journey before we could face another waist-challenging home stay. So, what did we do? No walking on North Island - instead a 3 day canoe trip on the Whanganui river. Easy canoeing thankfully, especially as we were in a lumbering Canadian, but a beautiful journey between high steep cliffs covered with lush vegetation. We almost made our debut on NZ TV! Going down the river at the same time as us were a party of blind and partially-sighted teenagers, who were being followed by a film crew. Thanks to them we participated in a Maori welcome ceremony at a marae that also doubled as a Department of Conservation (DOC) hut - the film of this we saw a few days later at a cousin's house. However, the Brits had been edited out! Guests at such ceremonies are invited to take part - and a discourse and songs in Maori were followed by equally unintelligible, but more familiar Swiss German and yodelling from some Swiss present!

South Island saw us taking to our boots - first on the Queen Charlotte track in Marlborough Sound, then on the Wilkin-



Young circuit in the Haast region. The former is easy walking and absolutely beautiful, whilst the Wilkin-Young is a much tougher affair - and our AFD food wasn't a patch on the gastronomic delight that the Queen Charlotte had been! On the W-Y I have never before climbed so many tree root 'ladders' to progress up (or down) a mountain side. Having scaled these ladders, views of mountains with such names as 'Awful' or 'Dreadful' were our reward! Rivers were low and any crossings easy (apart from the sandflies that lie in wait to attack whilst you dither before getting on with crossing!) A trip on Doubtful Sound was a delight, after which we met up with Rose Cunninghame with whom we walked part of the South Coast (of Fiordland) track. This started with a splendid jet boat trip across Lake Hauroko and down a river with an unpronounceable name to the coast. The first day's walk followed the track of a railway put in to service a logging operation (rapidly failed) and crossed some spectacular wooden viaducts. Eventually we were glad to escape this and get out onto some wonderful beaches. One of the huts we stayed in had been a former school house serving the logging

community. Our final 2 days tramping were by Lake Manapouri - through wonderful forests with ever-changing habitats and very bossy NZ robins!

## Infinity and Beyond

Peter Stewart writes:

I've just come back from a Plas-Y-Brenin Ski Touring course, which was run in Galtur in Austrian Silvretta Alps. For those that haven't heard of ski touring, Infinity and Beyond seems the best way to sum it up. To the normal down-hill skier the top of the lift system is an infinity, it is as high up as you can sensibly go. Ski touring allows you to go beyond that infinity, by making it 'easy' to go uphill beyond the top of the ski lift.

Ski touring is done with essentially normal down-hill skis (though lighter skis are preferred) but with special bindings that allow the heel to be lifted when skinning up-hill or to be clamped down like a conventional down-hill binding. Touring boots are also different to down-hill ski boots in that they are lighter, have a decent tread for walking and allow more movement than conventional ski boots.

You go up-hill by attaching skins (traditionally seal but now synthetic) to the bottom of the ski, which act like a ratchet sliding forward easily, but not slipping backwards. It is a fantastic way to access the remote parts of the mountains in winter.

The course covers knowledge of snow conditions, avalanche avoidance, crevasse rescue, defensive skiing (take it easy) and even some skiing tips. They run ski touring and ski mountaineering courses at the same time, the main difference being that Ski Mountaineers are expected to ski Red runs whereas ski tourers are expected to ski black runs. If in doubt I would recommend opting for ski mountaineering as they seemed to do as much as the bottom set of the ski touring class. I was in awe of Alex on the ski mountaineering course who was skiing on an artificial leg.

The course was partially hampered by wind and snow in the middle of the week, which made an ideal opportunity to learn / practise skiing in powder up to thigh deep on or just off the pistes.

On the last couple of days we got out into the mountains staying in the Heidelberger Hut (across the border in Switzerland). The week finished with a fine day, a 700m ascent to the Kronen Joch to find a perfect un-skied valley stretching before us. This was of course followed by my first experience of creating first tracks as we descended the valley. My favourite photo of the week is my tracks next to the guides, two sets of synchronised S's. He gave me 9 out of 10, so I think that's good enough for me.

So is there anyone else in the club interested in Ski Touring? (I know Shaun and Shelagh are but I've lost your contact details). How about a club meet to the Silvretta or somewhere like that next year? If you're interested get in touch ([paastewart@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:paastewart@tiscali.co.uk) 01794 324106).

If you don't ski, get out and learn, it's great!

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## A Postcard from Yosemite (from Peter Stewart)

Dear Dad,

Thought you would like to know that we made it up Regular Route on the NW Face of Half Dome.

A tough experience for everyone including me. The others made me carry 36lbs of water plus food, a spare rope and all their bivi gear, it probably weighed 60 pounds all together. The others only took turns to carry a rucksack with hardly anything in it.

We arrived at the start on the Wednesday evening after a long hot walk in, to find a queue of five other parties starting ahead of us. Fortunately two parties were planning to do one day ascents, which meant that the bivi at pitch 6 would be free. So after a night's bivi at the base we set off on Thursday morning.

The climbing was really tough, my head kept bumping into overhangs, which made me want to stop for a rest every time. Next thing I know they are chivvying me along again. All in all quite a pain.

As it turned out it took all day to get to the bivi at pitch 6, so we wouldn't have

gone any further even if there hadn't been a queue. There was lots of shouting well into the night, probably the groups on the one-day ascent finishing off.

I had a night of suspense, hanging from a bolt, while the other two tried to sleep sitting up, the only feasible option on the pitch 6 "poor sloping bivi for two".

Day 2 was mostly traversing out onto the main face, including the Robins Traverse, "the most audacious pendulum of its time", when the route was first climbed (1957).





I don't like traversing at all. Straight up was bad, but traversing is worse.

We made it to the bivi ledge a couple of hours before sunset, so I had a bit of peace and quiet there while the lads went off to rig the next two pitches.

When they came back I overheard them discussing that it was my fault that it was all taking so long! Frankly I think that it is them that can't climb fast enough, not me.

To be honest it's our first big wall for all three of us, but I can tell straight away that this is my ideal type of climbing, whereas the others don't fit in quite so well. Peter hasn't the stamina, John seems to struggle with the strange techniques. I feel that this is the type of climbing that I was made for. It's like I'm the professional here and they are amateurs.

There was a short debate about food that evening, we only had three evening meals and this was our third evening. A quick decision - eat it today.

There was space to lie down at the pitch 11 "poor bivi for two", but it was really cold. Peter had all his clothes on

inside his sleeping bag and said he was still cold.

The final indignity was when they hung the pooh pot from my bottom.

Day three was dominated by chimneys, some of which were too tight for me.

The big break through on day three was when we got high enough to see over the shoulder on the left. Perhaps we are making progress even if it is slow.

Then we reached the 'Big Sandy Ledge' a 'Deluxe Bivi for four'. The reports are true, it isn't big or sandy and if this is a Deluxe Bivi ...

A sort through of all the rest of our food; we have a few things that we had planned for lunches but haven't had time to eat. We set aside some Cliff Bars for breakfast and the descent. So that leaves Doritos, biscuits, Strawberry Jam and Peanut butter. The peanut butter doesn't squeeze out of the tube, because it's crunchy, so it's easier to open the tube up and eat it with a spoon. Oh the coffee is getting a bit thin too, one cup of coffee and one of hot water, keep the water intake up.

Next morning Peter says he's had a good night's sleep and took some of his layers off, but John's had a cold night. Next morning off they go up the 'Zig Zags' once they work out which way to go, I think the nearest they've got to going off route. They both look like they've been involved in a horrible accident with their hands bandaged up. They say they are jamming gloves, I guess it's true: they are so grubby now that if they were bandages they would have got gangrene by now. Jamming gloves, and they think of themselves as hard climbers. I can tell you that I am made of tougher stuff than them.

Half way up the 'Zig Zags' is the alcove where the first ascent party of three spent a night. An up-ended coffin, they must have spent the night standing up! I'm glad it's not on the bivi schedule today.

I would really like to have a go at leading, but they never offer me the chance. Mind you I always climb with the rope so tight, that leading might be a problem.

From the top of the 'Zig Zags' it's the 'Thank God Ledge'. Is that thank God it's nearly finished, or thank God that we can get out from under the huge overhang of 'The Visor'?

Another bolt ladder, a final pitch and hey it's sunset and then it's the top.

A ten mile hike in the dark, with 5,000 feet of descent. We made it back to the camp site at 1:30 in the morning. Hey, the all you can eat breakfast was worth the night-hike.

A long haul as they say, but we made it.

Pauline the Pig, your trusty Haul Sack. (is that pulling or pull in or is it just appalling?)

Footnote: Peter Stewart and friend John Parker climbed Regular Route on Half Dome, Yosemite, with a haul sack loaned to them by Peter's work colleague Matthew.

## Club News

### Climbing instruction

Reiko and Stuart Elliott are interested in getting a group together for a day's instruction from Johnny Dawes. This would cost £30 a head for a group of 10 people. If you are interested, please contact Reiko directly [reiko.elliott@lse.ac.uk](mailto:reiko.elliott@lse.ac.uk)

### Club discount - 'Outside' Hathersage

The Club's discount - 10% - has been re-instated by 'Outside' at Hathersage. You must produce a valid Club membership card. Certain items are exempt from the discount arrangement: these include books and maps, also sale items or goods which are already subject to in-store promotions. The discount is only valid in the Hathersage store and is not available on purchases made at either the Calver store or the on-line store ([www.outside.co.uk](http://www.outside.co.uk)).

### Reminder AGM & Dinner 2006

The AGM & Dinner will be held at the Glan Aber Hotel in Betws-y-Coed the weekend of October 20th - 22nd 2006. For those of you who like to book early at the hotel, its coordinates are given below:

Glan Aber Hotel, Holyhead Road, Betws-y-Coed, Conwy LL24 0AB

Tel: 01690 710325, Fax: 01690 710700 or email:

[info@glanaberhotel.co.uk](mailto:info@glanaberhotel.co.uk)



## Use your footpaths

The Ramblers Association is challenging us to walk all the public rights of way in England and Wales between 20 March 2006 and 22 September 2007. (The dates correspond to spring and winter equinoxes). The idea is for individuals to walk all the paths in 1km x 1km grid squares and signal to the Rambler Association via the web site that they have set up when particular squares have been walked. Full details to be found on [www.useyourpaths.info](http://www.useyourpaths.info).

## Moors for the Future

A 5 year project is under way "Moors for the Future", which aims to restore 30ha of moorland and 12 miles of paths in the Peak District which have been damaged by erosion, pollution, fires and over-grazing. More than 100,000 young native plants are to be planted in the region of Bleaklow – cotton grasses, cloudberry, bilberry and crowberry. [www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk](http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk)

## Pakistani Earthquake Disaster

An impromptu collection made at the Club's AGM and dinner last October for the Pakistani Earthquake Disaster Appeal enabled our Hon. Treasurer to pay the sum of £70 to the fund set up by the Disasters Emergency Committee. Thanks to everyone who contributed.

## More from Monty Avis' songbook

### The Red Crag

*The people's crag is deepest red,  
It cushions off our fallen dead.  
And ere their limbs have ceased to twitch  
Their life's blood dyes its every pitch.*

#### Chorus

*Then raise the piton hammers high  
Upon this crag we'll do or die,  
Though leaders fall and seconds spill  
We'll raise the standard higher still.*

*It's witnessed many a horrid sight  
When mild severes seemed cause for fright,  
Although E.S. does not now thrill  
We'll climb on this old boulder still.*

*It well recalls the triumphs past  
When every moment seemed our last,  
We gasped at every final strain  
"By hell we'll never climb again."*

*It serves today the weak and base  
Who do not love the steepest face.  
The triple overhang to shun,  
And say "That route cannot be done."*

*With heads well covered swear we all,  
To climb on upwards till we fall,  
And as the cracks our pitons fill  
We'll raise the standards higher still.*

## John Muir Trust

### 2006 Journey for the Wild

Starting in May, and continuing for the next 5 months, the John Muir Trust is organising a Journey for the Wild – 'an epic adventure through some of the UK's wildest places. In the spirit of John Muir, participants create their own route on rivers, land and sea, travelling light and with a minimal environmental footprint.'

Their aim is to raise the awareness of wild places for people and nature. There are 3 ways to participate – self-guided, guided or joining in an activities & conservation programme. Full details of the journey and the rest of the John Muir programme may be found on the web site at [www.jmt.org/programmes](http://www.jmt.org/programmes).

### Supporting the JMT

You can now sell an item on eBay and donate from 10% to 100% of the final sale price to help the JMT protect wild land for nature and people.

How Does It Work? eBay has partnered with MissionFish, a non-profit service provider, to create the eBay for Charity fundraising programme which makes it safe and easy for charities to benefit from trading on eBay. While listing an item on eBay you can choose to donate a percentage, or all, of your item's final selling price to the John Muir Trust. Your item will feature a charity ribbon, the JMT name and logo and the percentage you are donating so that buyers know that they are supporting a worthy cause. Visit <http://pages.ebay.co.uk/community/charity/index.html> for more information.

skier, hill-walker and occasional rock-climber, she often attended club meets with husband Graham and sons Chris and Guy. Roslyn travelled extensively, trekking and scrambling in the Alps, N. Africa, the Americas, Nepal and Sri Lanka. At her request her ashes have been returned to her native Australia..

Jeni Fordham adds that Roslyn was a keen photographer, and was instrumental in setting up a new UK diabetes charity.

### Margaret Young (nee Peart) 1938 - 2006

Older members may remember Margaret Peart who became an enthusiastic climber during her undergraduate years at Bedford College (1956-9) and was an active member of ULGMC in the early 1960s, attending many of the club meets as well as frequent weekend trips to Harrisons. Margaret lost active contact when she married and moved back to her native Co. Durham but she remained a member. Apart from raising 3 children, working part-time for Durham University, and becoming a local magistrate, she made some use of her

## Obituaries

### Roslyn Elson Jan 1942 - Jan 2005

(with the Editor's apologies to Graham for having omitted Roslyn's obituary from an earlier newsletter) Roslyn lost her long battle with cancer in January. She was a microbiologist and immunologist, gaining an M.Phil. and a Ph.D. from London University. A keen

climbing experience as a regular member of the Teesdale and Weardale Fell Rescue Team.

In 1987 she was diagnosed with a non-operable brain cancer. Radical treatment allowed her a restricted but relatively normal life for 12-13 years but then the rate of deterioration in her health increased seriously. Margaret never gave up, fighting every reverse and always striving to regain lost ground. She spent the last 3 years virtually unconscious in a nursing home and finally died on 22 Jan after several weeks fighting a chest infection.

## Membership and Subscriptions

### A warm welcome to

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### Resignations

Albert Cowell, Ann Vaughan-Spruce.  
Arthur & Brenda Wood resign and send their best wishes and "would like to thank everyone for the happy times we have had"

### ULGMC subs, as agreed at the AGM in October

Family Membership is now £25.00  
Single Membership £15.00 (both include BMC affiliation of £8.40pp)

The Hon. Treasurer, Sarah Hampton will be very pleased to receive your subscriptions for 2006. Please add £8.40 for any child that you wish to have affiliated to the BMC. For your convenience a form is provided at the end of the newsletter. Please ignore this if you have already paid. Your subscriptions must reach the Hon. Treasurer before the 1st June 2006 to be included with the next BMC submission of paid-up members of this Club. Remember that if your name is not on the BMC list, you will not have 3rd party insurance...

## ULGMC Subscriptions 2006

To: Sarah Hampton, Lulworth Cottage, 29 Church Lane, Bardsey, Nr Leeds LS17 9DN

Please renew my/our subscription of £15 (single) / £25 (family) for ULGMC 2006 and £8.40 per child if you wish to affiliate them to the BMC. Cheques should be made payable to ULGMC.

Single / Family subscription	£.....
BMC child affn(s) @ £8.40/child	£.....
Club badges @ £2.50 each	£.....
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£.....</b>

NAME(S) .....  
(inc. children  
for BMC affn) .....

ADDRESS .....  
.....

email address .....