



Land's End Camping  
should be another fine weekend

## Membership Cards and Subscriptions

If you have not paid your subs please do so. Until you have you cannot book huts at the members rate nor are you covered for third party insurance.

## 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.

### Fallcliffe - Back to Fallcliffe 2-5 May 2008 (May day weekend)

Again another chance to get to the hills and escape over this bank holiday weekend.

Contact: Keith Mott ([meets@ulgmc.org](mailto:meets@ulgmc.org) or 07973 747756) or Neil Brindley ([neil.brindley@ulgmc.org](mailto:neil.brindley@ulgmc.org) or 01708 765700)

### Leckmelm, Ullapool 10-17 May 2008

Willie Butler is again organising a week's walking in Scotland. If it is anything like what happened in the past it will be a great week and give the opportunity to meet up with some old friends and have a few drams of Whisky.

Contact: Willie Butler ([whbutler@btinternet.com](mailto:whbutler@btinternet.com) or 01883 743289)

### Land's End - Spring weekend camping 25-29 May 2008

Once again, Margaret and Geoffrey Batten remind any members who are thinking of joining this meet at Trevedra Farm and who are not regular attendees to contact them so that they can try to increase our booking. Otherwise it might not be possible for everyone to be together in one group. Because of planning

restrictions, any member intending to come in a motor caravan is asked to contact Wendy Nicholas at the farm (01736 871818- not after 9 pm) well in advance to discuss the current situation with her. Jo will be providing us with a communal meal on the Sunday night (25 May) but because of pressure on the caravan store, this may have to be outdoors.

Contact Geoffrey: 0121 475 6604 or email [grb@batten.eu.org](mailto:grb@batten.eu.org)

### Saint Albans Dinner Meet 7 June 2008

Ike & Jill are holding another London dinner (OK close to the big smoke). Food & wine on the usual cost basis. Numbers limited to 18, booking deadline end of May.

Contact: Mike and Jill Bennett ([mike.bennett@lshtm.ac.uk](mailto:mike.bennett@lshtm.ac.uk), [ill.bennett@waitrose.com](mailto:ill.bennett@waitrose.com) or 01727 867685)

### Fallcliffe, Early Summer 13-15 June

Time to go cragging, MTBing or just walking on the early summer meet at Fallcliffe.

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

### Pembrokeshire Paddling 4th - 6th July 2008

We're abandoning the converted pigsties of North Pembrokeshire for South Pembrokeshire for this meet and are visiting a 'new' area - the coast west of Milford Haven. The camp site (SM789086), just outside a village called Marloes, has 3 stars; the ablution facilities even include a bidet, and there is a breakfast bar for those who are feeling lazy. Local shops are a 3 minute walk away and the beach not far. For those who want to eschew the cliffs and coastal paths for water activities, not far away at Dale windsurf boards and dinghies can be hired.

Address: Foxdale Camp Site, Foxdale Guest House, Glebe Lane, Marloes, SA62 3AY Telephone: 01646 636243.

Contact: Sue Esten ([sue@esten.nildram.co.uk](mailto:sue@esten.nildram.co.uk) or 01442 864462)

Want to submit a report?  
End August latest

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



Date	Location	Meet	Organiser
May			
2-5	Falcliffe	Mayday Bank Holiday	TBA
10 - 17	Leckmel, Ullapool	Scottish Meet	Willie Butler
23 - 26	Land's End Camping	Spring Bank Holiday	Geof & Margaret Batten
June			
7	St Albans	London Dinner	Mike & Jill Bennett
13 - 15	Falcliffe	Early Summer?	Keith Mott
July			
4 - 6	North Pembroke	Camping	Sue Esten
18 - 20	Caseg Fraith	Seaside & Mountains	Elspeth Howell
21 - 27	Falcliffe	End of term escape	Neil Brindley / Motts
August			
22 - 25	Caseg Fraith	August Bank Holiday, PYB Climbing Classes aimed at 8+ years	Keith Mott
September			
19-22	Norfolk Mountains	Camping	The Motts
October			
3 - 5	Caseg Fraith	Look out for the Alpines	Elspeth Howell
24 - 26	Falcliffe	AGM & Dinner	Keith Mott
November			
7 - 9	Falcliffe	The Bonfire Meet	Neil Brindley
28-30	Caseg Fraith	Early winter?	Elspeth Howell
December - January			
24 - 4	Caseg Fraith	Christmas and New Year	Elspeth Howell
If you would like to suggest a meet please contact Keith Mott (07973 747756, <a href="mailto:meets@ulgmc.org">meets@ulgmc.org</a> ).			

## Caseg Fraith, Seaside and Mountains 18-20 July 2008

The sun might shine and the sea may be warm. For sure the hut will be snug and a good time will be had in North Wales

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

## Falcliffe, End of Term Escape 21-27 July 2008

School's out so if you are not on holiday it is time to get out and take some exercise. Plenty to do in the Peaks so no excuses for staying at home.

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

## Caseg Fraith, PYB Climbing Classes 22-25 August 2008

You want to start climbing or need to get back into it, well this is your chance. Previously this has been a very good weekend and one that should not be missed if you have kids who want to start to climb.

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

## Past Meets

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

Did anyone go? I don't have a report!

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

by Keith Mott:

In January, Rachael planned a walk over towards Burbage moor until she realised that there was no way we were going to be able to fit in a call to the pub. (I've got her well trained). After much consideration (wind direction, terrain, likelihood of rain and the soggy condition of the ground) she opted for a walk between Chatsworth and Rowsley taking in Lees Moor Wood. The sign on the map showed a hotel south of the river but this was considered unsuitable - no boots or dogs - so we continued over the bridge to the Grouse and Claret - where boots were acceptable but dogs were not. We sat outside and took advantage of an excellent menu and the weather.

The walk back along the swollen river Derwent was just about right. Stops were made at the usual shops for retail therapy on the way back to the hut. Sunday was a bit of a washout but Rachael did insist on stopping at the Robin Hood for lunch before the drive home.



### Caseg Fraith - Any snow left? 18 - 20 January 2008

by Les Bailey:

Due to poor weather forecast? Total attendance at the hut peaked at 7(!); and five of them came on Saturday. Pleasant meeting old friends but alas no snow let alone ice or fantastic pictures.

### Fallcliffe - Hint of Spring? 29 February - 2 March 2008

by Keith Mott:

The end of Feb/start of March meet was almost a complete washout in terms of the weather. Instead, the shower unit was replaced with the help of Sue Darling. No photos of this epic exist, thank goodness, but Sue reports that the shower is as good as it ever was.

### Caseg Fraith - Climbing Any Age 21-24 March 2008 (Easter)

by Bridget and Robert Hardy:

Arriving in the nick of time at Plas-y-Brenin our children Francis (14) and William (12) joined the group with 5 other ULGMC children for a day's climbing tuition with PYB instructor Paul. We'd nearly not come to Wales at all on account of the weather - not so much because of the forecast for North Wales, but because snow was expected in Cambridge - the first snow of the year - and the children didn't want to miss it. But come we did, leaving in sleet at 4:30am, and we've not been disappointed.

The children's day was great. The weather was cold and windy so they spent the morning at PYB on the climbing wall. We felt sorry for the other little 'ducklings' going out for their taster kayaking session. In the afternoon the weather improved and they went to a sheltered and sunny outcrop at Fachwen at the end of Llyn Padarn. This small cliff offers a range of short top-rope climbs and a delightful group of boulders amongst trees that catch the afternoon sun. The parents enjoyed it as well.

Easter Day dawned to driving sleet and most people retreated to the warmth of the snug while others hid Easter eggs around the kitchen for the traditional egg hunt. The children had all been hoping for eggs hidden in snowdrifts, as they were the last time we'd spent Easter at Caseg when the children were small - probably about 10 years ago - but then the snow was coupled with sunshine and blue skies. Not this year. However, later in the day, after all the eggs had been found and mostly eaten, everyone ventured out. By the time the Hardy family set out for Pen-yr-Ole Wen the sleet had stopped and there was even quite a lot of sunshine. We reached snow at around 400m and as we climbed it improved, becoming deep and powdery. It was beautiful. Increasingly strong gusts of wind picked up the spindrift from the slopes above and as we reached Ffynnon Lloer I had had enough. Robert and Francis wanted to go on up over Pen-yr-Ole Wen to Carnedd Dafydd, but William gamely agreed to stay with me. We enjoyed our walk in the snow around the lake scrambling over boulders but as we headed down the cloud moved in, the wind picked up and the snow returned. I said to William "They'd have to be mad to stay up there". Rob and Francis got back to Caseg at 7pm having achieved the peak and another great day in the mountains. Rob said of their experience: "It was arctic conditions up there. 50mph winds. "I know these peaks well, I wanted Francis to see for himself how quickly the weather can change in the mountains and to have the experience of battling through the blizzard and navigating safely in almost white-out conditions. You really have to trust your map and compass, even when you feel you should be going in a different direction." Francis's view was, "I was quite scared but I really enjoyed it."



Francis Hardy on the slopes of Carnedd Dafydd after the storm



Easter Monday again started with driving snow and low cloud. Most families decamped leaving the hut to the Motts and us. After yesterday we were keen to get back up to the snow, but to play and have fun. I took the boys up the track where we could see people sledging. Again the sun came out and the wind dropped for a while. Beautiful views and great snowballing. We'd intended to go to Ffynnon Llugwy. By the time we reached the top of the track the gusts were extremely strong hurling snow and hail at us. The only thing to do was to turn your back to the wind and wait for it to pass. The path to the lake is an easy walk and clearly visible flanked and crossed by deep drifts in a winter wonderland, but the weather turned increasingly windy and snowy. We found shelter behind rocks and drifts and between blizzards the boys and I had a great time climbing the slopes and rolling, somersaulting and sliding down through the thick snow. Back to the top of the track, once again the sun came out and even a patch of blue sky appeared. We built our snow devil to guard the gate and returned to Caseg for a late lunch. A great morning out and a good excuse for spending the rest of the day in front of the fire. William and Rob have made it out into the wind to climb on the rocks behind Caseg; I can see them from the window as I write this.



*Francis and William Hardy with their snow devil*

Its been a brilliant weekend and so much better than we expected. There's talk of a group expedition to Lockwood's Chimney tomorrow – just the thing for another cold and stormy day.

Rob adds, Tuesday morning, most other parties having left for warmer climes, Keith, three trusting youngsters and I set off for Lockwood's Chimney in the hope that we might find a weather shadow and get some milder conditions, Disaster almost struck at the first when taking the old road down to the Cwm Dyli power station we found that the slate infill had been washed down the side of the hill leaving a boulder strewn deeply rutted track, fortunately excellent guidance from Keith walking ahead got my very low slung estate car down without serious mishap.

Thanks to the lack of leaf cover we found the start of the climb without all the blundering about in the woods that I have previously required and so would have



started out in good time if not delayed by the knitting tangle that my brand new rope had spontaneously generated and the discovery that we had forgotten one of the harnesses. Keith kindly volunteered to bring up the rear with a rope tied around his middle. One of the older guidebooks describes Lockwood's Chimney as a climb to be undertaken by a large party of stout gentlemen in a rainstorm wearing tweed jackets and smoking pipes. Well we had the rain and sadly I now was to discover myself to have joined the stout gentlemen class of climber. I struggled up the first pitch with a lot of gasping and very inelegant technique as the wet rock repulsed my feet. The children then made much shorter work whilst my rusty rope technique left Keith with a nasty side pull, bruised ribs and a broken watch as he skidded off the slimy rock in his walking boots and thin rope tied around his middle. Very kindly he agreed to sort out the rucksacs and meet us at the top. "Oh it shouldn't take long", I blithely reassured him. Well it was to take me a further 3 hours to ascend the 150 feet or so of that b\*\*\*\*\* chimney.



*Rachel Mott at the top of the first pitch of Lockwood's Chimney*

If you have not had the pleasure of climbing Lockwood's chimney, it is formed by a tremendous fault in the cliff that has split off the entire lower part by about 2 feet from the rest, leaving a narrow cave like void held open by massive chockstones above The climb enters this through a hole at the base and the ascends inside until you escape onto the face above via the best stance in Britain. My memory was of sauntering through this with enjoyable ease. Not this time however, I blush with shame at the language my young charges had to endure as I finally, after many attempts, bludgeoned my way up the first part of the chimney. After much further struggling, clambering over the top of each other, tangling of ropes and a lot of bruising we made it out of the chimney with light falling fast and rejoined a very worried Keith who had ascended and

descended the descent route 3 times trying to find out what on earth had happened to us. I have now vowed that this is one route that I shall ascend no more. Bridget adds: Frances and I, back at Caseg were becoming increasingly puzzled and not a little anxious as the hours wore on and still we had no word from our families. About 5 o'clock I said – "Well, they can't possibly still be in that chimney".

# News from Members

## Ski-Mountaineering in the Oetztal – 15th to 22nd March 2008

Stephen Olivant reports:

After a very enjoyable week's ski-touring in the Silvretta last year, we returned to Austria for another trip. We were tempted back by the superb touring terrain, accessible peaks and high standards of huts. This year, we chose the neighbouring Oetztal area. It lies to the south of the main Inn valley that runs west from Innsbruck towards St Anton.



Four of us (Jennifer Raffle, Steve Hunt, Graham Ball and me) had met on previous tours with the Ski Club of Great Britain and had decided to hire our favourite Chamonix-based guide, Bruce Goodlad IFMGA, directly. This arrangement suited Bruce and he suggested that an aspirant guide, Stuart McAleese, could come along too. The six of us met on Saturday evening in Obergurgl and stayed in a B&B run by a Scottish lady,

On Sunday, we took a car and taxi to the start of our tour at Vent. This hamlet lies in a secondary fork of the long Oetz valley. Our first day was a grey, windy, and snowy re-introduction to the delights of ski-touring. For some of us this involved discovering where our ski boots rubbed and, in my case, how cold dry snow can ball-up on the ski skins and stop them sliding forward without huge effort. The sight of the Martin Busch hut ahead on a snowy mountainside couldn't come soon enough. After a warming lunch at the hut, we practised avalanche rescue techniques until Bruce and Stuart were happy we would find them and dig them out quickly in an emergency. When my ski skins had dried, Bruce used a waxy cream on them to prevent any more snow balling-up; it worked perfectly for the entire week.... must buy some myself.

Monday was similarly grey but with slightly better visibility so we skinned up the valley and then up a small residual glacier towards the 3606m Similaun. We made a kit depot and climbed the last rocky, icy ridge with crampons and ice axes. Our first downhill skiing of the trip was on the steep glacier towards the Similaun hut, which is just in Italy. Stuart led the way in superb powder, but the poor visibility tested our resolve to keep our weight forward and make dynamic turns. After another huge lunch, some of us discovered the delights of a hot shower and afternoon snoozing in our private bedroom. This was more peaceful than being among an impromptu Austrian-Canadian singing group that formed in the stuben downstairs.

The third day was much better visibility, although bitterly cold. The route from the Similaun hut to the fine looking Hochjoch Hospiz involved our first serious kick-turns up a steep col to a monument on the Austrian-Italian border where "Oetzi" the 5,000 year old mummified hunter was discovered. From here, superb sunny

powder skiing down a glacier and a steep valley allowed us all to find our best style. We left a photogenic series of tracks on the mountainside opposite the hospice and were quite grumpy when a later party skied all over the show. That afternoon, after a magnificent lunch, we spent an enjoyable few hours practising crevasse rescue technique using ski anchors and prussik devices to pull Bruce and Stuart from imaginary crevasses.

Thursday was our 'big day' of the trip. Jenni had suggested a nine hour return trip to 3739m Weisskugel, one of the highest peaks in the Oetztal. Luckily, it was perfect cold, sunny weather. We set out from the Hospiz at 6.45 with some contouring on rough ground followed by a 3 hour skin up the main glacier towards the peak. For most of this section, we were completely on our own and making a fresh track; the wide pristine glacier reminded Stuart of his trip to Alaska. Later, we followed the tracks of parties from nearer huts and we climbed to the top with other groups in sight. The top ridge was suitably cold and airy and the visibility was superb. The snow conditions for the ski down were better than expected and we took 50 minutes to retrace our 7 hours of ascent.

Next day, a steep climb with over 30 kick turns up the slope directly behind the Hospiz took us to the peak marked by a giant cross and edelweiss. From there, we skied down a col and onto some nice snowy slopes down a valley for the descent to the rather quirky looking DAV Vernagt Hut. Pity the weather was grey and snowy and there was no one around to see how British ski-tourers can leave stylish powder tracks! Another huge lunch had to be polished off in the cozy stuben before most of us snoozed away the afternoon. As with all the other evenings on the trip, an excellent meal encouraged enjoyable conversation among the six of us until an early bedtime.

Friday morning was snowy with poor visibility so, for exercise rather than adventure, we skinned up the valley on the crest of a bank of lateral moraine for over an hour until coming in sight of the glacier snout. Then, we turned and headed downhill, adopting "survival skiing" mode to cope with the varied snow conditions and icy paths down the valley to Vent. A leisurely coffee in a hotel was our last group activity until next year. Bruce gave Stuart and Steve a lift to their rail stations whilst Jennifer, Graham and I took a taxi back to Obergurgl.

On Saturday, Graham and I enjoyed a fantastic day's skiing in Obergurgl with light drifts of powder, uncrowded lifts, blue sky and hot sun before catching the post bus and train in the late afternoon. For us, it was a very lucky finish to an excellent week's touring enjoyed by all six of us. We are already talking of going to the Dolomites with Bruce next year.





## The Ascent of Mt Elbrus

### Michael Hetherton reports:

When I reached the summit of Mt Blanc, some years ago I told folk back in the UK that I had reached the highest point in Europe. Not so, I realised some years later, and I resolved to climb Mt Elbrus 5642m in the Caucasus but I couldn't find any of the holiday adventure firms keen to go, due to political and safety concerns.

Earlier this year I was fortunate to be introduced by a friend to an Irish group heading out to the mainly friendly Baksan Valley in Southern Russia to attempt the mountain. We were met out there by a local Russian guide, Sasha, who stayed with us for all 11 days of our trip, ironing out any minor problems we encountered.

We spent the first two days doing four to five hour acclimatisation walks up to 2900m, enjoying beautiful mountain scenery, before heading up to the lower slopes of Elbrus to spend six days on the mountain in ever higher huts, (well barrels for two of the nights which were surprisingly comfortable).

Despite a less than favourable forecast, our summit day, starting at 4.00am from our highest hut, proved fine and cold with rock hard snow to the summit, which I reached at 10.40am, encountering no real difficulties apart from altitude sickness. Crampons were necessary but I could have managed without my ice axe and would have preferred my 'leki sticks'. After 50 minutes admiring the superb view we descended rapidly softening snow which became slushy by mid afternoon when we reached the hut. I can thoroughly recommend the Baksan Valley as an excellent mountain area.

## A short tour in Uri by train

### Shaun West reports:

Easter Monday was a great day, nothing could get worse after having broken my boss' leg the previous day! I took a guide (and a red train) from Andermatt up to the Oberalppass and then skinned to the top of Paxolastock. A great ski in the sun with great views in all directions. The plan was to ski back to Andermatt but we followed the lead of two boarders and dropped down a 35 degree NW slope with perfect powder. The 900m down hill to the bar in Taschmut was fantastic with almost no other skiers on the hill.

From Taschmut we then took the train back to Andermatt but preferring to ski and liking a challenge we raced the train from Natschen back to Andermatt. It was a dead heat.

## Club News

### Email addresses @ULGMC.ORG

Just a reminder of the club email addresses:

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

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

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

David Jacob - [fallcliffe@ulgmc.org](mailto:fallcliffe@ulgmc.org)

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

Neil Brindley [neil.brindley@ulgmc.org](mailto:neil.brindley@ulgmc.org)

Mark Stitson - [secretary@ulgmc.org](mailto:secretary@ulgmc.org)

## President's corner

### Caseg

We had four tenders for the work at Caseg. Two of them pointed out that changing to an electric boiler would necessitate up-grading the electrical capacity, so that has meant going to Scottish Power (our suppliers) to get the up-grade done (and, of course, has added several thousand to the original tender). We have accepted a tender from Hacketts, a builder based in Bangor. The work will be done over the next few months, wherever possible leaving the hut to be useable at week-ends. Thanks to Ruth Greenall for all the work she has done getting the whole up-grading business this far, with all the contacts with the builders, showing them Caseg, and so on. We wouldn't have got this far without her.

Re-installing the phone is on the back burner while the main work goes ahead.

### BMC (yawn, yawn!!)

They have been losing grant monies from UK Sport, as more and more is being shovelled in the direction of the Olympics (they're not the only non-Olympic sport to be affected in this way). In consequence, they propose to increase the capitation fee from £9.75 to £11.75 from January 2009. This will have inevitable knock-on effects on our membership fees, the grisly details of which will be set out in the next newsletter.

Two questions which I have asked them regarding the capitation fee for children - when did it start, and at what age is it deemed appropriate to start charging (remember, we're talking here about 3rd party insurance, not personal accident insurance, and accidents in huts are covered by the hut insurance) - still haven't been answered. I'm off to the AGM in Northumberland later this month to try to extract answers, and will report the outcome in the next newsletter.

### Committee (and elections) - (Oh, please!!!!)

Sorry, but it has to be gone through. Penny Lewthwaite wasn't able to follow through an offer to join the committee - working in Malaysia, even in these days of e-communication, makes being meet secretary a little impracticable - so the committee accepted an offer from Sue Darling to take the role of Meet Secretary on until the AGM in October.

As far as is known, all the existing members of the committee (except Tim, the president) are willing to continue in post, though that doesn't preclude anyone else having a tilt at any of the positions (it is, you won't be surprised to hear, some years since any of the posts was contested!). So, if you want to propose someone for a post, use the form below, and send it to Mark so we can circulate details in the next newsletter.

The posts available are:

President (currently, Tim Marshall BUT stepping down),

Vice-president (currently vacant)

Membership secretary/treasurer (currently, Keith Mott)

Secretary (currently, Mark Stitson)

Meet secretary (currently, Sue Darling)

Newsletter editor (currently, Shaun West)

General committee members

(up to three) (currently, Neil Brindley)

View from the top of Paxolastock looking into Uri and Graubunden



## Nomination form for committee membership of ULGMC, 2008-2009

Post .....  
Name of person proposed .....  
Signature of person proposed .....  
  
Name of proposer .....  
Signature of proposer .....  
  
Name of seconder .....  
Signature of seconder .....

Send this form, by e-mail or snail-mail, to:

Mark Stitson: [mark@stitson.com](mailto:mark@stitson.com)

or

91 St Jude's Road

Englefield Green

Egham

TW20 0DF

## ULGMC committee meeting notes

### ULGMC committee meeting, 23 of March 2008, Caseg Fraith

1. Present:, Keith Mott, Mark Stitson

Apologies: Shaun West, Tim Marshall, Neil Brindley, Sue Darling

2. Minutes. These were accepted as a correct record of the previous meeting

3. Matters arising. There were none not otherwise covered on the agenda

4. Committee reports (not covered elsewhere)

President's report - Sue Darling has agreed to become the new Meets Secretary.

Membership secretary/Treasurer - KM reported that more members have now renewed and we now have 36 single members and 58 family memberships.

KM should now be receiving the bank statements and should soon be able to produce accounts for last year.

5. Huts

Caseg - We have now agreed a quote for the work to replace the boiler, fix the damp in the downstairs bedroom and add a second shower. This work is likely to start in mid-May. Before the work on the boiler can begin the electricity supply to the hut has to be upgraded and this work is due to begin soon. There will be some time where the hut will be unavailable.

Fallcliffe - Keith has installed a new shower and the hut is in a generally good condition.

6. Meets

The Easter meet was very successful with 25 in attendance and 8 children climbing under instruction at PYB, 5 of whom hadn't climbed under their instruction before.

Meets are planned until the end of the year and Keith will have a handover meeting with Sue Darling shortly.

## 7. Recruitment

New members - The committee approved the membership for Daniel Burn who was previously part of his parents' family membership.

Future Recruitment - Mark is going to get in touch with Sue Esten and find out what she last sent to the London College Clubs, he'll then try contacting the London College Clubs advertising our club's benefits.

We should advertise our huts to the London college clubs better and clearer, so we can introduce our club to London students before they leave their colleges. Maybe we should offer college clubs an introductory discount to booking our huts.

## 8. BMC

We have been getting more information on the issue of children's' membership from the BMC on family membership. The BMC want to charge a £7 capitation fee per child and the adult capitation fee will rise by £2 to £11.95 next year. We will have to raise membership fees for next year and are currently aiming at a £3 rise for single membership and a £5 rise for family membership.

## 9. AOB

Mark will ask Shaun to put our club constitution onto the website (it is there!)

## 10. Next meeting

We have tentatively pencilled in the 26th of July for the next committee meeting.

## News from Caseg

There is a key crisis at Caseg. Over the past 20 years they have dwindled in number by being lost in the post and one club never returning theirs. This Christmas two have been lost in the ether which is causing me headaches!!

If you have a key but don't use the hut more than four times a year please could you return them.

Many thanks, Elspeth.

## Meets survey

Sue Darling, the new meets secretary has been concerned why some meets have been well attended and why others less well attended ('wasn't like that in my day'). She's gone to the effort of producing a questionnaire that would be good if you could return to here, either by scanning the results or by using s-mail. The aim is to have better meets that we all want to go on.

## BMC news

The spring copy of Summit magazine and the BMC's annual report should have reached all of you by now.

If you didn't get round to reading the magazine and annual report in full here's a short synopsis. The BMC is doing well in general, but the government's decision to divert funding away from non-Olympic sports is going to hit hard over the next few years, especially on the international front. Subscriptions again are set to rise and Tim, our president, is trying to get some answers out of the BMC on a few thorny issues, where club members are disadvantaged against individual members. Otherwise BMC membership numbers are down mainly due to the Army Mountaineering Association not renewing their club membership.

On the land management side of things the BMC are still in the process of acquiring Harrison's Rocks and hope this will be finalised in 2008.

Another interesting development on an international level is that Austria and Germany have left the UIAA, which is significant as they represented more than half the members. This is a serious philosophical schism and may lead to funding problems, as funding from the government for international representation is now hit by the Olympic cut-backs.

On a lighter note Summit magazine opens with an advertorial on its good insurance deals and annual travel insurance is down by 10% and there's a 5% discount for buying online, which is still a very good deal.

The BMC have secured the landowner's support to re-bolt Malham Cove; both the landowner and Natural England have approved the work.

The Climbing Wall Award is now launched and you can register for it now.

The Vixen Tor campaign is still underway and the Ramblers are organising eight legal walks around it, and hope to raise the profile of the campaign with the media and the Park Authority.

The Climbers' Club has established the kindred clubs forum for clubs to discuss issues about guidebooks and huts relevant to clubs and to be able to share knowledge and experiences.

The fifth map in the British Mountain Map series is now out and it covers the Cairngorms and Locknagar. The others are Lake District, Snowdonia, the Dark Peak and Ben Nevis & Glen Coe. All are available at a discount to members.

Events to take note of for the future are:

- the BMC International Meet at PYB in May
- the Manchester Nepal Himalayan Festival celebrating everything about Nepal at the end of May/start of June
- the Keswick Mountain Festival showcasing things to do around Keswick including talks by Chris Bonington, Doug Scott, Andy Kirkpatrick, Mick Fowler, Julia Bradbury and perhaps even Griff Rhys Jones in mid-May
- the British Mountain Guides Association is holding an open day if you're interested in becoming a guide
- the Cheddar Gorge Climbing Extravaganza, including competitions, show events and the chance to climb yourself towards the end of June
- Cliffhanger, the UK's largest outdoor pursuits festival heads to Sheffield at the start of July
- The BMC Alpine Meet takes place in August in Arolla and during the fortnight there will be great value courses for all levels of mountaineering, climbing and walking
- Conville Trust Alpine Mountaineering Courses are now administered by Plas y Brenin, so check their website, if you're interested in subsidised Alpine courses for young people
- BMC Student Safety and Good Practice Seminar takes place at Plas y Brenin on the 11th and 12th of October (a good time to avoid Snowdonia?)

Finally take note of the updated list of nesting restrictions in the new Summit magazine, somehow it looked smaller to me than last year's, but maybe I'm just being an optimist.

## New addresses and new members

Also remember to reclaim multiple BMC levies (send an email or letter requested in writing stating through which clubs you are affiliated. You can either email this information to: [office@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:office@thebmc.co.uk) or write in to the Member Services Team. Refunds need to be claimed each year, for that current year (reminder is published in March's Summit).

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 upload the updated list on a monthly basis rather than to add them to the newsletter.

## Change of (email) address

Sian and Steve have changed from [siansteve.mead@btopenworld.com](mailto:siansteve.mead@btopenworld.com) to [smeader@fiscali.co.uk](mailto:smeader@fiscali.co.uk)

## Obituaries

We sadly had two members pass away in the last five months.

### Geoff Smith, 1926 – 2008

Geoff died in March, aged 81. He was a founder member of ULGMC, our Meets Secretary in 1953, and although he was very active in the early days of the club, increasing incapacity over many years latterly severely limited his participation.

I first met Geoff in 1948. We were walking out of Langdale to a ULMC meet in Brackenclose, Wasdale, when he caught up with me on Esk Hause. I well remember the tall, lanky six-footer, with a stride to match his height, pounding away down the path to Wasdale Head. After that, we met on many meets, first ULMC, then Senior Branch, and then ULGMC. He was in good form on our Alpine meet in the Silvretta, and I particularly remember a camping expedition to the Glen Lyon hills, in the days when the Munros at the head of the glen could be walked without meeting another soul. Geoff was also a 'regular' on the many meets we held in North Wales in the days before Caseg Fraith, when we usually made our base at Maes Caradoc in the Ogwen valley.

The arrival of the children brought other interests, and his Club links were then limited to occasional mountaineering weekends and the annual dinners. Thereafter, when he might have expected to have been more active again, his chest began to fail, though we were still able to enjoy holidays in West Highland cottages with Geoff and Jane. In recent years he was confined to the house, and then to hospital.

In his working life, Geoff was a very able biochemist with a research interest in the use of radioactive markers in investigating diabetes. He was also one of the authors of the Oxford Dictionary of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, an achievement of which he was too modest to boast. He was a delightful companion, a gentle giant, interested in so many different fields, never ill-humoured, with a sharp sense of fun, and the best punster around. With his death, we lose another of our pioneers.

The Club sends deepest sympathies to Jane, and to Julia, Kathy, and Richard.

Phill Williams, April 2008

### Phyllida Roberts

Born in 1922, in Nairobi, Phyllida was a founder member of ULGMC. When she and her mother settled in England, she went to Bedales School and then studied medicine at University College, London, qualifying in 1946. Prior to this the family had moved to the South of France and because she had developed juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, they travelled round Europe and to Egypt, looking for a cure. An outcome of this was that she became trilingual and she also learnt to ski.

In 1948 Phyllida saw a need for doctors in China and went to Nanjing with the Friends' Ambulance Service. Fortunately the expected bloodshed with the establishment of the Communist Republic did not happen and Phyllida enjoyed treating the locals, particularly the children, about which she had many delightful stories. She interrupted her return from China in 1950 with a visit to New Zealand, including a spell in general practice in Wellington and a visit to the New Zealand Alps.

Back in Europe, she went to a climbing school in the Dauphine where she met Paul; climbing and skiing together established them as a good team and they married in 1952.

Developing a career in laboratory medicine at University College Hospital and then at the Royal Free Hospital, Phyllida's final move was to the appointment of Consultant Haematologist at St. Albans City Hospital; an exciting time when haematologists were taking over the clinical care of patients with blood diseases. Never one to waste time, early on in her career Phyllida gained an MD



and took the D. Path and DTM & H, somehow managing to produce a daughter and two sons over the same period.

Phyllida loved music, and was a frequent visitor to the Royal Festival Hall. She was a faithful attendee at the Crown Court Church of Scotland In Covent Garden. Moving out of London she joined the Society of Friends and was for many years a member of Jordan's meeting.

She was a very active member of the Ladies Alpine Club until the amalgamation with the Alpine Club in 1972, and was probably not entirely happy to see the Ladies lose their independence. Until she retired in 1983, mountain holidays had to be squeezed into a busy life, but most years included both climbing and skiing in the Alps, with hectic sorties to the British hills, including North Wales and the Dorset cliffs, which were particularly popular with the LAC. Phyllida loved long walks over the hills, scrambling and climbing. Joints damaged by juvenile rheumatoid arthritis made rock climbing a particular challenge and she frequently had to invent her own ways of getting up a move, but she liked challenges. As one of the original 'hippies' Phyllida skied for many years on two artificial hips, although she noticed that her balance was 'not quite so good' and so gave up rock climbing.

A fearless skier, Phyllida enjoyed both downhill and touring; tours included the classics, Oetzal, Ortler, Stubai and Silvretta, and one tour with a dog-sledge in Norway. A notable feat in 1953 was to climb in one week five 4,000m peaks in the Valais, mostly on skis, with crampons to the summits.

In addition to ski tours, Phyllida climbed many of the Valais mountains in the summer, including the Weishorn, Matterhorn, Monte Rosa, Mont Collon, Douves Blanches, Aig. Rouge and many others. Phyllida climbed in many other areas. In 1951 she did many climbs based on Pralongnan and was in Chamonix in 67 and 68, climbs including the Aig. du Geant and Rochefort Arete, Requin,

Grepon and the Moine. She loved the sunshine and warm rock of the Dolomites, making four visits in the 70s, doing many climbs unguided and some substantial routes with a guide. A novelty of these trips was the family rope, including the three children, along the Via Ferratas. In the early 70s, Phyllida had a particularly successful visit to the Southern Alps, routes including the Punta Razica, the east ridge of Casnile and the north ridge of Badile.

Phyllida just loved to be in the mountains and did not have to be doing something difficult. In 63 and 65 she was camping in the Encantados region of the Pyrenees, in 64 and 66 she was walking and scrambling in the Corsican mountains, and in 79 she did the GR 20 traverse in Corsica, repeating this in 85. In 1974 Phyllida trekked in Nepal with Bill Murray, when they met only one other trekking party in three weeks! In 77 she was in the Kulu Himalayas. A holiday in Peru in 80 included the Inca Trail, with the party carrying their own gear and having the route to themselves, and an exploration of the Carabaya mountains. Then followed a trek in Lahoul, in 82, to the Myar Nula and Gumba Nula. In 84, aged 62 and with a replaced hip, Phyllida climbed Lenana in the Mount Kenya group, and then Kilimanjaro. Back in Nepal in 85 she went to the Everest base camp and in 87 she followed the GR route in the Alpes Maritimes. In 88 Phyllida did many treks in New Zealand, including a crossing of the Copeland Pass. In California in 89 she was trekking in the Sierra Nevada, ending up on Mount Whitney.

Sadly, Phyllida's last years were blighted by illness. An emergency heart valve replacement was life-saving, but after this she never regained her old self and she died peacefully on New Year's Eve 2007.

John Burrows, January 2008



**British Mountaineering Council**  
177-179 Burton Road, Manchester, M20 2BB  
T: 0161 445 6111 F: 0161 445 4500  
E: [members@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:members@thebmc.co.uk) W: [www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk)

## MULTIPLE MEMBERSHIP REFUND FORM 2008

If you are in more than one BMC affiliated club, you can reclaim any additional membership payments made to the BMC by your clubs. To claim a refund - please complete and return this form to [office@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:office@thebmc.co.uk) or to the Membership Services Team at the above address.

### Personal Details:

Name: .....

Address: .....  
.....

Postcode: .....

Tel no: ..... Email: .....

### Clubs (please list all BMC affiliated clubs that you are a member of):

- |         |         |
|---------|---------|
| 1. .... | 4. .... |
| 2. .... | 5. .... |
| 3. .... | 6. .... |

Please indicate how you wish this refund to be paid:

- a. To myself ☐ (please place an X in the box).  
b. To my chosen club(s) ☐ (please place an X in the box).

Please refund: .....(input club name/names)

Club members may also use their multiple affiliation payments to upgrade from club membership to full individual membership. If this is the case please call Lynda Buckley @ the BMC office on 0161 445 6111.

Refunds will be issued from April 2008 onwards - once all affiliated clubs have renewed their BMC membership.

**Please note that if you claimed a refund in 2007 there is no need to make a claim in 2008. We will check your data for 2008 and if all your clubs have paid your subscription we will send you an automatic refund.**

# UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

## GRADUATE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2008

The Data Protection Act requires us to tell you that, if elected, the information on this form will be held on the club's computerised subscription/address list.

Please fill out the highlighted sections and any others, as necessary below, clearly in BLOCK CAPITALS

#### Section 1

This information will be used to identify you to club members and the BMC.

<b>Your first name</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Your surname</b>	<input type="text"/>
Partner's first name	<input type="text"/>
Partner's surname	<input type="text"/>
Telephone No	<input type="text"/>
email	<input type="text"/>

Name(s) and age(s) of child(ren) to be registered with BMC

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

#### Section 2

The following information will be used, as laid out here, on address labels for the club to communicate with you.

Title	<input type="text"/>	Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>		
	<input type="text"/>		
Town	<input type="text"/>		
County	<input type="text"/>		
POSTCODE	<input type="text"/>	Please tick to receive newsletter in email form	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please renew my/our membership for 2008

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single	£15	<input type="checkbox"/>	I wish to pay for single membership & in advance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family	£25	<input type="checkbox"/>	I wish to pay for family membership & in advance

Please find enclosed cheque for the sum of £.....

When you have completed all necessary sections please return the form to the Hon. Membership Secretary of the ULGMC together with your fee (£15 single or £25 family). Cheques should be made payable to "University of London Graduate Mountaineering Club" or "ULGMC".

**Hon Membership Secretary, ULGMC, Lincolns Meadow Cottage, Hales Street, Tivetshall St Margaret, Norwich, Norfolk, NR15 2EE** or email to **members@ulgmc.org**. Thank you.



Dear members

As noted elsewhere I have volunteered (yes, really!) to act as Meets Sec, at least until the next AGM, and have been looking at our pattern of meets. Some meets have been very well attended, while a few have been quite sparse, and it seemed time to ask what members want in the way of club meets. Or perhaps you're not interested in communal meets but prefer to make use of the huts on a private or friends group basis?

So PLEASE add your comments to this questionnaire or write /email your thoughts to me. My address is in the members' list, email to [meets@ulgmc.org](mailto:meets@ulgmc.org) 'Perfection is the enemy of getting things done', so do reply now from the top of your head rather than leave it as an another dreaded job on 'the list'.

Thanks in advance for all your ideas.

Happy hills, rocks, walls and mountains for the rest of 2008

Sue Darling

**When (tick)**

- ☐ School/bank holiday weekends preferred?
- ☐ Weekends outside school/bank holidays?
- ☐ Mid week?
- ☐ Longer meets?

**Where (tick)**

- ☐ More/less use of our two huts?
- ☐ Other areas? If so, where?
- ☐ use of other club huts
- ☐ camping
- ☐ YHAs,
- ☐ b&b,
- ☐ bunk house, other? \_\_\_\_\_

**Who (tick)**

- ☐ Any demand for informal 'regional' meets/get togethers for members in a particular area? \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Should we aim for a few well attended meets or give a wider choice, with fewer people there?
- ☐ Should we try for a joint meet with ULMC or college groups to encourage their interest?

**Meets schedule (tick)**

Subject to people's views, I'd thought that the pattern of meets for 2009 and beyond might be a mixture of the traditional framework – ie

- ☐ Christmas/New Year family meet at Caseg
- ☐ Easter family meet at Caseg with young people's climbing tuition
- ☐ one week Scottish meet in May
- ☐ end May bank holiday family meet in

Cornwall

- ☐ early July in Pembroke
- ☐ late July family meet one week to mark end of school year at Fallcliffe
- ☐ late August family meet with tuition Caseg
- ☐ late Oct AGM (rotating Fallcliffe/Caseg/Langdale)
- ☐ early Nov family bonfire meet Fallcliffe
- ☐ occasional meets camping in a member's garden

**plus (tick)**

- ☐ additional meets as requested/offered at Fallcliffe/Caseg
- ☐ one Lakes meet a year unless the AGM is at Langdale. Any preferred venue?
- ☐ one meet in an new or long unvisited area. Any suggestions?
- ☐ any interest in a UK or European winter snow/ice climbing/skiing meet (climate permitting)?
- ☐ any interest in other overseas meets – mountains or social meets in Alps/other Europe/further out?

**Transport (tick)**

We have a problem in being a national not local body, so it's hard to co-ordinate transport, with increasing cost and environmental implications. Keith has suggested that we might make more use of the ULGMC website to offer and seek lifts to meets.

- ☐ do you think this is practicable? Any other ideas? \_\_\_\_\_



# NEW BENEFITS FOR YOUR CLUB MEMBERS

**But remember that your club has already paid £11.75, so the saving is only £3.00, note the Editor**

Your club members can take advantage of full Individual membership of the BMC at the discount rate of £14.75 in 2008 (full Individual membership will be £29.50).

By taking advantage of the upgrade option your club members will be:

- Supporting the BMC's vital Access & Conservation work throughout England and Wales
- Supporting the BMC's work in representing climbers', hill walkers' and mountaineers' interests to government
- Helping ensure that the BMC can continue developing its safety, training and technical work and services

In addition to the benefits you receive from Club membership your members will also benefit from the full range of Individual membership benefits, including:

- £10K personal accident insurance
- Full 64 page Summit magazine – your members will receive four issues of the BMC individual members' edition of **Summit**. Your members will only receive one edition (March) of **Summit** in 2008 unless the upgrade is taken for full BMC Individual membership
- BMC Membership card – your members will qualify for Individual member benefits including discounts in over 600 outdoor retailers
- Members Handbook
- Access Individual Membership Benefits – including new services such as online expedition reports



## HOW TO JOIN

You will find on the BMC club web page two adverts to promote the upgrade via your own club newsletter.

These images can be opened in MS Word and do not require any specialist design software. They have also been designed to be scaled to A4 or A5 size depending on the size of your club newsletter.

Alternatively, your club members can upgrade via the BMC website [www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk) or can call **0161 445 6111**.

**SUPPORT THE BMC**

Join the BMC in 2008 as a full Individual BMC member for **only £14.75** and receive:

- 4 full issues of the 64 page Summit Magazine
- BMC Members Handbook
- £10k Personal Accident Insurance
- Your own BMC Membership card
- Access to a full range of Individual Member Benefits

By becoming a full Individual member you will also be making a financial contribution to the BMC's vital access, conservation, mountain safety, and technical investigation work. You will also be supporting work in representing the needs of climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers to the government.

**Apply for Individual Membership today**

For more information, call us on: **0161 445 6111**

working for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers

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**ACCESS & CONSERVATION**

**SAFETY**

**SKILLS**

**NATIONAL REPRESENTATION**

**TECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS**

### CLUB UPGRADE ADVERT

**BMC Membership Upgrade Form for Club Members 2008**

**1 Personal Information**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Daytime Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_ BMC Membership Number (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Membership Information**

Membership Payment: £14.75

Join by Direct Debit and receive a **FREE British Mountain Map\***

Place send me (please tick only one):

☐ Dark Peak ☐ Snowdonia ☐ Lake District ☐ Ben Nevis

\*BSP £12.95

**3 Payment Options**

(1) I enclose cash and please meet your card details below: Card expiry date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Bank Information: \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Check/Guard money should be made payable to: **British Mountaineering Council**. The card security code is on the back of the card. Please provide the card number and the cardholder's name. The card will be the bank's responsibility. Please supply address to which your card may be sent. (If no address from that you have decided above.)

(3) I am paying by Direct Debit please complete the form below.

**Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to Pay Direct Debits**

(4) Name and Full Postal Address of your Bank or Building Society branch: \_\_\_\_\_

Bank/Building Society: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Name(s) of Account Holder(s): \_\_\_\_\_

(6) Bank or Building Society Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

(7) Branch sort code (from the top right hand corner of your cheque book): \_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_

Originator's Identification Number: **6 2 9 6 8 6**

Reference Number (BMC office use only): \_\_\_\_\_

**Instruction to pay Bank or Building Society**

Please pay: British Mountaineering Council Direct Debits from the account detailed in this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with the British Mountaineering Council and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

(8) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in the whole form and return it to: **British Mountaineering Council, FREEPOST NAT11244, Manchester, M20 7ZA**

### CLUB UPGRADE FORM

**working for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers**