



## 50 years of Caseg!

As you know there is going to be a special celebration of Caseg this year at the AGM, so we'd like you to share as many photos of Caseg as possible. You can do this by bringing them along on the day, or by sending them to me with your dinner bookings.

Cheers!

Heather Rumble, Meets Secretary

## Forthcoming Meets

Don't forget to check [www.ulgmc.org](http://www.ulgmc.org) for the latest news on trips.

### Call for meet leaders!

It's that time of year again when I need to start working out next years meet list. So, if anyone would like to run a meet, please let me know! We have a few new meet leaders for next year and it would be great to see some more, whether it's taking over from an old meet, or coming up with something new, I'd love to hear from you.

Happy climbing, and I hope to see you all at the AGM,

Heather, Meets Secretary

## 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

[heather.rumble@googlemail.com](mailto:heather.rumble@googlemail.com), 07876 690979

## Bonfire Meeting, Fallcliffe - 4th November

Time to book the bonfire weekend at Fallcliffe, 101 reasons to go a gain other than just seeing some fireworks go off..

Neil Brindley, [nbrindley@lambethcollege.ac.uk](mailto:nbrindley@lambethcollege.ac.uk), 01708 765700.

## Land's End meet: Spring Bank Holiday 2012

Once again the meet will be held at Trevedra Farm, Sennen, this year from Thursday 31 May to Wednesday 6 June. NB Please note the later dates due to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee We have booked what should be adequate space for us in the tent field for this period. Trevedra Farm remains very popular and is likely to be heavily booked over the Bank Holiday weekend. Wendy Nicholas will require confirmation of our booking by 1 FEBRUARY 2012 and so we must ask EVERYONE (including 'regulars') who are planning to come to let us know by that date. Otherwise we may lose some of the space.

2012 marks the 40th anniversary of our first visit to Trevedra Farm. Since then we have both missed one year and Margaret missed a second year when she was working in New York. We will be organising a little celebration to mark the occasion.

Geoffrey and Margaret Batten, 0121 475 6604,  
[grb@batten.eu.org](mailto:grb@batten.eu.org)

## North Wales meet: Caseg, August Bank Holiday 2012:

I have taken over the planning of this meet from Keith (and Heather). As usual, the meet will be held at Caseg, next year's August bank holiday from Saturday 25th to Monday 27th. I expect to see many of the regulars and I hope to attract fresh graduates who might be interested in joining the club.

We are looking forward to continuing our exploration of climbing routes in Ogwen valley, maybe go for some walks around Snowdon or some multi-pitch routes in Llanberis Pass. We are also going to make extensive use of the new slate quarry guide. And last, but not least this meet is an excellent opportunity to further our attempts to climb the ten highest peaks in Snowdonia!!

Please contact the meets secretary (Heather, [meets@ulgmc.org.uk](mailto:meets@ulgmc.org.uk)) or myself ([Stephan.Tietz@gmx.de](mailto:Stephan.Tietz@gmx.de), 07984583146) if you'd like to attend this meet so that I can book the hut exclusively.



# Meets List 2011

Meet	Location	Date	Meet Leader
AGM & Dinner	Caseg Fraith 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Royal Oak, Betws-Y-Coed	21 <sup>st</sup> - 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Heather Rumble
<i>The Bonfire Meet</i>	<i>Fallcliffe</i>	<i>4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Nov</i>	<i>Neil Brindley</i>
Early Winter	TBC	November	Bill Towlson
<i>Christmas and New Year</i>	<i>Caseg Fraith</i>	<i>24<sup>th</sup> Dec - 4<sup>th</sup> Jan</i>	<i>Elsbeth Howell (not present)</i>

Italics denote unconfirmed meets

Any suggestions/problems, email Heather at: [meets.ulgmc@yahoo.com](mailto:meets.ulgmc@yahoo.com)

## Meets

### Annual Scottish meet

#### John Coote and Trevor Hellen reports:

Each year in early May an extraordinary event occurs in the Scottish Highlands. A group of veteran mountaineers with a record of ascents of routes on major peaks in all areas of the world, and all members of ULGMC, meet for a week at some exotic venue in these Mountains with eyes set on climbing as many Munros or Corbetts as the weather and spirit enables.



Meall a'Ghubhais 887m BEINN EIGHE National Park

The extraordinary is justified by the notable age range of the group, 65-82yrs at the present time. It might also be considered extraordinary by the perseverance that some like Willy Butler, Dave and Liz Lindsey, Tony Gilby, Trevor Owen, Trevor Hellen, Jerry Wright and Dave Smith, have displayed to reach the target of having climbed all of the 284 Munro summits (>3000ft) despite advancing age and deterioration of body systems. Of course, when all the Munros have been climbed, even though you are over 70 (like Jerry), the ascent of all the 221 Corbetts (2500-3000ft) becomes the next keen ambition, even though not always openly admitted.

The meet is the brain child of Willy Butler, whose strong Scottish roots force him to go back each year to show off to the Sassenachs amongst us his knowledge of his native mountains and his ability to pronounce their Gaelic names, only dwarfed by his displaying his tastes for the local

whisky. Despite the strong desire to ascend everything that looks like a hill, the group is not above spending time walking the glens and visiting sites of historical interest.



Mike and Sue Esten, BEINN EIGHE NP enjoying a brief break in the Weather

This year some 22 of us found our way by car or train to Poolewe in the Torridon area of the NW Highlands. Poolewe is an excellent centre with great mountain views but also lots of interesting coastline and low level walks in the mountains for bad weather. Also lots of WW2 naval history on Loch Ewe's shores and beaches. A few intrepid members tried beach sunbathing during brief breaks in the threatening clouds. This proved challenging as, between the violent gusts of wind blown cold rain that seemed to pierce the skin, the midges attacked mercilessly. Fortunately, the weather was so stormy that not much opportunity was afforded for midges to feed off ULGMC blood. Perhaps the best aspect of this coastal area is the Inverewe Gardens, looked after by the Scottish National Trust. The warm climate accompanying the Gulf Stream has enabled vast varieties of plants of temperate and mediterranean origin to flourish. The gardens are set in hilly slopes that were close to our accommodation and provided an excellent relaxation to visit on a rest day. Visits were made there by many of us, partly to see the lush and colourful shrubs and partly to walk up and down the sloping paths for some sneaky mountain training.



Site of Crash of WW2 American Bomber above Gairloch

The weather was stormy and turbulent with bursts of heavy rain and high winds and even snow down to 800m. Despite this, for most of the group 5 days were spent on lung bursting ascents with knees and thighs screaming or on long trails through the hills of Torridon, and even occasionally like Dave and Liz Lindsey mountain biking along the coastal area. Notable ascents were made of one Munro, Ben Eighe, by Tony, Michael and John and five Corbetts including Sail Mhor, Baosbheinn, Beinn an Eoin, Beinn Airigh Charr and Meall a'Ghubhais by groups including Jerry, Dave Smith, John Coote, Trevor, John Parsons, Joy, Trefor, Patsy, Mike and Sue Esten, and John Burrows. Jerry had targeted a number of Corbetts. Along with Dave Smith (a welcome guest at the meet who had himself just a handful of Corbetts to complete), he succeeded on three but was turned back on others, being unable to get across swollen rivers, as also happened to others in the group on other ascents. Of note on the one day of decent weather was the ascent of Meall a'Ghubhais, almost a Munro, protected by a final steep 400m headwall. This provided a stern test of heart, lungs and knees that was ascended in under the guidebook time by a group of nine of us geriatrics, whose ages ranged from 68 to 82 yrs.





Summit Meall a Ghubhais

Even low level routes became challenging because of the high winds and rain. Bill (Towlson) and Les (Bailey), Geoff and Margaret (Batten) and John Coote planned, despite the rather threatening weather, to take a boat across Loch Maree from the Hotel of that name but were dissuaded by four foot high waves that meant they would have been wet through before landing on the other side and then would have had to endure a long (14km) and serious trek through the pass east of Beinn Airigh Charr back to Poolewe. Instead, the scenic Slatterdale trail (8km) along the NW side of Loch Maree back to Poolewe was taken and is to be recommended.



Pony Track BEINN EIGHE.

The week was crowned by two notable events. The first was a tasting of a selection of John Burrows different home made wines, which were much enjoyed in the Burrows (John and Valerie) bungalow. The second was the group dinner in the Gairloch Hotel on the final night organized by Janet Hellen. Overall this was a very successful meet and many thanks go to Willy for arranging it. The accommodation in the bungalows was great with lots of ensuite facilities and good kitchen and sitting room, a far cry from the old bothy days where we were continuously cold and wet. So we oldies can still climb a bit but we do like some comfort these days!

## Welsh Coastal Meet 4th – 8th July 2011

### Sue Esten reports:

An excellent meet – only got soaked once! 12 participants in total, though not all necessarily there at the same time. Aberaeron, the little town just outside which we camped, is extremely pretty – its Georgian houses are painted in varying,

sometimes startling, colours. The camp site was a bit basic – geared towards caravanners, but such facilities as existed were impeccably kept. It was good also to have made the meet run Monday thru Friday – it made arrangements more flexible for folks. What did we do? Sue, the book, (a Pathfinder guide to Ceredigion – now pronounce that!) had chosen various circular walks from the book - which were more or less followed. Bill exhibited his usual penchant for turning perambulations into 'Bill specials' – but to be fair to him, the OS maps seemed to indicate paths which were – shall we say – a little difficult to find on the ground! Yes, it was them not us!

On Monday two of the more energetic walked a round from Aberaeron to Aberarth and back along the coastal path via the church and churchyard on the hill whose tombstones punctuate the skyline like so many broken teeth. Tuesday's walk was based on Newquay, from where we walked southwestwards along the coastal path before heading inland - deviating from the script (book) and navigating back to Newquay closer to the coast than originally foreseen (and thereby missing a pub!!!). Wednesday saw us parking on the outskirts of Llangrannog and walking to the coast via the Urdd Youth centre – and its ski slope. We soon descended from the cliff path to the headland at Ynys-Lochtyn, an absolutely beautiful spot. From there into the fleshpots of Llangrannog where we sat drinking a welcome beer on the seafront above a lovely little bay with a solitary surfer in charge. Two members of the party then deserted, thereby missing the soaking that the rest of us achieved – the day turned showery and we confidently avoided full waterproofs whilst the rain actually set in - and we failed to navigate in quite the quickest fashion back to the cars. Sue D and Mike E mounted a 'rescue' based on a dead certainty that they would find us back in the Llangrannog pub – however they met us squelching our way downhill to the parking.



That night was almost worthy of Trevedra farm in Cornwall – blustering wind and frenetic rain. Next day, Thursday, we opted for a walk based on Aberaeron. We went up to Llanhaeron house, a National Trust property with splendid walled gardens and a museum of rural living. Then followed another tussle between the OS and the footpaths we did or did not find. To be fair to

the OS, the Llanhaeron estate were busy creating new(?) paths and the three fragments of the party by then going their own ways fell muddily foul of the construction work.

Friday threatened more showers and there was little enthusiasm for further wettings and so the party dispersed homewards.



## Land's End meet: 26 May-1 June 2011

### Geoffrey and Margaret Batten report:

Sixteen members and children gathered for yet another Land's End meet at Trevedra Farm with another two members in a nearby cottage. There was the usual mix of weather- wind, rain, sea mist and sunshine- and activities although this year there was a distinctly more relaxed atmosphere.

Heather Rumble and Stephan Tietz were part of the group for the first time and their game of Viking Chess detained the younger members in the tent field for long periods of time. Once again, thanks to Wendy Nicholas for organising another splendid 'feast' for us on the Sunday evening and for husband John for allowing us to use the caravan store. We were all able to admire the beautiful new reception, shop and café building which had been built since our visit in 2010.



## Caseg August Bank Holiday

### Stephan Tietz Reports:

On the August Bank Holiday Weekend 20 of us arrived at Caseg. We were welcomed by rain, showers and a little bit of drizzle as one would expect of North Wales.

The meet leaders Keith and Heather greeted current, newly recruited and potential members: Jeff, Dave, Kate, Kim, Mike and Sam from ULMC; Abigail, Beren, George and myself from Royal Holloway; Keith's family; Mark and his friend Heidi as well as Patsy and Trefor. It was also good to see Matt Walters, who recently returned from his two year stay in Afghanistan, back on a ULGMC meet even if it was just for a day.

While most people used the very rainy Saturday to explore the slate quarries (unfortunately too wet for any climbing), Me and Heather went off to Idwal slabs to tackle the "Ordinary Route" against our better judgement. Luckily, we weren't swept off the mountain and after seven hours we finally made it back to the hut. I also, learnt that my rain coat and boots are little protection against water if I am standing in an actual waterfall, and that Mark asking me if I have done the descent before means that it is a real pain. We arrived only slightly later at the hut than the ULMC folks who scrambled up Tryfan's West Face.

Back in the hut everyone enjoyed a lovely stew which Sam and Kim had prepared. Frances helped them with preparing two different type of crumbles. Trefor and Patsy had also brought some cheese and biscuits along which were fantastic addition to George's whisky and the sloe gin from the Mott's private reserves.

Sunday wasn't blessed with much nicer weather so me and Heather decided to finally see the Electric Mountain from the inside and then walk up to the higher reservoir. Some were much more adventurous and went to do some multi-pitch routes at Milestone Buttress. George and Beren climbed Pulpit Route and Mark led Rowan Route, followed by Heidi and Abigail. Well done to all of them for climbing in this rainy weather, but especially to Beren leading a multi-pitch on her third time on real rock and Heidi who climbed outdoors for the first time.

On Monday it finally stopped raining so some of us took the chance to do some easy leads in the slate quarries while Mark, Heidi, Mike, Dave, Kate and Jeff went for a walk at Moel Siabod. Unfortunately, most of us had to say good bye already, but Mark and the Motts stayed for a couple more days and were complemented with sunny weather and lots of bouldering.

All in all this was a very successful meet and probably the first time I have seen the younger generation of ULGMC go out and touch some rock when the sun wasn't shining! I hope we can attract even more members and potential members next year!! (See the announcement for next year's meet!).



## News from Members

### Joss Naylor Challenge – Completed 3 July 2011

by Colin Grime:

The Joss Naylor Challenge covers 48 miles across 30 peaks of the Lake District from Pooley Bridge at the mouth of Ullswater to Greendale in Wasdale. It has 16000 feet of ascent. The challenge at my age is to finish inside 24 hours.

Towards the end of June my friend Michael Hetherton phoned about doing the Joss Naylor Challenge at the beginning of July only two weeks away. I thought it would take me about 21 hours and made a schedule based on my state of fitness and valuable information from Monica Shone.

Mike reckoned it was 14 years since we completed the Bob Graham round together. Mike is just a youngster. He only had 18 hours since he was 2 weeks off 65. There's always next year.

Nearly all of our various running friends were of course running or otherwise busy at such short notice. Just one, Julian Spencer from Spectrum Striders (my club), said he would run the first leg some of which would be in the night. The Monday before I trotted the first leg to remind myself of the details for the dark time with Mike Bate helping with the section to Loadpot Hill and transport.

For the attempt Don Low agreed to take us (Colin Grime, Mike Hetherton and Julian Spencer) to Pooley Bridge, meet Mike and me at Kirkstone Pass, Dunmail Raise and at the end at Greendale Bridge. John Pearson, an old friend from school days, arranged to go to Styhead Pass with important supplies.

The small team assembled at Beetham Cottage (Fell & Rock Climbing Club) near Brothers Water on Saturday afternoon for eating and getting ready. After a little rest we got up at midnight.

The night was perfect cool (5 centigrade) with no wind for the start from Pooley Bridge at 1.00 am.

The north eastern sky was marbled grey and amazing like a Turner painting.

The night was otherwise dark with no moon. The valleys filled with mist that rose to cover our way but only for a few minutes. Larks were singing at 3 o'clock and we could switch off our torches. Running down High Street we surprised many red deer and with Julian carrying the rucksack we made good time all the way to Kirkstone Pass.

After breakfast and a welcome cup of tea Mike and I shouldered our rucksacks and set off up Red Screes warmed by the rising sun. A ring ouzel flew past at the top and Great Gable seemed a world away. We trotted along to Fairfield and down over Seat Sandal to Dunmail Raise where Don had made more tea. Monica Shone was there to greet us having just driven from Anglesey.

We were a few minutes behind schedule and had a good rest. After the steep climb up Steel Fell the route is less dramatic over High Raise and Rossett Pike until the splendid way up Bowfell from the top of Rossett Gill. There was a little pressure on time since the idea was to descend Middle Fell near the end in the daylight. There was some breeze at times and the temperature was perfect. The way off Great End is worth knowing down the steep ground of the Band. My phone rang with a message from John at Styhead. It was good to know he was there.



After a long rest we loaded up drinks and tackled the long climb up Gable on perhaps the best leg of the route. At the top we had a look at the War Memorial to some great climbers and brave men. The grassy run off Kirk Fell is a good way down to Black Sail before the long haul up the broad ridge of Pillar. On the descent Black Crag, Scoat Fell and Steeple were impressive against the light. Trotting down the grass towards Haycock was pleasant. Mike carried my bag up Haycock. The way to Seatallan looked short but seemed to get longer and higher as we descended. From the top, steep grass took us towards Middle Fell and the



final gentle descent to Greendale Bridge. We switched on our torches for Don to see but it turned out he was having a beer with Joss. We arrived at ten forty just as darkness took over. The route is brilliant and the cup of tea in Joss's house was special.

*Ed: Colin had some good photos but something went wrong with the word processor file!*

## Jungfrau Marathon

### Colin Grime leaves a short note:

I have attached a report and my schedule on the Joss Naylor Challenge that I completed on 3rd July this year. I am presently in Hirzel having just completed the Jungfrau Marathon for the 8th time (from Interlaken to the Kleine Scheidegg, via Lauterbrunnen & Wengen).



## The TMB over a long weekend

### Shaun West writes:

The aim was to walk the wrong way around the TMB, starting at la Mont Roc and ending either in les Houches or les Contamines. I only had four days... Friday, after lunch, I took the train to Chamonix and stay at the hotel close to the station.

Day 1: The aim is to walk from Mont Roc - la Planet and a monster walk to Champex. Ought to take two days but one should be enough! Just... The walk up above La Tour on the ridge was great, nice way to start and get some air before the rain at la Balm. The rain came and went all day from that point onwards. The glacier recession of the la Trient glacier was amazing - I cannot believe that back in 93 I was walking on a flat section that is now part of the river. I took the high route over the Fenetre d'Arpette, I got to the top at 1800 and then down to the hotel at 2030, 11 hours after setting out.



Day 2: Bus to La Fouly, saved a walk along/by the road so worth the 5CHF (some things are cheap in Switzerland! At La Fouly it was still raining, so lunch and then off up the hill for another big day - the objective being Courmayeur via Petite Col Ferret. So by the time I got up to 2000m the rain turned to snow. At the col the clouds broke and gave some great views of the hills and the valley down to Courmayeur. I would have gone via Bonatti but I had not started until 1300 so no time. The decent was very steep on slippery mud. The late summer views of the valley made the effort all worth while and the hitch half way down the valley meant I got to the hotel before 2200 - very odd chatting to an Italian both speaking French.

Day 3: Taxi to the end of the road up to Elisabetta, the objective to try to get up to the Col de la Croix du Bonhomme. But the weather was bad... snowing at 1700m and windy. The walk to Elisabetta is up a long road, snow is better than rain as it stays on the outside of the jacket! The wind was tough and the plateau was snowy and even windier. The final accent on the Col de la Seigne meant wading in 30cm deep snow - fine but without any tracks and in foggy conditions. Still got there in the end and the clouds broke creating some fantastic views. It did not last and on the decent to Chapieux the rain and wind got stronger and colder. The last 5km or so on the road were the worst of the whole trip. So pleased to enter the hotel. Ended up speaking Italian to an Italian sitting opposite me (he did not speak much English) sandwiched between two groups of Americans.



Day 4: Objective was to get home, I cut the day short by only walking over to Les Contamines, then hitching, getting a bus and train to get home. The walk up to the Col de la Croix du Bonhomme was just under the sign post times but then there was 30cm of snow from half way up. The traverse to la Col du Bonhomme was tough as there were no foot prints and I had to break trail the whole way. From the col down to the valley was much easier, prints to follow and enjoy the clear blue sky. The connections I managed in the valley meant that I was home by 2000!



## Club News

### Email addresses @ULGMC.ORG

Just a reminder of the club email addresses:

Sue Darling - [president@ulgmc.org](mailto:president@ulgmc.org)  
Keith Mott - [members@ulgmc.org](mailto:members@ulgmc.org)  
Heather Rumble [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)  
Tim Marshall - [timstatsmarshall@aol.com](mailto:timstatsmarshall@aol.com)

### President's corner

Dear friends

Another season gone, with some great meets as ever.

It looks set to be a good AGM next month with a lot to report and new members to meet. This year we'll also celebrate Caseg's 50th birthday with a champagne breakfast, and it would be good to have a

record turn-out. This is the main event in the Club's year, when members meet up, catch up on the year's news and compare notes on climbs and expeditions past and planned. And thanks to Heather's work, the menu looks superb. So please do return the forms asap to Heather if you can make it.

The Committee has been spending a lot of time on issues to do with Caseg and Fallcliffe, on which I'll say more at the AGM. One of the issues is access, on which there's a balance to be struck between access for members and the huts' continuing financial viability. In this connection, it would be good to know if/when you've been unable to get a booking at Caseg or Fallcliffe because no spaces were available, and how much notice you gave. Or has the need to get a key through the post constrained you from a last minute visit altogether?

Looking further afield, a personal concern which I'd like to share with you is the apparent decline in high mountain activity and exploration among Club members. Club archives are full of expeditions to Peru, the Hindu Kush, the Andes, Greenland etc. Do younger members want to go further afield? Obviously there are always family/career/money considerations, but are there structural reasons making high mountain/remote area climbing more difficult now?

Can the Club do anything to help? One possibility may be an 'information share', by which anyone considering an expedition to a peak or area could put the word out via the newsletter or website so that other members can advise. There's such an extraordinary breadth of mountain and remote area experience among ULGMC members, it would be sad not to use it.

Look forward to seeing you next month  
Sue Darling

## Membership Sec / Treasurer's Report

A few years ago the number of graduates in undergraduate clubs was increasing beyond what was considered, by some, to be healthy. The then president of ULMC put a proposal to ULU limiting the proportion to 30%.

The direct result of this change was an influx of ex ULMC and college club members. We also have a few ULMC and club members who are also ULGMC members. Some of these members are intending to attend the AGM. Last year we took a look at the past 60 years. It is often more interesting to look into a crystal ball!

This year's membership is, I am afraid to report, below that for 2010. Failed again. Many of those who had renewed last year, often after a long break, have thought better

of it. I hope more will renew for 2012 if only to attend the champagne breakfast being provided after the dinner!

The numbers are as follows:

	08/09	09/10	10/11
Single	32	68	36
Family	55	65	49
Children	2	2	2

The accounts for 2010 have been prepared and will be scrutinised in time to be presented at the AGM. The good news is that the club operated a healthy surplus. This is owing to the rise in membership and no donations or expenses. That will have changed in 2011.

The club has, as outlined at last year's AGM, renewed its support of mountain rescue, the Friends of the Lakes and the Snowdonia Society. The sums donated made up the shortfall for the previous 3 years. Their literature, outlining some of their work, will be on display at the AGM. I will propose that the donations made in 2012 cover 2011 and 2012, therefore bringing us up to date. I suggest that the donations be at the same level as before.

With regard to the fees for 2012 I would like to recommend, again, that they remain as before, £20 single, £30 joint and £7 for child affiliation. The BMC affiliation remains the same. Overseas members will pay £6.50 and £8.50 respectively.

Thank you for your support in 2011. I feel more confident now that, should the numbers of more active members of the club continue to rise as they have this year, the club has a secure future. Please enjoy the dinner, and the breakfast at 7:30am on Sunday. Sorry, couldn't resist the temptation!

## Fallcliffe Hut Report

The huts' Trustees have informed the Committee that they have appointed Dave Morley as hut warden of Fallcliffe. He has taken over hut maintenance already, and will take over bookings and finance from 1 October. Dave will be well known to many members for the work which he and his youth teams have done on Fallcliffe's interior and grounds.

Contact details elsewhere in the newsletter. Any queries to the Trustees, please.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to Dave Jacob for all the work he has done for Fallcliffe over many years. We welcome the Trustees' decision to give him a key to Fallcliffe for life.

On keys, please note that the lock at Fallcliffe will be changed from 1 October so that an up to date key register can be kept.

## Newsletter Editor

I have tried to brigeten up the news letter with even more photos this time than normal. Much easier for me as it fills up the space and I think tells more than 100 words. Please do your best to send me drafts following your meet or to send me your own stories following a trip somewhere. I had some this time lost in a mailbox in the internet. I don't try to edit them too much - only to take out the obvious typos.

Skylon last time was lifted from the Guardian without the right reference. Bit of a mix up but they did not arrive at my door with the official secrets Act so we got away with it.

Have a good AGM.

## ULGMC's part in The Festival of Britain

**Jill Bennet (Club Archivist) writes:**

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Festival of Britain, which opened on London's South Bank in May 1951. A striking symbol of the Festival was the **Skylon** - the 'Vertical Feature' erected between Westminster Bridge and Hungerford Bridge. The Skylon consisted of a steel latticework frame, pointed at both ends and supported on cables slung between three steel beams. The partially constructed Skylon was rigged vertically, then grew taller in situ. The base was nearly 15 metres (50 feet) from the ground, with the top nearly 90 metres (300 feet) high. It presented an irresistible challenge to five London University students, who planned to climb the Skylon prior to the opening of the Festival by King George VI. Two of the students were members of LGMC: **Phil Gurdon** (then known in the Club as 'Peegee') who actually made the climb, and **John Fowle**.

It was planned 3 months earlier: they obtained detailed plans and maps from the Festival authorities, designed and made special climbing equipment including 'hook irons' to get a hold on the metal frame. They also used to two nylon ropes, one 120ft long and the other 220ft long with a special climbing release hook for the climbers' safety. 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 switched 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', Thurs.3rd May 1951, the (London) Evening Standard headline reported "*Students hang flag on Skylon after 250ft climb*". No damage was done, and they afterwards apologized. (A workman was sent to climb the steps inside the Skylon to bring down the flag at

8.30am). The Festival authorities said: "It is a prank. We shall not prosecute."

**Stella Berkeley** told me part of this story in a letter (in 1999) and sent press-cuttings. She wrote: *"Phil always struck me as being a bit of a buccaneer but a very likeable one. He subsequently qualified as a commercial pilot, and the last I heard of him he was working in the middle east, though not, I think, flying passenger planes. Sometime in the late 50's or early 60's I heard that the plane he was flying had disappeared (presumably over the sea) and was never found."*

She would have been amazed to hear the end of this story - which sprang into life in January 2011 when I happened to hear an item on BBC Radio 4's *PM* programme: There were suggestions to re-create part of the Festival of Britain, including the Skylon, and **Philip Gurdon** was interviewed about his part in this escapade - sadly, he didn't mention the Club!. So he didn't disappear with his plane after all - I'm sure Stella would have enjoyed hearing this.

## 50th Anniversary of Caseg Fraith

[cont. from last Newsletter]

### Jill Bennet (Club Archivist) writes:

The Feb. 1961 Newsletter reported:

*"The Hut is usable as it stands but is pretty bleak inside. It seems that ULMC were promised gifts of furnishings which have not materialized. Work will still have to be done on the basic furnishings after the builders official hand over. Such fixed items as cupboards, shelves etc will have to be made, probably on the spot, and to get such jobs done the Hut Committee will be asking for working parties. Will anyone who can do this sort of work please get in touch with the Hon. Secs. [Laura & John Hampton] indicating at what times they might be able to go to North Wales for this purpose."*

*At the moment, 3 or 4 heavy old-fashioned tables with chairs and benches will be needed, together with quantities of cutlery, strong china and cooking utensils. Items such as tables might be a problem to transport, though it is sometimes possible to take them to pieces and re-erect on site. Alternatively it might be possible to find someone who would move them on the roof of a car or van going to North Wales."*

By May '61, the newsletter announced: *"The official opening of the hut has tentatively been fixed for the weekend 27th/29th October, 1961. A coach (or coaches) will run from London and it is planned to hold a dinner on the Saturday*

*evening. No doubt many members will wish to attend and more details will be given later. As regards the name of the hut, many possibilities have been canvassed and the choice seems to rest with "Caseg Fraith" which is the name of a Llyn about a mile away.*

*The work of equipping the hut seems to progress very slowly. Though various fittings such as the stove are ready, they have not yet been installed by the builders. These matters will be raised with the architect. Various items such as "Elsan" have been presented. A snag has appeared about electricity as it seems the local board were raising difficulty over the supply. It is hoped that the problem will be solved by negotiations. In view of the incomplete state of the hut the present charge is 1/6 per night instead of 2/6 as originally fixed."*

Before the grand opening, a working party weekend was organised by **Willie Butler** on 14/15th Oct. for shelves and other interior fittings to be made. 50 tons of rubble had been ordered for the car park and road, which had to be laid.

The opening: **Prof. G I Finch** (a former President of ULMC) formally opened Caseg Fraith at 3pm on Sat. 28th October 1961. A dinner was held afterwards at the Dolbadarn Arms hotel in Llanberis to mark the occasion. The Nov. 1961 Newsletter reported:

*"The Hon. Secretaries [ie the Hamptons] and a number of other members attended. Between 60 and 70 members of ULMC slept on the floor at the hut for the weekend, but as far as we know it was not burned down."*

*The hut is very bare at the moment. There are mattresses but no blankets or bunks, concrete floor, no curtains, partitions or mats. The stove works and the water supply. Some shelving was put up on the last working weekend but more is needed. Elsans are there. The road has been begun but more slate will be needed. There is no lighting but mains electricity may not be installed for at least five years according to the electricity authority. As an alternative we may have to generate our own. Does anyone know where a secondhand generator could be obtained cheaply?*

*To make a start with the equipment, could each member of the LGMC. please give one knife, fork and spoon? If each member does this then the cutlery problem is solved as this Club now has about 50 members. Please either bring these to the AGM dinner or send them to the Hon. Secs. if you cannot come to the Dinner. Also much-needed crockery, large teapots or urn, washingup bowls, buckets, saucepans, kettle, Tilley or oil lamps, blankets, more*

*mattresses, bunks, wooden boxes for use as food boxes, spades, chairs (preferably kitchen type but more comfortable ones also useful), one large and one small table, floor coverings, curtains. If you can offer any of these, please inform Dr.W.H. Butler.*

*It is hoped that members who come to the AGM Dinner will be able to spend some time working on the hut. Even an hour or two would be useful. If you can bring woodworking tools including brace and bits, and masonry drills, and spades, please do so. Willie Butler will be staying at the hut that weekend and will tell people, what needs doing."*

The AGM & dinner was held at the Pen y Gwryd Hotel on 2nd Dec. 1961 attended by 28 members and guests. After dinner the Club adjourned to the billiard room where members produced slides to show that they had not been completely inactive during the year. About 10 members stayed at the Hut. On Sunday a working party was formed under the direction of **Willie Butler**, and **John Hampton** produced a magnificent chest of woodworking tools - with them a broom cupboard, set of reinforced shelves and a continental style bunk materialized.

The Feb. 1961 newsletter said: *"The Hut Warden [Willie Butler] reports that the hut is now heavily booked almost every weekend. The work of equipping the hut is proceeding slowly, the bunks are up and many minor improvements have been affected. A bid was made for a generator, but not accepted, and a higher offer has now been made. The wiring of the hut will be carried out shortly."*

In 1962, an arrangement was made with farmer Williams to share the costs of a generator and the hut was wired for electric light - memorably inscribed as a new climbing route in the hut log book on 27th May 1962 as *"Butler's Eliminate"*. By special request, this will be included in the next Newsletter...

## Small adds

### Scotrail

Over 55s may like to know that Scotrail has re-introduced their over 55s club.

Rather a misnomer as there's no membership, but you can go return anywhere in Scotland + Carlisle and Berwick on Tweed for £18.00 return. No pre-booking, just turn up, show proof of age, pay and go. Some trains excluded. Discount for railcards too.. Details on [www.scotrail.co.uk](http://www.scotrail.co.uk)

Sue D



## ULGMC AGM 2011

**Saturday, October the 22nd, at The Royal Oak, North Wales**

Dear ULGMC members,

It is my pleasure to invite you to the ULGMC AGM and Dinner 2011, taking place at  
**The Royal Oak, Betws-Y-Coed, from 6pm. Dinner will be at 8pm.**

This year we have an extra course and a menu full of local Welsh delights!

**All four courses and coffee will cost £23.50.**

If you would like to attend the dinner, please do **one** of the following, **by the 12th of October**:

1. Fill out and print the form below detailing your **four** choices (one from each section) and return to me (address below) along with a cheque made payable to **Miss H Rumble**.
2. Email me your **four** choices and I will send you my bank details for transfer of your payment.

I will be booking taxis from the hut so please let me know if you'd like a lift. I expect this to cost no more than £5 each and taxis will be leaving from 5pm onwards. Be prepared for changes to this though!

I trust the majority of you not staying in the hut now have accommodation booked. Please contact me if you are having difficulties.

I hope to see you all in October!

*Heather Rumble*, Meets Secretary

**07876690979 – [meets.ulgmc@yahoo.com](mailto:meets.ulgmc@yahoo.com) – 5 Chapter Court, Vicarage Rd, Egham. TW20 9GJ**

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Dear ULGMC Member,

You are cordially invited, free of charge, to a

*Champagne Breakfast*

*at*

*Caseg Fraith*

Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its opening

10:00 am for a 10:30 am start

Breakfast includes: champagne, orange and apple juice, tea and coffee, croissant, various breads, sliced meats and cheeses, smoked salmon, fruit salad, Danish pastries and good company!

We hope to see you there,

*The Committee*



**ULGMC AGM and Dinner 2011, Saturday, October the 22nd, at The Royal Oak, North Wales**

Please select **one choice** for each of the **four courses**  
If multiple people are answering on one sheet, please enter a number

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**Name (s):**

	Yes	No
I/we would like to attend the 2011 ULGMC AGM dinner at The Royal Oak	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I/we would like to stay in Caseg Fraith hut	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I/we would like to be included in a taxi from the hut to the dinner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I/we would like to attend the champagne breakfast at Caseg Fraith	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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**Starter**

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Lightly grilled breast of wild partridge on pear and walnut salad	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fanned Galia melon with fruit compote (v)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Entrée/Fish Course**

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Baked fillet of trout on a pastry tartlet, filled with creamy leeks	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cream of mushroom and leek soup (v)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Main**

---

Roast Rhug Estate beef with Yorkshire pudding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roast loin of Rare Breed Gloucestershire Old Spot pork with sage and sausage stuffing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roast bell pepper stuffed with Moroccan style cous cous (v)	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Pudding**

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Tiramisu (v)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apple crumble (v)	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Coffee

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I enclose a cheque for £23.50 per person totalling \_\_\_\_\_ or  
I will arrange a payment for £23.50 per person totalling \_\_\_\_\_ by email  
Miss H. Rumble - 07876690979 – [meets.ulgmc@yahoo.com](mailto:meets.ulgmc@yahoo.com) – 5 Chapter Court, Vicarage Rd, Egham. TW20 9GJ

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON GRADUATE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB  
ACCOUNTS FOR 1ST JANUARY 2011 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2011

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE				BALANCE SHEET			
				AT 31/12/2011		AT 31/12/2011	
INCOME	£	£		ASSETS	£	£	
Subs							
35    Single		700		Capital Deposit Account		4033	
49    Family		1470		Capital Reserve Account		2790	
2    Children		14		Current Account		100	
Honorary					0	0	6923
Arrears							6923
In Advance		100					
			2284				
Miscellaneous							
Donations							
Badge Sales							
Meets							
Bank Interest							
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			2284				
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>							
Donations	MRC	450					
	MRC SCOTLAND	150					
	FRIENDS OF LAKE DISTRICT	100					
	SNOWDONIA SOCIETY	100	800				
BMC Affiliation		1361					
			1361				
Newsletter		84	84				
Membership		174	174				
Miscellaneous							
Bank Charges							
Meets	BLACK MOUNTAINS	90	90				
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			2509				
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>			-225				

This is a true record of ULGMC finances checked against receipts and bank statements

Mike Warden (Hon. Scrutineer)  
28th September 2011

Keith Mott (Hon. Treasurer)  
29th September 2011

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON GRADUATE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB  
ACCOUNTS FOR 1ST JANUARY 2011 TO 31ST DECEMBER 2011

BREAKDOWN

INCOME

DATE	PAYING IN SLIP NO	AMOUNT	BANK SLIP NO
12/1/11	CHAPS	20.00	
13/1/11	CHAPS	20.00	
13/1/11	100212	420.00	
13/1/11	100213	210.00	
13/1/11	100214	260.00	
13/1/11	100215	270.00	
15/1/11	CHAPS	30.00	
15/1/11	CHAPS	30.00	
9/3/11	100216	347.00	
9/3/11	100217	130.00	
	100218	NOT USED	
26/5/11	CHAPS	20.00	
27/7/11	100219	417.00	

2174.00      2174.00

INTEREST

31/3/09	RESERVE	0.64
30/6/09	RESERVE	0.35
30/9/09	RESERVE	0.35
31/12/09	RESERVE	0.35
31/3/09	CAPITAL RESERVE	1.45
30/6/09	CAPITAL RESERVE	0.49
30/9/09	CAPITAL RESERVE	0.51
31/12/09	CAPITAL RESERVE	0.51

4.65  
4.65      2178.65

EXPENDITURE

DATE	CHQ NO	TO	AMOUNT	BANK SLIP NO
9/3/11	479	BMC	1361.50	
6/4/11	480	MARK STITSON	84.24	
6/4/11	481	KEITH MOTT	174.66	
6/4/11	482	MRC	450.00	
6/4/11	483	MRC SCOTLAND	150.00	
6/4/11	484	FRIENDS OF LAKE DISTRICT	100.00	
6/4/11	485	SNOWDONIA SOCIETY	100.00	
6/4/11	486	WILLIAM TOWLSON	90.00	
6/4/11	487	ROYAL OAK HOTEL	20.00	

2530.40

Excess Income/Expenditure      -351.75  
4709.05