

The Matterhorn (Cervino) on the 150th anniversary of the Alpine Club  
Insert: Active AC/ULGMC members on the summit of the Bishorn Hywel Lloyd



## Membership Cards and Subscriptions

Neil Brindly ([members@ulgmc.org](mailto:members@ulgmc.org)) has completed the task of reviewing the membership list. The new list is now available for download on the website in the members' area. There are still some members who have not paid subs this year - remember that unless you pay you subs you cannot book a hut at the members' rate and you will not be covered by the BMC's insurance scheme.

## Forthcoming Meets

Please contact the meet leader if you want to come on one of the meets. If you would like to share a lift to a meet you may want to use the YahooGroup to post the request.

Do you want to lead a meet? Send Keith Mott an email ([meets@ulgmc.org](mailto:meets@ulgmc.org)) or phone him (07973 747756) and he will be glad to help.

If you want to arrange a 'friends' trip why not drop an email into the YahooGroup and see if you cannot organise a slightly larger group of friends to go climbing.

### Falcliffe - A sniff of autumn? 21-23 September

If the weather is good there will be climbing somewhere close by. If it's not so good then one of 2 walks will be proposed - either the Edale horseshoe or a low level walk between Stanage and Edale. Both will end at the Old Nags Head.

Contact Keith Mott: 07973 747756  
email: [meets@ulgmc.org](mailto:meets@ulgmc.org)

### Great Langdale - AGM & Dinner at Old Dungeon Ghyll 19 - 21 October

The Old Dungeon Ghyll is once again the venue for this year's AGM and dinner. I have once again had a struggle to reduce their excellent menu to something more manageable. I hope you all approve. Please let me have feedback, good or bad, at the dinner or afterwards.

Keith Mott - full details in the main section.

### Falcliffe - The Bonfire Meet 2 - 4 November

For those who have been here in recent years no explanation is necessary. For the rest, just book early for an experience to thrill all the senses - the sight and sound of the fireworks, the taste and aroma of the food and that feeling of warmth around the fire.

Contact Neil Brindley: [NBrindley@lambethcollege.ac.uk](mailto:NBrindley@lambethcollege.ac.uk)

### Caseg Fraith - Christmas and New Year 21 December 2007 - 1 January 2008

The last and first meet of the year at Caseg Fraith. New Year's Eve has been a highlight in the past with some very fine food and wine to see out the year. The weather can be anything from crisp and clear to wet and wild.

Contact Elspeth Howell: 01604 769277 or email [elspeth.howell@lineone.net](mailto:elspeth.howell@lineone.net)

### Falcliffe - Cold and Bright? 18 - 20 January 2008

Les is going to lead this meet. This is likely to be your last chance of the year to climb on the grit stone or go mountain biking.

Contact Keith Mott: 07973 747756  
email: [meets@ulgmc.org](mailto:meets@ulgmc.org)

Want to submit a report?  
end October 2007 latest

Editor: Shaun West  
Email: [editor@ulgmc.org](mailto:editor@ulgmc.org)  
Web: [www.ulgmc.org](http://www.ulgmc.org)



# Meets Programme 2007 and Proposed for 2008

Date	Location	Meet	Organiser
21 - 23 September	Fallcliffe	A sniff of Autumn	TBA
19 - 21 October	Great Langdale	AGM & Dinner at Old Dungeon Ghyll	Keith Mott
2 - 4 November	Fallcliffe	The Bonfire Meet	Neil Brindley
21 December - 1 January 2008	Caseg Fraith	Christmas and New Year	Elspeth Howell
18 - 20 January 2008	Fallcliffe	Cold and Bright?	Keith Mott
22 - 24 February	Caseg Fraith	Any Snow Left?	TBA
29 February - 2 March	Fallcliffe	Hint of Spring?	Keith Mott
21 - 24 March	Caseg Fraith	Easter	Keith Mott
2 - 5 May	Fallcliffe	Climbing Classes aimed at +8 years MayDay Bank Holiday	TBA
23 - 26 May	Land's End Camping	Spring Bank Holiday	Geof & Margaret Batten
15 - 17 June	Fallcliffe	Early Summer?	Keith Mott
5 - 7 July	North Pembroke	Camping	Sue Esten
18 - 20 July	Caseg Fraith	Seaside & Mountains	Elspeth Howell
21 - 27 July	Fallcliffe	End of term escape	Neil Brindley / Motts
22 - 25 August	Caseg Fraith	August Bank Holiday Climbing Classes aimed at +8 years	Keith Mott
19 - 22 September	Norfolk Mountains	Camping	The Motts
26 - 28 September	Caseg Fraith	Look out for the Alpines	Elspeth Howell
25 - 27 October	Fallcliffe	AGM & Dinner	Keith Mott
7 - 9 November	Fallcliffe	The Bonfire Meet	Neil Brindley
28 - 30 November	Caseg Fraith	Early Winter?	Elspeth Howell
24 December - 4 January 2009	Caseg Fraith	Christmas & New Year	Elspeth Howell

## Past Meets

### Caseg Fraith - Christmas and New Year 22 December 2006 - 2 January 2007

by Stuart Elliott:

Reiko and I arrived at Caseg to find The Peddar and The Chidderstone families in attendance. The weather was most inclement and we were very impressed with the undeterred manner in which the families, especially the Chidderstones, ventured out. We went indoor-climbing at the Beacon on most days and found it hard just to get across the car park. However, we did manage a walk or two. On one

day I had to construct plastic glove covers out of our sandwich bags to placate a very wet Reiko. As we descended from the hills the wind was so strong that the water was running up hill!

The Pedders departed before New Years Eve so it was just the Elliotts and the Childerstone. We cooked separately and produced some very decent fare. It seemed a bit like the TV program 'ready steady cook'! We were relaxed and happy when at 12.00 midnight a taxi pulled up and three people jumped out. One of them was vaguely familiar from a party that turned up last year also on New Year's Eve. Unfortunately he was in a very confused state and did not know whether he was in the right place or not. His two friends were more sober and said that the guy who organised the trip would

be over later. They did not know the password and had no key. As they had no transport we said they could stay but had to leave in the morning.

I then phoned Elspeth who confirmed that this group had stayed last year and had disappeared with the key. It took Elspeth months to track them down and get them to pay and return the key. Therefore, when they requested to stay in the hut this time she declined saying it was full.

We went to bed only to be awoken at 2AM by a loud rendition of 'For old lang sine' shouting and the slamming of the doors as more people turned up. I went to speak to a group of five and recognised the 'leader' from last year. We spoke for sometime and he argued that there was space in the hut. I explained that it was a ULGMC meet and as such the hut was not

available to non-club members.

Furthermore as this group was not in any club and was a loose bunch of friends they were not entitled to stay. Eventually they agreed to leave (as they now had transport and they had another hut to stay in anyway).

The confused person was dressed in the city street style of today's youth with his trousers around his knees exposing his underpants to the winter climate of North Wales. This person had to be carried out from the living room as he had lost the use of his legs. However, he somehow managed to grab some red-hot coal from the fire and throw them on the floor as a parting gesture. The others to their credit doused the coals immediately, apologised and removed him.

When they had finally driven off I locked the door and returned to bed feeling awful. This was an inauspicious start to the New Year! We left for home the next day, a day early.

### Fallcliffe - Spring climbing in the Peaks? 27-29 April 2007

Cancelled or no report submitted.

### Crianlarich - Long days in Scotland 4-12 May 2007

No report submitted!

### Fallcliffe - Back to Fallcliffe 4-7 May 2007

Cancelled or no report submitted.

### Land's End - Spring weekend camping 25-29 May 2007

#### Margaret and Geoffrey Batten report:

Twenty eight members and one guest gathered at Trevedra Farm camp site for yet another Spring Bank Holiday meet- this was our 35th year and the meet was well-established even as far back as that. The Friday and the Saturday were dry and sunny and a selection of the usual walks were done. By Sunday morning, however, the weather had changed completely and we experienced the strongest 'blow' (plus torrential rain) that any of us could remember, even for that exposed location- it must have been bad for Wendy Nicholas's father-in-law to describe it as a "a bit rough". For most of us, the day was spent hammering in extra guys and in an unsuccessful attempt to prevent the Motts' cooking tent from coming down, although their small sleeping tents survived safely.

They were out for the day near Truro and far enough inland not to experience the full force of the wind. The evening communal meal in the caravan store - 'the feast' as the children are now calling it - was particularly welcome after such a hectic day and, joined by three other members and two guests who were staying in b-and-b accommodation nearby, we all enjoyed the moussaka, spaghetti bolognaise and strawberries and cream provided by Wendy's cook, Jo- to whom many thanks. The wind was still very strong and we realised for the first time since we started having the communal meal there, just how cold and draughty the store could be. By the time we were packing up, the wind was dropping and there was clear sky out to sea towards the Scilly Islands. The wind laid low a number of other tents on the field and demonstrated conclusively that pagodas have no place on Trevedra Farm camp site!

Bank Holiday Monday dawned fine and sunny and revealed a field with many fewer tents than normal as a number of campers had packed up and gone home. The Motts' tent was repaired temporarily and re-erected so as to be ready for another bad forecast for Tuesday, which decided our President to depart at that stage. In fact, Tuesday was even better than Monday and more walks were undertaken on both days- planned so as to include the obligatory pasties, cream teas and ice creams- as well as time on the beach with the children.

As always, we look forward to next year. We have agreed a somewhat smaller space with Wendy Nicholas which should be sufficient for the 'regulars' but which makes it even more important for any members who are not regular attenders to contact us as early as possible if they are thinking of coming along. And, there will

be a new menu for 'the feast'.

### Fallcliffe - Early summer 15-17 June 2007

#### Les Bailey (slightly adapted) reports:

Present: Bill Towlson, Pat Ownes, Les and Rose Bailey, Stuart and Reiko Elliott, Graham Cunningham

A dreadful forecast for the w/e (? maybe put people off going) but as it turned out, fantastic weather for both days. Stuart and Reiko went climbing, the others went walking. (I have no details of who did what or went where - TM).

The new stove and hobs were much appreciated, but the water-heater in the kitchen needs mending and the shower offers only bracing COLD water....

### Pembroke - Camping weekend 29 June - 1 July 2007

#### Sue Esten reports:

The forecast was bad, and this time the weather abided by the predictions - the first Pembrokeshire meet where the weather has failed to turn good despite what the Met Office might have been saying. However the three of us who braved the conditions managed to have a good time in which the haven of Bill Towlson's van played a significant part! And Pam (Stanbridge) wasn't even a member at the time.... so it was just Bill and myself upholding the Club's something or other! Saturday was, just, well, squally wet all day through. Sunday was better with patches of blue developing as the day wore on. The wind was quite something





(though not as bad as Cornwall a few weeks earlier) – for those of you who know Bill's tent, you will be surprised to learn that even that was partially blown down! So Saturday developed into a grockling day; visits were paid to the Castell Henllys Iron Age hill fort reconstruction, to the castle at Cilgeran and to the church of St Brynach at Nevern renowned for its magnificent Celtic cross and its Ogham inscribed stones. Sunday was spent completing, for Sue, the Pembrokeshire coastal path to Poppit Sands at Cardigan – thanks Bill and Pam for the company and Bill's van which served as a refreshment stop half way along the way! The traverse of the Preseli await yet another year, but the camp site at Tycanol farm has had its last visit. Situation magnificent, but facilities well... wanting. Folks – where would you like to go next year?

## Fallcliffe - end of term escape

20 - 30 July

Keith Mott reports

What a contrast to last year. I was not surprised that people stayed away considering that the Friday was one of the wettest July days on record. Some intrepid souls (others would call them foolish) braved the journey and made the most of it during the week visiting some of the attractions missed by more adventurous folk.. By the end of the week numbers had grown and a route around Mam Tor proved to be in some of the best weather of the week. A trip to the Old Nags Head is worth it in any weather.

On Sunday, when the weather looked quite good again the plans were abandoned since the hut had no water. The problem was the lack of a single phase of electricity (the hut normally has 3) which powers the 2 water heaters, the cooker and the water pump. The engineers were called at lunchtime and power restored by 5pm! Double time on Sundays. Their number, if this occurs again, is 0800 056 8090.

## Caseg Fraith - PYB climbing classes

25-27 August 2007

Cancelled or no report submitted.

# News from Members

## 'Lets Climb Coronation Street'

by Stuart Elliott

'Safe!' We were climbing in the Guillemot area of Swanage on a multi-pitch called 'Batt Crack' I had just spent longer than usual setting up the belay. I found an extra anchor on the belay and was only just happy with three bombers! As I perched looking down at Reiko preparing to climb I experienced a moment of realisation and a terrible flashback to two weeks ago in Cheddar Gorge. The realisation was that Reiko had got me here on this perch to re-expose me to multi-pitching thereby forcing me to confront any developing fears! I had blindly been lead up a cliff! As for the flashback I will start at the beginning.

On October 7th 2006 we awoke early and set about making breakfast. We were camping near Bristol and were hoping to climb at Cheddar Gorge for the first time. We were aiming to climb the very famous E1 Coronation Street. It had been raining all week and the grass was so sodden that cars were not allowed to drive on it. However, the sun was out the birds were singing, and it was a glorious day.

We arrived at the crag about 11.30am and were a little concerned to see 2 climbers about to climb Coronation Street. We hoped that they would be able to climb fast and that we could follow after having some lunch. Looking at the height and nature of the climb a small but persistent voice in my head said 'lets go and do something easier!' However, we put down our rope to mark our position in the 'queue' and waited. The climbers were very slow and grunted a lot. After about an hour we decided to climb 'Sceptre VS 4C' which takes the first 2 pitches of 'Coronation Street' and then traverses to the right.

Eventually the climbers got to the third pitch of 'Coronation Street' and we were able to get going. Reiko lead the first 2 pitches and whilst she was climbing a family of 5 with very young children gathered around me. They cooed and 'ahhhd' asking climbing questions whilst oblivious to the danger of falling rock. However, I shared their ignorance and their wide-eyed innocence was full of respect. Meanwhile Reiko climbed the first 2 pitches in one. Because this area of Cheddar Gorge is only open to climbing from 1st October the climb was dirty and the holds were full of mud and plant life but the rock was on the whole dry.

I joined Reiko at the start of pitch three. We noticed that the third pitch of 'Coronation Street' looked clean and the line looked clear and inviting. So it was with a tinge of regret that I left 'the Street' and started to make the rising traverse to the right. As usual I went a bit wrong and went too far making me feel lost and irritated. I thought I saw the line and carried on up into a smooth concave niche. From here I watched as about 5 TVR sports cars parked below us. I wondered whether the drivers, who were enjoying the acoustics of the Gorge by over revving their engines, had any idea how loose the rock was up here and how much damage even a small rock could do to their pride and joy. I got some gear into the crack in the niche and then struggled to get out of this half safe womb. It took me about half an hour until eventually I got out of the top of it. I headed directly up the steep wall towards a chimney. Needless to say, I was very relieved to get into the chimney and find that it had some easier climbing. I found a belay at the top of the chimney next to a huge block and just below a short wall that led to a vegetated gully. I placed our largest cam behind the block and a bomber nut in the wall.

Reiko had been waiting a long time and was impatient especially as contrary to our plan I had climbed two pitches instead of one, struggled to make much progress and had been out of hearing range. She arrived consumed with the desire to urinate!

'Is this the top?' 'I think or I hope so!' I replied 'You were ages!' Reiko wanted to forge on ahead and get to the woods above. I belayed her as she climbed the short vertical wall above me that led to the muddy gully. I watched nervously as Reiko placed a tiny zero and continued up. About 20 feet above me Reiko moved her foot onto a small ledge and using crimpey hand holds hauled herself onto the ledge. As she put her full weight on the ledge it departed from the wall along with Reiko. Time slowed as she shot off and disappeared around the outside of the chimney I heard a horrid gasp and a dull thud as she bounced off the rock and continued down the face. I locked off the belay and faced out down the chimney. Down there, below was a crowd of walkers and tourists looking up at us. I braced against my anchors, which were up and behind me. The tug was vicious and slammed the ropes down into my thigh. Then there was a very long and lonely silence followed by sounds of pain as Reiko attempted to focus through the stars and gain purchase on the rock. She was about 20 feet below me and I could not see her over the edge.

'ARE YOU OK?' I shouted, she responded quietly 'I'm ok! I just need to rest a bit!' 'No! Start to climb up, I want to see you, keep talking and climb!' 'In a minute!' 'No climb now, move!' With a tremendous effort Reiko began to climb and I was very relieved to see her as she regained the chimney. However, I was worried to see that she had smashed her helmet and was bleeding from the back of the head. Less worrying were her hands and fingers which were shredded and covered in a mixture of blood and dirt.

We swapped belay and I gingerly climbed to the short wall I stopped to put the large dislodged rock in as safe a place as I could. I noticed a thick short Ivy root next to the rock and it was obvious that this root had worked the rock loose over the summer and with Reiko's help had finally liberated it and itself from the rock garden. I continued up and slithered into the muddy gully. I dug my way through the greenery very aware of the potential to slip. I eventually got to some rock and latched on to it before making a dash to some trees above. I constructed a belay that included a makeshift pulley system just in case Reiko's injuries caused her to pass out or she needed an assisted belay. However, Reiko climbed quickly and rushed up to the woods to unleash Niagara.

We descended slowly, Reiko making her own way through the treacherously steep, wet and muddy slopes of the woods. I asked her if she needed help but she refused. It took about an hour and a half to get back to the car and another hour to get to Weston-Super-Mare A&E. As we arrived through the hospital doors I felt like there should have been a large crowd blowing whistles, applauding and waving banners but instead there was the usual quiet absorption into the system.

After the head X-rays and treatment Reiko got the all clear and we returned to the campsite. Reiko recovered from her injuries fast. She was very lucky as there was no damage to the bones or structure but she had the biggest blackest bruises I have ever seen!

After reviewing the climb we have concluded that I wandered onto 'Sceptre Direct' (HVS 5a) (which has 2 daggers for rock fall and a sign for vegetation in the Climbers Club guide). We have learned many lessons from this episode; perhaps the easiest to remember is to avoid climbing at Cheddar early in the season.

Back at Swanage we completed the climb and have continued to multi-pitch with extra care.

## A Bit of Bothying May 2007

by Sue Eston:

Saturday May 12th well... Willie Butler's Crianlarich meet had finished; most folk had gone their ways leaving Mike and I asking ourselves as to whether or not we would launch on a spot of bothying, to which we were both new, from Glenfinnan to Inverie on the Knoydart peninsula. The weather forecast wasn't very good, but we had by this time learnt that Scottish weather is highly localised. We dithered our way to the Glenfinnan visitor centre via the supermarket in Fort William and.... since the sun was shining brightly at Glenfinnan there seemed to be no further excuse, but to haul the kitchen sink out of the car, dispose of all but essentials and pack our rucksacks - which we did. A gentle late May 2007 afternoon stroll took us to the Corryhully bothy, unique amongst bothies in its being equipped with electricity, though in common with all other bothies, not much else other than sleeping platforms, a table on which to cook and a few chairs. No running water (and no loos - dig your own!)

Following a night's kippering from the smoky wood fire we launched out towards the Bealach Chaorainn and from thence down Gleann Cuirnean, almost to Strathan at the head of Loch Arkaig. A very boggy shortcut avoided the walk to Strathan and took us onto a forest road on the south side of Glen Dessarry. We headed roughly westwards on this road, having splendid views over Glen Dessarry as we went before plunging steeply, and shortly down to the A Chur bothy. No electricity here! And some difficulty gathering dry firewood from the trees that had obviously been washed down the streambed besides which the bothy stands. We were joined by a Belgian civil servant, who denied having anything to do with legislation concerning straight cucumbers, and a couple from East Anglia. The latter decided to camp outside,

so the 2 rooms inside were sparsely used. Deer grazed at the edge of the forest - altogether quite idyllic - and you will have rightly guessed that the weather was still holding. The next day took us over the Bealach an Lagain Duibh to the Lochans a 'Mhaim where we lunched and watched fascinated as the cloud shadows scudded across the reeds at the water's edge. A cold wind drove us on and down, with a spot of river bed scrambling on the way, to Loch Nevis, at whose head sits the bothy with the situation of one's dreams, the Sourlies bothy. A clove or two of garlic and a bottle of white wine would have come in handy here, for there were mussels galore to be had for the picking; however, lacking these we supped instead on the afd packets Mike was nobly lugging along. Sourlies is gorgeous! The estuary at low tide is a 'sea' of hummocks of pink thrift, amongst which the wading birds forage for food.

We stayed 2 nights at Sourlies, and climbed Sgurr na Ciche on the most perfect day imaginable. Fantastic views along Loch Nevis - out to Skye and Rum - and all around to absolutely everything one can see from the top of what is so obviously a very old volcano. Worth every penny of the struggle (Sue talking!) up the ridge from the bothy and the gully between Sgurr na Ciche and its next door neighbour Garbh Chioch Mohr. A fitter party would have done the latter as well, but Mike had pulled a calf muscle and I wasn't in the picture - it was enough to get back to Sourlies across the tussocks, bog and heather. Definitely one of those days whose glow enhances retrospectively! How lucky we had been to have had such a marvellous day!

The next day dawned grey, but fine, and we set off round, and then across the estuary of the northern of the 2 major rivers that flow into Loch Nevis. There are ruins of former habitations to be seen - how hard must life have been. Saying good bye to Sourlies and Loch Nevis we climbed up from the river to the pass that takes one down Gleann Meadall to Inverie





– Loch Nevis again, but much further west and north, on the Knoydart peninsula. On the way down Gleann Meadall I was surprised to see many spotted orchids – having grown accustomed to associating orchids with warm limestone slopes, it was hard to reconcile this harsh habitat with orchids. As we walked into Inverie the grey and increasingly threatening skies started to deliver their promise – but what did it matter? We had the welcome of the ‘The Old Forge’ in front of us, and thanks to the solicitous effort of the pub’s landlord were directed to the most comfortable bunkhouse imaginable for the night! Mike now (occasionally) sports a T-shirt sold by the pub carrying the legend “Up a mountain... Down a beer”. The following day saw us catching the boat from Inverie to Mallaig and indulging ourselves in yet another memorable meal at the fish restaurant there, before catching the train back to Glenfinnan and retrieving our car.

I wonder how I would be reporting all this, had the gods not smiled upon us and we hadn’t seen a thing, had got cold and soaking wet.....

## 4th –7th May Bank Holiday Report

by Stuart Elliott:

Reiko and I persuaded some ex University of London Mountaineering Club friends to go to Caseg for the first May Bank holiday weekend. We arrived late as usual and crept into the large room upstairs.

After a short lie in we got off to Dinas Cromlech with a view to climbing something like ‘Dives better things’ (our friends were a bit rusty having not climbed for a while). The Cromlech was crawling with climbers and they all seemed to be after ‘our’ target climb. So, we changed our plan and decided to get our friends up



‘Cenotaph Corner’. We had climbed the corner twice in April (Reiko and I both leading it for the first time). So we knew the score.

I lead first with James and Jurgis on my rope. I am quite suited to the thuggish haul and knowing the climb well by now, I climbed it ok feeling 90% satisfied with my performance! James came up next but went back down at about half way (he said he needed to re-focus his mind). Jurgis then started to climb. He needed help over the Crux but he made it in the end. James re-attached and climbed it cleanly this time with a bit of help over the crux. They then got to sit at the ‘throne of Cromlech’, the best ledge with what feels like the best view in the world.

We abseiled down as Reiko lead up. She then repeated the process with Natalia (who climbed as well as the other two.... her climb punctuated with strange exclamations!).

Back safely on the ground, they all expressed amazement, disbelief and joy at having seconded the Corner. They all said that they would join the ULGMC (James is already a member and he said he would renew).

Sunday rained so we tried to find the sun on Anglesey. Indeed as we stood on the edge of Gogarth we managed to catch the sun’s rays. We bumped into some of the other Caseg guests there so I guess they had the same idea!

Monday we left Snowdonia early and headed for Llangollen where we had a look at some Limestone crags before heading home.

## Bishorn, Zermatt and the Alpine Club

22nd -24th June

by Mike Esten:

Mike climbed the Bishorn with other ULGMC members whilst Shaun, Shelagh and Jakob travelled to Zermatt to join the celebrations....

So being in Zermatt at that awkward time of year between seasons what could I do? My first idea was to take skis and climb the Dom, one of the few things which is usually best done in late June. However I got absolutely no takers for the 1600m ascent carrying skis to the winter room of an unguarded hut followed by a further 1600m to the summit the following day. Which was probably just as well because, upon reflection, I do not see how I could have got myself fit and acclimatised for a 4600m peak in just a couple of days at Zermatt.

I then opted for a gentler approach, better suited to my old age, and a time of year when huts would be winter-room only

affairs. So I then proposed a weeks hut-to-hut tour (probably a reasonable maximum range for carrying food etc to unguarded huts), with two nights spent at some huts permitting the climb of an easy peak or two carrying light sacs. This time I hit the jackpot and without even trying found nine friends who were up for it ..... which was a bit embarrassing because the winter room at the first hut (the Toplali) only holds five! In the event, a couple of phone calls to the guardian of the Topali at his valley residence resulted in a compromise. He would open a couple of days earlier than foreseen and we would start our trip a little later than foreseen. The later start also meant that all successive huts would be guarded and we would need to carry no food other than daytime nibbles.

The first day we made the ascent from St Niklaus to the new Topali hut, remarkably ugly from the outside but very comfortable inside – at least when guarded for it was difficult to see how even 5 could have squeezed into the winter room. From there we traversed to the Turtmann hut via the Schoellijoch (3343m) which has been recently equipped with fixed ropes etc up the rock buttress to avoid the usual steep snow climb which global warming has now made dangerous. We spent two nights at the Turtmann hut in order to climb the Brunegghorn (3833m) in comfort and the following day we made the very pleasant glacier traverse to the Tracuit hut where we again spent two nights to permit a comfortable ascent of the Bishorn (4153m) – arguably the easiest 4000er in the alps! The plan had been to go from there to the beautiful Ar Pitta hut, but the weather had now taken a big turn for the worse and so we descended to Zinal in heavy snow showers. A very recommendable trip for the time of year.

(Party : Nine Alpine Club members including Hywel and Ingram Lloyd and myself who are also ULGMC members)



Introduction to mountaineering on the AC meet

In addition to myself there were Hywel and Ingram Lloyd, Robin & Deidre Richards, Hugh-Nettleton & Peter Payne, together with Richard Morgan and Malcolm Eldridge who could only spare time for the first two days of the jaunt.

In the event, the trip was executed exactly as on the attached plan except that the weather crapped out right at the end and so the relatively uninteresting traverse to the Ar Pitetta hut from the Tracuit was abandoned in favour of a descent to the valley a day earlier than planned.

..... which left me with a day extra to pack up for a weekend with old friends from the Geneva Section of the Swiss Alpine Club who were planning a longish traverse of Mt Ruan on the Franco-Swiss frontier ridge. We had awful weather for that and, despite it only being PD and despite putting in 12 hrs on the second day, the Ruan still remained unclimbed this season so far, despite our efforts and that of at least three previous parties

(according to guardians at both the Vogealle and Susanfe huts).

So ..... not a bad opening to the season, even if a bit pedestrian !

## 150th (and 100th) anniversary of the AC

22nd -24th June

By John Burrows:

Throughout the whole of this year the Alpine Club has been celebrating the 150th anniversary of its foundation - despite the fact that the actual date is not until 22nd December! However the principal event has clearly been the Meet in Zermatt at the end of June when several social events took place including the unveiling of a monument at the top of the High Street. It all sounded very attractive beforehand, but there is more to life in a place like Zermatt than junketing.

In total eight of us attended this historic meet at which nearly 300 members and guests of the AC were present. It was certainly a memorable event, with one member hot footing it back from the Garwhal Himalaya having made three first ascents. On the Saturday, with the need for a short day, a large group flexed their abilities on the Riffelhorn where the President and another member, led by VIP guest John Harlin III put up a new route.

Celebrations commenced with a reception on the Friday evening opposite the Monte Rosa Hotel. We were regaled by the Zermatt Guides' Band, followed by a quick succession of speeches and presentations at which the deputy Mayor of Zermatt Gerold Biner, direct descendant of that family of guides, explained that he preferred a job sitting down with a nice

view out of the window, so he became a helicopter pilot. With remarkable stage management, a helicopter then appeared overhead and dropped a hook, which whisked away a white sheet to reveal a splendid statue of an early alpinist. A lasting monument to the occasion. After the fun, we all moved into the Zermatterhof for drinks and a buffet supper.

Saturday was for a short climb, or walk, or conducted alpine flower session, followed by a special train up the Gornergrat to the Riffelberg for a truly glorious evening of drinks outside, complete with alpine horn rendition, speeches and dinner. A service at the English Church of St. Peter's took place on Sunday, after which people conducted their own plans.

Fifty years ago I was at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. My lasting recollection is the splendid dinner laid on at the Monte Rosa by Seiler Hotels; was it seven courses with three wines? Ladies had not then been accepted in the club and Joy Hunt presided over a separate knees up at the Mont Cervin. The following day, we then all enjoyed a raclette party in lovely weather at the Riffelalp and the day after there was, it seemed, a mass ascent of Monte Rosa.

Zermatt has changed a bit since then and having an interest in town planning, I have to say it has been accomplished in pretty good taste. The railway station has all been rebuilt and one has to be impressed by the Swiss roll-on, roll-off luggage trolleys, which take your skis and everything else and the 'mind the gap'. The hotels where I had previously stayed, together with much of the main street, has been rebuilt, but other famous buildings look much the same and all the new buildings retain the style one would expect: this includes the east side of the river which is a whole new suburb. To me, the most surprising change is to the open area between the Monte Rosa Hotel and the Zermatterhof. The Guides Wall has disappeared and has been rebuilt with some added rather overpowering information boards, whilst a surprising glass pyramid, looking like the Pompidou Centre takes centre stage.

This, in fact, is the entrance to the underground Zermatt Museum. Full marks to this venture: it follows the trend of most modern museums and one is led round a series of very realistic alpine houses of the 19th century, complete with animals and supper on the table. A large section is devoted to the arrival of tourists who had come to climb and numerous relics have been faithfully preserved.

Outside in the streets there are lots of mini electric 'milk floats'. Gone are the days when every hotel had its hand cart to collect visitors' luggage from the station.

Only the Mont Cervin and Zermatterhof maintain the old standards and have a coach and pair to ferry their Clients. If you are getting infirm, or you are a tourist who cannot walk, you can now catch an electric bus and go up river to the edge of town. There, you can cross a bridge and enter the lower ground floor of the Ski and Board Service and take a lift to the top floor where there is a continuous flow of cable cars which take you up to Schwarze and the Matterhorn Glacier Paradise. All this of course has been developed for the skiers and there is a whole network of gondolas and tows at the top, in operation during the season. Being pressed for time, I succumbed to the main ride and enjoyed the walk back. On a sunny afternoon in June, this was a delight. Flowers and meadows were looking their best, but something was missing: there was little evidence of any farming taking place. No cows and no close cropped hay fields; and walking through Zum See it was apparent that most of the houses were holiday homes.

Next day, I wanted to take Valerie to the top of the Gornergrat, so we took the train. This was the ridiculous side of the tourist scene. The buildings at the top are now a kind of shopping mall and when we got out of the train with all the Japanese tourists, we were confronted by





professional photographers complete with St. Bernard dogs carrying traditional brandy casks. Permanent platforms and Japanese flags, with the Matterhorn as background, are all there for that special photograph.



## Wild Corsica: A two week walk through the mountains

by Tom Bryson

Nightingales sing at sunrise, golden eagles soar on thermals above the granite ridges and flocks of alpine choughs; glossy little crows with yellow bills and red legs, follow you up the mountain looking for lunch. As the air warms up in mid-morning the maquis releases its perfume hot resinous draughts rise up through the pine forest. A two week walk through the mountains of Corsica, the GR20, from Calenzana to Conca is more than an adventure holiday; it's for connoisseurs of wild places.

There are adrenaline fuelled moments too; as when you take a deep breath and head down into the Cirque de la Solitude from the Col Perdu. Chains and cables bolted to the rock give some security on the most exposed sections but it is two and a half hours of steep, relentless down climbing and scrambling back up to the Col de Minuta. Despite the cables the biggest danger is a stone falling from above but I did not see any hard hats. But it is certainly worth it when you haul out into the sun on the Col de Minuta for lunch and the possibility of Mouflon sunning themselves on the slabs above.

This 180km walk with 10,000m of up and 10,000m of down again in fifteen days is hard. The French Foreign Legion does it in five days as a training exercise but it is divided into 15 daily stages for ordinarily fit humans. Don't even think about walking two stages in one day. I have seen young, very fit people stagger into refuges in the early evening ashen, shaking and dehydrated. Take your time and enjoy it. But start early; French walkers get away between five and six in the morning to avoid the intense heat after

mid morning and to ensure a leisurely lunch in the shade or at the next refuge.

Few Corsicans speak English so a French speaker in the group is an asset otherwise take a phrase book and learn some appropriate phrases.

Cash is King in rural Corsica. Your debit / credit card will only be acceptable in Haut Asco and Vizzavonna. A bed space in the refuge costs €9.50 and the evening meal varies from €8 to €15; you will need a minimum of €30 a day. In Gites d'Etapes a bed and demi-pension (bed, dinner and breakfast) costs about €30. If you do run out of cash a rest day at Vizzavonna at the end of the harder northern section allows you to take the train up Corte where there are bank cash machines and restaurants.

Mid June is best for flowers and fewer people. In 2000 the Regional Park estimated that 14,000 people each year walked all or part of the GR 20 and that most of them do it in July and August. September is cooler and quieter but after mid month the refuges are not manned so you will need to carry all of your food.

Carry as little as possible. Eight kilos plus the two litre's of water that you need to set out with each morning. Some of the things that you really do not need to carry are; binoculars, stove and cooking pots, field guides. Some of the birds such as the alpine choughs are so habituated to walkers that they hover around you as you eat lunch, waiting for the crumbs and a competent bird watcher can identify all of the species that you are likely to come across. There are some things that you must take however.

Do take a toilet roll, a small torch, a very light weight (1 - 2 seasons) sleeping bag and a disposable lighter for the hut

gas stoves. One or two packet soups are advisable in case of emergency. At one refuge the guardian had run out of food, the mules had not arrived, and I lived on soup for almost 24 hours. Your mobile phone will work on the higher passes but please.... Leave it switched off, for emergencies only (Dial 112) to preserve the battery and the tranquillity of the mountains.

Go "green"; by train bus and ferry. I left London by train at 8.30am and was in Nice at 7.30 pm. After an overnight in a backpacker's hostel in Nice (€22.50) I took the 0800hrs ferry to Calvi and then the 1600hrs bus to Calenzana.

Some useful websites:

General information

[www.calinzana.corsica-iunsula.com](http://www.calinzana.corsica-iunsula.com)

Refuges and the Parc Naturel Regional de la Corse

[www.parc-naturel-corse.com](http://www.parc-naturel-corse.com)

Buses in Corsica (Calvi)

[www.lesbeauxvoyages.com](http://www.lesbeauxvoyages.com)

Other buses in Corsica

[www.corsicabus.org](http://www.corsicabus.org)

Photographs of refuges

[www.troel.net/gr20/photos/gites\\_refuges/](http://www.troel.net/gr20/photos/gites_refuges/)

Gite d'etape at Calenzana and elsewhere

[www.gites-refuges.com](http://www.gites-refuges.com)

Comprehensive trip report

[www.clubtread.co/sforum/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=19182](http://www.clubtread.co/sforum/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=19182)

Train tickets

[www.sncf.com](http://www.sncf.com)

Guidebooks:

GR20 – Corsica: The High Level Route, Paddy Dillon, Cicerone





GR20 in French with 50,000 maps  
[www.ffrandonnee.fr](http://www.ffrandonnee.fr)

Maps:

Institute Geographique National (IGN)  
1:25000

4149OT, 4250OT, 4251O, 4252OT,  
4253OT and 4253ET.

## Club News

### Email addresses @ULGMC.ORG

Just a reminder that of the club email addresses:

Tim Marshall - [president@ulgmc.org](mailto:president@ulgmc.org)

Keith Mott - [meets@ulgmc.org](mailto:meets@ulgmc.org)

Neil Brindley - [members@ulgmc.org](mailto:members@ulgmc.org)

Elspeth Howell - [caseg@ulgmc.org](mailto:caseg@ulgmc.org)

Neil Brindley - [fallcliffe@ulgmc.org](mailto:fallcliffe@ulgmc.org)

Shaun West - [editor@ulgmc.org](mailto:editor@ulgmc.org)

### Newsletters - a plea and apology

Shaun West

I have had a number of members' articles from members with some great photos. For the meet reports it's really helpful if the meet leader could send them to me shortly after the meet is over. The article should be around 350 words long and come with a couple of high resolution photos (I like to tweak them).

We've just move house (again) this time to Winterthur, 15km from Zurich and I have a new job and another baby on the way so sorry if there are more typos than normal.

### President's corner

#### New smoking signs

Following the legislation banning smoking in enclosed public places, it seems that the huts are caught by the legal requirement to put up notices, both outside and inside (every public room) stating that smoking is not allowed. So, next time you go to Caseg or Fallcliffe, if you feel that the notices make it a bit like being in a strict boarding school, I'm afraid we have little option but to put them up. The intention is to use only the minimum wording, and to put up as few as we can.

Note from the editor - *nanny state strictures like this have yet to reach Switzerland!*

#### Open access to the coast line

After the CRoW Act facilitating access to the countryside, the government is now consulting about improving access to the English coast. The consultation document can be downloaded from:

[www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/), or obtained from:

Andrew Crawford

Coast and Open Access Team

DEFRA, Zone 1/01

Temple Quay House

2 The Square

Bristol BS1 6EB

It's written in civil service - speak, but that's probably inevitable.

Basically, it chunters through three different ways in which existing legislation might be used to create/improve access to the coast before concluding that new legislation is probably the best option.

The document suggests creating an "access corridor" which would contour along the edge of the seaside including headlands, viewpoints and so on. "We envisage that the vast majority of beaches would be included within the access corridor."

There is very little mention of climbing in the document, though: "With regard to climbing, there should be local discussion about the suitability and demand for cliffs to be aligned into the access corridor"; but at least it has been recognised as an activity that has to be taken into account, and the BMC has been right in the thick of the consultation process, along with (literally) hundreds of other organisations.

You can stick your oar in by writing to: [coast.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:coast.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk), or by snail-mail to the address above. You have until September 11th to do this.

#### President's report 2006-7

This report is in three sections: BMC, the huts, and the club.

##### 1. BMC

There is little new to report. In an earlier newsletter I wrote about the huts seminar held in the autumn. The proposed "Clubs Day" earlier this year didn't happen, for lack of demand (there's a brief report elsewhere). I wasn't able to attend the AGM in April, though reports from it indicate that "the usual suspects" who lay into the BMC every year about the capitation fee were silenced when the extent of the insurance for club officers, hut wardens/committees was explained. I suggested that a summary of this discussion be put on the web, and sent directly to every club secretary, but the latter at least hasn't been done.

##### 2. The huts

###### a) Caseg

At the time of writing (early August) we've reached the stage of having a detailed job spec. for upgrading the building, together with the name of someone whom I have approached to take on the role of project manager. The initial

contact was made just as he was about to depart for Greenland, so further progress will have to await his return.

###### b) Fallcliffe

On the down side there have been a couple of unwelcome reports from club members who have visited/stayed, and found the place (especially the loo block) in a pretty foul state. The upsetting bit is that in both cases the previous occupants had been ULGMC members. If we can't leave the place in decent condition, how can we expect non-members to behave any better? More positively, there have been a number of good developments, and a number of people to thank for assisting with these. There is a recent London graduate, now at Sheffield, who has been coming across to keep the place supplied with loo rolls, washing-up liquid, and so on. A new (-ish) member, Dave Morley, has brought over a group from his FE college who have worked on the place (gardening, re-painting the lounge); and Frances Mott, Eleanor and Rachel have made new curtains for the lounge. Inside, that part of downstairs is much improved.

The long-awaited improvements at the cottage now look as though they will start after Caseg has been done. Fire safety is the first matter to address, but we haven't yet got as far as having a detailed plan for improving the kitchen/stairs/lounge access/egress area. There is a pow-wow between the hut warden and two of the trustees in the early autumn.

###### c) Responsibility of meet leaders

One recent episode (the full story makes the club eligible for a corporate Golden Monty Award, I think) has resulted in the following tightening-up of responsibilities of meet leaders: If you are a meet leader at either Caseg or Fallcliffe, you MUST tell the hut warden during the week before whether it is going ahead or not. This will enable them to (re-)schedule any maintenance or other work planned for the same time.

###### c) Both huts

For both huts I would like to express my thanks (and collectively, for the whole club) for the work of the hut wardens. Without them we'd be in a sorry state.

##### 3. The club

Apologies if this trespasses on Keith's territory. There were 18 meets scheduled on this year's programme. A number of these were cancelled because there simply wasn't enough demand - like, any demand - and others had very few people attending. This is a concern for the whole committee, for it surely says something about the way people see the club as fulfilling (or not) their needs. What else do you want the committee to do/organise

that will fulfill these needs better than we appear to be doing at the moment?

Three years ago at the last AGM in the Lakes a long-standing member (who had done years of service in various capacities on the committee) opined that ULGMC had had its best days, and we should just let it drift off into the sunset. It wasn't a view well-received by most people present, and there are half-dozen meets each year bursting at the seams; but that doesn't seem to me to be enough to keep the club healthy in the long term. I think we should be more than just a cheap accommodation agency, but we need more younger, more recent members to organise their own meets (but tell the hut warden and secretary), to join (and eventually take over) the committee.

Over to you.

## Notice of Annual General Meeting of ULGMC

The 57th Annual General Meeting of ULGMC will take place at 6 o'clock on Saturday 20th October 2007 in the Residents' Lounge at the Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel, Great Langdale.

### Agenda

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the last AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Reports from the committee:

President

Secretary

Treasurer/Membership secretary

Meets secretary

Hut Wardens: Elspeth Howell  
(Caseg)

Dave Jacob (Fallcliffe)

5. Reports from BMC, and club BMC representatives

6. Election of new committee

7. Election of BMC and ULMC representatives

8. Election of honorary scrutineers

9. Meets programme for 2007-8

10. AOB

## Club elections

The club committee is up for (re-) election at the AGM in October. If you want to get involved, see the form below, to be used to put people forward for committee membership.

The committee posts are:

President (currently Tim Marshall)

Vice-president (currently vacant)

Secretary (currently vacant)

Treasurer/membership secretary (currently Neil Brindley)

Meets secretary (currently Keith Mott)

Newsletter editor (currently Shaun West)

There are also two un-labelled places for people to join the committee

Name of person put forwards for the committee .....

Post for which person is proposed .....

Proposer.....

Second.....

Signature of person proposed, agreeing to being put

forward .....

Normally, a completed form should be sent to the secretary, in time for us to list the applicants in the August N/L. In the light of the current vacancy, forms should be sent to:

Tim Marshall, Orchard Cottage, 8 Old Harker, Low Harker, Carlisle, CA6 4DR.

## BMC Peak Area Report

Sue Esten still gets the report from the BMC Peak area and are now on the member's section of the website.

## BMC news

The 'Clubs half-day' described in the previous N/L didn't happen. It was scheduled for a Friday afternoon, but by Thursday lunchtime only two clubs had indicated they were interested in sending anyone along: ULGMC and the Fell and Rock. So it was scrapped. I suspect that Friday afternoon was the problem.

This experience contrasts sharply with that of the bi-ennial Huts Seminar, also run by the BMC, but at Plas y Brenin rather than Didsbury.

Another piece is lifted straight out of "Summit": the foreclosing of access to Eagle Tor in the Peak District. The crag is too low to be covered by the CRoW Act, but mediated by the BMC, the owner has been tolerant towards climbers in the past. However, she has become fed up of seeing her land covered with human faeces and loo-paper (just where her young children play), and has decided to ban all access to the cliff for the foreseeable future. Full details are in the latest "Summit."

## New addresses and new members

The contact details and email addresses will be uploaded to the members' section of the website [www.ulgmc.org/members\\_area/](http://www.ulgmc.org/members_area/). The aim is to up load the updated list on a monthly basis rather than to add them to the newsletter.

## New members

Hello to the follow new members:

Mark Stitson, Egham

07770 338676

mark@stitson.com

Matt Walters, Egham

m.walters486@btinternet.com

Tim Saunders

mdb04ts@sheffield.ac.uk

Pat Gray

p.gray@londonmet.ac.uk

## ULGMC AGM & Dinner Saturday, 20th October 2007

In recent years some members attending the AGM and dinner at the OGD have been able to stay at the Fell and Rock cottage at Raw Head. But this has only been possible if a ULGMC member, who was also a member of the Fell and Rock, booked the hut and became, in effect, meet leader for those staying in the hut, with all the responsibilities that that entails. For the dinner this year we haven't been able to find anyone to take on this role, hence reversion to the alternatives below. The committee is sorry about this, but the only other option would have been to move the AGM and dinner to Wales or the Peak.

If you would like to stay at the hotel please contact the proprietors, Neil and Jane Walmsley, or Tony, the manager, on 01539 437272 as soon as possible to make a booking. Thanks, Keith Mott.

Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel, Great Langdale, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9JY  
01539 437272  
olddungeonghyll1@btconnect.com

### Alternatives:

New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel, Great Langdale, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9JY  
01539 437213  
enquiries@dungeon-ghyll.com

Ambleside Backpackers  
Old Lake Road, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0DJ  
01539 432340  
enquiries@englishlakesbackpackers.co.uk

Grasmere Independent Hostel  
Broadayne Farm, Grasmere, Cumbria, LA22 9RU  
01539 435055  
bev@grasmerehostel.co.uk

YHA Ambleside  
Waterhead, Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 0EU  
08707 705672  
ambleside@yha.org.uk

Great Langdale National Trust Campsite  
Ambleside, Cumbria, LA22 9JU  
01539 437668  
enquiries@thenationaltrust.org.uk



Intentionally Left Blank  
(so you can make a note of your choices)

Cut-----here

**2007 AGM Dinner**  
**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007**  
**Please return by Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October**

I, ....., would like to book \_\_\_\_\_ places at the dinner  
@£19.00 per person

I enclose a cheque for £.....

Please indicate number of choices:

Home Made Leek & Potato Soup	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roast Topside of Beef & Yorkshire Pudding	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>or</i>		<i>or</i>	
		Baked Lakeland Trout in a Walnut and Cream Sauce	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>or</i>		<i>or</i>	
Melon, Orange & Gratefruit Cocktail in Midori Liquer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roast Leg of Lamb with Minted Pears	<input type="checkbox"/>
		<i>or</i>	
		Vegetarian Option	<input type="checkbox"/>

To be followed by a selection of Homemade Sweets, tea or coffee.

Depending on the numbers and locations of peoples' stay we may be able to arrange for a minibus. Please register your interest below. Cost about £5.

I would like to book \_\_\_\_\_ places in the minibus from \_\_\_\_\_ site

Please make cheques for the meal payable to KEITH MOTT and send to:  
Lincolns Meadow Cottage, Hales Street, Tivetshall St Margaret, Norwich, NR15 2EE. Please write your name and address on the back of your cheque and return by **Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> October**. If you have any enquiries please phone 01379 677238 (H), 07973 747756 (P) or email [meets@ulgmc.org](mailto:meets@ulgmc.org) or visit the website, [www.ulgmc.org](http://www.ulgmc.org).  
Thank You.