



Climbing during the new members meet



Subscriptions 2009

We hope that you've completed and returned your subs for 2009.

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 Heather Rumble. an email (meets@ulgmc.org) or phone her (07876 690979) and she will be glad to help.

16-18 June, South Pembroke camping and paddling

A return visit to South Pembrokeshire for this meet with a hope for better weather than last year! The coastal path needs no advertisement and there's the challenge for the Estens to complete it with this visit. The well-equipped camp site is to be found at Marloes, west of Milford Haven, coordinates below. Do come!

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

Midweek Sue Esten

25 - 31 July, Fallcliffe, end of term escape

Chance to escaper to the country after a long summer term. A great opportunity to get in some climbing, walking or MBTing.

Keith Mott 01379 677238 or saymellon@gmail.com

14 - 16 August, Bishops Castle, Mid Wales, camping

Mid Wales is normally a great place to visit and during the summer it is less busy than the North Wales. The campsite is well situated with plenty of good walks locally.

Bill Towlson 01588 620422

28 -31 August, Caseg Fraith, August Bank Holiday, PYB Climbing Classes aimed at 8+ years

PYB Climbing Classes aimed at 8+ year olds. This meet is always well attended, book early.

Keith Mott 01379 677238 or saymellon@gmail.com

4 - 6 September, Norfolk Mountains, Keith's 50th Birthday Bash

No big hills just one large milestone for Keith!

Keith Mott 01379 677238 or saymellon@gmail.com

23 - 25 October, Caseg Fraith, AGM & Dinner - Swallow Falls Hotel

As you all know the AGM this year will be taking place at the Swallow Falls in Snowdonia and his looks like an excellent venue. The hotel has been taking bookings for us exclusively but are soon to be releasing the extra rooms to the general public. So if you need a room for the AGM could you please let the hotel know by the **1st June** to avoid being disappointed! If anyone has any problems please let me know.

Heather Rumble(meets.ulgmc@yahoo.com)

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Want to submit a report?
1 September latest

Editor: Shaun West
Email: editor@ulgmc.org
Web: www.ulgmc.org



Date	Location	Meet	Organiser
June			
16 - 18	South Pembroke	Camping - Midweek	Sue Esten
July			
25 - 31	Fallcliffe	End of term escape	The Motts
August			
14 - 16	Bishops Castle	Mid Wales Camping	Bill Towlson
28 -31	Caseg Fraith	August Bank Holiday PYB Climbing Classes aimed at 8+ years	Keith Mott
September			
4 - 6	Norfolk Mountains	Keith's 50th Birthday Bash	The Motts
October			
23 - 25	Caseg Fraith	AGM & Dinner - Swallow Falls Hotel	Heather Rumble
November			
6 - 8	Fallcliffe	The Bonfire Meet	Neil Brindley
Late - tbc	Ystadfellte, S Wales	Early Winter?	Bill Towlson
December/January 2009			
24 - 4	Caseg Fraith	Christmas & New Year	Elsbeth Howell
If you would like to suggest or lead a meet please contact Heather Rumble (07876 690979, meets@ulgmc.org)			

There seems to be some confusion over accessing the huts on Bank Holiday weekends. This is Tim Marshall's understanding, at least as far as Caseg is concerned:

- Some space is normally routinely reserved for ULGMC members on some Bank Holidays.
- Christmas/New Year and Easter: whole hut. There have been some cracking meets, often with someone taking charge of the catering for a communal Christmas/New Year Meal. Formally, Elspeth is down as meet leader, but if anyone else wanted to take it on, you would be welcome to do so. Otherwise, people turn up in pairs/families/small groups of friends. You MUST contact Elspeth if you want to go.
- May Day bank holiday. Nothing formally on the card, though I understand that some people go there.
- Late May (Whitsun) I don't know if this is ever booked for us. There is in any case the traditional Cornwall meet as a counter.
- Late August: a bit like the Easter meet with climbing classes for the kids. But all welcome
- Now, if you ask me what the situation is at Fallcliffe at these times, I have to admit to being as confused/unsure as anyone else, except for the one immutable Bonfire Weekend (early November).

Past Meets

We have a lack of reports being submitted - please please please submit one with some photos.

Caseg Fraith, Christmas and New Year

24 December 2008 - 4 January 2009

No report.

Fallcliffe, Cold and Bright

30 January - 1 February 2009

No report.

Caseg Fraith, Any Snow Left?

20-22 February 2009

No report!!!

Joint ULMC/ULGMC meet

6-8 March

Mark Stitson reports:

So, as agreed at the last committee meeting, the March Fallcliffe meet became an introduction weekend for new and prospective members. Attending to represent ULGMC were myself, Mark Stitson (secretary) and Keith Mott (membership sec/treasurer) and with us three eager and intrepid new climbers.

Friday evening saw us failing to light a fire, drinking copious cups of tea and

planning the day ahead. The weather forecast had predicted rain in the afternoon so we were keen for an early start.

Saturday morning started with the obligatory fry up (or burn up in the case of my tomatoes...) and setting off for Stanage Edge (Crow Chin). I paired up with Keith and a new member, Jay, while Mark climbed with Tim and Tom. Stanage was the perfect spot, with Tom and Jay having next to no outdoor experience and myself attempting to lead my first route. We climbed some good routes and marvelled at the grouse but soon the wind got to us and we retreated before we had no ear drums left!

We decided a ramble around Millstone and Lawrencefield might see us up despite the weather. We gawped at the impressive E6's that frequent the area and introduced the newer members to outdoor bouldering.

Having been battered by the elements all day we retreated to Hathersage for a dinner of epic proportions before collapsing onto the Fallcliffe platforms and dreaming of the day ahead (in my case conquering the 3* Heather Wall at Froggatt).

As the glorious sunshine poured in through the shutters next morning breakfast was wolfed down for an exciting day at the crag. However on the walk-in to Froggatt the clouds had started to creep in... I knew wearing sunglasses was a jinx. Keith, Jay and I left Mark et al to lead something?, determined to get up Heather Wall before the rain came in. However, as I placed that first hand jam, the rain started. Not only did it start but it was horizontal from the onset and my precariously placed hand jam was all that stopped me crushing Keith as my foot slipped on the black rock. Deciding to retreat from the now dripping slab we found that Mark had not been so lucky and had already got half way up his climb. Tim also bravely ambled up the slick wall to retrieve the gear, resulting in Mark, now practically in a sleet storm, losing all feeling in his extremities!

The walk back soon thawed us out though, and not wishing to waste the rest of the day we decided we would pop into The Climbing Works for some bouldering on the way home! Then, having trashed our fingers (and shoes in my case), a quiet group of climbers sleepily made their way back down South.

Jay, Tom and Tim all signed up to ULGMC and are looking forward to our next trip.



Lakes, Midweek meet 31 March - 2 April

Sue Esten reports:

9 stalwarts (and a dog) met at one of the Achille Ratti huts, this one at Dunmail Raise, north of Grasmere. Those who arrived early enough on the Tuesday walked up to Grisedale Tarn, returning by a variety of routes! Next day an ascent was made via Dollywaggon, of the mighty Helvellyn by six of the party (and the dog). Descent was made to a pub on the main road at the northern end of Thirlmere where liquid refreshment was partaken of before boarding the bus to take us back to the hut. Great glee from the England-resident seniors at being able to use their bus passes! Not so good for the Welsh (and the dog). Next day saw us – now reduced by one in number, the absentee sunning himself on the western side of Thirlmere pleading ski-touring knackered knees - skirting Grisedale Tarn yet again but this time turning southwards to climb Fairfield. From there it was down the ridge – one side or the other, the party maintaining its penchant for individual choice – to Ambleside, from where free bus travel back to Dunmail Raise was once more enjoyed (except for the Welsh and the dog)! It was rumoured that the other 2 members of the party spent their 2 days tackling great things – believed to be Crinkle Crag – in Langdale. However nobody else was there to corroborate their story and I shall no doubt get a bollicking from Ivor if I'm wrong about what they were up to! We were joined by Tim and Caroline Marshall for a pub meal on one of the evenings we were there. Thank you Sue, madam president, for having, very efficiently, organised this meet – especially the excellent weather



Caseg Fraith, Easter Meet 9-13 April

Geoff Williams reports:

No report submitted just some great photos from Geoff from the weekend

Caseg Fraith, 60th Anniversary of ULMC 1 - 4 May

Mark Stitson reports:

Heather and I attended the ULMC's May Bank Holiday meet at Caseg Fraith and it was good to meet them. As it is exam season there were mainly postgraduate and alumni members. Due to the weather some people went for walks and some climbed. The intrepid Simon and Dave went multi-pitching in Llanberis pass on Saturday, while Heather and I went and pushed our single pitch grades at



Tremadog, others went on a mass ascent of some even longer but easier multipitches in the Ogwen valley. Saturday evening saw a birthday celebration and much merriment. On Sunday Simon and Dave took our lead and went to Tremadog, while Heather and I took their lead and went to climb some classics in Llanberis pass. On Monday we awoke to a meteorological nightmare and we split the group between shopping and going home. We should certainly organise a joint meet again.

On the note of the ULMC and membership recruitment I should point out that while the ULGMC was founded because ULU did not admit alumni members, but they now do and alumni can stay members of ULMC.

ULMC are grateful to us for maintaining the huts – although I think that thanks should mainly go to Keith.

Roybridge, Scottish Meet 9 - 16 May

No report submitted!

News from Members

Mark Stitson writes following a Professional Climbing qualifications course:

As British climbers, traditionally we learn our skills from our peers, however, as the outdoor industry expands and after the Lyme Bay disaster professional instructor qualifications have emerged.

A few years ago an amny friend of mine, Ben, started a business which included a mobile climbing wall. He made sure that it complied with all relevant recommendations, had a qualified Mountain Instructor write his operating procedures and was accredited with several county councils for provision of events for their education departments' schools. Although no formal qualifications for climbing plastic existed then, he felt he should be more qualified than the minimum recommendations and decided to try. The first qualification for outdoor rock climbing is the Single Pitch Award (SPA), which is a qualification for teaching climbing on single pitch crags but excludes teaching leading. My friend convinced me to come along for the training course which was quite cheap and I thought it would be interesting to find out how my knowledge and techniques matched up to current best practices.

The SPA training training weekend we'd signed up for took place at the Roaches, with 6 trainees and 3 instructors.

The trainees were an interesting mix., with only four of us actually being climbers. Along with myself and Ben One was a teacher who wanted to expand what he could do with his students,, the other one was an Imperial student who was thinking about working for an outdoor centre part-time. to bolster his finances, The two others were students on a 3 year leisure management degree degree from the Lake District and then there were us two. It was interesting to see that four of us were climbers, but the other two were there simply to get a qualification, so they could work full time at an outdoor centre although their main interest wasn't climbing and between them they had limited experience on rock. These two had been doing some climbing for nearly three years as part of their full-time course, but had problems seconding even a Severe. Over the training weekend we covered all the techniques we would have to hone over the next 6 months before being allowed to take the test assessment, and we took away lots of information that far exceeded any quick coaching session required, but the pre-requisites for the training are quite high and essentially the syllabus is run through to make sure trainees are aware of what is required, rather than teaching the syllabus step by step. After the training weekend a minimum of 6 months is recommended to consolidate the knowledge.

So this January, two years later, I found myself in North Wales, for my SPA assessment. I had bolstered my instructing hours and was as ready as I could be gained. I'd read up and practised those techniques that I'd not normally use and I was as ready as I could be. I don't know what happened to the other 4 people I had meet on the training course, but I was giving it a shot. The SPA assessment is designed to be around 20 hours; running over 2 full days and an evening at Plas-Y-Brenin. When I arrived I found two other experienced climbers would be taking it with me.. We were all experienced climbers, the other two much better climbers than I was. There weren't the usual suspects for breezing or flunking the exam and on the evening before the assessment started we managed to make each other more nervous than we already had been.

The next morning of the assessment we met up with our assessor Helen, an experienced Mountain Instructor. She took us to Tremadog's Upper tier, where we were met by brilliant sunshine and dry rock., which none of us had been expecting. We all lead a climb of Severe or above with Helen checking our belaying, climbing and, gear placements; we set up top ropes, personal abseils, and showed our route finding from the non-

picturesque Tremadog guide book. Throughout she grilled us on our knowledge of rock, the environment, managing groups, and legal and regulatory requirements. After a long day we returned to the hospitality of Plas-y-Brenin and rested for the next day. The second day was at Lion Rock, where heavy rain limited our climbing.day saw heavy rain; much more the weather we had been expecting. Throughout Helen was giving problems to solve and occasionally often surprised at how we solved them. It was a very interactive assessment and throughout we were learning. We never knew how well or badly we were doing and we were kept on our toes throughout. In the early afternoon Helen finished off and told us we'd all passed. She took us back to Plas-y-Brenin for a talk through and paperwork. She said that it was always a more pleasant experience to assess people with a passion for climbing rather than people who needed the qualification purely for their job.

So was it worth it, would I do it again and would I recommend it to others? Well I got a qualification out of it that I may be using if the economic downturn hits me! But I also enjoyed it and learnt a lot along the line, so the journey was more important than the end. I found the gaps in my knowledge, I brought my techniques up to date, and I learnt a lot about the history of the outdoor industry. It will be something I'll take with me in all aspects of my climbing. On balance I'd certainly do it again and I'd also certainly recommend it to others. Just doing the initial training course is a useful exercise, it addresses different points than a coaching session would and makes you think about things a lot.

On the other hand, are climbing instruction qualifications the way our sport should be going? I think the time where our sport is taught exclusively between peers is over. The number of people entering the sport is greater than the climbing clubs can support. One thing to bear in mind is that these qualifications are run in co-operation with the BMC and they are run by climbers for climbers. . Thus climbers are making sure that the ethos and ethics of the sport are communicated to commercial providers by those who love the sport best. There is no attempt to ban the traditional instruction in clubs and replace it with only officially qualified instructors, so why not ensure professional qualifications stay with those who are most qualified to bring passion and enthusiasm to the sport – us!, so in summary I think it is a good thing for our sport.

Club News

Email addresses @ULGMC.ORG

Just a reminder of the club email addresses:

Sue Darling - president@ulgmc.org
Keith Mott - members@ulgmc.org
Heather Rumble meets@ulgmc.org
Elspeth Howell - caseg@ulgmc.org
David Jacob - fallcliffe@ulgmc.org
Shaun West - editor@ulgmc.org
Neil Brindley neil.brindley@ulgmc.org
Mark Stitson - secretary@ulgmc.org

President's corner

Amid the economic gloom, good news from ULGMC – thanks to great work by the Secretary, Treasurer/Membership Sec, Meets Secretary and others, we've had more good meets, a new generation of members is coming through to join the stalwarts and the Treasurer has told me that our accounts are now up to date.

May 2010 marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of ULGMC and the committee will be looking at ways of marking it. This will be on the AGM agenda but in the meantime it would be good to hear what you think the club might do – or whether you see no need to do anything.

And talking of doing something, a reminder that according to the Constitution, any 2 members of the club may propose an assenting candidate (important that!) for any office (ie President, Vice President, Hon Sec, Hon Treasurer and Hon Meets Sec.); nominations must be with the Hon Sec by 24 August 2009. The Constitution also allows for co-option of four additional Committee members for general or specific purposes, so please feel free to volunteer – or you just might be co-opted....

When you read this, I'll be chasing cows round the Australian bush, so enjoy the promised summer and I look forward to seeing you on meets or at the AGM on 24 October. More on the AGM in the September newsletter.

Happy rocks, hills and mountains
Sue

AGM 2009

As you all know the AGM this year will be taking place at the Swallow Falls in Snowdonia. I've been up to visit this weekend and it looks like an excellent venue. Just to let you all know that the hotel has been taking bookings for us exclusively but are soon to be releasing the extra rooms to the general public. So if you need a room for the AGM could you please let the hotel know by the 1 June 2009 to avoid being disappointed! If

anyone has any problems please let me know.

Heather Rumble, Meets Secretary
(meets.ulgmc@yahoo.com)

Web: <http://www.swallowfallshotel.co.uk/>

Tel: 01690 710796

BMC Travel Insurance - Additional Benefits for Club Members with families

Information from Mark Stitson (email from the BMC):

"We are pleased to let you know of a new development regarding BMC Travel and Activity Insurance for club members.

We now offer club members who wish to purchase couples or family travel insurance the facility to do so without their family members having to be members of the BMC. This saves club members the cost of family membership, which this year is 51.00. The only cost to this extra service is an insurance administration charge which is 10 per policy, in addition to the cost of a couples or family travel policy.

This service is only available at the moment over the phone (0161 445 6111) but it will be available soon online via our website. In the meantime, until this becomes available online we will honour the online discounted rates over the phone for those club members wishing to purchase travel insurance and include their family members who are not BMC members.

We hope that you will consider this new travel insurance benefit, especially if you are travelling soon for Easter or wish to book insurance for the summer.

More details of our insurance can be found on our website at <http://www.thebmc.co.uk/modules/insurance/Landing.aspx>

Tim Marshal attended the BMC hut seminar and issued this report:

The biennial BMC seminar on club huts was held last October at Hawkshead Youth Hostel. As usual, the day was packed full of information, far too much to take in all at one go - but also (as usual) leaving people wondering why anyone would bother running a hut, so great (and increasing) seem to be the responsibilities of so doing.

The scene was set by Iain McCallum in a brief introduction explaining what the BMC huts group actually does. He was followed by Nigel Charlesworth on Fire Regulations, and specifically the scope and duties of the Responsible Person. Those

who were at the dinner last October will have heard me go on about this role, so I don't propose to reiterate all that here. Suffice it to say that there are good guides/leaflets on the BMC website (www.thebmc.co.uk) covering most of the topics discussed, and many more as well. Of greatest interest (I think) are the following: Health and Safety (groan!); Fire Safety; Hut Maintenance; Civil Liability; Hut Trustees; Children in huts; and Planning and managing major building works.

One of the talks for which there isn't a leaflet was given by former ULGMC member and BMC vice-president Bill Renshaw, about the imminent Rating Revaluation coming later this year. Draft proposals for the new RVs will be out in October, and we will have to be on the ball to ensure that the rates aren't hiked up to an unreasonable level and (a separate issue, trailed in the last N/L), that the huts are described appropriately (e.g. NOT as a Boarding House, which happened recently to one hut in the Ogwen Valley).

The meat of the seminar (for me) was in the sessions on Fire Safety, Civil Liability (we're covered for up to £10M for any one incident, through the BMC 3rd party insurance. That means Hut Wardens, Meet Leader, Club Officers and Hut Trustees are all covered); and Child Protection. This last is surprisingly easy for us to comply with: we don't allow people under 18 (the legal age-limit to be a "child" in England) to join the club as independent members. The first consequence is that children can only stay in either hut with a parent, guardian, or someone else in loco parentis. The second consequence is that we don't have to develop our own child protection policy, or have a named and trained person to be our Child Protection Officer.

I would urge anyone interested in "huts" to read the BMC leaflets. They set out the extent of the legal obligations you take on when running a hut, and if they seem a bit scary, they cover what we have to do.

Caseg Refurbishment

The refurbishment of Caseg has been completed. The obvious changes to users is the reconfiguration of the wash area to accommodate two electric showers with another water tank installed to supply the quantity of water needed; the heating and hot water are now controlled by electricity and each radiator has its own thermostatic valve; the bunkroom downstairs is now dry and cosy rather than damp and smelly; the fire in the snug has a new fireback and hearth a new cooker is on order.

There are a few outstanding jobs that need doing such as giving Caseg a thorough clean; digging a shallow channel along one side of the path by the loos to allow water to drain away rather

than flood the path and a few household DIY type jobs. Because jobbing labour is hard to find in the area we are looking to reinstate the working weekend. It would help if we could get an idea of the number of members who would be willing to come along to help. In the first instance they could email me to let me know of their willingness.

It would be hoped that if the weather was good and enough people came, only one day would be given to working and the other to climbing or walking. Accommodation and communal evening meal on the Saturday would not cost anything.

Elspeth Howell, Hut Warden

Club Archives

The ULGMC archives are now back with Jill Bennett, who worked on them from 1996 to produce the History of the Club at the 50th anniversary in May 2000. (The History is available on the club website, and Jill has the remaining printed copies.)

The archives include the early Minute Books, Log Books, Club expeditions, accounts, AGM minutes, Newsletters and Hut Registers etc. If anyone wishes for a full list, or to consult any of the documents, or has suitable papers they wish to be added to the archive, please contact Jill Bennett (jill.bennett@waitrose.com)

Obituary

We have to thank Derek and Charles Fordham for the following Obituary for Jeni.

Jeni Fordham who died in early January was a loyal member of ULMC and then ULGMC for the whole of her adult life. Brought up in Hull, the daughter of a



headmistress, she was educated at Newland high school, studied botany at what was then Bedford College, London University, and then, having abandoned a teacher's training course became a research assistant in the Medical Research Council's Biophysics Unit at Kings College London.

She eventually became an independent research worker with her own group of researchers, whose friendship and loyalty she retained to the end. A stream of publications emerged, and she attracted collaborators from Britain and around the world. She brought a meticulous and imaginative quality to her research at Kings and an irresistible enthusiasm, which, aided by her permanent friendly smile, she communicated to everyone around her.

It was the same with everything she did. With her husband Derek, she was an indomitable mountain and arctic traveller, and an expert and passionately keen skier and ski mountaineer. She and Derek had met in the mid 1960s through ULMC when she was still an undergraduate. As a result of an increasing interest in the Arctic in 1976 they followed a number of earlier expeditions by making a dog-sledge expedition from northern Greenland across the pack ice to Canada. In addition to her Arctic forays Jeni, and Derek, wandered over mountain areas in North and South America, Scandinavia and of course the Alps and Corsica. She was always a reliable and convivial companion in the mountains and took the trouble to introduce her son Charles from an early age to the eccentric life of the mountaineer. Jeni's last trip was to the Mercantour where she and Derek had spent much time in recent years.

Among her many talents she was a competent artist, in watercolours and oils and in the last couple of years had thrown herself into tango dancing with great enthusiasm. She confronted her illness with fortitude and humour, and demanded, even in hospital, to be briefed on progress in her laboratory. She spent what was to be her last day with her family, reminiscing happily and drinking champagne. The impact Jeni made on many lives could be gauged from the huge attendance at the ceremony which marked her passing.

Derek and Charles

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2009/feb/19/obituary-jeni-fordham>