

August 2018



REMEMBER SUMMER 2018

This is the first newsletter produced for some time by the BMC Lakes area and is designed to give our BMC Lakes members and those interested in the Lakes a summary of what has been going on in relation to walking, climbing, mountaineering and access and conservation in the Lake District and beyond.

It has been brought together by Ron Kenyon (Area Secretary) as volunteer newsletter editor, together with Mike Parsons (Area Chair) and Fiona Sanders, who we welcome on board to our

Lakes team. Fiona has been elected as a member of the [BMC Implementation group/phase 2](#) so we will have an early grasp of information to keep us up to date and also be confident that the views of our Lakes area are being heard directly.

Fiona has extensive knowledge of the BMC having been an active member of the ORG (yes the Organisational Review Group who made 51 recommendations for change in Nov 2017!) and as clubs committee chair.



BMC LAKES AREA MEETING

The next area meeting is at Kong Adventure (Climbing Wall) in Keswick on Wednesday 5th September at 7.30pm with refreshments beforehand at 7.00pm. [See our agenda.](#)

Please also note - with the BMC Lakes area meeting at the Kong Adventure BMC members will be able to have entry to the climbing wall for £5.00 on the 5th September with presentation of their BMC membership card - though attendance at the BMC meeting would be expected.

BMC ORGANISATION REVIEW AND IMPLEMENTATION GROUP

A huge amount of volunteer work has been done by the BMC ORG (Organisation Review Group) which made 51 change recommendations in Nov 2017 and is continuing as the IG (Implementation Group) - Phase 2. These changes are designed to bring the BMC up to date in all aspects, legal, organisational and representational aspects. As BMC Lakes Area our key priority is to make our meetings more representational of the membership. This to ensure we are giving a well balanced feedback to the proposals by the IG. This means attracting more people to our meetings with a greater diversity of interest and background than we have traditionally had.

We need to make our meetings more representative of the 'broad church' of climbing and mountain type activities and by age and gender and increase attendance. Our next area meeting, on 5th September, will discuss, debate and subsequently action the ideas agreed, so we NEED your active input please. Our 21st Nov meeting at the Eagle and Child, Staveley will effectively be the launch point of all these new ideas to increase member participation.

[Here is a link to our president](#), Lynn Robinson's August update.

FUTURE POSSIBLE IDEAS FOR BMC LAKES AREA

by Mike Parsons (area Chair), Fiona Sanders and Ron Kenyon.

Lakes area newsletter – We want to know what you want to know about! We will include all aspects relating to the BMC, rock climbing, walking, mountaineering, access and conservation in the Lake District. Appropriate news items are welcome and should be sent to area secretary and newsletter editor [Ron Kenyon](#)

A talk or film at every meeting - regardless of agenda pressures.

Increased publicity for meetings - via BMC website, direct emails from BMC HQ, our newsletters, Facebook BMC Lakes and use of more friendly locations, eg climbing walls, to attract the next generation.

Ensure our area info is up to date on BMC website.

Invitation to Lakes members to meet BMC Lakes region officers - Informal sessions and chats can often be very rewarding, so the core volunteers of BMC Lakes, chair, secretary, NC members, access and conservation officers invite you to chat combined with a walk, scramble, climb, a few hours or a day in 2019 - We want your ideas of what you would like as a short outing, day or weekend events which might look at skills training, promote crags or particular walks, masterclass etc.

Development of Facebook and digital communication - most of us use some form of social media and it is time we as an area use it more effectively to inform, engage and obtain feedback from you.

ACCESS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

FOOTPATHS AND THE BMC MEND OUR MOUNTAINS TARGET TO RAISE £1M

At our meeting of May 2018 the feeling was rather strong that we should have a say in just how footpaths were constructed, from both the user viewpoint and weather resistance and visual impact. The idea emerged to run a day conference on footpaths for maybe Lake District alone or even nationally. The September meeting will take these ideas forward. Please join us.

SEATHWAITE BOULDERS AND CAR PARKING

Parking at Seathwaite, in Borrowdale, has had its problems for many years. It is the road head from which to start walks into the Central Lakes and in particular Scafell Pike, and therefore often used as the Scafell access point for 3 Peaks Challengers. In 2017 the farmer there placed boulders along the side of the road, thus restricting parking and bringing the various issues connected there, to a head. Since then the landowners (National Trust); National Park (LDNPA); the tenant farmer and Highways have been looking at the various issues and possible solutions to the situation. Anything done here will obviously impact on walkers and climbers going into the Central Lakes from that location and we are hoping to have a representative from the National Trust along to the September area meeting to update the meeting and allow for discussion and debate accordingly.



There is a spectrum of ideas and solutions to this matter ranging as follows -

“We should also perhaps see this in the broader context of the Lake District having become a UNESCO World Heritage site and the decided leaning of the LDNPA to commercial development which grows traffic. The issues of overcrowding in some tourist areas/towns eg Barcelona, Venice, Skye etc has become a well known and unpleasant to some, phenomenon. As a Lakes resident the situation is becoming uncomfortable, and many valleys have issues of a varying nature. The alpine nations have this well organised with frequent bus services into remote valleys with single track roads. Funding? Vignettes are required for motorway travel in 4 countries, and tolls are applied on French Autoroutes. Additionally there is a tourist tax on accommodation in many countries, so guests and sometimes locals get free or subsidised use of local transport“

Mike Parsons, chair Lakes Region. Please come and air your views.

- Ideas which might help the Seathwaite parking problem.
- Better organised car parking space is a first step.
- More radical; restricting use of cars into Borrowdale with more use of buses however to do this would necessitate –
 - Control of or charging for access for local and hotel vehicles
 - Charging for access to this and other valley's or funding bus services by a tourist tax.
 - Would need more buses going up and down the valley – every quarter or half hour ?
 - Is there an issue with the flow of traffic in the valley or is the main issue getting through Keswick?
- Keep more or less as it is? One regular visitor commented that after several visits at the height of the good weather, they were convinced there is adequate safe parking available, it just means folk may have to walk a bit further. The other end of the spectrum is the building of a proper car park at Seathwaite, similar to car park at New Dungeon Ghyll in Langdale
 - There would be a charge for parking – though NT members would presumably be free
 - Would need appropriate screening with trees
 - Income to NT and / or farmer
 - Creates a car park but remove line of traffic along the roadside.
 - Question what happens when limit of cars in car park is reached.

JOHN MUIR TRUST (JMT)

The first property outside Scotland which the Trust runs is the area known as Glenridding Common in Patterdale, embracing Striding and Swirral Edges. The JMT took on this property from the LDNPA (when they posted some or all their properties for sale around 18 months ago) and Pete Barron, the man in charge, has been very active with the local population, visitors and farmers, consulting, informing, engaging. The JMT AGM was held in Glenridding in mid May 2018, the first time outside Scotland.

BMC YOUTH MEET – 2018

These Youth Meets were started again in 2015 with a weekend in the FRCC Hut at Rawhead, in Langdale. It is for young climbers, up to age 18, to go out with adults and experience climbing in the area around there. Craggs visited were Kettle Crag, White Ghyll, Sticklebarn Crag and Pavey Ark.



There are BMC Youth Meets elsewhere now in North Wales, Derbyshire and Devon. We are looking to have another BMC Youth Meet at beginning of July in 2019 – initially first refusal will be with past attendees then open up to all through the BMC website with maximum of 16 places.

Adults are required with adequate ability and will have DBS checks made – anyone interested in helping please contact Ron Kenyon on email ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com.

Organisers - James McHaffie and Ron Kenyon

THE CASTLE ROCK SUBSIDENCE CRACK (Castle Rock of Triermain, St Johns in the Vale)



The crack continues to widen - the original monitoring gauge is now “off the scale” ! There is a new monitoring system in place. There was an earthquake in March 2018 which probably contributed to the increase in width. Consequently many climbs at the left end remain off limits and are clearly signposted. United Utilities is the land owner and we keep in frequent contact with them.

TREES AT ARMATHWAITE



Armathwaite is in the Eden Valley, to the east of the Lakes, and has delightful climbing next to the River Eden. Over the years the trees have grown up along the base of the crag making it a somewhat dank location, particularly in the summer, and often unsuitable for climbing. The land there is owned by the Forestry Commission and through the BMC access rep it was agreed to remove a quantity of trees there. The bulk was removed in 2017 and more are to be removed, particularly below the Central Buttress area, in 2018. Much work has been done, in particular by Pete Gunn and friends from Carlisle, to clear the fallen trees from the base and create access paths. The BMC has agreed to contribute a grant of £2000 towards the cost of the removal – which helped greatly in discussions with the Forestry Commission.

CAR PARKING AT WALNA SCAR, ABOVE CONISTON

The local council proposed some months ago to mark out the rough ground, introduce a charge and close the car park at 6pm. We as BMC Lakes ensured there was an official objection raised and helped highlight the issue widely, resulting in 600+ letters of objection. The Common Land Casework Team of the Planning Inspectorate had a closed site meeting/visit on the 26th June. The planning process is ongoing. They appear to be still looking at and deliberating on the legal and planning aspects of the car park proposal.

GENERAL ISSUES AND NEWS

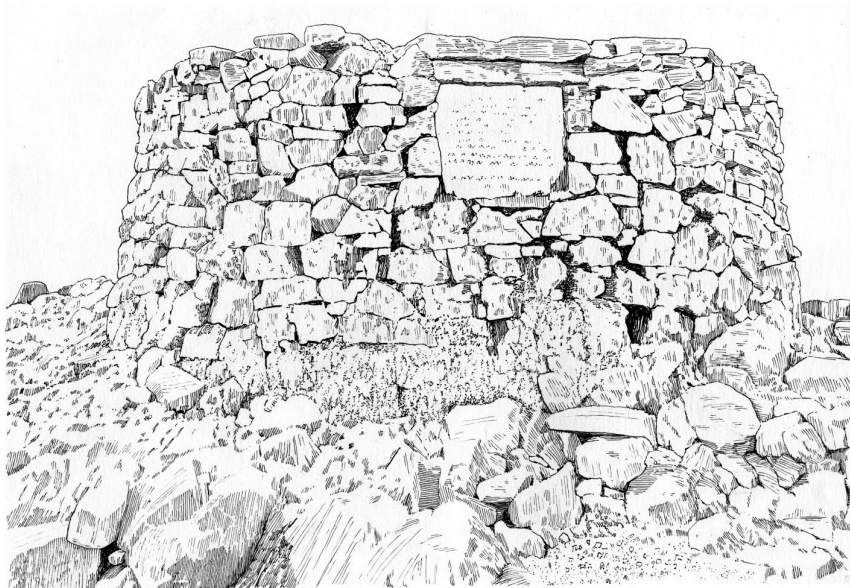
CENTENARY OF WORLD WAR 1

This is the centenary year of the end of the Great War or World War 1 and there have been a number of events to mark this occasion.

Throughout 2018 the National Trust is commemorating the gift of fourteen summits to the nation as a war memorial after the Great War, through a special 'leave no trace' arts project of a song cycle, entitled "Songs on the Summits", performed and recorded on the top of Great Gable and the other fells gifted by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club and private landowners.

One particular day it felt quite a special moment for some climbers on Engineers Slab, on Gable Crag when they heard the singers performing on Green Gable.

Scafell Pike was given to the nation by Lord Egremont in memory of those who died in the Great War and this year the National Trust has rebuilt the summit cairn which now looks a fine construction.



Summit memorial Scafell Pike

New summit cairn on
Scafell Pike -
Drawing by Mark
Richards

Appropriately the
11th November 2018
is Remembrance
Sunday and there will
be the usual
commemorations
around the country
and in particular on
Great Gable, one of
the 12 summits given
to the National Trust
by the FRCC in
memory of its 20
members who died in
the Great War. Last

year there were issues in connection with parking at Seathwaite – as will be seen above and these issues are still current and anyone considering going to the Remembrance Service on Great Gable should take these into consideration.

KESWICK MUSEUM - EXHIBITION ABOUT SIR CHRIS BONINGTON

The exhibition “MAN AND MOUNTAIN : CHRIS BONINGTON” at Keswick Museum, until 6th January 2019, has been organised with the Mountain Heritage Trust. This exhibition highlights Chris’s outstanding life as a climber and mountaineer – a life full of awards including Honorary Membership of the BMC.



MOUNTAIN HERITAGE TRUST ([Founded by the BMC in 2000 as a charitable trust](#))

With an ever growing archive based at the Blencathra Field Studies Centre in Threlkeld, the Mountain Heritage Trust have been preserving Britain’s rich mountain heritage since its founding in 2000.



More recently the charity has been sharing more stories than ever before, both online and at Keswick Museum. In the past year they’ve covered the development of ice axes, prominent female climbers and the lives of renowned mountaineers Sir Chris Bonington and Joe Tasker. Information on all this and more can be found on their website.

www.mountain-heritage.org

To continue this increasing engagement work they are actively looking for financial donations of any amount or support raising awareness of mountain heritage within the climbing community. If you’re interested in making a donation or enquiring as to how you can support their work, please email enquiries@mountain-heritage.org

ARC'TERYX LAKELAND REVIVAL

The idea behind the Arc'teryx Lakeland Revival came about five years ago after some of the local shop staff mentioned that a lot of old classic routes had become overgrown and would potentially be lost forever. With the help of locals Arc'teryx published a list of routes that needed cleaning and climbing, and in return the participants who climb the route would receive a free Arc'teryx T-shirt.

Five years on and the idea has grown and developed. This year we kicked off the Lakeland Revival at the Arc'teryx Big Mountain Weekend in Langdale, an event located at the Sticklebarn, in Great Langdale. The weekend was based around a series of workshops ranging from beginners rock climbing to multi pitch climbing with varying levels in between, so something for everybody. The idea: to educate, share and improve skills necessary for enjoying the mountains and crags safely, and of course to encourage more people to come and enjoy the climbing in the Lakes.

The actual Lakeland Revival itself ran from the 5th May - 31st August. Participants could collect a route card from a designated retailer (The Climber's Shop, Needle Sports, George Fisher), tick off as many as they could over the summer then hand it back in to claim their Arc'teryx prize. The theme of the route cards this year were *Valley Routes* and *Mountain Days*, now with an emphasis on simply encouraging people to get out climbing in the Lakes rather than grovelling around cleaning up routes.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who took part in the Arc'teryx Lakeland Revival and/or attended the Big Mountain Weekend. Also a big shout out to Ron Kenyon, Trevor Langhorne and the FRCC who provided all the route information, the retailers involved and everyone else who helped make it a success. Katy Whittaker



TWO IMAGES FROM BIG MOUNTAIN WEEKEND OR ARC'TERYX AND LAKELAND REVIVAL



CLIMBING WALLS

KONG ADVENTURE CLIMBING CENTRE - KESWICK

The opening round of the British Dry Tooling Series is being held here on the 15th September at Kong Adventure, in Keswick. Start time will be around 12 o'clock and entry will be around £10. There will be 8-12 routes in the competition, suitable for both seasoned competitors and novice dry toolers as well.

Other Dates/Venues

Rope Race – 29th September

Finales – Ice Factor 13th Oct

They will have different time and costs so check out -

Full details at : <http://britishtooling.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BritishToolingSeries/?fref=mentions>



EDEN CLIMBING WALL (PENRITH)

There were two auto-belay systems recently installed at the climbing wall at Penrith to help improve the facilities these - this wall is part of the Penrith Leisure Centre but has a big input from the local climbing fraternity with in particular regular hold changes.

NEW ROCK CLIMBING GUIDES

LAKE DISTRICT BOULDERING

There is a new bouldering guide to the Lake District (due out 2018), written by Greg Chapman and published by Vertebrate Publishing. Greg established the website www.lakesbloc.com in 2003 to document and record developments. This guidebook is based on the areas covered on the website.

FRCC GUIDES

NEW CLIMBS booklet

This small booklet was produced giving details of new routes and comments about routes since the publication of the last FRCC definitive guides. There is an interesting selection of routes – big and (mainly) small throughout the Lakes.

There are a number of FRCC guides on which work is currently continuing as follows –

LAKES SPORTS AND SLATE - covering Sports climbs on South Lakes Limestone, St Bees, Bram Crag Quarry, Coudy Rocks etc together with Slate climbs at Hodge Close, Cathedral Quarry etc.

DOW, COPPERMINES, DUDDON AND ESKDALE - covering the South lakes area – may be in two volumes

Good action photographs are an important element of any guide and the FRCC are looking for good photographs accordingly – if you have any good action photographs please contact the FRCC Guidebook Secretary – Ron Kenyon – by email ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com

BMC LAKES AREA CONTACT DETAILS

Area Chairman **Mike Parson** **theomm.mike@gmail.com**

Area Secretary Ron Kenyon ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com

Area Treasurer **James Bumby**

National Council Representative Pete Sterling resigned in June, so to ensure Lakes was represented at the important pre-AGM meeting in Kendal, Mike Parsons and Fiona Sanders attended after a short consultation with others and BMC HQ. They both offer themselves for election alongside others who might wish to fulfill this role, at the Sept meeting.

Clubs Representative Fiona Sanders has stood down from this role at the national and local level to take up a major role with the IG (Implementation Group, phase 2) so we are looking for a volunteer. [See BMC website for role description.](#)

Access Officers

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|-------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| • General Lakes & South Lakes | James Bumby | 07989 347973 |
| • Kentmere, Longsleddale & Langdale | Max Biden | 01539 821743 |
| • Eastern and North Lakes | Ron Kenyon | 07775 768569 |
| • Duddon & Eskdale | Al Phizacklea | 01229 227443 |
| • West Lakes | Ben Whitely | |

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