



BMC LAKES AREA NEWSLETTER – MAY 2019

Hopefully you will have been enjoying and making use of the excellent weather during which time there have been a number of interesting matters developing in the area which we are looking to discuss at the next BMC Lakes Area meeting.

The BMC Lakes Area is here to help with the future and act as a sounding board for climbers, hill walkers and mountaineers in the area.

NEXT BMC LAKES AREA MEETING

The next meeting of the area is on Wednesday 5th June 2019 at the Lake District Climbing Wall at Kendal at 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Come along if you are interested in access, conservation or the environment as we have some key themes this time around:

- Working with LDNP - Mathew Bradbury - BMC Independent Director and a CEO of a National Park- a response to the local plan
- Climate Emergency motion proposal.
- Idea of BMC Lakes Fest in 2020

[Here is a link to what we will be talking about](#)

ACCESS, CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The issues our BMC Lakes Area members are raising at our meetings have broadened over the last 2 years - with parking, zip wires, gondolas, National Park planning proposals, etc. The issues sometimes catch us by surprise and we need some sort of early warning system. To help us deal with these issues and of timing we are taking both a top down and bottom up approach. Dave Turnbull, our CEO, has already initiated a quarterly telephone call with Richard Leafe, the LDNP CEO. At our regional level we are delighted to say that we have two new volunteers who have joined the team - Ken Taylor and Ric Outhwaite (with a professional background in planning and countryside management) will jointly and or separately work closely with Friends of the Lake District and the Lake District National Park planning office.

In addition we have on the BMC board of directors Mathew Bradbury who is the CEO of a regional park and is coming to our next meeting to advise us on how to work more closely with a National Park.

Additionally we are looking to appoint a representative to the **Lake District National Park Partnership** to further increase our insight.

REVIEW OF MARCH 2019 BMC AGM

This years AGM was held in Buxton before which Dave Turnbull ran a workshop to begin the process of developing our strategic direction over the coming years. The actual AGM saw another update of the Articles of Association in response to the gradual changes that are occurring from the Organisational review and organisational development work. Three new Nominated Directors after some confusion on whether they should speak or not were elected to the Board. Alongside our very own National Council representative Fiona Sanders who place on the Board was ratified by the members. There was great representation from the Lakes who included Wendy Stirrup, John Holden, Keith Sanders, Ged Champion and Ron

Kenyon pictured below.



On the same weekend we ran a Organisational Development workshop for Clubs to share ideas on how the BMC could improve its relationship and workings with Clubs. Our Lakes club representative was their Peter Glasper along with actual representation from John, Ron and Wendy.

This was a useful session and helped to inform the paper that went to the Board in May on how best to engage with Clubs in terms of allowing them a formal route to influencing and informing the strategic direction of the BMC. Updates on other elements of the workstream can be seen [here](#).

PROPOSAL FROM LOCAL MEMBER : 'THAT THE BMC FORMALLY DECLARES A CLIMATE EMERGENCY'

We are becoming well aware of concerns about Climate Change and the attached proposal has been put forward by local BMC member, Nigel Jenkins, for consideration by the Lakes Area that the BMC formally declares a climate emergency, based on authenticated scientific evidence from IPCC / UN. See the full proposal [here](#).

CASTLE ROCK - NORTH CRAG RECLIMBED

In the years awaiting the anticipated rock fall leading up to the huge rock fall in November, the North Crag of Castle Rock has been quiet from a climbing point of view. Since the rock fall there has been some activities - [see Facebook article](#) - but still beware if in that area !

ROAD CLOSURE ON WEST SIDE OF THIRLMERE

Hopefully access will soon be gained to the full length of the lake - [CREATE LINK TO FOLLOWING](#)

ROAD CLOSURE ON WEST SIDE OF THIRLMERE

The road along the west side of Thirlmere has been closed for a number of years. This was initially due to a lot of trees being blown down in 2016 during storms. It was necessary to close the road, along the full length of the lake, whilst forestry operations were underway. Needless to say this stopped use of the road and the lakeside path – the road being also a very useful and important cycleway, which avoids the need to use the main A591 and the pathway being a very pleasant walk.

Earlier this year the area of trees from Dobgill Car Park to Armboth Car Park had been sorted and the road from the south to Armboth Car Park was opened accordingly – as well as the path by the lake to that point.

There had been indication that trees in the area may have larch disease, and if so these would need to be cleared. This was confirmed by the Forestry Commission and it is estimated there are 150,000 such trees in the area – which need removing! These were in the area from Armboth Car Park to Shoulthwaite and necessitated continuing closure of the road, below this area, which meant again it was not possible to use the whole of the road and footpath along the west side of the lake.

BMC Access Representative Ron Kenyon has been in contact with United Utilities and local BMC member Paul Ross met with them as well and shown what was happening. Paul has been very vocal with his concerns about how long this is all taking and has managed to get indication out of UU that the road should be opened in June (2019). We are hoping this will be the case and await update on this as necessary - and then look to enjoy a cycle ride along the road, walk by the lake for the full length or climbing on Raven Crag.



BMC LAKES FEST 2020

There was a BMC Lakes Fest in the Duddon Valley, a few years ago - is it time for another one somewhere in the Lakes in 2020 ? Join the discussion [here](#).

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE TRUST

Since the New Year the Mountain Heritage Trust has been working on both fresh marketing, out-reach and archive projects; all of which have been completed in the last few month. CREATE LINK TO FOLLOWING -

MOUNTAIN HERITAGE TRUST

The new website is now live and offers a fully responsive visual layout which aims to promote MHT's work more widely: www.mountain-heritage.org On there is now a growing space for digital features, and their wider engagement work continues with a set of learning resources for KS1 and KS2.

After acquiring the almost 10,000 strong slide collection of Pete Boardman in 2017, two regular MHT volunteers – Sue and Sheila has catalogued them. Beginning in 1965, until Pete's death on Everest in 1982, the slides document many of his high profile expeditions to the greater ranges; Hindu Kush 1972, the South West Face of Everest 1975, Changabang

1976, K2 1978, Kangchenjunga 1979, Kongur 1981 and Everest 1982. The slides are a unique insight in to one of the most significant periods in British mountaineering history. Yet as well as these international expeditions, the images are a unique snapshot of 1970s climbing life, with UK crags such as the Wye Valley and Alpine trips in 1974 and 1977; as well as the Caucasus, Tatras, Corsica and Australia all pictured. Access to the collection can be requested by getting in touch at enquiries@mountain-heritage.org

MHT received the papers, slides and guidebooks of Ian McNaught-Davis in April which work will now begin on, and the wider collection of Pete Boardman collection has also been catalogued.

Look out for MHT at Keswick Mountain Festival and British Bouldering Championships, and for information on their upcoming lecture series at the Blencathra Field Studies Centre. This will kick off with Alan Hinkes on the 10th May and followed by a tour of the archive on the 25th July. Information and tickets can be booked here: <https://www.rgs.org/events/>

To continue this increasing engagement work MHT 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



Photo from collection of Jim Curran

Article by Jonny Dry (MHT)

RENDEZ-VOUS HAUTE MONTAGNES

This year this international women's climbing network will have a meet in Great Langdale on 13 - 21 July 2019 - not to be missed by any women climbers !! Full details available -

https://www.rhm-climbing.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/E_RHM_Summer_2019.pdf

CLUBS CORNER

There are a number of local mountaineering clubs in the Lakes area and we would like to highlight the importance of these clubs and look to having a small piece about one of these clubs in each edition of the Area Newsletter.

- Barrow Mountaineering Club
 - Carlisle Mountaineering Club
- Eden Valley Mountaineering Club
- Kendal Mountaineering Club
- Keswick Mountaineering Club
- West Cumbria Mountaineering Club

This time we focus on the [Carlisle Mountaineering Club](#)

CARLISLE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

To become a member of the CMC one has to be approved by four members of the committee after proving your competence in the following;

- a) Leading (in boots) of three "Difficult" climbs selected by the committee (Ladies could wear "rubbers", the only concession to the "fairer sex").
- b) Demonstration of or Knowledge of :-

- 1) The rope technique for;
Rock Climbing,
Abseiling,
Snow work
- 2) Elementary first aid, the construction of a simple rope stretcher.
- 3) Lakeland topography and the correct casualty evacuation routes from the major crags.
- 4) The use of map and compass.

Such were the criteria for joining the Carlisle Mountaineering Club (CMC) set at the Inaugural meeting on October 24th, 1947, now, 71 years later, we do not have such fixed requirements but we do still expect prospective members to have a working knowledge and experience of the activities they wish to take part in.

Thirty people attended the Inaugural meeting and membership had grown to 40 by the end of November, with membership set at a limit of 50. Amazingly, by November of the same year the club had acquired access to an old barn on the side of Lobstone Band, near Rosthwaite for use as a club hut and it was reported that Cockermouth R.D.C. had granted permission for the change of use by January of the following year.

In the early years the CMC was most definitely a “teaching club”, actively running courses in rock climbing and general mountaineering skills and was instrumental in setting up The Keswick Climbing School with the then Cumberland CC and later the Central Council for Physical Training and Recreation, which provided rock climbing courses for youth groups and leaders from all over the country.

Members of the club have always been active in the exploration of new climbing opportunities with many routes in The Lakes attributed to club members. In the 1950s and 60s the club was active in The Alps and in the late 60s and 1970s the club was perhaps one of the “strongest” in the UK with climbers at the forefront of the sport putting up new and groundbreaking rock routes all over the UK and elsewhere around the world.

Club life is now very different from those early days but the CMC remains a very active club. We have around 100 paying members and a further 15 Life and/or Honorary members, including one Christian Bonington who, on his application to join the club in 1977, logged his Mountaineering Experience as “Extensive Scrambling”.

The club meets on two evenings per week throughout the year, Thursday is “Club Night” with a programme of outdoor meets from April to October and in the winter at climbing walls in Penrith, Keswick and Kendal - Tuesdays are less formally arranged, but equally well attended. There are also scheduled meets on Sundays throughout the summer and several planned, weekend meets throughout the year in Scotland, England and Wales.

Club members also organise weeks away with regular “hot rock trips” to the likes of Majorca, Kalymnos, Sardinia and the Spanish Costas, summer trips to Scottish Islands and even Lofoten in Norway.

Whilst the main focus is on rock climbing there are also winter trips to Rjukan in Norway and the French and Italian Alps for ice climbing.

Club members are involved in most aspects of mountain sports and we have had winter meets where groups have been snow, ice and mixed climbing, rock climbing, Skiing, mountain biking and Monro bagging, all in the same weekend.

The original club hut in Borrowdale was burnt down in 1958/9 But in 1962 the club acquired and renovated the current hut, superbly located, completely “off grid”, in the Newlands valley, which is available to club members, free of charge, and to other clubs and groups at very reasonable rates (please see the club website at www.carlislemc.co.uk for details).

The hut is popular with individual members of the club and we have a weekend meet there in August, each year. The hut is so popular that in 2018 it was booked for 42 weekends and for 12 full weeks throughout the year.

CONTACTS

President; John Holden (the other one). chair@carlislemc.co.uk

Membership Secretary; Dave Ferguson. membership@carlislemc.co.uk

BMC LAKES AREA POSITIONS

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| Chairman | - | Mike Parsons |
| Secretary | - | Ron Kenyon |
| Treasurer | - | James Bumby |
| National Council | - | Mike Parsons and Fiona Sanders |
| Climbing Wall Representative | - | Ali Wood |
| Area Youth Co-ordinator | - | Ali Wood |
| Hill Walking Representative | - | Stu Smith |
| Clubs Representatives | - | Ged Campion and Pete Glasper |
| Conservation and Planning Representatives | - | Ken Taylor and Richard Outhwaite |

Access and Conservation Officers

- General Officer for Lake District - James Bumby
- South Lakes - James Bumby
- Kentmere, Longsleddale & Langdale - Max Biden

- North Lakes and Eden Valley
 - Duddon & Eskdale
 - West Lakes
- Ron Kenyon
 - Al Phizacklea
 - Richard Outhwaite