

Aylesbury Climbing Club

NEWS



Issue 134, June 2019



Editors Foreword

Doesn't time fly! I have just updated the meets list with venues for 2020 and it only seems like yesterday when I was looking forward to the first meet of 2019!

You may have heard that I had a little accident on the first day of skiing in Austria back in February (and it was on my birthday!). My knee is recovering, slowly, so I was glad to get back on rock again at the Dewerstone and I'm looking forward to Skye.

You may also have seen the bad news from Diccon regarding the demise of Green Park. When I first joined the club, a group of us used to go to the outdoor wall at Phasels Wood scout camp near Hemel. When we got access to Green Park it was a massive improvement and meeting there for Monday evening climbs, social get-togethers and training courses has been an important part of club life for a long time. It's also been important for attracting new club members along with meeting up at the Broad Leys. Sadly, due to low attendance numbers, in the future there will only be a get-together at the pub once a month on the Monday immediately preceding any meets.

So we need to find an alternative way of attracting members and hopefully you've seen the messages from Diccon and Moira about having regular club climbing sessions at Oxford Brookes and at Big Rock, Milton Keynes.

Happy climbing,

Barry

Social Events

When?	What and Where?
Last Friday of the month	Climb and Curry, Milton Keynes
Every Tuesday	Climbing at Big Rock Bond, MK
Every Thursday	Climbing at Oxford Brookes
Friday 21st June 6.30pm	Picnic meet at Northchurch Car Park, Ashridge for walk and food
Saturday, 6th July 2pm - 4pm	Movement & Technique Workshop, Big Rock Hub, MK
Sunday 6th Oct	Chiltern Chase
Monday 28th Oct	Slide Show, 7.30pm, Squash Club
Monday 25th Nov	AGM, 7.30pm, Squash Club

Meets 2019/2020

When?	Where?
8th—15th June 2019	Glenbrittle Memorial Hut, Skye NG 412 216—Map South Skye 32
29-30th June 2019	Camping meet—TBA
13-14th July 2019	Caseg Fraith, Ogwen Valley SH 684 601 - Map OL17
17-18th August 2019	Don Whillans Hut, Roaches SK 005 621 - Map OL24
14-15th September 2019	Lawrenny Hostel, Pembrokeshire SN 017 070 - Map OL36
19-20th October 2019	Robertson Lamb, Great Langdale NY 304 067 - Map OL6 or OL7
16-17th November 2019	Tan-y-garth, Capel Curig SH 737 568 - Map OL17
7-8th December 2019	Dalehead Bunkhouse, Edale SK 103 853 - Map Dark Peak OL1
17-18th January 2020	Low House, Coniston, Lake District SD 301 974 - Map OL6
21-22nd February 2020	Glan Dena, Ogwen Valley, Wales SH 668 606 - Map OL17
14-15th March 2020	To be confirmed
24-25th April 2020	Count House, Bosigran, Cornwall SW 422 365 - Map Explorer 102
15-16th May 2020	Homestead Bunkhouse, Bamford SK 207 836 - Map Explorer 1
12-13th June 2020	Stair Hut, Coniston NY 237 210 - Map Explorer OL4

Contents

P2	Plea for cooperation, Green Park news
P3	Committee Meeting Minutes, BMC Subscription Increase
P4	Wainwright(ing) by Peter Anderson
P6	Garhwal Himalayas by Sally Woodbridge
P7	Trekking/Mountaineering trip proposal
P8-10	Trip Reports
P11	Book Review by Jenny, Poem by Jackie
P12	Caption Competition

A plea for cooperation

Due to some recent confusion and the changing times, we have decided to reissue the rules/regulations/recommendations for meet attendance. New members may not be aware of how things are done, a lot more people don't make the pub for Monday sign up (understandable if you live some distance from Aylesbury) and other factors that have led to a break down in communication.

So, to clarify...

We advertise the meets via Yahoo email and via Facebook as a "post" and an "event" invite, and of course the meets are listed on the website. In the olden days, you simply came to the pub on the Monday night and signed up. However, nowadays our meets are very well attended, which is great but means the meet secretary has to look at larger huts or try and find alternative accommodation, and in order to do this we need to try and gauge interest.

This is where you come in...

Let us know as early as you can that you would like to come, this isn't binding, you can cancel right up to 8pm on the Monday night. If you don't let us know that you can't come then you'll be charged the hut fees anyway, and possibly deprive others of a place. It also makes our job more difficult especially when we are overbooked and have to draw names out of the hat.

Lift shares...

Again back in the day this was sorted out by individuals at the pub and as per above reasons this is not working as well as it should. Your responsibility is to communicate to the meet secretary and or your ACC friends what your travel plans are, i.e. which day and what time you plan to leave. If you really can't get to the Monday booking night it's vital we have this info so we can sort all the lifts out. If you don't let us know we will leave it up to you to sort your transport out.

It's important for many reasons that we maximise the lift share system, environmentally it makes sense, financially even more sense and practically, a lot of the huts we use have very limited parking so the fewer cars the better.

Finally the success of the club relies on its members supporting it and you can help to make our (unpaid) jobs easier by communicating clearly with us and cooperating where possible.

BMC Subscription Increase

An increase to BMC subscriptions has been voted in at the BMC AGM on 31st March, and will come in to effect from 1st May 2019. The proposal which was accepted at the AGM is to increase subs for all types of membership by £6 per year. This has come about because of a very large claim for an accident and the consequent increase in the BMC's premium for Combined Liability insurance. The only way the BMC could cover this sudden increase in insurance costs and continue to provide liability insurance, as well as it's other multiple functions, was to raise the annual subs fee.

As far as the ACC is concerned we will not have to pay this increase until Jan 2020, i.e. after our next AGM in Nov 2019. The ACC committee believe we will be able to cover this BMC increase within the current £30 ACC subs and so not have to increase our subs but we will keep you updated.

If the BMC receives more large insurance claims then there will probably need to be further increases in the annual BMC subscriptions, which would probably have to be passed on to ACC members.

Something you may want to do before 1st May is upgrade from an affiliated club member to a full BMC member. Any club member can do this by paying an additional £15.20 directly to the BMC. From 1st May this cost will go up to £21.20. One of the main differences between being a full member is that it entitles you to £10,000 personal accident insurance as well as the £15 million public liability insurance that you already get as a club member. There are other benefits to being a full member, see the list on the BMC website, as well supporting their work and campaigns which directly help us.

For further details on all of this see the attached documents and this link: <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/bmc-agm-2019-report>.

ACC Committee Meeting Minutes

The following section contains edited highlights from the committee meeting minutes. If anyone is interested in seeing the unedited minutes please contact any member of the committee.

Meeting Date: 2nd April 2019

Present: Jenny Walker, Diccon Proctor, Adam Craig, Moira Domican, Richard Lodge, Val Lum, Richard Andrews (phone), Barry Wright (Skype)

Apologies: none

Meets: Bosigran booked for April, Homestead booked for May, Pembroke booked for September (tides good for Bosigran and Pembroke). Non-Skye locations being researched. New MAM hut near Matlock to be considered for August and Glen Ridding for November.

Treasurer's Report: Membership subs, income, donations, expenditure were outlined by Richard. BMC subs are up to date.

Membership: Adam outlined membership figures - numbers are down compared with 2018. An increase of £6 per person in BMC membership cost is being proposed at the BMC AGM due to an increase in insurance costs following a large claim. If it goes ahead it will affect clubs from 2020 (see below for more information).

Social: plans to have a BBQ / picnic were discussed.

Membership: As Green Park is no longer available it was suggested that regular meets at the MK and Oxford climbing walls will be arranged and advertised via the website and Facebook/Yahoo. Adam stated that he will be standing down at the next AGM.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, 21st May, 8pm at Moira's

Meeting Date: 21st May 2019

Present: Jenny Walker, Diccon Proctor, Moira Domican, Richard Lodge, Val Lum, Richard Andrews (Skype), Barry Wright (Skype)

Apologies: Adam Craig,

Matters Arising: BMC: Subs will increase by £6 pp in 2020, with no extra cost for upgrades to full membership, BUT this depends on potential further claims and increases in insurance premiums.

Green Park: Noted that the scouts did not renew their 25 year lease.

Meets: 2019: Skye - 3 barrels of beer to be procured; August Don Whillans hut; September Lawrennie; October Wayfarers; November Tan Y Garth; December Dale Head

2020: January Low House, Coniston; February Glan Dena; April Count House; May Homestead; June Stair, Coniston; July Caseg Friath; September Court House, St Davids; October Old School Bunkhouse, Yorkshire

Treasurer's Report: The current status of the finances were outlined by Richard. Richard to put forward suggestions on how to handle meet pricing for undersubscribed huts.

Membership: Adam will be standing down at the 2019 AGM. No change to membership since last meeting.

Social: A speakerphone has been purchase for committee meetings (in use tonight).

Diccon has investigated a Movement Masterclass that can be held at Big Rock and will obtain further details.

Pub night: A decision was made to only meet at the pub before a meet. A note will be put on the website regarding contacting the club and members will be informed by the usual means.

Climbing wall nights: These could go on the website too, with contact details for checking meetings.

ACC sponsored picnic: Friday 21 June, meeting at Northchurch car park in Ashridge, 6:30 for 7, 5-6 mile walk.

Next Meetings:

Informal pub meeting before the Family meet in July

Tuesday, 21st May, 8pm at Moira's

Wainwright(ing) ('weɪn,raɪtɪŋ)

1. vb - the pointless act of walking over a random collection of Lakeland fells as documented by one of the 21st century's most curmudgeonly men. 2. vb - the more pleasurable, but arguably just as pointless act, of consuming as many pints of Thwaites bitter as possible, with the deluded ambition of becoming one of the 21st century's wittiest and most attractive men.

About four years ago I thought it would be a fun idea to walk all 214 of Wainwright's Lakeland fells. I also thought for added fun that I should start from scratch, thereby ignoring the 120 or so that I had done over the previous 30 odd years. The idea was that it would give me a reason me to explore previously unvisited parts of the National Park and also to go back to areas I had not been to for many years. I had also just turned 56 so it was probably just some kind of mid-life crisis. Whatever the reason I set myself the goal of completing them all by my 60th birthday. Four years for 214 tops seemed pretty reasonable from the comfort of my sofa.

However when you make a plan, life has a habit of getting in the way and messing it up. And so it was in this case, as a few months later having only bagged eleven tops, I ruptured the ACL in my left knee getting off a chairlift while on a club ski trip to Les Arcs. This resulted in the best part of a year away from the mountains and a somewhat compressed timeframe. However considering the speed record to complete them all stands at about 6½ days by Steve Birkinshaw in June 2014, the 28 months I had remaining still seemed pretty generous.

Whilst researching the idea of walking the Wainwrights, I happened upon a book cunningly called "Walking the Wainwrights" by Steve Marshall, which from the title alone looked to be just the boy for the job. It turns out it was an excellent investment as Mr Marshall had clearly put a lot of effort into working out an efficient way of completing all the tops in only 36 outings, without (as Nicholas Parsons would say) any hesitation, repetition or deviation.

It's worth noting that some of his routes are pretty long, however he offers "two day" versions for many of them and whilst I didn't stick to his suggested routes rigidly, the book was a very good resource to work with. Some of the more outlying tops and shorter excursions worked well for a half-day, to do after the journey up, or as an easier option before the drive home.

And so over the last couple of years I have had a fair few trips up the M6 getting to know the 50mph section from J16 to J19 very well. During this time I have spent many days in the hills on my own as well as being joined by a number of different walking partners. I have even managed to squeeze in a few tops under the pretence of "remotely supervising" DofE participants.

I had sort of vowed to only walk in fair weather, thinking if I'm going to hike up some new hills it'd be nice to see the view from them. However, the Lake District being what it is that turned out to be a little ambitious, although to be fair I had clear summits on all but about a dozen of them. Apologies must go to my two boys for dragging them over Cold Pike, the Crinkles, Bow Fell, Esk Pike and Rosset Pike in sub 50m visibility on the promise it would clear at any moment! In my defence I did buy the victory round at the ODG.

Fairly early on I decided to leave Catbells to the end, it was my first ever hill in the Lake District well over 30 years ago and the one I've probably been up the most times since. With my young sons in hand or on my shoulders, Boxing day turkey sandwiches and mulled wine (more than once), in every season and state of weather. I've even tobogganed down the side of it, much to the surprise of the poor lady walking up the path as Nick Lovell and I careered past her somewhat out of control. And so it seemed fitting to leave it until last.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the process, discovering some beautiful and quiet (!) places on the fringes of the National Park, stayed in many excellent hostels including the wonderful and remote Black Sail YHA.

So on 1st September 2018, the occasion of my 60th birthday, I was joined by 22 friends and family on top of Catbells to complete my little project, along with a few dozen other walkers making the most of the last weekend of the school holidays. The summiteers included another similar sized group marking someone else completing the last of his Wainwrights.



Whilst the Lake District National Park will unfortunately only get busier as the population grows and recreational walking continues in its popularity, it is still possible to find your own quiet corner. Sure you need to stay away from Striding Edge on a Bank Holiday weekend, Scafell Pike during the madness of the 3 Peaks challenge season and indeed CatBells on the last weekend of the summer holidays! Get yourself over to the grassy fells NW of Wasdale, the Back o'Skiddaw or the beautiful Far Eastern fells of Martindale and all of sudden you'll find yourself some peace and quiet.

As a Virgo and former accountant it probably won't surprise you to learn that I love a statistic or two and that I had a spreadsheet to record all my walks. So for those among you who like such things, here are some numbers:

Number of tops:	214
Number of walks:	55
Number of miles driven:	Don't want to work that one out!
Tops walked solo:	97
YHA Hostels used:	9
Total distance walked:	677km / 421 miles
Total height gained:	44,724m / 146,730 feet (5 and a bit Everests)
Longest route:	Kentmere Horseshoe - 24km/1,311m ascent (a 10 topper)
Shortest route:	Hallin Fell - 1.8km/148m ascent

"What next?", I hear no-one in particular ask well that remains to be seen, but in the meantime I will confess that I'm already over 20 tops into my second Wainwright round and have bought the Nuttall's guides to the 445 Mountains of England & Wales.

Peter Anderson

Garhwal Himalayas

September 17th—October 3rd 2018

Sally Woodbridge

I think the Gods had been listening. Different Gods in different homelands than previously, but when the foodstuff you had craved on a far-flung trip in the past was abundantly present on your current expedition it did make you wonder. Crunchy, juicy apples had been my food fantasy on my visit to the Nepalese Himalayas in 2005 and here in the foothills of the Indian Himalayas they were weighting the trees in their thousands. The village stalls were piled high with them, roadside sellers were hawking them, large trucks in dubious states of repair groaned under the burden of them and I could eat my fill. I hoped that this time my mountain ambitions would also be sated.

Cathy and I were in Northern India, in Uttarakhand state on a trek organized by her long-term friends at High Places Adventurer (www.highplacesadventurer.com), a trekking company based in Uttarkashi and run by locally born Bishan Singh Negi. Our adventure began by leaving Uttarkashi mid-morning to travel 90km to Gangotri, one of the holiest places in India, and the start point of our trek. Expeditioning in rural India is never straightforward, communication can be difficult with patchy mobile phone signal, glacially slow wifi and frequent powercuts, roads slide away under sustained rain, vehicles need regular repairs to keep a semblance of roadworthiness, supplies are gathered from a range of shops en-route, strikes and protests are common and months before the trek labyrinthine bureaucracy has to be negotiated for licenses and permits. Luckily Bishan is a fixer extraordinaire and we arrived in Gangotri mid-afternoon with a local guide Gokul, our cook Kishan, cooks helper Dinesh, permits for a trek to the high mountain meadow of Tapovan and all the tents, equipment, food and fuel for the trek. It wasn't long before Cathy and I were scoffing delicious momos, washed down with sweet, fragrant chai in the café beneath our clean functional hotel room.

The Gods had provided my desired foodstuff but sadly not the appropriate weather. Unseasonal persistent rain kept us in limbo in Gangotri for three extra nights as the National Park was not letting trekkers ascend into the mountains and the roads out were dangerous too. Higher up paths were being washed away or blocked with rockslides and the available accommodation in the park was being used by trekking groups already up the valley. We later met a group who had waded down the snow from their base camp for the trekking peak Bhagirathi II and were stuck at Bhojbassa at 3792m for a few days unable to descend further due to rockfall hazard. Many groups on tighter schedules than ours had to head straight home once the roads were open. Some groups who had promised work to porters based in Gangotri left and reneged on their agreements. Bishan paid all our porters for the time he'd agreed to hire them for and he, Gokul, Kishan and Dinesh all stayed at the hotel (Kishan and Dinesh stayed in the accommodation for trekking staff) and all of us ate the excellent food Kishan cooked for us on site, and drank many cups of chai.



Diary entry Tuesday 25th September 2018 “Yay! At last! The weather is good! We woke up to blue sky and just a few fluffy clouds, such an incredible change.” There was a huge buzz of energy in the town, outside the hotel sirdars and porters were bustling to get ready. Even though we had the permits Gangotri National Park only admits 150 people per day so Bishan quickly shooed us off up the track with Gokul to get to the park gates early. Even though we'd had a few days acclimatizing to the altitude at Gangotri (3048m) moving swiftly with one third less oxygen than at sea level was never going to be that quick,

so we moseyed on taking in the expanding views of the snow topped mountains, splashing waterfalls and trees showing the first signs of autumnal colour. The path to our campsite at Chirbasa, 9km and 466m of height gain away, was mostly good. Occasionally there was evidence of rocks loosely embedded in the boulder clays that were the predominant feature of the valley having slid down onto the path; most of the little wooden bridges, made from three long tree trunks with smaller branches nailed on at right angles, were in place. Pied wagtails and a pair of turtle doves accompanied our journey and we snacked on Garhwali apples and nibbled the fragrant, polished red skins of rosehips from the briars lining the route.



Chirbasa campsite sits in a glade of silver trunked, golden leaved Himalayan birch, watched over by a circle of 6000m plus peaks, including the Bhagirathi I, II and III and Shivling. The Bhagirathi river provides a background roar echoing back and forth across the valley. At first I found it hard to appreciate the scene, I'd hustled about a bit too quickly helping to erect the tent and had developed a pounding headache and a queasy stomach, obvious signs of my lack of acclimatization. A couple of paracetamol and a quiet sit down with a hot cup of chai helped, as did the tranquil setting. We ate another superb three course dinner in the warm kerosene fug of the mess tent and slept well, even managing a quick photo session of the

nighttime mountains combined with a wee in the toilet tent around three am (thereafter known as pee 'o'clock).

The path onwards to Bhojbassa had been more badly affected by the rain so, instead of putting our porters at risk carrying loads further up the valley, they stayed at the campsite and the rest of us made our way up to and beyond Bhojbassa to the holy site of Gaumukh where the river emerges from the Gangotri glacier.

Walking in places like this just underlines for me that change is constant in these high mountain environments, paths and roads are made and remade, plants take hold on the rubble-like scree, trees grow then an avalanche sweeps down and the process starts again. The mountain people have to continually adapt to the changing environment, and visitors have to abandon their fixed itineraries and adapt too. Gaumukh has changed significantly this year, a moraine bank holding back a high lake on the plateau above collapsed and a huge wall of rock and mud cascaded down, shifting the line of the river and closing the usual path to the high meadow Tapovan, our original objective. Currently a cable over the river at Bhojbassa with a large metal crate on a pulley is being used to transport people and equipment to a new route into the mountains.

Gaumukh at 3892m was the end point of our trek, sadly we didn't have enough time to venture further. The landscape of pale grey boulders, red fluttering prayer flags, cerulean blue sky and the snow encrusted peaks of the Bhagirathis and Shivling was a contemplative place. We all approached the river and splashed ourselves with the ice cold grey green water as glossy black yellow-billed chough wheeled and swooped above and around us, their piercing trilling calls cutting through the constant white noise of the water and wind. The Hindu Gods had smiled on us and here we were at the source of one of the most sacred rivers in India.

Proposal for a Trekking / Mountaineering expedition to Garhwal Himalayas for Sept / Oct 2020

I would love to help to organize an Aylesbury Climbing Club expedition to this area next year. I would propose that the trekking objective would be Tapovan meadow and the mountaineering expedition would be to Bhagarathi II (6512m), a peak with a similar level of difficulty as Mera Peak in Nepal, the advanced base camp for this peak is one days walk from the meadow. The trekking trip could be a two week trip, the mountaineering trip would take a minimum of three weeks, I would anticipate that both groups would head up to Tapovan meadow together. The cost per person for the trekking trip (including flights, all accommodation, food, tips, visa, travel insurance) would be around £1375. Due to additional permits and the cost of a Garhwali mountaineering guide, the mountaineering trip would be more expensive. Please let me know if you are interested (email is best: swoodbridge@talk21.com) and we can arrange a get together.

Trip Reports

15th-17th February, Glan Dena

Alex Sharp, Richard Andrews, Jenny Walker, Jo Alford, Graham Field, Nick & Chris Lovell, Mel and Maryke Gosliga, Bob Lee, Phil Parry, Paul Turton, Moira Domican, Adam Gough, Stephen Beasley, Paul Nurse.

Those who perhaps were put off by the weather forecast missed a great weekend.

Friday, 15th February

Richard, Paul N, and Bob took advantage of the clear weather to do an afternoon walk up Moel Siobod. Fantastic views and wonderful kite flying on the summit, which made boulder hopping on the ridge down from the summit challenging. We got down to the car a full half hour before it got dark—perfect timing.

Nick, Chris and Jo stopped at Oswestry on the way up as the weather was so good. They did a 6 mile circular walk starting at Whittington Castle and including a stretch along the Llangollen canal.

Beautiful weather but getting to the hut was delayed by two wind turbine blades being transported and meant at least an hour or more longer for Paul and Jenny's arrival but enjoyed sun at pub lunch.

Saturday 16th February

Phil, Paul and Graham walked to Mynnyd and then to Pen Yr Ole Wen where we met Alex, Jo and Nick and proceeded to Carnedd Dafydd and Carnedd Llewelyn. Very windy and got cloudier as the day proceeded. Persistent rain as the afternoon went on. Descended SE with Ffynnon Llugwy reservoir below us and walked down Y Braich. A really good winter walk.

Mel and Maryke started the day by going to Pen Rhyn Castle for the park run. Mel ran it while Maryke walked the best part of it. After enjoying a coffee in the restaurant they then walked round the grounds before returning to the hut for lunch. After lunch Mel walked up to and around Cwm Idwal while Maryke went for a walk towards Capel along the old road turning back after about 3 miles—a good test for the new knee.

Chris went to Anglesey on the advice of the hut warden, who said it would be sunny there... and he was right! Chris started at Moelfre and walked along the coastal path for 3 miles and then returned on the same path but with a different view!

Rain, clag and high winds meant Jenny, Bob and Richard took the dam road up to the leat, walked along it til it peters out and then rough ground down to Capel. Shop now shut and Joe Brown's taking it over, opening in a few weeks. Stopped at Plas y Brenin for tea and coffee and then back along the old road. Noticed three 'glamping' huts at the farm next to Caseg Fraith.

Sunday 17th February

Paul and Jenny gave Alex a lift home as Stephen had returned home unwell on Saturday. They left the rain behind and walked up Dolwydellan Castle to the pub (of course!) and back. Dry and some sun.

1st-4th March, CIC Hut, Ben Nevis

Diccon, Moira, Adam, Graham and Ollly

A select group made the long trip up Scotland for some winter fun but there was more green grass and heather than snow but they did have some fun and there are tales to be told!

8th-10th March 2019, High House, Seathwaite

Val, James, Richard A, Fiona B, Mark B, Diccon P, Alex M, Moira D, Adam G, Chris & Nick L, Brenda and Rob.

Weather: Wet, windy but not too bad on Saturday.



Friday, 8th March

Val and James arrived just ahead of the rain and had a wet walk (but not for long).

Saturday, 9th March

Nick and Chris walked from Stonethwaite to Dock Tarn and down to Watendlath Tarn and returned through Rosthwaite.

Diccon and Alex went up Custs Gully, Great End. Nice wintery conditions, powdery snow. It's a grade I gully with several 'bad steps' necessitating mixed grade III tactics!

Val, James, Fiona and Andrew headed off up Sour Milk Gill and round the back of Base Brown, up Green Gable. SUN!!! came out while we were on the summit. Great Gable looked inviting for a moment but no longer—continued our journey down Aaron Slack to Styhead tarn.

Trip Reports (cont'd)

Weather good enough not to bail out, continued on to Sprinkling Tarn, then back via Stockley Bridge wisely NOT returning over the windy Allen Crag and Glaramara.

Moira and Adam had a nav skills day out on the hill (Moira navigating, phew!!). Starting at the hut we head up to Glaramara, on to Allen Crag then down to the X shelter for lunch. It was blowing an absolute hoolie, all weathers in one day, snow, sun, rain, hail and a lot of wind. Bumped into Bendy just off the top of Glaramara and then Diccon at the shelter. A lovely day out and then back down Grains Gill to the hut. Successful navigation!!!

Sunday, 10th March

Pretty diabolical weather meant most people had a leisurely start—all except for Diccon and whoever was mad enough to go out with him this time...

Sunday was one of hardest days I've had weatherwise - set off in pouring rain and by 400m at the top of Sour Milk Gill went into snow, which became driving snow and wind as we walked round Gillercombe valley, taking care not to fall into bogs hidden under snow, and up side of Base Brown. Then more wind and powder snow on the way up Green Gable. Deep snow at the summit. Severe wind and drifting snow in Windy Gap up to thigh deep so crawled round corner to sheltered side of Great Gable and used rocky protrusions to make any upward progress to top. More snow/more wind so headed down ASAP into relative shelter of Styhead valley and back down to hut. 3 days in a row with 50-60mph winds!

Adam and Moira stayed on another night but spent the day in Keswick shopping!

12th-14th April 2019, Falcliffe Cottage

Nick & Chris L, Mel G, Brenda and Rod, Mark B, Moira and Adam, Phil, Mark, Vince, Matt, Alex M, Alex S, Paul, Jenny, Val and James.

Friday 12th April

Val and James arrived at the hut at 11am. Drove to Hathersage where we walked up to Stanage Edge. Walked off the Edge to Burbage North where we came across some climbers—Mark, Moira and Vince. James borrowed a harness and climbing shoes and climbed a moderate top roped by Vince. We then walked down to Hathersage with Phil.

Phil walked from Upper Burbage south down the valley to Longshaw estate (NT) and then walked the blue circuit of the estate. Then north over Higgor Tor back to Upper Burbage and then to Hathersage. Good weather and very enjoyable.

Saturday 13th April

Nick and Chris went to Bamford to climb. After two very cold routes decided to walk along Stanage Edge to Hathersage and back.

Mel started with the Sheffield Hallam park run and following that went for a walk from the 'surprise view' car park taking in Burbage Rocks, Fiddlers Elbow, Higgor Tor, Millstone Edge and Curber Tor, returning via the shops in Hathersage.

James, Val and Phil walked Derwent Edge and returned along the eastern side of Ladybower reservoir. A good and extensive day's walking with extensive periods of sunshine.

Rod and Brenda started from Edale and went up Grindsbrook Clough onto Kinder Scout and then..... found our way down Jacobs Ladder back to Edale. Bright, cold and windy.

Matt, Alex and Mark drove to Bamford crag for climbing. On the walk from the car they noticed the weather was colder and windier than anticipated. This led to some reconnaissance for a bit of the crag that was in shelter, this proved pointless since the rock itself was freezing cold! The team bundled up and Matt led a V Diff route which Alex thought was easy enough but with poor protection. Mark was last up the route and declared his vintage climbing shoes has grown lighter since they were last used 6 years before. Alex then led a Diff and Mark & Matt followed (Mark now wearing walking boots). Matt then led a Severe with a couple of tricky moves and all declared it was a fine climb. After lunch Alex led a particularly difficult Diff and Mark seconded. Growing antsy, Matt decided to lead a HVS. Adam, Mark and Moira joined the group after their walk and Moira volunteered to Belay Matt's ambitious attempt. Matt swarmed up the route and valiantly powered to the half way point. Despite expert advice from Adam, Matt decided he'd burned his arms out on the first half of the route and left 5 pieces of gear on the wall. All members of the group united to drop two separate abseils off the top of the route to retrieve the gear. A jolly time was had by all!



Vince, Savini, BB Marc, Bendy Alex climbed at Bamford for the day. It was cold.

Trip Reports (cont'd)

26th-28th April, Bosigran, Cornwall

Diccon, Vince, Olly and Marc snatched a few days away at Easter and timed it just right with the weather/tides.



17th-19th May 2019, Dewerstone Cottage

Steve Newman, Phil Parry, Alex Metcalfe, Barry & Kay Wright, Alex Sharp, Bob Lee, Diccon Proctor, Richard Andrews, Olly Nicholson, Pau Turton, Peter Collins, John Wilson, Nick Haine, Paul Nurse

Friday 17th May

A few hardy people went climbing at Sheeps Tor.



Saturday 18th May

John, Paul, Morag, Richard, Alex and Phil walked from the cottage up the zig-zag inclines to Wigford Down then across Ringmor Down to Ditsworthy Warren House. The walled surround provided a convenient, sheltered location for lunch. From there they followed (vaguely) the River Plym downstream to Codover Bridge and continued following the river along the 'pipeline' path. A fine display of bluebells greeted us in the woods. Further downstream the engineers in the party were intrigued by the remains of the china clay workings near Shaugh Bridge. It was a short walk back from there uphill to the cottage.

Nick, Steve, Pete, Diccon, Paul N, Olly, Bob, Kay and Barry went climbing at the Dewerstone. Nick and Steve climbed Central Groove, Climbers Club Ordinary, Vala and Levithian. Ditton for Diccon, Paul N and Olly plus Route B. Route of the day for Diccon was Climbers Club Ordinary—3 great pitches with lots of varied interest. Move of the day—the final overlap of Vala, very relieved to lead it in one go without waking a wally of myself! Kay and Barry did Mambo Slab and Agars Slab and then Bob and Barry did Colonel's Arete. This was Barry's time back on rock after damaging his knee skiing in February.

Sunday, 19th May

Paul N and Alex S went to the Dewerstone and Diccon, Olly and Alex M.

Paul and Alex S had a good day and climbed B Route, Colonels Rib and Mucky Gully finishing on the pinnacle. Diccon, Olly and Alex M had an interesting time on Climbers Club Direct and then climbed Central Grooves.

Kay and Barry went for a walk and followed the zig-zag inclines up onto the moor and then worked their way over to the nice little pub at Meavy for a quick pint before heading back to Codover Bridge. They then walked back along 'pipeline' by the river and up to the cottage.



Himalaya – The Tribulations of Mick and Vic

By Mick Fowler and Victor Saunders

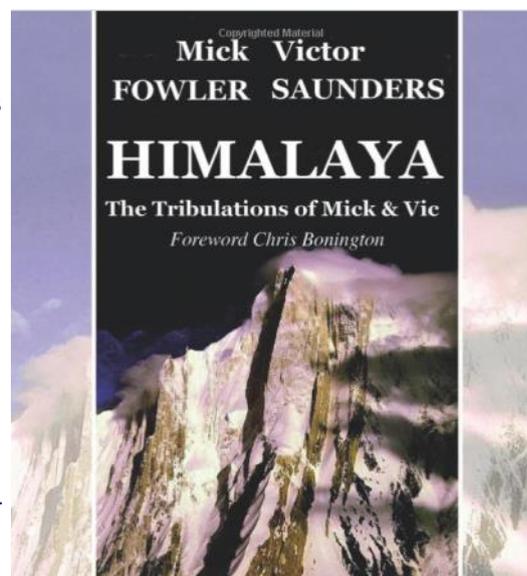
A review by Jenny

Looking for a guide book on Ladakh I had the happy experience of finding a book I might not have ever found had it not had a 'signed copy' label obscuring the title. Taking it out of the shelf I saw who the authors were and I just had to have it! Vic (Slippery Vic) was on my first trek to Bhutan with KE Adventure and the month together sealed a lasting friendship. I had also enjoyed several film shows by Mick Fowler and happened to have had a month's trek with his father on another KE Nepalese trek.

In this book (first published in a French version) Mick and Vic have described their amazing shared climbs dating from their first meeting in their twenties up to a reunion expedition in their sixties in 2016. The combined diaries of these two such opposite men sharing some horrendous climbs and experiences show how friendships in the mountains are experienced and enjoyed in such different ways.

I really do recommend this book, it is fascinating, eye-opening and very funny. The last diary entry by Vic ends with a quote by Colin Kirkus "going to the right place, at the right time, with the right people is all that really matters". How true!

Jenny T-W



A Poem

by Jackie Collins

To celebrate her 200th Wainright, Jackie entertained us with this little ditty at the top of Catstye Cam on the January meet. We thought she'd been unusually quiet on the way up!

I had a little plan
To walk up Catstye Cam

But the weather it was misty
So friends came to assist me

And cos I'm on the top
I'm happy to be here

But now want to descend
and sit down with a beer



Jackie Collins

Caption Competition



The entries for this picture were:

Backseat climber
Working out the moves for "Under My Chair" at Squamish
Keep away from naked flames.
Sit start?
Does my bum look big in this?

Thanks Diccon and Jennie

Here's the picture for this issue. Send your caption suggestions to me at barry_wright@outlook.com



General Information

Recycling on Meets

Generally we are pretty good now at recycling on meets. Please remember, if you brought it with you and it is recyclable, take it home, or recycle locally. Thank You.

Kit

If you need to stock up on kit, remember that several shops offer discounts to members. The Climbers Shop at Stoney Stratford, Cotswold Outdoor and Fox's of Amersham all offer discounts to members when using the appropriate codes.

Guides

If you want a Cicerone Guide please be aware Aylesbury Climbing Club are able to get a 25% discount.

Local Climbing Walls

On Tuesday evenings members meet up at Big Rock Bond in Milton Keynes (contact Moira Domican) and on Thursday evenings a group can be found at Oxford Brookes (contact Diccon Proctor).

Also, on the last Friday evening in the month there is a 'Climb and Curry' Evening. Climbing from 7ish before heading to the [Purple Mango](#) at around 9pm (contact Alex Sharp).

Your Committee

Committee Members	Committee Post	Phone
Chairman	Diccon Proctor	07799 686080
President	Jenny Walker	01296 713269
Secretary	Val Lum	01844 345727
Treasurer	Richard Andrews	01494 526645
Meets 2019	Moira Domican	07887 750500
Meets 2020	Richard Lodge	07847 724041
Membership	Adam Craig	07860 553984
Newsletter Editor	Barry Wright	07903 578302



MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY WANTED

Adam will be standing down at the AGM in November and we need someone to take his place. If you would like to volunteer please contact Adam or Diccon to discuss what the role entails.

For up-to-date information on spontaneous and planned events, photos, discussions, daytrip arrangements and other club activities, visit [Yahoo!](#), [Facebook](#) and the club [website](#)

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views or ethos of the editor, the committee or the Aylesbury Climbing Club as a whole.