



*Fell & Rock Climbing Club  
of the English Lake District*

# *Chronicle*

No. 186 Winter 2022

FRCC, Little Learings, Heptonstall, Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire HX7 7PD



*The spectacular volcanic landscapes of Landmannalaugar, Iceland;  
Brennisteinsalda (Flaming Mountain) from Balhnukur (Blue Mountain)  
(photo: Ian Bradley; see meet report, pp 12-15)*



**Cornwall Meet, 11-18 September**

- 1. Helen setting up the abseil at Chair Ladder;
- 2. Sunset from Count House;
- 3. Nikki following Rob on Right Angle, Gurnard's Head;
- 4. Helen and Steve starting up Demo Route, Sennen;
- 5. Steve and Nikki on Cormorant Slab, Land's End;
- 6. Hazel on Land's End Long Climb;
- 7. Hazel and Helen on Black Slab (VD), Sennen;
- 8. Steve at the top of Intermediate Route (VD), Sennen

(📷 Various - ask Rob if you need to know! Meet report, pp 17-18)



## ***The President***

When I was asked if I was interested in being the committee's nomination for President, it had completely slipped my mind that November was the busiest month of the year for Club business. There would be no easy slipping into the role. The AGM is followed by the Bonfire Meet/Remembrance Day, which is followed by a Committee weekend.

There were however a number of positives; Brackenclose is still standing after the bonfire and the weather for Remembrance Sunday was spectacularly good. I was shepherded up and down Gable by Wendy Dodds and Anne Salisbury via Gavel Neese and marvelled at their ability to chat as though they were walking on the flat. The army had asked if we would like a bugler to play the Last Post after the two minutes silence and we were happy to accept their offer. Ron Kenyon heard it clearly on Green Gable (having mistimed his approach to Great Gable).

Also of note that weekend was the number of aspirants who attended the meet and the Welcome Meet immediately after. And they were young.

The following weekend started on the Friday evening with a Guidebook Committee meeting. The big news emerging from that is about the Dow/Eskdale guidebook. The book was considered to be too large (bigger than Langdale) and so the decision has been taken to split it into two separate guides. That also means the Dow Crag guide will be printed in good time for the Dow Guidebook Centenary meet (and the resulting book will be properly pocket sized).

Saturday's meetings kicked off with a look at Health and Safety. Not the most glamorous of topics, but essential nonetheless. My thanks go to Geoff Lyons for his thorough work in this area. One of Geoff's recommendations is that members and guests take a COVID test before attending busy meets. This is not necessary before routine (non-meet) hut visits, but just where the risk is increased due to large numbers congregating. The Committee agreed this was appropriate.

While we are talking about meets, the subject of insurance came up at the Main Committee meeting. Although guests are insured whilst on club premises, unless they have individual membership of the BMC, they have no third party insurance when taking part in activities such as walking and climbing. In other words, if a guest drops a rock on you, you could be severely affected financially. Clearly, the best solution to this problem is that guests are BMC members, and Club members could play a part in recommending that they join. However we are discussing with insurers to see if there is a way for guests to be covered. We'll keep you informed.

There are a number of rather fun sounding meets around Christmas. I suspect that the New Year Meet will already be full; well done if you managed to bag a place. And in the New Year there is, of course, the Burns Night Meet (note to self-book a place). Don't forget the climbing wall meets taking place throughout

the winter being organised on the NW WhatsApp Group. Are there any other clusters of members around the country who could create their own area group? Whatever you are up to I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

*John Holden*

### ***The Secretary***

This is my first report for the Chronicle as Secretary, having taken over the role after the AGM on 5 November. I would like to thank Brenda Fullard for the excellent job she's done as Secretary over the past five years and her continued support as I familiarise myself with the many and varied duties.

The 2022 AGM at the Castle Green Hotel, Kendal, was well attended with over 120 members present and 10 attending by Zoom. This is an increase on the previous year and ensured the meeting was quorate. The feedback received from the 'Zoomers' was generally positive (although unfortunately there was a short internet outage during the meeting) and ideas were suggested for improvement.

There were many changes in Club officials this year. All new officers and elective members were welcomed to their roles and I look forward to working with both new and existing Committee members. The 2023 Meets List has been approved and is extensive with something for everyone. Members are encouraged to attend particularly the Welcome Meets as they give aspirants the opportunity to get to know the Club's Officers and members, and vice versa. In other areas, the Club's website is currently undergoing a revamp designed to improve and promote the Club's image and ethos. And as the Archives continue to grow, improvements to the storage and working facilities are being considered by the Committee.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best over the festive season and hope you enjoy some fabulous winter mountain days.

*Beatrice Haigh*

### ***Winter slideshows***

There will be some slideshows during the first few months of 2023 on expeditions undertaken by members. Look out for details in eNews.

If you have completed a trip that you think would be of interest to other members, and you are happy to present a slideshow via Zoom then please get in touch with me.

Last year's slideshows are available on YouTube (from the bottom right hand side of FRCC website pages click on the picture that looks like a 'play' button).

*Wendy Stirrup*

## ***Huts Secretary***

Future of the Huts Part 2: Improving the experience of members in huts.

Members will probably know that Raw Head [originally] had a ladder, not stairs; that electricity was added after opening in some huts. The FOTHWP started planning for further changes and improvements but the Brackenclose fire and Covid ground changes to a halt.

Following recent meetings we are getting going again. Wardens and other committee members have thrown ideas into the ring. Humph is pressing for improved heating at Beetham.

We are looking for your ideas. If you have joined in the last few years you will have missed the last huts survey. Let me know if you'd like to join a (Zoom) discussion in the issue.

Our hard working Wardens have another task in hand: looking at some quick fix ideas from the Climate change working party.

*Nick Harris*

## ***Compliance Officer: Safety matters***

Those of you who have browsed the club's website recently may have noticed that we have a growing library of health and safety related documentation. This may seem inappropriate for a mountaineering club, but as an employer and property manager the club has to comply with Health and Safety legislation, part of which requires us to document how we are going to operate safely. As these policy documents are reviewed and revised by the Health and Safety sub-committee, they will be published on the website so that all members can, if they wish, read them; the list of published policies is quite short at the moment, but it will grow over the coming months.

Most of these policies relate to the management of our huts and cottages, and are only really of interest to Hut Wardens, officers of the club, and members who may have difficulty getting to sleep at night. However, there are several policies which all members of the club should be aware of, namely: Mountain Safety; First-Aid Provision; Accident Reporting; and the policies relating to Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk. I will take this opportunity to remind all of us that we have a duty of care to one another and I encourage all club members to read these documents and familiarise themselves with the key points therein.

The policies can be found on the club website by following - Members/FRCC Documents/Health, Safety and Safeguarding, or, for those without internet access, by requesting printed copies from the Secretary.

*Geoff Lyons*

## ***The Club Archives and the Library***

It was agreed at AGM that the Archive and Library should merge. Below is the new form that the Archive and Library will take.

### **The Club Archive and Library**

The FRCC Archive and Library represents one of the most important climbing and mountaineering collections in the country, dating back the foundation of the Club in 1906 and earlier.

### **The Archives**

The administrative and other records of The Club, which includes a large and historic photographic collection (incorporating the substantial gift of glass plate negatives, the work of George and Ashley Abraham c.1890-1934) and manuscript collection (diaries/journals, letters, hut logbooks etc.), represents an incomparable source of information for anyone interested in the development of mountaineering in the Lake District and other mountainous areas. The archive also contains historical financial and administrative documents including committee minutes. Artefacts from the Club collection, other than those on display within the huts are kept at the Armit্ত Museum, Ambleside and also in the secure archive store at Raw Head.

If you wish to gain access to any of this material, please contact the Archivist-Librarian. Please note that administrative and financial documents may only be accessed with written permission.

### **The Library**

The historic FRCC-Files Collection housed at the Armit্ত Museum in Ambleside contains over 2500 books, journals and pamphlets, which apart from maps, guidebooks and valuable rare books can be borrowed by members. Up to 3 items may be borrowed for a period of 4 weeks under the terms and conditions of the Library Loan Agreement, a copy of which must be filled in and given to a member of the Museum staff before they can be removed. The Library Loan Agreement form and the Collection catalogue can be found on the Club website. Details of the Museum's opening hours can be found on the Armit্ত website ([www.armitt.com](http://www.armitt.com)).

### **Hut Libraries**

Books, guides and journals provided by the Club must not be removed from the hut.

### **Review copies**

Books, guides and journals supplied by publishers for review in the Journal or Chronicle are the property of the Club and must be returned to the Archivist-Librarian at the earliest opportunity.

### **FRCC Journal Back Numbers**

Members wishing to purchase or donate these should contact the Archivist-Librarian.

### **Gifts**

The Archivist-Librarian welcomes offers of documents, artefacts, books and photographs suitable for inclusion in the archive and library.

[There is more from the Archives on pp 35-36.]

### ***Chronicles: Online vs Paper***

If you no longer require a printed / posted quarterly Chronicle (please consider as this saves cost), or conversely if you wish to receive the printed version, just email Les Meer on [database@frcc.co.uk](mailto:database@frcc.co.uk)

*Les Meer*

### ***e-News Subscriber Preferences***

If members wish to subscribe to FRCC e-News (or unsubscribe), this is NOT handled in the member database administered by Les. Please email (Philip/Paul, select from below and advise the others!!)

E-News Compiler Phillip Powell 2014 [philip@blencathra.org.uk](mailto:philip@blencathra.org.uk)

e-News Compiler Paul Hudson 2022 [enews@frcc.co.uk](mailto:enews@frcc.co.uk)

I reckon that if and when we do update the database, having e-News as a field in that, like Chronicle, Journal etc, brings all those publication preferences under one roof. But not as yet!

*Les Meer*

*Database Co-ordinator*

### ***The Obituarist***

The following deaths have been reported since the last Chronicle:

Stephen Johnson	Member since 1985, died 18 May 2022
Dr James Wells Akitt	Member since 1960, died 12 August 2022
Ron Miller (L)	Member since 1948, died 19 October 2022 Scaffell guide 1956 Assistant Warden Raw Head 1950-55
Bill Roberts	Member since 1968, died 19 October 2022 Most active in the club in the 60's, 70's and 80's
Dick Courchee (L)	Member since 1961, died 21 October 2022 Assistant Warden Brackenclouse 1967-69

*Clare Harris*

## **Ron Miller**

Margaret and David wish to express their thanks to all their old friends in the Club who were kind enough to send cards and messages on hearing of Ron's passing. They were all greatly appreciated.

## **Funeral of Peter Lucas**

On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022, a large gathering of friends attended a tree planting ceremony to commemorate the life of Pete Lucas (Club Librarian). His ashes were scattered by his partner, Marlene (Marushka) Halliwell and other close friends around the base of a rowan tree that was planted in his memory. The tree ceremony took place in a newly created memorial forest at the Hermitage Field next to the River Lune in Halton Green, a location that is renowned for its beautiful landscape and scenery and only a short distance from Pete's home. A small plaque was also uncovered with the inscription:

*'A wonderful view for my wonderful man.  
Mountain man beneath a mountain ash.  
Still feeding the wild birds you loved with these rowan berries'*



The Hermitage Field Memorial Woodland - 'Life for a Life' mission involves the planting of trees to commemorate loved ones and in turn creates new woodlands and forests that conserve, protect and improve the environment.

Despite the drizzle, a large number of friends from the climbing community gathered, most of whom were dressed in a colourful array of outdoor clothing and wellie boots. Everyone was invited to scatter Pete's ashes around the base of the tree and it was a holistic and most fitting way for all to pay their respects and say goodbye to Pete. The concept of interring Pete's ashes into the planting of new life was a symbolic act and one which Pete would have wholeheartedly embraced.

*Michelle Bradbury*

*(with thanks to Marlene Halliwell for permission to include this article and photographs)*



## **Forthcoming Meets**

### ***Burns Meet, Raw Head***

**20 - 21 January 2023**

Come and celebrate everyone's favourite Scot, the fantastic Robbie Burns with a craic-ing Burns night at lovely Langdale! Dinner, music and song with many a cup of kindness flowing!

Contact Helen Elliot or Sarah Ross-Shaw for more details.

### ***Fell & Moon Meet, Raw Head***

**27 - 28 January 2023**

This will be a meet where during the day you do what you like (walk, climb, or retail therapy). In the evenings, if the weather plays fair (no cloud) then I'll have a telescope or two out on the flat area in front of Raw Head Barn to see views of the Moon and any planets visible ... and whatever else I can find! The Moon, as well as Mars, is very well placed. If we are lucky we might also get views of banded Jupiter with its moons early in the evening. Uranus might be trickier.

Stargazing with a warm hut close ... what's not to like! I'll also try and organise a communal meal on Saturday night.

Come along, see the sights and have fun. If it's cloudy, then we can always enjoy the fire or go to the pub!

Please get in touch with any questions.

*Ian Bradley*

### ***La Dolce Vita in La Bella Borrowdale, Salving House 3 - 4 February 2023***

Dolomites eluding you? Come and experience the best of Italy in beautiful Borrowdale! With the best après-mountaineeing Aperol and a bring and share Italian themed dinner, it'll be La Dolce Vita all the way!

Contact Kate Woodrow or Sarah Ross-Shaw for more details.

### ***Music Meet, Raw Head***

**10 - 11 March 2023**

A gleeful meet of wine, whisky and song! (Insert your favourite music tipple here)

Everyone welcome to sing/play, just bring your instrument/vocals and join in! The FRCC's annual Music meet is very popular and likely to sell out so please book early!

Contact Sarah Ross-Shaw for more details.

## **Winter Mountaineering, Karn House**

**18 - 25 February 2023 (inclusive, ie staying Saturday night of both weekends)**

Our Winter Mountaineering week is a veritable festival of all things winter.

Ideally, conditions will be brilliant and we can winter climb or walk.

For those new (or rusty) to winter climbing or walking, refresher days of winter skills are offered.



Usually the weather and conditions are pretty variable, and so alternative activities have included mountain biking (excellent new shelter at Karn House to keep bikes under), rock climbing (locally or at the coast), ski touring, downhill skiing, sight-seeing etc. So bring along your toys if you have them. It's possible to hire bikes and skis in Aviemore too.

Karn House in Aviemore is a great base for activities and close to the shops and cafes of the town.

We hope to have a communal meal one night and this will depend on the weather and conditions.

Please get in touch with any questions or queries.

*Anne Salisbury*  
0771 3240572

## **Bouldering Day Meet**

**4 March 2023**

Contact: Annette Smith for details of time and venue  
email: [nettyimif@gmail.com](mailto:nettyimif@gmail.com)

## **Outdoor First Aid Qualification, Beetham**

**31 March - 01 April 2023**

Welcome to your first ever fear-sell meet.

Let me set the scene. Imagine you are debating the ins and outs of providing tea towels in huts with friends whilst peacefully walking the fells (miles from nowhere of course). Suddenly, out of nowhere, a raven, flying above you, faints. It plummets to the earth, inadvertently crashing into one of your companions. Shocked, your friend tumbles to the ground, breaking a limb in the process and sporting a beak-shaped mark on their face. What do you do?

The obvious answer would be 'check that you aren't dreaming ...' Needless to say, this scenario will probably not feature on the above meet. However, these are just a few good reasons why you should attend:

- This 2-day, mountain-specific first aid course meets the requirements of national governing bodies; once gained, the certificate is valid for three years.
- Even if you don't work in the outdoors, you owe it to your friends and yourself for peace of mind (did I also mention that this is an emotional blackmail sell?)
- It's great value: a mere £93.50 for sixteen hours of tuition plus certificate.
- There will be a communal meal with me at the helm wielding my mezzaluna. How many times are you given the opportunity to put into play your BAFTA winning skills in the rain?

You will be pleased to know that I will not be the one telling you how to manage incidents. That will be left to Ross Langford of Lloyd Langford Expedition Training.

To confirm your place, please book your bunk at Beetham and let me know that you will be part of the Oscar-winning team. Remember, you don't have to be a scout to 'be prepared'.

Here's to that safe airway position!

*Hazel Jonas*

### **VP Dinner/Dow Guidebook Centenary**

**16-17 June 2023**

Next year's VP Dinner at the Crown will be on Friday 16 June. It will tie in with the centenary guidebook celebrations on Saturday 17 June. If you would like to book on to the dinner, please drop me a line. Please note that the Crown will be closed for several months early next year for refurbishments. They will however still be taking bookings for June. We are also once again offering camping (for tents, caravans and campervans) at the Coniston Sports & Social Centre.

### **Climbing Meet at the Count House, Cornwall 15 - 23 September 2023**

The word on the grapevine suggests some confusion about this meet. The original draft of the Meets List for 2023 listed it as a joint CC/FRCC meet. It is NOT a joint meet, FRCC only. The Meets List in the handbook is correct. Feel free to send your confused thoughts in my direction! Thanks.

### **Day Meets:**

Don't be shy with you offers of day meets! We currently only have one on the list and that is for 2023. At least you have no excuse for not putting it in your diaries.

*Hazel Jonas*

*[hazeljaynejonas@gmail.com](mailto:hazeljaynejonas@gmail.com)*

### **Chronicler**

With Hazel's kind permission, I'll squeeze on to her page to remind everyone that the deadline for the next Chronicle is **18th March 2023**; make a note! Thanks!

*[chronicler@frcc.co.uk](mailto:chronicler@frcc.co.uk)*

## **Meet Reports**

### ***Iceland Meet***

***27 August to 10 September 2022***

Iceland, sometimes called the land of fire and ice, is also known for its fantastic landscapes, massive waterfalls and fickle weather. The timing of this trip, based on my experience from five trips in the past decade, was that autumn could be good weather, the central mountains still accessible and the sky gets dark enough at a reasonable time to allow the viewing of aurora. Sadly, my date choices made a year earlier, missed an active fissure eruption volcano in Fagradalsfjall near Reykjavik by 7 days! But the weather was fine, so we shouldn't complain.

Ten of us departed Manchester Airport for the short flight to Reykjavik, although Beatrice Haigh was shortly to leave us on her - what turned out to be excellent - five-day horse-riding trip. Peter Kaye had expressed a strong interest in bathing in a natural hot pool, so the obvious choice was Reykjadalur (Smoke Valley), near Hveragerði, accessible by a short walk after a short drive from Reykjavik. It turned out to be quite popular with the locals - it was the weekend - but the walk, an extended version of one in Paddy Dillon's Cicerone book, did allow us to see mudpools and fumeroles as well as get a handle on the clothing required in the quite bitter wind. And the river pools were great!



The following day, Brenda Fullard writes, "Five of the party set off from Reykjavik for Snæfellsnes, largely organised by Sara McIntyre, and by lunch time we were at Kirkjufell, the most photographed mountain in Iceland (*photo, previous page*).



'Galloping Graeme' Ralph and Mike Shields (*photos left*) reached the top in break-neck speed and the Kirkjufellsfoss at the foot of the mountain was another great sight. Next, we headed for the ferry which stopped at Flatey Island. This experience of an apparently deserted island, with houses built over 100 years ago, was like stepping back in time. A few beers were consumed on the ferry back and then a lovely meal at a restaurant before falling into the bunks at the lovely hostel at the little port of Stykkisholmur. Next day was raining and so windy it was blowing the water back up the waterfalls! Plans were abandoned and we headed back to Reykjavik vowing to return to this stunning place."



Meanwhile, the remaining four planned to go for a walk amongst the volcanic scenery near the recent active volcano on the Reykjanes Peninsula. Fortunately, I checked the forecast that morning; given heavy rain we decided to change venue and head north to a large waterfall - Glymur, 198m high, a great choice as we had wall to wall sunshine, a good walk, a great waterfall and an easy river crossing (not advisable in treadless crocs and no walking poles, Steven 'Splash' Lunt, - *below right* - much to the amusement of Charles Skeavington, Peter and me). Light rain arrived just as we got back to the car. It just

goes to show that you really do need flexible plans, given Iceland's fickle weather.

Having all regathered in Reykjavik, we took the 'bus' to Landmannalaugar in the highlands. It is hard to describe Landmannalaugar: in one word, fabulous. Certainly, it was the highlight of the trip with some amazing colourful volcanic landscapes, although we were lucky with lovely sunny, if cool, weather. Rhyolite and obsidian lavas dominate with some broad braided river valleys cutting the landscape. We had good walks



over Bálhnúkur, Brennisteinsalda, Suðurnámur and Skalli (right; the icecap in the distance is Torfajokull).

The braided river valleys were also fun to explore provided you didn't mind multiple stream crossings! One major attraction here is the hot river pools ... it was so wonderful to lay in the



warm water and just absorb the striking landscape. Peter loved it. I even noticed people in it at 2am one morning during a magical auroral display! Rejoined by Beatrice, we moved to Akureyri in the north and stayed in the excellent family run hostel there – a total contrast to the ill-equipped city hostel at Reykjavik Dalur.



*Aurora over the Landmannalaugar hut*

On the following fine day, we drove to the extensive Mývatn (Midge Lake) geothermal area, where we briefly explored the colourful Víti crater; yes, most of the active geothermal areas are quite colourful (and smelly!) and the extensive steaming lava fields from the 1975 to 1984 Krafla eruptions nearly destroyed the then brand new geothermal power station.

*Below: Steeper than it looks!  
The interesting and steep sided ridge to Balhnukur*

A small eruption cone in the lava field allowed a good geology lesson showing many of the now 'frozen' features seen in recent videos from Fagradalsfjall. Finding good walking round Akureyri proved a bit more challenging than I anticipated. There were many interesting looking mountains about, but the rock was usually extensive layers of fragile lava cut by glaciated valleys frequently containing impassable deep gorges. We did discover an interesting area above the main circum-Icelandic road, Route 1, in Öxnadalur. Mount Hallok, our objective, was the end fell of a very spiky ridge, somewhat similar to the Dolomites. The ridge (over page, in descent) was the result of extensive landslips indicating just





how fragile the rock was! Faint paths, using the word rather loosely, took us across the bilberry vegetated hillside and up onto the ridge line. The summit, after a couple of scrambly bits, gave fine views over the surrounding area.

On our final day up north, most of us decided on a whale watching boat trip. The sea fog was stubbornly persistent but we were eventually rewarded by the sight of a humpback whale blowing and then diving, displaying its large tail flukes. Meanwhile, 'Galloping Graeme' decided on a short solo hike up Sútur above Akureyri to successfully get above the murk. It turned out to be a 23km yomp!

On our return to Reykjavik, we all did the famous Golden Circle tour 'led' by yours truly! The weather was grim but the sights of the heavily fractured landscape at Þingvellir, where the original Icelandic Parliament was held, Geysir (you can figure out that one for yourselves) and the large waterfall of Gullfoss were worth it despite the rain. It's something that every visitor to Iceland should do once. Overall, a great and successful trip with great company and activities that mixed adventurous walking and simple tourism. We only just scratched the surface of the island, so there is much left to see in future trips. Hazel will be keen for offers!

*Report and pictures by Ian Bradley (Kirkufell photos by Graeme Ralph)*

## **Joint Wayfarers / FRCC Meet, Brackenclose 9 - 10 September 2022**

This Joint Wayfarers' / FRCC meet to celebrate the reopening of Brackenclose was attended by eleven Wayfarers' and two FRCC members. The weather was kind, and other than the usual jokes of about the squeaky beds all appeared to be impressed with the 'new' hut.

Saturday dawned to dry weather with cloud on the higher tops. The two meet organisers, Ken Fyles for the Wayfarers' and Heather Scarrott for the FRCC, joined the horde of 'Three Peakers' doing Scafell Pike via Brown Tongue and were glad to turn off the main path to Lord's Rake. Almost at the top of Lord's Rake (*Ken Fyles scrambling, right*), the West Wall Traverse and Deep Ghyll gave an interesting ascent to minor rocky summits almost at the top of Scafell, where the excited yapping



and cheering on the summit of Scafell Pike could still be heard. A descent via Slight Side completed a good day out.

Meanwhile other groups descended the Wasdale valley towards the end of the lake. Stuart Hesketh writes, "With two contrasting views up and down the valley, clag in the mountains, the Napes clearly shrouded in mist from the valley floor, out towards the coast promised bright sunshine and clear skies. Stuart and Phil Davies headed off to Buckbarrow. A steep and steady ascent to the crag was followed by ascents of the classic climbs of *Witch* and the *Buckbarrow Needle*, both well protected but seemingly hard for the VS grade. The main objective of the day was *Imagine*, aspirations for which began to dwindle when a team on the impressive looking *West Side Story* (E4 6a) said that *Imagine* was very hard for the grade and despite the description quite hard to protect. So we tried the unlikely line of *Captain Scarlet*, which was very dirty, possibly due to drifting off route! Finally the lads had a go at *Needless Eliminate*, well protected in its lower half but very sustained and like the other routes of the day, pretty hard for the grade. The final two metres were backed off and a rope dropped to clear the route. After completing the top with the comfort of a rope from above, it was decided it had been the right decision especially with the desperate top out".

Jonah and Clair Wilson were also in the Buckbarrow region with aspirations to climb on Buckbarrow Crag whilst Dave Ormerod and Dave Lawrence were following a page from Bob Allen's book "Walks on Lower Lakeland Fells". This took them to the lonely Greendale Tarn and a circuit back around Buckbarrow.



Yaima Carpenter had volunteered at very short notice to cater the Saturday night evening meal with Sue Mellor as 'sweet maker and monitor'. This was a brilliant effort from the ladies as the meet had been cancelled only a week earlier due to illness. Needless to say all meet participants excelled as usual in convivial chatter around the fire.



Sunday dawned also dry and the Carpenters and others ascended Lingmell. You understand what a big peak this is after climbing three false summits to gain the top. Ken and Heather continued to the Corridor Route where it joins Piers Ghyll. At this point begins a wonderful, long grade 1 scramble bringing you out at the very summit of Broad Crag - well recommended. Heather in bagging mood then persuaded ascents of Ill Crag and Great End.

Aspirations of climbing Tophet Wall on Great Gable were again strained for Stuart and party as they awoke to a bright but damp morning. Tired, perhaps from the previous day, the lads opted for a stop in the Duddon Valley on the way home. Wallowbarrow Crag was the destination where *Digitation* provided a fantastic couple of pitches of climbing always with interest and bomb proof gear just where you needed it. The other gem of the day was *Malediction Direct*, the first pitch was little more than a scramble but the second pitch was outstanding!! It covered incredibly steep terrain which bulged out from the hillside on absolute monster holds. To top it off, you could lace the pitch with your entire rack. Fantastic and safe climbing - what more could you want?  
Thanks to all who contributed to this report.

*Ken Fyles and Heather Scarrott*

## ***A week in the Cornwall Sunshine***

***11 - 18 September 2022***

Towards the middle of September a small band made the long journey to practically Land's End. Staying at The Count House, the Climbers' Club's large and well equipped hut (before they knocked down the toilets), we were in an ideal position to explore the coastal granite sea cliffs and wildlife.

Plenty of us sampled the delights of Bosigran, Chair Ladder, Land's End, Gurnard's Head and Sennen. The weather was a tad hit and miss with a couple of inclement days, which still yielded classic (though not *Classic Rock*) routes. Commando Ridge (VD) is such a fun day out in pretty much any conditions, and a ten minute stroll from the hut. Hazel, Nikki and I managed to scoot around the base, and despite the damp first pitch had a dry ascent until the very last pitch when the heavens opened and we hurriedly escaped for tea and cake back at the hut.

There are a few *Classic Rock* routes nearby, but the one that got away (and Ken Wilson admitted so) is Right Angle (HS 4b) at Gurnard's Head, a couple of miles from the hut. This is a fantastic adventure, catches the afternoon sun and starts with a horizontal traverse pitch 10m above the sea on huge holds. The second pitch follows the same line before descending close to the sea to belay on a small tidal ledge, a tricky pitch to follow. The final glory pitch climbs straight up the imposing corner - fantastic climbing. Steve, Helen and Hazel were hot on our heels, so we ended up abandoning our belays for them to use.

Sennen is an odd little place, a compact cove of rock with in-situ military teams, a surfing beach with ice cream and pasty shops and some very steep rough granite.

The *Classic Rocktick* – Demo Route (HS) is photogenic, excellent and no pushover; Helen and Nikki both led it well. We each led a route or so and bumped into an aspirant member and I held his ropes and seconded him. I've grown to like the place more than my on first encounters despite it usually being crowded.

Bosigran is literally the crag at the bottom of the garden - in September there are field mushrooms there. From the clifftop path we had witnessed a seal pup being born and the sheltered cove turned into a nursery beach with five pups born and fed through our week's stay. Most of the crag is way above the sea and contains a fantastic collection of routes from easy to very hard, and many classics. The *Classic Rocktick* of Doorpost (HS) is a varied fun route and I at last got to lead the first pitch. Nikki joined the top two pitches which I think works well. Little Brown Jug (HVS 5a), another great route, juts next door and Steve and Hazel enjoyed (!) the steep finish. With the crag so close to the hut it's easy to nip down for an hour, a day or spend the week there.

Possibly my favourite Cornish crag (apart from its inflated car parking charge) is Chair Ladder, and here we swapped teams; Steve and I swung leads on Red Wall (HS) and Aerial (VS), both with tricky but well protected sections.

Chair Ladder boasts two *Classic Rock* routes, Terrier's Tooth (once VD; the first pitch has fallen down!) and Pendulum Chimney (S) which Hazel, Nikki and Helen climbed, taking a pitch each. After a swim in the sea for Nikki and Helen we headed back and stopped for a meal in a B&B (quality food) close to the hut.

Michelle and Bernie had been doing their own thing for a few days, mixing up climbing at Bosigran and the excellent, very local Haldrine Cove, walking and touring, but they left for the long drive north to move into their new house.

Hazel, Nikki and I took trip to the end of the road to climb Land's End Long Climb, another strange juxtaposition of tourist tat and great cliffs. Starting from the beach, a sequence of short pitches wind their way up the cliff, in a variety of styles. Always fun, never too hard (VD), it is a great route, topping out in front of an audience! On the belays, we'd been marvelling at the dolphins fishing just off the shore in full view (spectacular misidentification which Hazel is still teasing us over: they were actually Blue Fin Tuna!) An inflatable was alongside, presumably observing or protecting them. Along the coast there are plenty of cliffs (accessible from the parking spot); we abseiled to the beach and climbed up Cormorant Slab (S) in the baking sunshine. A lovely route for Hazel to end her sunny trip on.

People had left for the long journey home at various times (for Steve, it was for once a local trip), but Nikki and I spent a last day at Bosigran bagging more stars.

Next year we hope to repeat the experience, with the hut's bathroom suite and accommodation hopefully completed. It's well worth the long trip and the weather is usually stable and lovely.

*Rob Stone*

***Brackenclose Celebratory Meet, all huts 30 September - 2 October 2022***  
***A compendium of reports on this superbly-staged weekend ...***

***(a) Fire and Brimstone***

***Clare Harris***

Like a phoenix arising from the ashes, Brackenclose reopens, cause for rejoicing.

Plotting and planning by Hazel, Humph and Harris (Nick).

A celebratory challenge....

Long, hot, dry summer deteriorates prematurely to deluges and floods, testing resilience and fortitude.

Sense of defiance and humour intact, the determination of Fell and Rockers never in doubt. Herculean efforts sees participants braving deluge and floods.

Undeterred, climbers claimed classic lines, runners ran a hut relay, walkers wandered waterlogged fells and treasure hunters followed tantalising teasers.

Terms of engagement, it transpires, open to dubious interpretation!

Points were bagged, huts zoomed, teams feasted. A new landmark in club history commemorated with a beautiful baton, wonderful clothing and conviviality.

That was the weekend that was ... the Brackenclose Celebratory Meet.

Huge thanks to all those who made the rebuild and the event possible. The club moves on ...

***(b) BCM at Brackenclose***

***Sue Wales***

A fantastic group of people managed to make it to the newly restored Brackenclose hut, fighting, or should I say sailing, their way through a deluge of water caused by several days of heavy rain. Roads were blocked in several valleys, causing participants trouble in negotiating the roads and taking massive detours to get to the hut. The members attending the meet were a mixed group of runners, climbers, fell walkers and socialites.

The Saturday morning dawned brighter and more encouraging. Already, Wendy Dodds and Pete Hutchinson had left the hut in the semi-darkness to run to Birkness and beyond. The rest of the team getting up for breakfast were faced with disruption to the water supply. What next, we thought! It was all hands to the pumps, or rather buckets, pans and all manner of other utensils, to fetch water from the fast-flowing river. We alerted "the powers that be" and with their vast experience of fixing the water supply the water was soon flowing freely again to the hut ... but we waited to see what would happen next.

Having discussed the options for gaining "magic points" the night before, most people had reflected on this and chosen their activity for the day. Treasure hunt round Wasdale valley, climbing, fell walking, were all on offer. Due to inclement

weather many opted for the mental gymnastics of the treasure hunt. It was brilliant! Planned and set up by Gill and Peter. All who participated came back enthusing about how much they'd learned about the valley and seen things they didn't know existed. Others set off to undertake the West Wall Traverse on Scafell, but again the weather intervened and an alternative safer route was taken. Meanwhile back at the hut, many day visitors arrived to partake in the celebration and enjoy the cake. New and old times were discussed and fond memories shared. One member recalled when electricity was first brought to the Wasdale valley.

Members at that time were used to using oil lamps. These were stored in the entrance on the shelf above the fireplace and one would collect an oil lamp and use it for the duration of your visit. At that time, a vote as to whether the hut should be connected to the new electricity supply was taken and it was by no means unanimous or immediate, as many members did not want to change the ambience of the hut. Change, it seems, will always come slowly.



Later in the afternoon Richard and Karen arrived (left), looking fresh-faced and fit, having been blown around crossing over from Raw Head with the baton which had now completed its journey.

Dinner for 34 was served in two sittings, all expedited with care and precision. All obtained the meals they had ordered with a wide choice of delicious sweets, provided by the members attending. The quiz was undertaken fuelled by copious glasses of wine and attention spans were challenged after a busy day on and off the hill.

Next morning the weather had improved. Some took advantage and went off climbing while others walked on several of the lower-lying fells.

By the evening there were only half a dozen people left in the hut, planning their next adventures in front of a roaring fire.

A great weekend, a great hut and truly a celebration of the club and the new hut.

(📷 Sue Wales)

### **(c) BCM at Karn House**

**Lis Cook**

Aviemore proved no celebratory outpost as night on a dozen folk posted north, not only for the weekend itself but for much of the preceding week. Their enthusiasm knew no bounds against the magnificent backdrop of the Cairngorms. Jeff, Brian and Trevor set the bar high with a splendid four-day backpack that took in Loch Avon, Loch Etchachan, the Pools of Dee and the Lairig Ghru. Conditions were often wet and there were several tricky fords to cross: that over Glas Allt Mor was judged a 'Grade 6' ('we almost didn't make it ...').

Activities on the Saturday itself were varied - fat biking, walking, running (with dog), Corbett bagging, not to mention our warden's heroic cycle from Waters back to Karn via three very long lochs and two very cosy cafes. (Humph was so stingy with the points, there ... ) Amazingly, all were back in good time to feast and to give serious consideration to creative suggestions for bonus points. We reckon Team Karn won the prize for the best banter on WhatsApp.

### **(d) BCM at Beetham**

**Jenny Hawkin**

Friday evening was dark, wild and very wet. Bemused folk arrived bearing contributions to Saturday's meal. No-one was sure what to expect but it sounded likely to be a good do. Humph's Activities List was studied and it slowly dawned that points could be gained by even the most ancient of us. Jane H chivvied most folk onto the WhatsApp. Eric volunteered (sort of) to collate all our points. Jane W & I would be on kitchen duties. Nick & Clare departed for Birkness. With two legs of tomorrow's Hut to Hut to run they wanted an early night. Outside in a blast of loud music and squeal of brakes Hazel appeared with t-shirts and hoodies. After a hot drink and much chat she was away into the night to the next delivery.

Back to the Napes Needle Challenge rules. Planning took precedence, maps out, routes chosen, changed and finally decided upon. Team Beetham was on fire - in the best possible way of course.

We left the hut on Saturday in high spirits anticipating a good day on rock and hill in the improving weather. Hopefully with the bonus of bagging a few challenge points along the way. By afternoon tea time, all returned with sacs of Challenge Points in varying amounts. Nick & Clare arrived from Salving House where they'd started their second leg of the H to H run. Ron K & Ben had been climbing at Castle Rock (south) on routes first climbed by Macphee, Mabel Barker etc in 1928, several years before Brackenclose was built. What would early members have made of today's celebration? The hut was buzzing with tales of the day and totting up of points. The meal was almost ready to serve when suddenly faces from Karn House and Birkness beamed out at us - Jane H had worked her magic & Beetham was linked to the other huts. Such amazing goings on! It was quite late by the time we gathered around the large table for the excellent celebration dinner. We were too full of lasagne, fancy focaccia, delicious crumbles, etc to concentrate on the quiz - that would be for tomorrow.

## (e) BCM at Salving House

Chris Paul



The weekend event got off to an exciting start: Borrowdale was flooded, so participants needed to either swim or approach it via Newlands and Honister. It did not last very long but it certainly made an impact. Cars were abandoned, livestock washed away and cattle witnessed being driven though the floods by the farmer to higher ground, where the bull promptly turned and led the cattle back. There was a

really good mix of members both old and new at the hut with various ideas of what to do on the Saturday.

Weather dictated that climbing in the valley would have been wet and windy and perhaps more than a little challenging, so a large group of us went for a walk in very windy conditions up to Launchy Tarn, then onto Dale Head Tarn, following the High Spy ridge to Catbells, collecting as many points as possible. One team went off to Dock Tarn and Watendlath and another visited as many crags in the valley as they could, without climbing on any of them. We all landed back for a slap up meal orchestrated very ably by Cath. It was a great do, with an excellent mix of people and lots of interesting conversations.



Sunday dawned bright and sunny, but most people opted for an easy walk or an early departure.

### Nature Notes:



There were lots of Fox Moth caterpillars on our walk along the ridge, which feed on heather. They spend the winter as a fully-grown caterpillar, tucked under fallen leaves or moss, before



emerging again in early spring. They don't feed in spring, but are often seen basking in the sun. They then form a cocoon low down in vegetation, where they pupate and become adult moths, which take to the wing in May and June.

## **(f) BCM at Raw Head**

**Hazel Jonas**

In advance of the weekend, Team Raw Head's only concern was where we would house our trophies. Pete Farnell was ahead of the game though. He had already drawn up plans for converting the coal shed into a trophy room. A stroke of genius that addressed both our egos and climate change. Then, as the weekend approached, the sick notes started to flood in. This had nothing to do with the fact that the hut was full of climbers and the weather forecast absolutely abysmal.

Undeterred, Team Raw Head remained a well-oiled unit. Simon Willis took on the role of Spud Maestro, Cath Sanders became Head of Salad with myself as Salad Pimp and Neil McAllister the nominated maitre d'. And that was only the kitchen.

On Friday night, as Team Salving House played Poohsticks with a floating jeep in Borrowdale, the remaining climbers set forth their cunning plans. It has been unfairly suggested that our merry crowd was a bunch of chancers. I can confirm that nothing was left to chance. Whilst Team Karn House was in complete overkill mode and Team Beetham resolutely set on victory, we took a more creative approach. Simon Willis carefully perused the rules, seeking out potential loopholes. Having found some, an alpine start of 3pm was on the cards.

Saturday morning arrived and it was wet. Tony Womersley passed Dunmail Raise twice in his car *en route* to a climbing shop whilst I ticked off numerous passes as I delivered T-shirts to various huts. Others were a little more conformist in their approach. Michael Teanby, George Chapman and Freddy Dorling ventured to Hodge Close and left it shortly afterwards. Courtesy of WhatsApp, they were then whipped into action by Neil McAllister, who himself was on the hill. Anne Salisbury and five others did Pavey Ark via eleven crags and Jack's Rake. Tim Cresswell and Rory, fuelled on one sandwich between them, ticked off Pavey, Harrison, Pike o'Stickle, Rossett Pike and Bowfell. As for Joe Spoor, he just ran a lot, ticking off various summits and patches of bog. Meanwhile, Cath Sanders walked over 20km for a jar of Dijon mustard. And Pete Farnell? Well, he was the Raw Head chief-of-staff, overseeing its makeover from hut to hostelry (with napkins and gazebo).

At 3.10pm, the Alpine Start team left the building. At 4pm they returned. Simon got his laptop out (apologies) for the creation of a once-in-a-lifetime topo. The film crew was on standby. Thanks to a piece of furniture, Nikki Hamerton summited over twelve peaks in less than three minutes. Neil McAllister, with Cameron Stoneley as his double act, then added a corkscrew and sieve to his climbing harness for his acting debut. The rest is history if you were there, or a mystery if you weren't. The evening saw our first attempt to demolish Spud Mountain and our first ever Zoom link-up between Raw Head, Beetham and Karn House.

Despite the weather and the rate of attrition, everyone at Raw Head had a complete blast. Members new and old managed long days on the hill and there was a lot of laughter. Banter between the huts and members was fuelled by

WhatsApp. My main takeaway from the weekend? Brackenclose, Salving House, Waters, Birkness and Beetham played by the rules. Karn House? Raw Head? Tut tut ...

### ***(g) BCM at Birkness***

***Norbert de Mello***

The rain came down like stair rods at Wilf's. We hid inside and wondered how to deal with rain on food during preparation. We had another coffee and the rain got heavier. The forecast was for rain on Saturday but it was clearly early – stopping Hazel and her leg of the distribution system moving into gear – an emergency plan was worked out to load food before Wilf closed, although the promise had been for collection at 10.00am and he made a point of announcing himself as a lifetime CC member– but irrelevant now as he since then sold up and retired. And the new owners looked after the November Committee Meet very well albeit at a 15% increase in price.

The food drop at Beetham was easy - warm and friendly and in stark contrast to The Salving House where we abandoned the effort to even get there. Having most luckily found, at the start of the flood, that a neighbour in the car park was an FRCC member going to the meet, I took the cowardly route of dumping her with the problem. Wonderful things, FRCC members – that one nonchalantly saved my bacon big style.

The Saturday plan was studied very carefully overnight and people quietly set off in all directions next morning in what would pass, weather-wise, for a good day in the Lakes. We were a small team but knew Karn and Raw Head were certain to be dreaming up illicit moves.

Dinner was delayed on Saturday because everyone had to pass the pub and found it difficult. But we got started on the quiz with the two families from the Coach House joining in whilst dinner cooked, and the score achieved by Team Pulford/Reid was utterly staggering.

A tee shirt was presented to Michael Smith - an aspirant member who beat all members' scores and seemed to have a great day. We hope to welcome him as a member quite soon.

If we could, there would have been a prize given to Stephen Reid and Geoff Lyons for walking over to Ennerdale and climbing on Pillar Rock despite dubious weather – brilliant stuff and great pictures guys, and the points were welcome. But the points didn't stack up enough – runners had an advantage which we could not overcome, although we benefitted from Wendy and Peter leaving Brackenclose early Saturday and arriving at Birkness by lunchtime with a bagful of points won via Great Gable – thanks both.

The mood in the hut was of joyful celebration and as a participant I have taken away a special happy memory of the weekend. Thanks to all involved.



So, back home and reflecting on the weekend that was. The fragrant Kate Woodrow and myself undertook leading our first meet! A *Welcome* meet, no less. What could go wrong ... ?

When I arrived I swept a few wasps up from the floor of the ladies dorm, to the gentle hum of a black and yellow hidden army. Time pressed on, and armed only with a cup of tea, Kate and I introduced ourselves to a host of aspirants (with a wide range of expectation and curiosity), coupled with the well-established; a delightful mix of youth and gnarl. We were all chatting amiably making plans for the following day, when one of our party got a trifle distracted by the ladies dorm a-buzzing. It was action stations; we were going to dispatch one of the aspirants with his professional para training, but the wasp slayer donned his superpower outfit and set about defending his ladies' honour. We did question whether we were in Borrowdale or Waspdale Head!

Now, Scrabble is usually my game of choice, but watching the Wasp Whisperer and his valiant deputy in action may have superseded that particular wordplay game. They tripped marvellously around the hut, trapping as many as they could in the vacuum cleaner, rather neatly duct taping the nozzle to keep the little beggars safe and warm and away from the ladies'. A few squeals were let out from the ladies as well as the men, but Keith and Andy really showed their true colours (not yellow and black), ensuring the residents of, in particular, the ladies dorm, could sleep easy that night.

Even before brekkies one of the aspirants, Laurence, had successfully bagged his first peak, his Dale Head sunrise run had warmed up his body ready to head to the crag for rock action. The climbing gang comprised Steve W, Keith T, Geoff N, joined by aspirants Laurence and Cal, and they headed to Glaciated Slab where, regardless of the weather, did all eight routes on it, and Laurence appeared pleased as he undertook his first trad lead. Four climbers returned, leaving two to move over to Dove's Nest to polish off an ascent of a 2-star route (Face Route) in torrential rain!

The rest of us headed off towards the fells. Just popped along the ridge from Salving House to check out the mines, and onto Maiden Moor, High Spy, Catbells, choosing our 'dog of the day' *en route*, and enjoying the intermittent rainbows. We came back along the Cumbrian Way, losing one of our number who was keen to bag a scramble at Nitting Haws. We, on the other hand, pressed on back to the hut for tea and medals! When we returned, we found Andy (the aforementioned Wasp Whisperer) on wasp patrol in the ladies dorm. Apparently, after his cycle ride (and quite frankly not relishing the two downpours he cycled through) went to slay any further buzzers seeping through the walls of the ladies dorm. The dorm was redecorated in duct tape to stave off potential stings, with Andy on guard sporting a rolled up newspaper. Laurence and I popped out to purchase

additional provisions for the communal meal, which is where I learnt quite a bit about Char fish. Who says everyday isn't a school day? When we again returned outside, we had more guests including another aspirant, Laura, who had been out walking during the afternoon. I rather fancy it was the allure of the anticipated culinary feast which brought them over, like sirens beguiling wandering sailors. We enjoyed a communal meal, with a choice of 2 apple based fripperies lovingly prepared by 2 of the guests. Steve gave an after dinner 'speech' - well, more info about the club and the finer points of the joining process. And, perhaps, there may have been a bit of pub action!

The next day, there was a choice of activity; Laurence again popped out for a fell run, and the others tantivy'd up Glaramara, or went to the climbing wall!

All in all a pleasing weekend, and a great opportunity to meet some interesting, dynamic and enthusiastic aspirants. I sincerely hope they pursue their membership applications, and in turn we can support them, and other aspirants, achieve membership.

*Sara Hayes*

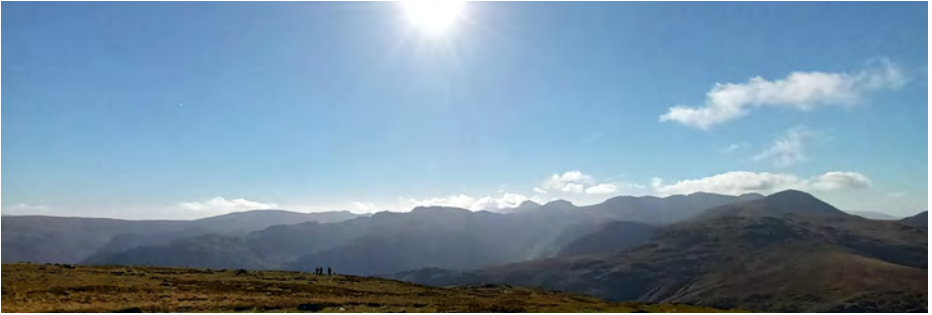
### ***Midweek meet, Salving House, Borrowdale 9-14 October 2022***

After a very enjoyable "Welcome Meet" weekend it was my turn to welcome other club members and newcomers for a midweek gathering. At one point I thought I would be "Billy No Mates" but thankfully folk arrived to disprove that myth!!

The week's weather forecast was mixed and lived up to its promises. Monday dawned bright and sunny with rain and wind forecast later in the afternoon. The Cumbria Way to Keswick provided a grand walk with lots of banter and good views to Skiddaw area. The rain arrived on cue and smug grins on faces were noted as the bus trundled back to Rosthwaite.



Bus passes were used by the golden oldies to Honister Pass and a traverse of Grey Knotts, Brandreth, and Green Gable to Windy Gap and along Moses' Trod to The Honister Quarries. A cool north wind and good views of Ennerdale and Pillar Rock.



Hut cleaning, brews and reading was the order of the day on Wednesday as the rain poured down ... Peter Kaye (*the* Peter Kaye!) and his two dogs had to go on walkies duty. Peter also provided the cultural input of the meet by going to see a live streaming of "Aida" at the Keswick cinema ...

Brilliant blue skies, sunshine and marvellous Lakeland views as Dale Head, Hindscarth, Robinson and Snockrigg Moss were duly traversed to Buttermere village. A superb autumn day ... mutts and men were happy. Andy Poole ran the tops as the Bus Pass Abusers returned to a warm hut and a convivial few well earned pints to conclude an excellent day.



Friday was spent tidying up and disposal of many dead wasps in the ladies dorm. An invasion of unwanted guests during the Welcome Meet!!

The meet was lucky with the weather ... and that's the risk of visiting the Lake District in the autumn. However, the rewards of beautiful colours, good walking, an excellent base and grand company makes it all worthwhile.

As our President Wendy remarked to me prior to the meet, "I'm surprised that we have a club full of retired people and there is little interest in midweek meets - or maybe they are all in Kalymnos".

Thanks everyone for your company and support.

Attendees: Anne Townsend, Adam Townsend (guest), Val Hawksworth, Peter Kaye (and four-legged friends), Peter Smith (guest) and Andy Poole (guest).

*Paddy Feely*

## **AGM and Dinner meet 4 - 5 November 2023**

### **AGM day walk: Sizergh**

Despite the inclement weather, 22 members of the *REAL* FRCC met at Sizergh Castle car park, and ignoring the cafe (it was closed!), we headed north towards Scout Scar for lunch. At the high point it was decided to summon a helicopter rescue by forming the FRCC call sign (*below*). This failed due to bad spelling! We walked on to the shelter named the Mushroom for our lunch stop. Reversing our direction, we headed back into the wind and descended down to



Brigsteer Wood and then back to Sizergh. No one complained about the weather but we did wonder what had happened to the other 132 members present at the AGM that could have joined us.

- John Leigh



*Above left: Several (of the other 132) members spent the day at the Kendal Climbing Wall;*

*Left: The guests at this table at the Dinner included Andrew Hall (the oldest) and his son Trevor, who had travelled the furthest (from the USA) to be there!*

*Above: TV personality Paul Rose, guest speaker at the Annual Dinner, seen here crashing the Miller family portrait! (📷 Andy Coatsworth)*

## **Bonfire / Remembrance meet, Brackenclose 11 - 12 November 2022**

We had a series of contiguous meets at, or around, Brackenclose this November, kicking off with the Bonfire Meet, followed by the Act of Remembrance on the summit of Great Gable and at St. Olaf's Church, and finally the Welcome Meet on the Monday / Tuesday. All events were well attended and it was good to see quite a few prospective and recently joined associate members taking part. For many, it was their first stay at Brackenclose since the reopening of the hut.

The Bonfire Meet saw two sizeable parties venture onto the Scafellis; the speedier of the two visiting Foxes Tarn and Scafell summit before returning to the hut for a late lunch, while the slow coaches (*Dave Burnett, Phil Rowett, me, and coming down from Foxes Tarn on my bum, right and bottom right, 📷 Les Meer*) explored Lord's Rake, the West Wall Traverse and Deep Ghyll before crossing Scafell summit *en route* to Foxes Tarn, Mickledore, Scafell Pike and Lingmell. Back at the hut we were treated to mulled wine, followed by a spectacular firework display and bonfire (situated well away from the new hut!), accompanied by pie and peas. Thanks to Rob Jones for pulling all that together.

On the Sunday we were blessed with wonderful weather for the acts of remembrance; most of those staying at Brackenclose accompanying our newly elected President to the summit of Great Gable where, following John's short speech explaining the significance of the event, an invited army bugler played the Last Post followed by Reveille. - Geoff Lyons



*Below: The big trees outside Brackenclose eerily frame the bonfire, attendees and fireworks team ( 📷 Heather Scarrott )*





Gathering for the two minutes' silence, 13th November:  
Left: John preparing to make his address  
Right: The crowds assembled under brilliant skies  
( 📷 Geoff Lyons, John Holden)

### **Remembrance Sunday - with a difference**

Great Gable is a great mountain and has its pull on Remembrance Sunday. I set off with the summit in mind for 11.00am. Two hours from Seathwaite should be enough! - I once did it in an hour and was passed by Billy Bland! By the time I had fuffed about , filled up with fuel and found a parking space it was however well past 9.00am. Taking the path by the Borrowdale Yews, I then headed up to Gillercombe and then over Base Brown.

Slowly it dawned that 11.00am on the top of Great Gable was not going to happen (bit of age factor coming in as well!) I then started to think about others who were going to be late as well and ask if they would like me to say a few words leading up to the two minutes' silence on top of Green Gable.

I reached its summit at 10.55am and quite a few were still making their way up. As 11.00am approached I mentioned (*right*) about the FRCC buying Great Gable, Green Gable and 10 other summits in 1924 in memory of the 21 members who died in



WW1. We were slightly early in starting the two minutes' silence and we could then hear the bugler on top of Great Gable playing the Last Post - such a moment in that silence. After the two minutes I said thank you and we slowly moved on with our own memories.



Meanwhile Chris had gone to Castle Crag, in Borrowdale, (left, 📷 Chris Kenyon), to the Remembrance service there - Castle Crag was given to the nation by the Hamer family in relation to their son who was sadly killed in WW1. About 50 people gathered for the ceremony there.

Onwards to Great Gable and we could see this mass of people coming back down to Windy Gap. By the time I reached the summit the President and his entourage had departed and were on

their way back to Brackenclose, so I had a quiet time and refreshment before continuing down by the Westmorland Cairn and the Climbers' Traverse to Styhead Pass.

Back to the car and a lady was walking along the road who had been up Gable and also Great End and looking to join the FRCC - a discussion followed and we headed to the Glaramara Hotel for some refreshment and further discussion. A pint of Borrowdale Bitter was thoroughly enjoyed.

A chap from the North East was there, checking his photos and ascent of Gable. He mentioned JN Fletcher, one of the FRCC members commemorated on the plaque, who was injured at Ypres in 1915 and came back to the UK where he sadly died and was buried at Gosforth - he showed me a photo of his gravestone ...

... and finally another chap staying at the Glaramara Hotel, who was pleased to meet someone from the FRCC - he had bought the FRCC book, Lakeland Fells, some years ago and was working his way through the summits detailed. He lives in Staffordshire and has 96 to go and aiming for Base Brown and Fleetwith Pike the day after - we gave him some advice on the way there - and wished him well with his quest!

What a day - great conditions - and lots of interesting people met on the way!

Ron Kenyon

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The summit plaque (📷 Wendy Dodds)



Still at Brackenclose (left), John Holden's photo captures a starburst moment during the firework display, with members gathered around the bonfire and still more lurking in the warmth of the hut steps. It was the first Bonfire Meet with full pyrotechnics since November 2018; Rob Jones and Geoff Lyons are to be congratulated for their sterling efforts.

Below: Next day, after the Remembrance on Gable, everyone sunbathed at Sty Head!



## **Welcome Meet, Brackenclose**

**13 - 16 November 2022**

The 'mid-week' Welcome Meet began on the Sunday evening with the preparation and consumption of a Pernod-infused fish pie followed by a range of puddings. Monday saw us make the most of the decent weather with one group heading off up Mosedale for a scramble on Pillar (*right*), and another visiting Tortoise Crag



(*left*) in Eskdale. Both outings ended in the Wasdale Head Inn and the Woolpack, respectively, by which time the weather had, sadly, taken a change for the worse which persuaded many to head for home on the Tuesday morning.

One intrepid group did brave the rain and ventured up past Burnmoor Tarn to Miterdale before returning to the hut to dry out.

*Geoff Lyons*



## ***Mountain Miscellany***

### **Three mini-peaks updated**

Do you remember my three widely separated, but excellent, three-small-peaks challenge, posed in the Chronicle of Spring 2021, p39, solution in 180, p39, same year?

Helm Crag was the apex of the triangle formed by two other very distant peaks. In early New Year I revisited Helm Crag, making the short ascent from Town Head, on a well graded path, strangely omitted by Wainwright. The day was marvellous, cold, but clear blue sky, frozen snow on the tops. A day to make us realise our good fortune in having such a delectable home playground.

In February, we ventured abroad for the first time for a long time, to Cape Town. There too, the sky was blue, but the temperature was up to the high twenties. Lion's Head, the second of our small-mountain trio, was fabulous. The view from the top, over the ocean and city on one side, and across to Table Mountain was just outstanding. As we returned to our car, we tried a lime ice slushie. It was so welcome. Cold enough to spark a headache if drunk too fast! The next day we climbed Table Mountain by an intricate, exciting, scrambling route, India Ravine and Venstra Buttress. At 6 am, our start time, the going was comfortable, but when the sun rose and reached our backs, the temperature rose fast. It was with some relief that the summit cable car restaurant was reached with its cool drinks and ice cream.

Poor old Lion Rock, our third peak in Hong Kong, is still unattainable because of Covid travel issues. It is not yet clear (at the time of writing, May 2022) when these draconian restrictions will be lifted.

*Rod Smith*

### ***FRCC Strava group***

<https://www.strava.com/clubs/fellandrock>

Strava is an app that people have on their phones and PC. Members can join - currently there are 14 after I launched it on Facebook in October.

Anyone who is a member can join - just go to "Groups", type in FRCC and look for the logo.

The current members post walking, running, cycling and swimming activities to their own Strava page, which is then shared in the FRCC Strava Group.

We give each other Kudos and can add comments to support each other.

Non-members who have a Strava account can view the group too, which gives them a window into what members get up to.

*Martyn Hodgson*

## ***Did You Know?***

In 1968 the FRCC donated a Rose Bowl to the annual Keswick May Ram Fair to be awarded to the best ram in the show. Mr Richardson at Gatesgarth (pass of the goats) Farm, Buttermere, approached the Club for the donation. He was instrumental in maintaining the pedigree of the Herdwick Sheep in the Lake District.

Question: Where is that Rose Bowl now?

*John Barrett*

## ***Book Review***

### **Grit Blocs: 100 of the Finest Boulder Problems on Pennine Gritstone**

**Author: Dave Parry**

**Published by Vertebrate Publishing**

I love this book. It is great to read, great to look at and great to dip into.

What we have here is 100 of the best boulder problems on gritstone, chosen by the author using the criteria that he clearly lays out in the introduction. If you like it is a ticklist, but beautifully presented and with a big emphasis on the photographs.

Each problem gets a double page spread, where most of the space is taken up by Dave's superb pictures. He has a knack of capturing the vital moment and freezing it in time. The pictures feature almost universally great light and great composition. In many of them it is the rock that is the star, the rock is sharply in focus, so that you can see and almost feel it's texture. There is a climber in there too, frozen in the act of making a move but it is the rock that is being celebrated. It's not just a picture book though; Dave has written a short essay about each problem. These are a very enjoyable to read and even for someone who is not really a boulderer they are engrossing and interesting. It is not a big coffee table book like *Hard Rock* etc; it is sized somewhere between A4 and A5, which makes it easy to hold when you are reading.

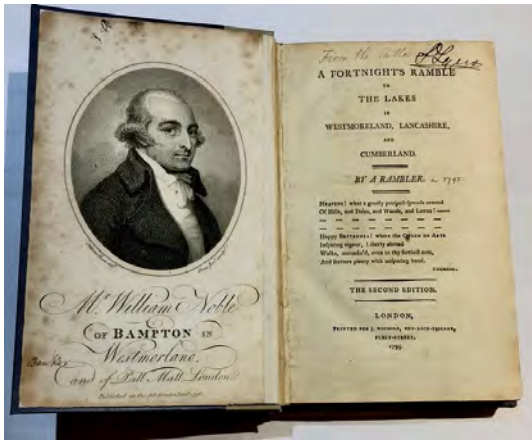
There are no maps, no directions to the boulders, none of the info you find in guidebooks. Instead it is purely a celebration of these boulder problems. It brings bouldering out of the shadows and firmly into climbing literature and will be a hard act to follow for anyone contemplating a similar book in the future. This would make a great present for the boulderer in your life, whether that is you, your partner or a friend.



*Ken Daykin*

## News from the Archives and Library

### The Library



As part of our work around improving our library collection, which includes some extremely rare and important antiquarian books, we have a rolling programme of repair and where necessary rebinding. One of the latest books to have benefited is Joseph Budworth's *A Fortnight's Ramble in the Lakes*.

This is a particularly rare book despite being a second edition. Only a thousand were printed, of which more than 500 perished in a fire, necessitating a third edition with only 250 copies printed. However, what is really special about our copy is that this was the author's own and includes comments and annotations for the third edition in his own hand.

Budworth, a former army officer who had lost an arm at the Siege of Gibraltar, set off in 1792 with his friend William Noble, son of a well to do farmer from Bampton on the eastern edge of the Lakes. The pair '*walked upwards of 240 miles besides boat and chaise conveyance*' and included ascents of Conistone Old Man and Skiddaw. The trip was recorded by Budworth and published in 1795. His approach to the landscape was picturesque but in some respects is unusual because of his apparent interest in the local people and customs. It was the first documented walking tour of the Lakes and Budworth enjoyed himself immensely. He returned to the Lakes in 1797.

Our copy of Budworth was in poor condition, with the book block broken down the spine and in two pieces and the bindings generally disintegrating. Our expert book binder Ian Whiteway restored it to how it would have been originally issued and it is now in sound condition to face the next two centuries.

## The Abraham Collection

The Club has in its archive approximately 750 glass plate negatives presented by Geoffrey Abraham in 1967. Alongside these, the Oral Archive has a recording of Sid Cross, who at the time was landlord of the ODG, Langdale. Sid tells the story of how he was presented with the plates and how he passed them on to our Club.

Over the years we have been gifted other Abraham glass plate images, some in stereoscopic format. These have now been digitised using our new Epson 850 scanner. The Club archive also includes a stereoscopic viewer of a similar vintage. The idea was to give the highly effective impression of a three-dimensional scene. They are even more remarkable in that some of these images have never previously been reproduced. It is planned that these images, after using modern technology, will be made available for members to view. Box No.1 contains images of Wasdale Head, rock climbing on Pillar Rock and 'Scawfell', Box No. 2 contains images of climbing on Great Gable and winter climbing in the Lake District.



*Round 'the Notch' in winter, Pillar Rock. G. P. Abraham.*

*Deborah Walsh and Mark Scott  
On behalf of the Archive and Library Group*

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### **Left: A Personal Milestone**



*Congratulations are in order for Les Meer as he completes his round of the Lakeland Synges after the Gable Remembrance on 13th November and takes this selfie on Round How. This is the summit SW of Great End, high above the Corridor Route.*

*Les says: 'Synges (classified by Tim Syngé) comprise 646 Lakeland summits over 300m with over a 30m drop. They comprise nearly all Wainwrights, Birketts and about 120 more fell tops.'*

## ***The Highs and Lows of the Pyrenees***

I'm sitting on a bench in the dining room hugging a total stranger who is wrapped up in a blanket and shivering violently. It transpires his name is Gabriel and he has just run the last few metres to the Refuge de Baysellance hut and virtually collapsed through the door and out of the storm, verging on hypothermia and incapable of doing anything.

Our group of seven had had the good sense to sit it out and accept an enforced rest day, spent grazing, snoozing and reading. This was day eight of our trip, and until then we'd had terrific weather and strenuous but enjoyable (mostly) days following snaking paths around the imposing rugged peaks and over several cols, some of which were a little airy for my liking.

The memory and discomfort of our first night in a full to bursting hut with insufficient bed space for us all, (sleeping on a worktop in the self catering kitchen, anyone?) was overshadowed by subsequent fabulous walking with stunning views and great company.

Although late in the season, a variety of flowers still graced the hillsides of this harsh environment, harebells in hues of pale blue to deep indigo, yellow saxifrages and pink cranesbill, poisonous devil's claw and dainty alyssum.

After two strenuous days, we were able to visit the renowned Cirque de Gavarnie at a more leisurely pace, drinking *chocolat chaud* with vultures circling overhead and being mesmerised by Europe's longest single drop waterfall at 423m, Le Grand Cascade.

A short stride to the fabulously situated Refuge des Espugettes allowed for peak bagging Pimene, at 2800m, and making the acquaintance of the curious and opportunistic donkeys searching pockets for snacks. From there, we ventured across the border to Spain, taking the high road via the 8-bed unserviced cabane Refugio Tucarroya, guarded by the Virgin Mary. She must have been smiling on us as we scabbled up an incredibly steep, loose, chossy chute to the narrow col, only to find an equally uninviting descent, though thankfully shorter, with tremendous views of the turquoise Lago de Marmores and the incredibly contorted rock face of Monte Perdido, scantily clad by rapidly retreating glaciers.

A long lunch break ensued before wandering to the Balcon de Pineta. Oh how blissful the ignorance of the 1400m knee wrecking descent to the Pinetta refuge, with revival by cold beers (cheap) and hot showers (mixed) in order of priority!

Our evening meal of vast quantities of meat and no veg in the company of voluble Spaniards was spent in contemplation of the return journey to Gavarnie, albeit via a lower and, allegedly, according to hut Guardian Alberto, easier col.

No alternative ... buses only three times a week!!

Refreshed from a welcome good night's sleep in the 4-person, shoebox dormitories, we were away early next morning. The easier col was airy again and culminated in a steep scree slope, rearing up vertiginously as a grand finale to the col. This was reached with sighs of relief, both for attaining such an exalted position and for seeing the more realistically graded footpath on the far side. Retracing our steps to Gavarnie, with a refreshment pause at Espugettes again (well, it would have been rude not to), was a true delight. A rest day in sight.

But some folk have a different definition of the term 'rest day'! Carew had set his sights on ascending Taillon via the direct scramble route up to the Cirque de Gavarnie headwall and to the spectacular Breche de Roland, with a return by the Vallee des Pouey D'Aspe, a mere 10hr day. His 'partners in crime' were Nick, Bernadine and Eimear who all made it to the Breche de Roland but declined the summit bid. The sensible one among us hitch-hiked to the top of the ski road, had a pleasant 90-minute jaunt to the Breche de Roland hut, three hours meeting the group and sunning myself on the terrace before a same-way return. Keith and Claire had a rest day!!

Given the storm warnings, our route was correctly revised to skip the Refugio Bujaruelo and proceed directly to the Refuge Bayscellance - and hence our chance encounter with Gabriel. Happily, he was eventually restored by liberal quantities of human warmth and *chocolate chaud*.



Above left: Vignemales from Refuge Oulettes ( 📷 Bernadine Kerr)

Above right: The Lakes Route, heading for Refuge d'Estom ( 📷 Clare Harris)

From here, after two nights at Baysellance, we had a beautiful walk out on the route des Gentianes, the path less travelled, past numerous photo inspiring lakes, overnighing at Refuge d'Estom, no shower, washing in the lake and then reluctantly back to Caunterets. A fabulous and memorable trip.

Clare Harris

Group led by Nick Harris for the AAC:

Nick and Clare Harris, Claire Hughes (FRCC); Keith Budd, Carew Reynolds from Bristol; Eimear Tiernay, Bernadine Kerr from Eire

### **Brackenclose, and a story across 80 years**

At the Easter meet at Brackenclose in the FRCC Centenary Year, the first hut log book was on display. I enjoyed looking up and finding this entry:

**“June 1942**

**Richard Hargreaves aged 6¼ ascended Scafell under his own steam via Lord's Rake, West Wall Traverse and Deep Ghyll.**

**(Signed) A B Hargreaves”**

On the Friday evening of the Brackenclose Celebration meet Sept 30<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup> 2022, now aged 86, I told everyone of this personal memory and asked if some strong members present would like to help me try to repeat that walk 80 years on. I warned people that my hill walking nowadays is slow and not all that stable but Phil Elliott immediately volunteered and New Zealander guest Mike Perry asked to come too. We were joined on the Saturday morning by Wendy Stirrup and we set off up Brown Tongue in decidedly unwelcome weather.

After Friday's torrential downpour all Wasdale becks were roaring torrents and Lingmell Beck presented the first hazard if we wanted dry feet for the day. By Hollow Stones the general clag of cloud, rain and loud wind compelled me to downgrade the ambition of Lord's Rake and West Wall Traverse



and opt for Phil's Plan B: Mickledore, down past the East Buttress to reach the mini gill scramble up to Foxes Tarn and finally Scafell top. By ticking off two crags, a watery scramble, a tarn and a peak we must have scored well in the weekend's inter-hut points scoring competition.

The descent down the ridge to the wood beside the Burnmoor track felt a very long, thigh-aching way but views as we came out of the cloud were splendid. I wondered which way I had been brought down on that boyhood day long ago. I'll never know.

Back in the present, honour was satisfied, it was near enough a repeat of that early ascent of Scafell and I can wait for Phil's promise to show me the delights of West Wall Traverse one sunny day. Thank you Phil, Mike and Wendy for shepherding me on a great mountain day out.

Another historical footnote. I think it must have been that Scafell occasion, or maybe a later one, but I have a vivid memory of going to Burnthwaite Farm with my mother for one of Mrs Ullock's famous teas, a special treat in wartime. There had been talk that week of an RAF hospital plane crashing into the hillside above the Corridor Route as it carried injured servicemen to a hospital somewhere on



the Cumbrian coast. There had been no survivors. As we had our tea looking out of the farmhouse window towards Lingmell a long line of men came past, trudging down the Styhead track carrying stretchers with the bodies of the plane crash victims lumped under brown blankets. An indelible memory.

I told this story once to Peter Moffatt, perhaps on that Centenary Easter Meet.

"Yes", he said, "I know about that plane crash. I was one of the stretcher bearers. I was 18."

*Richard Hargreaves*  
(📷 *Wendy Stirrup*)



## **FRCC Yawash Sar I-IV Expedition:**

**Report by Nick Hurndall-Smith**

In September 2022, Nicholas Hurndall Smith found himself heading to Pakistan, to lead an expedition for the first time. With an experienced team which included one member for whom it was his first trip to the Greater Ranges, the plan was to explore unclimbed peaks in the Ghujerab Mountains, close to the Chinese border.

This was a trip originally scheduled for 2021, and there had been a long drum roll. It had been disappointing to cancel - due to Covid-19 - especially after receiving the promise of funds from the FRCC Expedition Grant Scheme. The 2021 expedition was to be the first recipient of this award, set up in 2018 'to encourage and assist younger members financially to get involved with trips to the more remote or unexplored areas of any continent'. But here we were finally setting off, with additional support from AAC, MEF, MACCF, BMC, Expedition Foods and Black Diamond Equipment. A few things we were to learn:

- It only snows on Sundays in Pakistan
- The Himalaya is a pile of choss
- Donkeys will break your walkie talkies
- InReaches are great, when they work
- Mutton is delicious if brought in alive
- H.W. Tilman may have stormed out of the Alpine Club when women were admitted, but he was right that 'To devote less than two months to a big unknown mountain is bordering on disrespect' - *'Two Mountains and a River'*



After travelling by jeep along a vertiginous 'road of death', our trek from Shimshal (left) took a week, helped by porters, donkeys and a base-camp team. We then had two weeks at a basecamp at 4400m in the spectacular Ghidims Valley.

Although Yawash Sar 6258m was not as 'big' as the 7788m Rakaposhi, which Tilman was

attempting in 1947 when he wrote the above, we felt under a tight schedule to climb our main objective. We then established an advanced basecamp on a glacial moraine of the unexplored NW Ghidims Glacier at 5200m.

Wasting no time and enjoying excellent weather, we found a route up the icefall above, which led to a hanging glacier. From there, we made one attempt up to the base of the South Face reaching c. 5500-5600m, only to turn back due to constant rockfall when the sun hit the face. Then Nick and Nigel made two more attempts to access the ridges on either side of the face (SE then SW), both of

which involved climbing steep snow and ice of up to 70°, only to find that exhaustion and dangerously loose rock on the ridges stopped us. Both involved long descents with about eight 60m abseils. 6000m was our high point on the second attempt. We spent time back at basecamp in between attempts to recover.



*Looking down from 6000m*

Somehow climbing seemed less important at the moment, with war in Europe. The Queen had died days before we left and we had just found ourselves with another new prime minister at home. My career was at a crossroads after the effects of both Covid and Brexit. In Pakistan, more than 1400 people had died and millions had been forced from their homes due to terrible monsoon flooding. In line with the England cricket team who were visiting Pakistan at the same time (for the first time in 17 years) for a T20 series, the expedition members made donations to the DEC Pakistan Floods Appeal. On a more positive note, I had just moved to Kendal with my family a few weeks before the trip. A new life beckoned for Hannah, Esther (2yrs) and me, and more time in the Lakes ... and England won 4-3!

On reaching the foot of this attractive and alluring unclimbed peak, and with a window of two weeks to explore and find a route up it, I found that the combined effect of recent events inspired us all the more to make the most of this precious opportunity. Now was the time to profit our efforts to get to this point, and go for it. The beauty of this remote part of the world, and the resourcefulness and kindness of its local people struck us all. Whilst the team encountered considerable difficulties accessing these remote untrodden valleys and the peaks above them, it was inspired to explore further and climb higher, to continue to learn about the area, and to forge closer relationships with those that work here.

In the end, events conspired against us succeeding on the route which we felt (in retrospect) would have given us a true chance of summiting Yawash Sar I. This was directly up the S Face. We concluded that a glacier camp at 5400m below the S Face might provide a better platform, and that it would be worth carrying bivvy kit above that, something we weren't prepared to consider on this trip.

Once the focus shifted away from further attempts, the team was happy to come away with two 1st ascents of easier nearby peaks accessed from the same ABC.

Many thanks to Max Biden for taking a lead in setting up the club's Expedition Fund, a truly invaluable resource.

Team members were Nigel Bassam, Ross Bell, Tom Bell, Karim Hayat, Nicholas Hurndall Smith and Paul Winder.



**Scenes from the Expedition to Yawash Sar I-IV, Pakistan:**

*Top: Snow at the Boysil Pass;*

*Centre: Struggling with altitude high above the Ghidims Valley;*

*Bottom: Unclimbed peaks about in Pakistan's Ghujerab Mountains*

*( 📷 Nicholas Hurndall Smith )*

**[Expedition short report only; full report intended for inclusion in the 2024 Journal]**



*Top: Charles Skeavington explores the river systems of Landmannalaugar, Iceland (pp 12-15)  
Middle: Ken Fyles and Heather Scarrott in bagging mood with the Wayfarers (pp 15-17)  
Bottom: With four-legged friends on Robinson during Paddy Feely's midweek meet (p 27)*