



# LAKES AREA NEWS

issue 01 November 07

## Lakes Area News

- a user's guide

Following the lead of groups in other parts of the country, and in response to members at the last area meeting, we have decided to launch our own Lakes Area News. Regional newsletters have been well received elsewhere and have raised interest and involvement in local issues for many who were previously 'on the edge'!



The newsletter team is based in the Lakes (with funding and support from BMC 'high command' in Manchester): this is local news for local people! In no particular order, the team is Carissa Lough, Ellie Fowler, Lois Sparling and Tim Fish. It's down to you to provide articles of interest. The team just want to be putting it all together and hassling members to produce articles and information!

We need articles about anything you think would interest to Lakes climbers and walkers. If you're in a club, we'll do a feature about you and you'll get a load more members. If you run a wall, we'll do the same. If you just enjoy being outside, and have always wanted to write something, send it to us.

## Next Meeting:

The next area open meeting (and AGM) will be at:

**Staveley Beer Hall @ 7.30pm 28 November.**

Hospitality by the BMC, lively debate by the locals and food by Wilf's: everyone welcome! Items for discussion include Lake District footpath development (with a presentation by the Lake District National Park Authority), access updates, the final word on bolting in the area, proposals for crag clean ups, the impact of 4x4/offroad vehicles, a possible Lake District cleaned crag database, and the 'essential' open forum for anything you want to raise.

## Situations Vacant

At the upcoming AGM and open meeting, there is a post up for grabs: anyone is welcome to stand!

### Chair of the meeting ...

Not as scary as it sounds. Your main task will be to keep discussions on track, to make sure that everyone gets a chance to have their say, and to kick a bit of ass when necessary. You will be supported by a large access team, an area secretary and the office staff in Manchester. We pay your expenses, you get regional and national fame, and everyone will be on your side. It's a position that's set up for success... all we need is a willing body! If you're interested, call or email Martin at the BMC office.

## Area Open Meetings

These are strange beasts, but they're also informative, interesting and incisive. They came about to give local climbers and walkers a way to tell the BMC what the organisation should be doing on their behalf in their area.

It makes sense for the regions to feed into the office – after all, the BMC exists to serve the interests of climbers and walkers, not the other way around! Over time the meetings have become great social events at which matters of direct relevance are also discussed and decided upon.

Each area is different and the Lakes especially so. There are so many different interests here (e.g. National Park, Natural England, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) that we need to have our own voice! At area meetings access restrictions can be lifted, bolting policy is decided and local initiatives like crag clean-ups and bolt funds get their first head of steam.

If you think the BMC should be campaigning for more windfarms, then tell the meeting and it may well happen. If you think that the BMC doesn't do enough for hillwalkers, then tell us about that too. Everything mountain-related is up for debate.

Meetings are held quarterly at local venues – full details in this newsletter, local shops and walls, on the BMC website, in Summit and on UKClimbing's BMC forums. Entertainment and refreshments are provided. All you have to do is turn up!



Dave Turnbull, Al Hinkes, a Birkett or two and a cast of thousands at the Rule [photo: Mick Ryan]



Claire Willetts, Martin Kocsis, Ellie Fowler and Carissa Lough [photo: Mick Ryan]

## The Previous Lakes Area Open Meeting

A summary of the meeting from Wednesday 3 October 2007 @ The Golden Rule, Ambleside

The meeting was informally chaired by Martin Kocsis, the BMC's Volunteers' Officer, and attended by over 50 people. Access update information leaflets (produced by Colyn Earnshaw) were handed out.

Martin said that local groups were working well in other areas of the country (e.g. Wales, the Midlands and the South West) and receive all manner of physical, moral and financial support from the BMC for local projects run by local people!

A wide range of mountain issues were raised by those crammed into the middle room of the Rule.

1. Footpaths: controversial rebuilding work.
2. Car parking fees in the National Park: unfair to those wishing to park for more than four hours.
3. Lower-offs on crags: who places them and who removes them and should they be installed in the first place?
4. Neglect of high crags: why are they so out of fashion? Can we find a way to attract climbers to the big mountain crags? Many youngsters who climb indoors lack mountain skills and equipment.
5. Crag clean-ups: There was a discussion about cleaning established routes on those crags that have become dirty. There were doubts as to whether gardening is acceptable to conservation bodies, or if such activities are illegal on some crags. It may be ok to clean a dirty route, but reclaiming over-grown routes may cause problems with landowners or conservation values. We will talk about this again at the November meeting.
6. Group use of crags: is this a problem or does it actually help keep routes clean?
7. Reinstatement of ClimbInfo website: this would spread news about the progress of crag clean-ups etc.

Other issues discussed were:

- Hodge Close retro-bolting: recent progress needs publicising.
- Much argument ensued over bolt replacement, and it was reiterated that current policy states that bolts should not replace pegs and that bolts from the BMC bolt fund are for rebolting, not retrobolting! Also the BMC can provide bolts but it is up to concerned individuals to do the work.

A proposal was made by Stuart Wood, that a non-commercial forum be established on BMC website to disseminate info.

The final comment from Dave Birkett before he went to the States was: "Bolt issues are self-policing and do not require endless debates!"

To finish, Ron Kenyon gave a slide show of a recent climbing trip to Croatia and Slovenia.



Courtesy of Stephen Reid and the FRCC



### Lake District Guidebooks

The new Gable/Pillar guide is now out. It has been produced by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club (FRCC). This is a complete rewrite of the previous guide, with photodiagrams for the whole of the area. The guide was written by Phil Rigby and Stephen Reid. It costs £16.00 and is available from climbing shops throughout the Lakes.

The next guide will be Buttermere, Newland and St Bees. This is another FRCC production and is due out early in the New Year. The writers are Colin Read and Paul Jennings.



Sample page from the new guide [thanks Stephen!]

### Lakes / Cumbria Area Access Update

1. **Warning:** The flake on pitch 6 Giants Crawl on Dow Crag is in an unstable condition. Treat with care.
2. **Sign in Hodge Close** – Having contacted the owner's agent I have written confirmation that despite some people's concerns there is no problem with climbers continuing to climb at Hodge.
3. **Chapel Head** – re-bolting is complete. Anything not finished should be dealt with at a future date. Further development at Chapel Head – still under consideration.
4. **Sgt. Crag Slabs** – we have completed all preparations for work to be done. All that remains is to get the appropriate team to pick up the gear and do the job. It will happen – it's just when.
5. **Langdale Boulders** – the sign is up, despite comments from the Area.
6. BMC Manchester and the Area have supported the proposal by Ullswater OB for the re-opening of the part of **Gowbarrow** which is suitable for group use.
7. **Lower Scout Access** – the process of making access legitimate is under way.
8. **Castle Rock** – money is available for restoration work to the path through the 'Fix the Fells' project. Regarding the boulders at the car park entrance, Paul Phillips (United Utilities) informed us that they would not move them back after someone had moved the boulders away. It seems that the boulders are now back in place, although it is unclear who has moved them again.
9. **Dry Tooling** – apparently this is a problem in the Lake District (and elsewhere!). It's a matter of ethics – the next major debate?
10. **The Nab.** – the situation of access to The Nab in the north eastern fells is under discussion/review.
11. **Buttermere Footpath** - enquiries have been made regarding the connection/link between two parts of the path to avoid having to go on the road. The LDNPA are seeking a designation to a Public Right of Way. Peter Latimer and Bill Renshaw are forwarding evidence of use prior to 1980.
12. **Honister 'Via Ferrata'** – this issue is still ongoing. More details at the next area meeting!
13. **Re-bolting of Routes** – the re-bolting of existing bolted climbs is a bit of a hot potato, doesn't half get some people wound up. It probably won't happen, and if it does, we don't know anything about it! Period.
14. **Footpath Development** – there has been a lot of 'literary traffic' regarding the various footpath developments which have taken place. Richard Fox from the Lake District National Park Authority will give a presentation at the 28 November Area meeting.

### ClimbInfo

- but not as you know it

At October's meeting in Ambleside, several people lamented the demise of the ClimbInfo website. As a result of this, we decided to start the ball rolling for a 21st century version. The ideas are simple at the moment but it will inevitably get bigger and better as time goes on.

Early in the new year, we aim to have the basics for the information service up and running. Here's what we'll have:

- a web-based resource on the BMC's website
- a paper-based resource in this newsletter and available in local shops
- updates to each when necessary.

It will contain:

- known information on the state of fixed gear on specific routes
- updates on rebolting progress in the quarries/ Chapel Head etc
- recently cleaned routes/crags
- routes that are known to be in condition, especially the high crags
- proposed gardening days.

As a point of interest, we found out at the meeting that conservation bodies accept cleaning of established routes in the Lakes as being 'fair game', as long as the route/crag is not bound by SSSI legislation. Gardening of new routes and crags is, however, not something you should get into lightly (if at all... in some places you may be breaking the law!).

What we need from you:

- details of routes you've climbed this year that are in good condition
- the condition of any bits of fixed gear that you have seen/replaced
- information about bolts you have (re)placed
- advance notice of any help you need in a proposed crag clean-up, and
- offers of help and constructive comments about these new plans for ClimbInfo!

Please send all information to the newsletter team at [lakesareanews@googlemail.com](mailto:lakesareanews@googlemail.com).



Approach to an in condition North Buttress  
[photo: Adam Van Lopik]



[photo: Mick Ryan]

### Kendal Wall

Kendal Wall (aka the Lakeland Climbing Centre) is probably the best known wall in the Lakes area. It offers a unique opportunity to experienced climbers and beginners. The wall is very popular with Lakeland climbers but is also a good wet-weather alternative for visitors to the Lake District.

For people just starting out, their first taste of climbing could be on one of the beginners' courses. There are also outdoor courses to make the transition from climbing wall to the real thing.

Kendal Wall's main hall includes an 18 metre overhanging lead wall as well as 12 metre lead walls at more amenable angles! There are over 150 routes from Fr4 to Fr7c. Routes are set by Ian Vickers, Chris Plant and wall staff.

The winter bouldering ladder is underway now, with up to 90 marked problems to get your teeth into. There are two leagues – Premier and Elite – so anyone can take part regardless of ability. With two bouldering rooms, both fitted with thick matting, it's no wonder that the bouldering ladder is very popular on winter evenings. There are prizes for the league winners but a prize draw means that all entrants have a chance to win something.

You can find out more about Kendal Wall at [www.kendalwall.co.uk](http://www.kendalwall.co.uk) or phone 01539 721766.



### Lakes Area Event

Kendal Mountaineering Club are having a Christmas Party on Saturday 8 December from 7pm at the Hawkshead Brewery (Mill Yard, Staveley).

Come and dance to the Wooden Leg Ceilidh Band and enjoy a chilli supper from Wilf's – all included in the very reasonable price of £10 each.

For further details please email:  
[party@kendalmc.org](mailto:party@kendalmc.org).

### Contact

If you would like to help out and make Lakes Area News an essential read for all of our thousands of Lakes members, get in touch by emailing the BMC's Lakes Newsletter Team:  
[lakesareanews@googlemail.com](mailto:lakesareanews@googlemail.com)

or

Martin Kocsis, BMC Volunteers' Officer (with responsibility for chips and cake):  
0161 438 3336  
[martin@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:martin@thebmc.co.uk)



Stephen Reid on "Not a Cairn in the World" [HVS], Westmorland Crag - one of many new routes discovered there in recent years. [photo: Trevor Suddaby]

### Eden Valley Mountaineering Club

The Eden Valley Mountaineering Club is based in North East Cumbria, but has members from farther afield as well. Members are involved in a variety of activities related to mountaineering to a wide range of standards.

There is a regular monthly walking meet throughout the year. During the spring and summer, there is a weekly rock climbing meet. Other meets are arranged throughout the year, including a winter weekend in Scotland.

During the winter, you can usually find club members at the Penrith Climbing Wall on Thursday and Sunday evenings. This is really just an excuse to go to the pub afterwards!

Benefits of joining the EMVC are:

- club newsletter
- club email group to keep in touch with other members
- membership of the BMC, and
- discounts at Needlesports in Keswick and Penrith Outdoor Pursuits.

You can find out more about the EVMC at [www.evmc.co.uk](http://www.evmc.co.uk).

### Climbing Walls

Keswick Climbing Wall, Keswick  
017687 72000  
[www.keswickclimbingwall.co.uk](http://www.keswickclimbingwall.co.uk)

Lakeland Climbing Centre, Kendal  
01539 721766  
[www.kendalwall.co.uk](http://www.kendalwall.co.uk)

### Centres with a Climbing Wall

Cockermouth Sports Centre, Cockermouth  
01900 823596  
[www.carlisleleisure.com/cockermouth/sports.cfm](http://www.carlisleleisure.com/cockermouth/sports.cfm)

Eden Valley Climbing Wall, Penrith Leisure Centre  
01768 863450  
[www.leisure-centre.com/index.php](http://www.leisure-centre.com/index.php)

St Aidans County High School, Carlisle  
01228 633391  
[www.st-aidans-sports.co.uk/index.php](http://www.st-aidans-sports.co.uk/index.php)

The Sands Centre, Carlisle  
01228 527565  
[www.thesandscentre.co.uk](http://www.thesandscentre.co.uk)

University of Cumbria, Ambleside  
015394 30210  
[www.cumbria.ac.uk](http://www.cumbria.ac.uk)

### Climbing Clubs

Barrow Mountaineering & Ski Club  
Barrow  
[www.bmasc.org.uk](http://www.bmasc.org.uk)

Carlisle Mountaineering Club  
Carlisle  
[www.freetimeonline.co.uk/CMC/index.cfm](http://www.freetimeonline.co.uk/CMC/index.cfm)

Eden Valley Mountaineering Club  
Penrith  
[www.evmc.co.uk](http://www.evmc.co.uk)

Fell and Rock Climbing Club [FRCC]  
[www.frcc.co.uk](http://www.frcc.co.uk)

Kendal Mountaineering Club  
Kendal  
[www.kendalmc.org](http://www.kendalmc.org)

Keswick Mountaineering Club  
Keswick  
[www.thekmc.org](http://www.thekmc.org)

Newton Rigg Mountaineering Club  
Penrith

West Cumbria Mountaineering Club  
Gosforth, Cumbria

### Walking Clubs

Carlisle Rambling Club  
Carlisle  
[www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/carlisle.html](http://www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/carlisle.html)

Furness Rambling Club  
Millom  
[www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/furness.html](http://www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/furness.html)

Grange-over-Sands Rambling Club  
Ulverston  
[www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/grange.html](http://www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/grange.html)

Kendal Rambling Club  
Kendal  
[www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/kendal.html](http://www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/kendal.html)

Penrith Rambling Club  
Penrith  
[www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/penrith.html](http://www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/penrith.html)

Summit Good  
Grange-over-Sands  
[www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/summit\\_good.html](http://www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/summit_good.html)

West Cumbria Rambling Club  
Ravenglass  
[www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/west\\_cumbria.html](http://www.ralakedistrict.ukf.net/html/west_cumbria.html)

Whitehaven Rambling Club  
Whitehaven  
[www.whitehavenramblingclub.org](http://www.whitehavenramblingclub.org)

Kendal Fellwalkers  
Kendal  
[www.kendalfellwalkers.co.uk](http://www.kendalfellwalkers.co.uk)

If your details are incorrect or missing please get in touch so we can add them next time.