



Lakes Area - Newsletter - September 2019

Hopefully you will have been enjoying and making use of the summer whether in the Lakes or elsewhere – on the fells or crags.

Key volunteers in the area have been working away and there are some interesting matters developing 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.



Deja Vu (VS) - Glaciated Slabs - Borrowdale

NEXT BMC LAKES AREA MEETING

The next meeting of the area is on Wednesday 11th September at the Kong Climbing Centre, in Keswick 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:

[Meeting agenda](#)

BMC LAKES AREA FACEBOOK - are you linked to our [Facebook Page](#) - lots of ongoing information, comments and detail !!

NEWS FROM THE BMC

BMC - Organisational Development Group

Read the [latest update from the ODG](#)

DECLARATION OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

At the last area meeting Nigel Jenkins brought the request for the BMC to declare a climate emergency. This was voted for unanimously and taken to National Council. This is now in draft form



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with some more work to be done by the BMC Sustainability working group (chaired by Cath Flitcroft BMC environment and access officer (policy)) before the document comes back to all local areas. Watch this space !



Enjoying the moonlight on Red Screes

Rob Dyer is also working on a statement / good practice messages on car & van camping which is increasingly popular but which is having an impact on local residents, water quality, pollution etc. It was also agreed that liaison with other climbing bodies (EUMA & UIAA) to get good practice messages out to those visiting the UK in camper vans would be useful.

REBOLTING AND RETRO-BOLTING OF ROUTES

At the June 2019 BMC Lakes Area Meeting [a paper was put forward](#) in connection with rebolting and retro-bolting of routes, in particular at Tilberthwaite Quarry. We will be looking to discussion and agreement in relation to this at the September 2019 meeting and take matters forward accordingly.



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RE-EQUIPING ABSEIL POINTS IN THE LAKES

Abseils can be the most dangerous part of climbing !! There are many abseil points now used on crags around the Lake District and often made up of “abseil tat” of dubious age and history. Details of the abseil points are often included in guidebooks and whenever anyone is contemplating an abseil consideration should be given to the state of the abseil point.

In North Wales there has been a systematic replacement of “tat” with static rope and retired climbing rope. It is intended to create such a systematic approach in the Lake District in the replacement of “tat” with two static ropes or if appropriate a wire strop and an abseil ring. Also in order to show the age of the replacement a coloured tag will be attached to the abseil point to show the year when the abseil point was replaced.

The colours are -

| | |
|------|--------|
| 2019 | ORANGE |
| 2020 | Green |
| 2021 | White |
| 2022 | Red |
| 2023 | Purple |
| etc | |



Please also note that the abseil chain on Gimmer Crag, above the Alphabet Face has been replaced.

A record of the replacement points will be kept by the Cumbria Bolt Fund. Anyone willing to assist in the process should contact either Dan Robinson email dan@real-adventure.co.uk , Ron Kenyon email ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com or Steve Scott email sailmagritte@gmail.com

Needless to say – anyone abseiling in the Lake District (and anywhere else for that matter) should check the abseil point used before relying on it for the abseil !

CASTLE ROCK – ROCKFALL – THE CURRENT POSITION

Another crag survey was carried out a few weeks ago – the preliminary finding from that is ‘nothing of significance has happened’ - however, [see separate paper](#)

TRACK TO COMBE GHYLL

The National Trust are installing a hydro-electricity station in Combe Ghyll and work is ongoing with this until 2020. It has been necessary to create a new track up into the valley which looks most intrusive. The current situation is that the Hydro Team are installing the intake, for the water in the stream, and also the pipe coming down the fell. This pipe will be buried beneath the track and, as the Hydro Team work their way down the fell, they will restore the fell and the track will disappear.



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The path will always remain open but please be careful in the area where work is being carried on and go where directed.

The fall for the Hydro in Combe Gill is approximately 290 m and will generate 240 kwh when running at full steam. The one already installed next to Honister is a 100 kWh unit.

There will be a Guided walk and explanation for the general public on 17th September, starting at Seatoller Car Park at 10.30, which anyone can attend.

Roy Henderson - National Trust Ranger

CLOSURE OF PART OF CAR PARK BELOW GRANGE CRAG IN BORROWDALE

The right-hand side of the car park below Grange Crag has been closed due to concerns about the stability of the fell side above the crag. This was highlighted by a substantial rock fall in 2018.

The car park was in two sections and used by climbers when going to Black Crag or other locations in the central Borrowdale area. The left-hand section of the car park is protected by other rock boulders and a pinnacle of rock but not the right-hand section – hence the closure. In order to maintain the number of parking spaces the National Trust are looking at extending the left-hand section. They ask that climbers and walkers give due consideration of this and in particular look at parking at the Bowder Stone Car park 1km further south

Roy Henderson - National Trust Ranger

WEST SIDE OF THIRLMERE

The road along the west side of Thirlmere has now been reopened following work done to clear trees there which had been (a) blown down some years ago and (b) recent discovery of infected Larch trees. We have received indication from United Utilities asking us to thank people for being patient whilst the road was closed

The dam at the end of the lake however is still closed and United Utilities is working with Cumbria County Council with regards a new two-way system and are awaiting for commencement of work.

United Utilities

ACCESS TO CASTLE ROCK (Both SOUTH and NORTH CRAGS)

Site : Drystone Knott - below the South Crag. Operation: Felling of infected larch trees

Timescale: 20th August — 30th September 2019

Details: The stand of larch [shown on the attached map with a red line](#) has been in-fected with Phytophthora ramorum and we were served with a Statutory Plant Health Notice to fell these trees to prevent further spread of the infection.



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We intend to start this work 20th August onwards, the trees will be felled manually and dragged across the slope into the adjacent field to be processed and then taken down and into Legburthwaite car park for collection.

Access restrictions: During this operation the car park will be closed to the public. Those wishing to climb on Castle Rock should park on the A591 (main road from Thirlmere to Keswick) at GR NY316195.

The permissive path up to Castle Rock will be diverted around the working area to ensure that everyone involved is kept safe.

Please read all signage and abide by any instructions!

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – November 10th 2019

If you are planning to climb Great Gable for the service on its summit on Remembrance Sunday please will you consider the following to help reduce congestion of traffic on the roads and in particular the road heads and car parks used.

- Please look to share cars – four people in four cars means four spaces are taken up.
- Consider parking down the valleys and either continue by walking, cycling, bus or car share.
- Look at using buses from Keswick to Seatoller
- In order to alleviate the pressure at Seathwaite one is advised to consider using the car park at Seatoller and top of Honister Pass.
- Wherever you park – park sensibly – and do not impede other users of the road.
- Needless to say – take appropriate clothing and equipment for the ascent and give consideration to the weather conditions

BMC LAKES OUTDOOR FEST – 2020

The weekend of 11/13 September 2020 has been set for the BMC Lakes Outdoor Fest for rock climbers and walkers. This is to be based in the Duddon Valley – put it in your diary and watch this space !

BMC YOUTH MEET – 2019

16 young climbers arrived at Rawhead (FRCC Hut) in Langdale for the 2019 Youth Meet. In addition there were 15 adults around to help over the weekend...[Read meet report](#)



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"STEPPING OFF THE PATH, OFF PISTE, BUSHWACKING"

This was a free one day session to address three elements of good navigation-practise, experience in poor weather and observation of best practice. Feedback on this volunteer led, free day was that it was very much a peer to peer exchange, enabling people who were interested in both the hard skills of navigation and the soft skills around how to deliver this content. Those attending were volunteers in their own fields working with Scouts, Air Training Corp cadets, groups with mental health issues in the outdoors. The delegates were continuing the legacy and tradition of volunteering, giving freely of their time and expertise to encourage and up skill others. So a big thank you for Andy Clifford who led this navigation coaching day.

There will be another session on **12th October 2019** - details available from Andy - email steppinoffthepath@gmail.com

RENDEZVOUS HAUTE MONTAGNE (RHM)

Rendezvous Haute Montagne is a Europe wide association bringing together women climbers from throughout Europe and 66 women gathered, in Langdale, in July to meet old and new friends and climb together in the wonderful Lake District. The meet lasted 9 days and got off to a great start with an evening reception on the 13th July.



The weather was dry for the first four and half days so as well as the lower and more accessible crags, many higher crags were visited including Dow Crag, Pavey Ark and Gimmer Crag.

Even when the rain inevitably arrived spirits were high and Mandy Glanvill introduced our visitors to that uniquely British activity - scrambling up wet greasy water courses.... it was a great hit.

The meet finished with plenty more climbing and a final get together with a buffet at the Stickle Barn, Langdale, where next year's meeting in Slovenia was announced. A raffle was organised and raised £271 and this will be donated to the Ambleside and Langdale Rescue Team. Fortunately their services were not required during the 9 days of our meet.



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Everyone who attended took home with them a great respect for our climbing traditions and a wonderful impression of the generosity of our donors that enabled the meet to take place.

Stella Adams

MOUNT EVEREST FOUNDATION (MEF)

The MEF is run jointly by the RGS and Alpine Club. For anyone looking for ambitious ascents somewhere interesting or any mountain based science with an exploratory feel please note that the next deadline for grant applications is September 30th. More information is available on www.mef.org.uk

Stuart Dunning - Chair MEF

COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENARY OF PEACE DAY IN 1919

If you had been in the car park of the Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel in Great Langdale on the morning of Friday 19th July you may have seen a group of 19 walkers setting off to ascend Scafell Pike – nothing unusual about this apart from the sight of five sections of a flagpole attached to the rucksacks. This was a group from the Fell and Rock Climbing Club of the English Lake District (FRCC) recreating a similar walk on the same day in 1919, as part of the Peace Day celebrations, at that time

[Read report](#)

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT THE CLIMBING WALLS

LAKELAND CLIMBING CENTRE - KENDAL

Masters 2019-2020 Winter bouldering competition - this year the series will again feature 4 rounds. The first three rounds will be hosted with an open style format, meaning you have just over a month to come in and try the boulders as many times as you'd like, whenever you'd like! The final round will be hosted as a GRAND FINALE. Round 1 starts on Monday 14th October until Sunday 8th December. Round 2 is Monday 9th December to Sunday 26th January 2020. Then Round 3 leading to the grand finale in the middle of March.

La Sportiva Boot Demo - to kick off the winter climbing season the Centre have La Sportiva giving a boot demo in the centre on Wednesday 16th October in the evening. Besides the boot demo there will also be Rinaldo's Coffee present to provide some of their special brews and Andy Mcvittie (soon to be offering physiotherapy at Kendal Wall one evening a week as well as co-ordinator of the Lakes Outdoor Festival) will be on hand to have a brief chat with any of you who may have niggling injuries.



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CLUB CORNER

FYLDE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

The Fylde Mountaineering Club has a long established presence in the Lakes with its two huts, at **Little Langdale** and **Stair** (In Newlands, near Keswick) - founded in 1952 the Club now has around 180 members drawn mainly from the Fylde area of Lancashire ... [Find out more about Fylde MC](#)

BMC LAKES AREA POSITIONS

| | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| 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 | - Ron Kenyon |
| ● Duddon & Eskdale | - Al Phizacklea |
| ● West Lakes | - Richard Outhwaite |