

Membership

Please remember that it's not too late to renew your membership for 2011. You can find a form (at the back of this newsletter or) on the club website at www.ulgmc.org in the members section. Login using london and caseg. (There is an up-to-date list for you to check.) Many thanks.

Keith Mott, ULGMC Treasurer and Membership Sec 07973 747756

Forthcoming Meets

Don't forget to check www.ulgmc.org for the latest news on trips.

Lands End, Spring Bank Holiday, 2011

The meet goes ahead at Trevedra Farm, Sennen from Thursday 26 May to Wednesday 1 June. Space should still be available so if you haven't booked and want to come please email Margaret and Geoff Batten as soon as possible on grb@batten.eu.org (Don't ring - they'll be in Scotland from 14 - 22 May)

Welsh Coastal Path Meet Monday 4th July - Friday 8th July 2011

Pastures new! We're off to explore the Cardiganshire coastal path. Meet venue is Drefnewydd Farm, North Road, Aberaeron, Ceredigion, West Wales SA46 0JR. Tel: 07971 402201 Web site http://www.campingonthefarm.com/

The camp site is located just on the outskirts of the Georgian Harbour town of Aberaeron, some 15 miles north-east of Cardigan. From Aberaeron, head in a northerly direction on the A487 trunk road towards Aberystwyth. You will pass a petrol station on the left-hand side. Continue for approximately 200 yards and the turning to Drefnewydd Farm is the next turning on the left-hand side. The site is 5 minutes from Aberaeron centre, is dog friendly but there may not be too much shelter in the event of gales! I have booked a nominal 6 pitches and paid a deposit on these. So declare you are part of the ULGMC party booked in under my name when you register at arrival. Let me know if you intend to come as I will need to give the office there exact numbers nearer the time. And if you fancy staying on after

the meet, Cardigan Bay holds its Seafood Festival in Aberaeron on July 10th!

Sue Esten Tel: 01442 864462 email: sue@esten.nildram.co.uk

End of Term Escape, 22-29 July

The club is returning to Symonds Yat again this year for the endof term escape. If you would like to join the growing group please make your booking directly with: Alison, Doward Park Campsite, Great Doward, Symonds Yat West, Ross-on-Wye HR9 6BP, 01600 890438, www.dowardpark.co.uk

The main group will be arriving on Friday 22nd July and staying for 7 nights. More of the same, exciting events as last year are planned, mostly by my children so families are more than welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Keith Mott, saymellon@gmail.com, 07973 747756

Fallcliffe Closed - 31 May - 17 June

The hut will be closed between 9.30 a.m. Tuesday 31 May and 3.30 p.m. Friday 17th June to enable contractors to deal with certain fire safety measures/health and safety issues.

Remedial work has now been completed as regards the rainwater goods and the roof, which should prolong its life for a while.

Mid Wales, 12-15 August 2011

I am hoping to arrange a walking meet in Mid Wales for the 12th to 15th August 2011. The venue would be the self catering hostel Dolgoch which is approx three miles north of the LLyn Brianne reservoir. The Hostel is in the Elenydd or what was called the 'Welsh Desert'. The walking could be north up to the southern edge of the Elan Valley and south to the Doethei Valley Transport could be arranged from the Mid Wales rail station atLlanwrtyd Wells I have set out the full details below

Dolgoch a scenic self catering hostel formerly YHA Now refurbished to a high standard of comfort Solar panels and PV Car park. Showers A one star self catering hostel at Tregaron. Ceridigion.SY25 6NR. Grid Reference SN806562 O/S Explorer 187. Prices per night Adult £12; low income or student £9 Camping £6 per person.

Please contact Geoff Williams at gdvaughan.will@virgin.net.

Want to submit a report?

1 September latest

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



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AGM 2011, Royal Oak Hotel, Betws-Y-Coed - 22nd October

As I'm sure you all know, the AGM this year is in North Wales and is taking place at the Royal Oak, Betws-Y-Coed. It's getting to the time when they're expecting bookings for rooms so please, if you're intending to stay in the hotel, let them know as soon as possible.

You can telephone them on 01690 710219 or 01609 710011 and mention that you're from ULGMC. We are dealing with Barbara, so if you can speak to her, even better.

Thanks Heather

Meets List 2011

Meet	Location	Date	Meet Leader					
Scottish Meet	Poolewe	14 th – 21 st May	Willie Butler					
Grit Delights	Fallcliffe	21 st – 22 nd May	Mark Stitson					
Spring Bank Holiday (children and new members specially welcome)	Lands End	26 th May– 1 st June (BH)	Geoff & Margaret Batten					
Midweek Camping	Welsh coastal paths meet	4 th -8 th July	Sue Esten					
End of Term Escape	Symonds Yat (direct booking)	22 nd -29 th July	The Motts					
Welsh Meet	Dolgoth Hostel	12 th – 15 th August	Geoff Williams					
Summer Bank Holiday (Children and new members)	Caseg Fraith	25 th – 30 th August (BH)	Keith Mott					
	Fallcliffe	16 th -18 th September	The Committee					
AGM & Dinner	Caseg Fraith 50 th Anniversary, Royal Oak, Betws-Y-Coed	21 st - 23 rd Oct	Heather Rumble					
The Bonfire Meet	Fallcliffe	4 th – 6 th Nov	Neil Brindley					
Early Winter	TBC	November	Bill Towlson					
Christmas and New Year	Caseg Fraith	24 th Dec – 4 th Jan	Elspeth Howell (not present)					

Italics denote unconfirmed meets

Any suggestions/problems, email Heather at: meets.ulgmc@yahoo.com

Meets

Meet Report: Easter Weekend at Casea

Heather Rumble, Meets Secretary reports:

Another year and another glorious weekend in North Wales to celebrate Easter.

This year we had an excellent turn out, including two families, two prospective members and a band of another eleven members and their guests, creating quite a buzz at the hut.

The weather stayed scorching all weekend, aside from the storm which befell us on the way down from Tryfan and a cold, murky day the day we decided to take the kids out climbing at Ricks and Racks.

We couldn't run the PYB kids course this year due to a lack of numbers so Mark Stitson, Stephan Tietz and myself spent the day setting up top ropes and teaching the Charalambulous children (and parents!) about rocking over on tiny holds and how to spend over an hour setting

up one top rope with rubbish gear placements.

Aside from our teaching adventure, many others were had. Flying Buttress and little Tryfan were climbed, as well as a lot of the climbs outside the hut. Tryfan, Snowdon, Beddgelert ice cream shop and the Glydrs were explored. A grade 3 scramble was much harder than some of us estimated. Someone (ahem) wimped out of Devil's Kitchen. A two hour walk turned into an eight hour one!

The easter egg hunt was a great success with the adults mopping up the leftovers on Sunday evening while some of us got far too competitive in a game of "Killer Bunnies".

And, of course, the dogs, Noche and Ranger, had a fantastic time too.

Overall it was a fab weekend and I hope that the August Bank Holiday meet at Caseg draws a similar crowd.

News from Members

Not snowshoeing in the Auvergne

Margaret and Geoffrey Batten write:

Having been snowshoeing in the Vanoise for the past four years (see our report in the last Newsletter), we decided to have a change of scene in 2011. Some French friends had enjoyed a week of snowshoeing last year in the Auvergne region of the Massif Central and on their recommendation we made a booking at the same hotel for the end of January: the Gite-Hotel Bellevue at Laveissière which is a few kilometres west of Murat and close to the ski resort of Super-Lioran at the foot of Plomb du Cantal, the highest point in the area at 1855 m. We were collected from Murat by one of the hotel minibuses after traveling by train from Birmingham via London, Paris and Clermont-Ferrand.



The Cantal area of the Auvergne is one of woodlands, high pastures and moorland topped by peaks- puys- which are the remnants of ancient volcanoes. The hotel offered two walks each day to cater for different levels of fitness. Each group carried between them the very substantial picnic lunch provided: every day a different homemade soup and meat plus bread, cheese, fruit and chocolate or cake. On several days we were driven to the start/ finish of a circular walk and one day we were able to do a through walk by having transport to the start and then being collected at the finish- one advantage of being with an organised group. We were usually back at the hotel by 5 pm to enjoy mulled wine before the substantial evening meal which during the week included several regional specialities. Our guide clearly knew the local terrain very well and was able to tell us much about the geology, wildlife and farming of the area.

Whilst there was quite a lot of snow, there was not enough to make use of snowshoes- so we walked instead. The weather was mainly fine and sunny although very cold. As a result of the low temperatures, there were many spectacular frozen waterfalls and streams and several times we were forced to make detours because of paths being sheets of smooth ice. In all, we walked some 35 miles with about 10,000 ft of ascent.

We had very poor weather during our previous walking in the Auvergne in August 2004 (see our report in Newsletter No. 204) and this time there was not enough snow to use raquettes although this is always a risk at this relatively low altitude. Nevertheless, we enjoyed our week very much. The current owners of the Bellevue will be leaving at the end of March but we understand that the new owners will be continuing to offer the same programme: look at www.montagnebellevue.com if you are interested or contact us for more information

Southern Alps, New Zealand - Feb 2011

Paul Mitchell writes:

A one-off trip to the Southern Alps has prompted a rare contribution to this newsletter, of which I am normally just another reader. These days I am definitely in the "old" rather than "bold" climber category but the chance to spend a few days in the NZ mountains was too good to miss. When it comes to gear, much the same applies. So I am more likely to reach for a camera and lenses than a rack of metalwork. The website of the company I chose to climb with helpfully suggested it would be a good idea to be younger and fitter than I am. Being unable to do much about the former at 57, I made some effort to improve the latter. But opportunities were limited except for a week skiing in the Rockies en route to NZ, which probably gave me some altitude fitness for 5 days based in the Tasman Saddle hut.

So, after a 2 hour drive from Wanaka to Mount Cook helicopter port, Callum (my guide) and I were soon taking the easy way up the 28 kilometres of the Tasman glacier. On the way, the pilot pointed to the latest seracs to fall off the snout into the lake. These received a helping hand from the Christchurch earthquake 3 days earlier, knocking 30 million tons of ice off the glacier – if you believe the headlines in local newspapers!

After landing on the saddle and staking our claim to some bunks in the hut, there was just enough time for a bit of glacier walking and a brew in the nearby Kelman hut. But at least this provided a gentle introduction to the sheer size and number of crevasses near the top of the Tasman. Callum was no doubt checking out just how slow and rusty his client was before deciding which routes to suggest for the next day.

Day 2 started very cloudy but the forecast was good, so a ropework refresher and a few brews took care of much of the morning. Thereafter, there was time for a scamper up Mt Aylmer (2699m), providing occasional glimpses of the drop down to the Murchison glacier. By the time we returned, another party of two had arrived but it still seemed extraordinary to have this 12 bunk hut to ourselves for 4 nights in high season – another joy of being in the Southern Alps at this time of year.

Day 3 provided perfect conditions for an airy traverse of Hochstetter's twin peaks (2827 & 2810m) and a glacier excursion beneath Mt Elie de Beaumont. My original targets for a 3,00m peak had been either Beaumont or Minarets but both the easy routes were blocked by the state of crevasses this season. So, in keeping with the "old" rather than "bold" principle, we settled for lesser routes and more photographs instead. The evening provided wonderful light for a sunset behind Mounts Cook and Tasman, followed by a crystal clear Southern night sky, with no light pollution – another bonus.

Just as my fairly ancient limbs were getting used to snow and ice travel, Callum seemed to think they needed a work-out on rock as well! So for day 4, the Red Buttress on Mt Abel (2688) was the chosen target. Given the state of most Tasman rock, I took some persuading but on closer inspection it was pretty solid, providing 3 good pitches and a scramble to the summit. Abseiling off it was more of a challenge but I somehow avoided dislodging anything serious on the way down.

The weather window was due to close on day 4. Already the wind was getting up and a misty waterfall was cascading in over the divide which separates the Tasman glacier from most of the storms blowing in from the Tasman sea. Anticipating the changing conditions, Callum had already booked the helicopter for a speedy retreat but an anxious half-hour was spent on the Saddle before the re-assuring sound of the chopper could be heard coming up the glacier. Minutes later we were on our way out, treated en route to two remarkable sights. First came the close up views of the huge east and Caroline faces of Mt Cook both more heavily crevassed this year than local guides could ever remember. Then, as we flew further down the Tasman, we passed over the extraordinary sight of a wedding party, in full regalia, tying a very different kind of knot on the glacier far below!

Whilst it would have been good to fit in another climb, it felt like the right time to return to the valleys, complete with a few routes in the bag and a lot of photographs from 4 days spent in the midst of stunning scenery. Another of the world's finest mountain ranges on the "must-see" list had provided a vivid addition to my travelling collection.

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
Tim Marshall - timstatsmarshall@aol.com

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President's corner

Who'd have thought of warm rock in April (except Snowdonia perhaps?) and sun cream rather than cags? I hope everyone's made the most of it whether on the hills or closer to home.

The Committee met in London last month. Actions outstanding from the AGM were reviewed. Finances are in order and Keith is reminding late renewers of the benefits of membership. We're following up remarks by Tim Marshall in the last newsletter (in his capacity as a hut Trustee) to clarify how Club bookings of Caseg are to be made. We also made plans for the 2011 AGM.

Please don't forget that this year's AGM will be held out of sequence at Casea. to celebrate the hut's 50th anniversary. We hope that as many as possible of those who contributed to Caseg's founding and consolidation in the early days will be able to attend the AGM and share their memories with us all. (See Heather's note about bookings at the Royal Oak; an attendance form and menu choices will be circulated as usual with the September newsletter). Also, please let the Meets Sec know if you have photos old and new of events at Caseg which will interest everyone. A display is planned, as was done for the Club's 60th anniversary at the last AGM. And, as agreed at the AGM, there will be a celebratory champagne breakfast for members at Caseg on Sunday 23 October

Again re the AGM, please don't forget that our Constitution provides that nominations by any two members for the post of any officer of the club should be received by the Hon Sec at least 2 months before the AGM - ie by 22 August. (Not sure why we require such a long period of notice but that's what it is.) Having got the other issues out of the way on 5 May, it would be good to have some competition in the ULGMC ranks.

Looking to the future as well as the past, a warm welcome to the raft of new members who have joined the Club, including recent and past London graduates who are active climbers. The Club is to some extent facing 2 ways, with the older generation (there, I've said it!) putting on their walking boots and the younger ones going for hard rock. I hope that the AGM as well as some meets (possibly Caseg or Fallcliffe?) will allow us to get to know each other and share our experiences and plans.

On a personal note, my kind and intelligent Shire horse Ben died last week of colic (twisted gut). His skills ranged from driving cattle in outback Australia to draught horse relay racing in the New Forest. He attended a Welsh meet some years ago and will be long remembered by certain

members for some interesting cross country routes in the marathon vehicle, transspecies gender observations and a tricky negotiation of the narrow approach bridge and streets of St Davids.

Happy rocks, hills and mountains to all, Sue

Meets Sec

A call for families! Though this meet gets more and more popular with new members and recent recruits, this year we didn't have enough children present to run the PYB childrens climbing course. The PYB course is subsidised by the club and is such an important part of passing the climbing spirit down through the club. If we can encourage the next generation to climb, we are ensuring the future of the club.

And aside from that it's a really fun meet!

So, if you have a family and are wondering where to go next year for your Easter holiday, why not come along? There's a really friendly atmosphere, plus Easter Eggs!.

Cheers everyone, hope to see you over the summer.

Heather, meets secretary

Skylon prank at the Festival of Britain

Jill Bennett writes:

Brian Stanley's letter (I held a torch for the Festival of Britain, 27 April), prompted me to write about the climbing of the Skylon. Five London University students planned to climb it prior to the opening of the festival by George VI. Two were members of what became the University of London Graduate Mountaineering Club: Phil Gurdon, who actually made the climb, and John Fowle.

It was planned three months earlier: they got detailed plans and maps from the festival authorities, and designed and made special climbing equipment including "hook irons" to get a hold on the metal frame. At about 11.15 they managed to enter the South Bank site, then two of them made the climb after midnight, when the floodlights were off.

They had intended to leave a small bottle of whisky on top for whoever was sent to get the ropes down, but towards the top the going was difficult and the ropes kept snarling on the reflector lights. They left a "flag", a University of London Air Squadron scarf. On Festival Day, 3 May 1951, the London Evening Standard headline reported "Students hang flag on Skylon after 250ft climb". No damage was done, and afterwards they apologised.

Philip Gurdon became a commercial pilot, and the club understood he was lost at sea in the 1960s. In January 2011, on BBC

Radio 4's PM programme, Philip Gurdon was interviewed by Eddie Mair about his part in this escapade. It would be interesting to know if any of the others who took part are still around.



Lake District News

Supplied by Keith Mott:

1. Forestry campaign - the Government's U-turn was a major result! Many thanks to all of you who supported the petition and wrote to your local MP. Friends of the Lake District and Save Lakeland's Forests have written to the Independent Forestry Panel to invite them to Cumbria to see how our forests are managed and how important they are to local people and visitors. Thanks to people's donations at the Whinlatter Rally (19 February) we planted hundreds of trees in March to celebrate our campaign success together. We have further plans in the autumn to plant more trees to create new woodlands in the Lake District. If you'd like to donate contact David Baker - david.baker@fld.org.uk

2. Natural England opens consultation on revised boundary extensions to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks Natural England want to hear everyone's' views on the revised boundary extensions to our two fantastic National Parks in Cumbria. We are delighted this project is moving forward - please comment and support the proposals. Contact Policy Officer Jack Ellerby if you would like any further information - jack-ellerby@fld.org.uk See the consulation here.

Fri 9 Sept - Annual Kirby Lecture, Hutton in the Forest, with Sir Chris Bonington CBE.

This years' event promises to be a prestigious occasion, hosted by Lord and Lady Inglewood. Sir Chris will be giving a talk entitled "I Chose to Climb", about his early years, including his time in the Lake District and going up to climb Annapurna South Face. Don't miss this unique

opportunity to meet Sir Chris. Further details and costs will be notified nearer the time.

BMC

Message from Rob Dyer at the BMC. BMC are holding a Sandstone Open Meeting this Sunday (15th May) in the bar at Bowles

"We're hoping to get as many climbers there as possible to get involved and have your say in a discussion about climbing on Southern Sandstone. Everyone is welcome - it should be a lively and sociable evening and the BMC will be providing a free buffet - the more the merrier!"

Small adds

Lost - hopefully found...

OS Map: Andy and Elena
Charalambulous misplaced their OS map
over the weekend. If anyone finds an OS
Explorer OL18 either in the hut, or if you
were on the trip, in their luggage, could they
contact myself (meets@ulgmc.org.uk) or
Andy and Elena directly.

Hut to hire

The PMC cottage in Snowdonia. The club owns a cottage and barn in the midst of

beautiful Snowdonia. The cottage is capable of sleeping 14 people in two rooms and has its own kitchen and dining room. Gas is supplied for cooking and heating. The barn can sleep 16 people and has a new kitchen extension which was completed in 1997. Both the cottage and the barn are supplied with cooking and eating utensils and overall the accommodation is of a high standard. There is also a toilet block which includes toilets, hot showers and drying facilities. Camping is also possible in the large enclosure at the rear of the barn.

The club meets at the cottage for weekends, although members can go there practically any time they wish. The first weekends of each month are booked by Wellingborough and the third weekends are booked by Peterborough mountaineering clubs respectively for their members. If you wish to attend a Wellingborough meet please contact their secretary before attending. However the cottage is available for rent to other groups at all other times. Contact Robin Philips, 01536 370144 for booking details and availability.

Obituary

Ian Raeside, a ULGMC member for many years, died earlier this year. There

was an obituary in The Guardian, which can be read at:

http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2011/apr/03/ian-raeside-obituary

In addition, James has set up a site for people to donate in lan's memory. The proceeds will go to the Llanberis Mountain Rescue team.

http://www.justgiving.com/James-Raeside

lan - latterly, a walker rather than a climber - was an enthusiastic attender at many club meets in the 80s and 90s, especially at the Cornwall meet. This included the notorious meet in the 90s, the wettest and coldest anyone could remember, when he and Sue, having been washed out of their tent, baled out (bailed out would also be an appropriate description) of the tent and into a B & B, before retreating early back to St Albans. With a mordant wit, he was always entertaining in company, with a host of stories, including one where he answered a British Rail questionnaire during his commute to SOAS, to be told that he had won a prize of two return tickets to anywhere on the network. "Thurso" was his instant reply.

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON GRADUATE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2011

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

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Tivetshall St Margaret, Norwich, Norfolk, NR15 2EE or email to members@ulgmc.org. Thank you.