



# LAKES AREA NEWS

issue 02 March 08

## Next Meeting

The next Lakes Area open meeting will be at **Staveley Beer Hall @ 7.30pm on Wednesday 5 March.**

The meeting will include food (courtesy of the BMC), beer and:

- LDNPA presentation on footpath repair
- access news
- bolt fund update
- update on the Lakes Festival of Climbing
- future meeting venues
- Proposed increases in club/individual subscriptions to the BMC
- newsletter feedback and suggestions for articles.



happy climbers enjoying the social scene at an area meeting  
[photo: Carissa Lough]

## November Lakes Area AGM & Ordinary Meeting

Over 60 people came to the meeting on Wednesday 28 November at the Staveley Beer Hall. Lyon, Lakes Climber, the Lake District National Park Authority and Needlesports were all there, along with several clubs. We had apologies from the National Trust.

1. Annual Report: Real progress has been seen in attendance figures at recent meetings, probably due to extra publicity and bribes! Colyn Earnshaw has set up a system of local access volunteers around the Lakes. The long-standing dispute about Sergeant Crag Slabs continues.
2. Election of Officers for 2007/8:  
Chair: Al Phizacklea  
Secretary: Marian Parsons  
National Council Reps: Tom Ripley, Polly Sullivan  
Access Co-ordinator: Peter Latimer  
Footpath Co-ordinator: Stephen Reid
3. Any Other Business: Thanks for all the hard work by John Burrows as the former Chairman.

Al Phizacklea opened the Ordinary Meeting, and made good use of his bell.

Items discussed:

1. The new Lakes Area News, compiled by Carissa Lough, Ellie Fowler, Lois Sparling and Tim Fish attracted very positive feedback. Ongoing contributions and photos are welcome. The address for the newsletter is [lakesareanews@googlemail.com](mailto:lakesareanews@googlemail.com)

2. Windmore Crag retro bolting – The Helm: Ron Kenyon presented some bolt hangers he had removed from The Helm. It had been retro bolted by person(s) unknown without permission from the first ascensionist, landowner or local advisory body.
3. 'Lakes High Crag Weekend': Carissa Lough suggested this event to promote Lakes climbing and a return to the big high stuff. Funding from the BMC was possible. Unanimous approval for this from everyone. A small group will organise it and will update at the next meeting.
4. Stephen Reid on FRCC Guidebooks: Latest guide to Gable and Pillar now complete. Photo contributions, of any Lakes crags (but urgently for the next limestone guide) to Phil Rigby, contact details on FRCC website.
5. Ron Kenyon presented a report on Lakes Bolt Fund. Money is available from BMC to purchase bolts. Liability issues were discussed. They are not 'BMC bolts' and climbers must take responsibility for placement and use. A Cumbria Bolt Fund has been set up with Ron Kenyon as treasurer. For more details, contact Ron on 01768 864728.
6. Cleaned Crag Database: After debate about whether publicising newly cleaned crags would cause over-use of those routes and increase neglect of dirty crags, Stephen Reid suggested progress reports on bulletin boards on relevant websites. This was agreed. A 'cleaned' route would encourage climbers to climb it and therefore keep it clean!
7. Berrier Wind Farm proposal: People were interested but need more information from both sides to reach a conclusion. Individuals should, if they wish, express their opinion directly to their MP.

Items for the BMC's National Council meeting:

1. Proposed increase in subs for 2009: Dave Turnbull presented the BMC position, but there was much opposition to an increase and a general feeling that some of the largest and most influential clubs might withdraw completely unless we reach a compromise. A question was asked as to why there was so much debate over "two quid a year...less than a pint". The debate will go on!
2. Crag Care Fund: Dave Turnbull suggested that £10 000 could be made available for projects to clean or look after crags. Approval was unanimous.

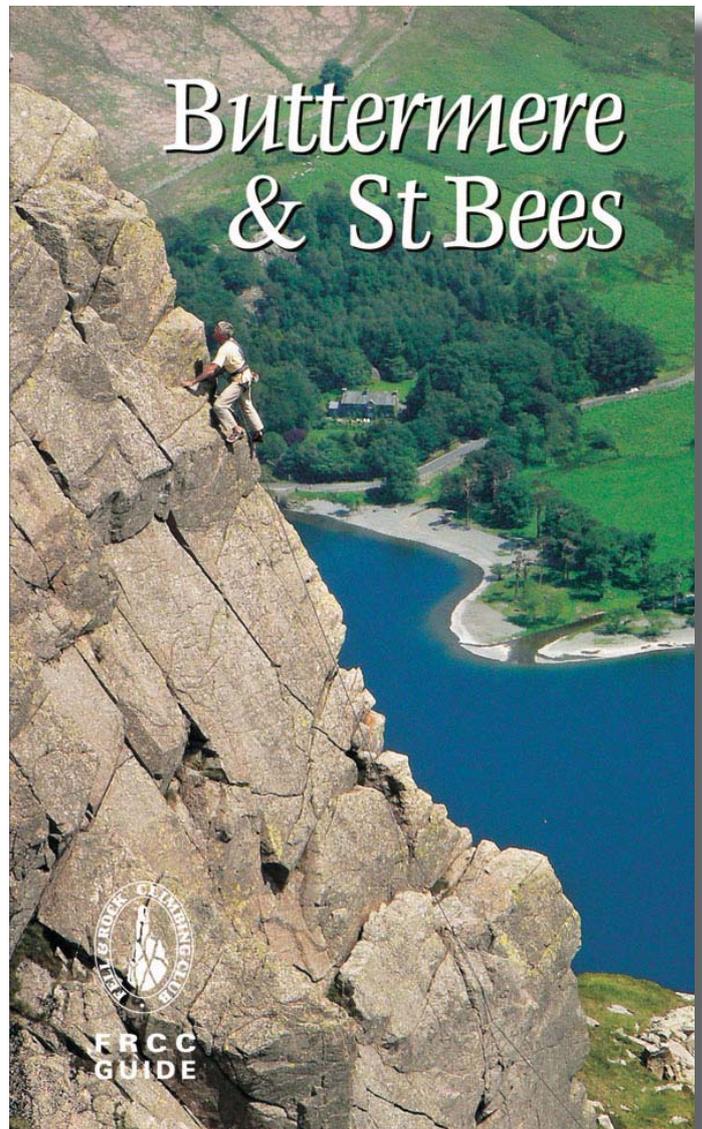
There was unanimous agreement that Al Phizacklea was an excellent choice as chair of the meeting. His unique style was much appreciated.

**Buttermere & St Bees Guidebook**

by Colin Read and Paul Jennings  
price £16  
due out Spring 2008

This is a new guide covering the peaceful valley and mountain crags of Buttermere and Newlands as well as the sandstone seacliffs of St Bees. The guide features a superb collection of crag photo-topos by Phil Rigby and 3D bird's eye view maps by Al Phizacklea. It includes several action climbing shots and a host of fascinating historical pictures.

The cover photo was taken by Al Phizacklea and features Martin Armitage on the classic Oxford and Cambridge Direct Route (MS \*\*\*) on Grey Crag, Buttermere. If that doesn't make you want to go and climb it, nothing will!



cover of new Buttermere & St Bees guidebook [courtesy of the FRCC]

**Crag of the Mag – Boat How Crag**

Overlooking the head of Ennerdale, Boat How is an esoteric crag that has been much maligned in the past, but which is the home to some fantastic routes. It is a high north-facing crag, so it competes with Gable Crag and Scafell when it comes to mid-summer choices for visitors to Wasdale Head. The crag's dirty reputation stems from the time when the only routes here ascended the mossy section.

Paul Ross first saw the crag's potential. Paul, Dave Birkett and Sue Wood put up the first two routes – a stunning arête and the fantastic wall to its left. Over the years, Paul, Rick Graham, Ted Rogers and Al Phizacklea have all contributed to the development of this crag.

The crag consists of several separate buttresses, but the best are:

- Seawall Slabs and The Main Wall, which is often known as The Prow.
- Scenic Cruise, a steep juggy line which must be one of the best ten HVSSs in the Lakes.
- The Prow Direct and Groyne Strain.
- Jolly Roger, one of the best E2s at the crag.
- Fanghorn and Numenor, excellent E3s.
- Poseidon Adventure, E4 and unrepeated.
- Flagship, now a classic. Anyone trying this line will probably have to give it a light clean first, unless it's well chalked (which it should be!)

The approach is either from Wasdale Head or Honister Pass. It'll take about 90 minutes either way. A top tip is to approach the crag from above, where you can see the protruding top of The Prow which has an excellent flat top. From here, you can use a long sling to set up an abseil point to save walking down to the base. Details of the routes are in the new FRCC guide to Gable and Pillar.

Al Phizacklea, Lakes Area Chair

**Lakes Area Access Reps**

A team of voluntary access reps handles access issues in the Lakes Area. Most of the issues in the Lakes are linked to conservation, such as nesting birds or protecting sensitive vegetation. We also work with landowners or tenant farmers and with safety issues such as rockfall. If you come across an access issue, please contact your local access rep or the access coordinator.

**Access Coordinator**  
Peter Latimer 01539 738391

**Access Reps**  
Borrowdale and Thirlmere:  
John Burrows 01768 353621

Ullswater, Haweswater and Swindale:  
Mike Hornby 017684 86746

South Lakes Limestone:  
James Bumby 01539 725516

Duddon and Eskdale:  
Al Phizacklea 01229 834391

Wasdale, Ennerdale and St Bees:  
Ben Whiteley 01946 823126

Langdale, Kentmere and Longsleddale:  
Max Biden 01539 821743

Coniston:  
Jim Loxham 015394 41633

Northern Fells, Eden Valley and Pennines:  
Ron Kenyon 01768 864728

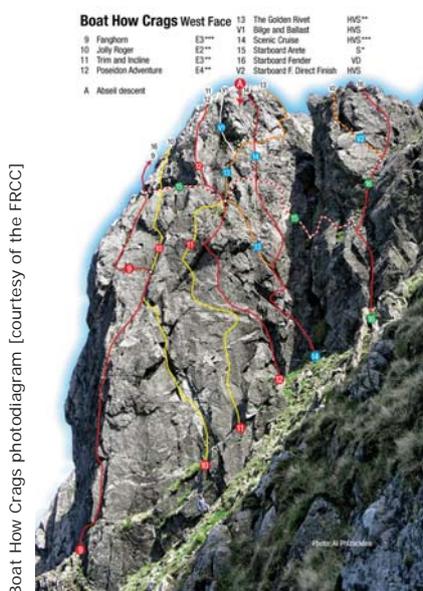
**Bird Restrictions 2008**

We have agreed bird restrictions for 2008 with the Lake District National Park, Natural England and the Cumbria Raptor Study Group. There are minor differences from last year. Please read the restrictions! We have developed a very good working relationship with conservation groups and it is vital that we continue to behave responsibly. Full details of all current restrictions are on the FRCC website ([www.frcc.co.uk/rock/birds.htm](http://www.frcc.co.uk/rock/birds.htm)) or on the Regional Access Database on the BMC website ([www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk)).

If you see or hear of peregrines or ravens nesting on crags which are not listed, please contact the local access rep.

**Bolting at St Bees**

Existing bolts are well past their sell-by date and we hope that the BMC will provide replacements through its bolt fund. We now need volunteers to install them! This is a skilled job requiring the right tools and skills. If you are interested please contact Peter Latimer.



Boat How Crag photodiagram [courtesy of the FRCC]

**Profiles:**

**Al Phizacklea – Lakes Area Chair**

I was born in Ulverston 48 years ago, and now live in Barrow. I started climbing in 1976, gradually working my way up the grades until I reached a point where I regularly climbed E5. I have always found that the South Lakes gives the best climbing, and am happy to potter about here. This means that I keep trips to foreign areas, like Yorkshire or Borrowdale, to an absolute minimum. This is evident as I haven't climbed in Scotland for 10 years, or abroad for 19 years. Why bother when there's Dow Crag on your doorstep?

I have been involved with guidebook writing and photography for the FRCC for over 20 years.

My ambition as the BMC chair is to get through it with as little hassle as possible. As long as climbing in the Lakes is as healthy when I leave as it was when I took over the chair, then I suppose it's a job well done.



Al Phizacklea [photo: Ken Wilson]



Marian Parsons [photo: Mike Parsons]

**Marian Parsons – Secretary**

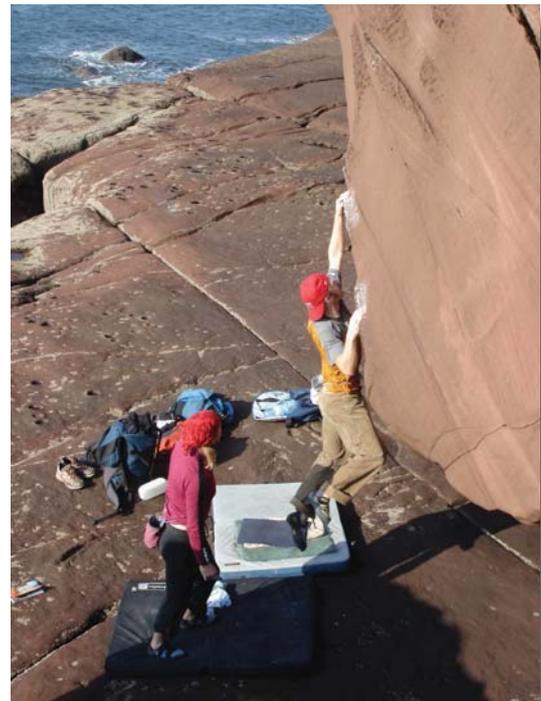
I'm a former primary school teacher, the long holidays were well suited to extended climbing forays in Scotland and abroad. I now work in an outdoor shop.

I've been based in Patterdale for the last 11 years. I live in a fab location at the foot of Helvellyn – very convenient for all sorts of outdoor activities! I don't rock climb much these days but favourite Lakes climbs used to be at White Ghyll and big trad routes on Scafell.

My mountaineering highlights include first ascents of remote 5000m peaks in the Tien Xian and the traverse of La Meige, such an elegant and intricate historic classic.

**Peter Latimer – Access Coordinator**

I am a native of Barrow and now live in Kendal after years of exile in Yorkshire. Being an old git, my ideal day is in the Lakes doing traditional mountain routes in the sun, the favourite probably being Dow mid week. I've enjoyed climbing in many parts of Europe and done a clutch of Alpine 4000s. My esoteric interests include free-heel skiing, especially touring and peaks in Norway. My ambition is to finish all the 'Classic Rock' routes – I'll never get up all the Hard Rock routes now!



Matt Martindale on Fisherman's Dyno at St Bees, expertly spotted by Shelley Barlow [photo: Neil Stabbs]

**Lakes Festival of Climbing – 14 and 15 June 2008**

Keep the weekend of 14 and 15 June free for the Lakes Festival of Climbing. This is your chance to visit mountain and valley crags you've not been to before and to show your friends from around the country just how much the Lakes has to offer – bouldering, single pitch and mountain routes.

The weekend is based in the Duddon Valley – not far to get to Eskdale, Scafell, St Bees, Dow Crag and all the cragging in the valley itself.

As well as great climbing, there'll be music, food, beer and catching up with old and new friends.

Go to [www.lakesfestivalofclimbing.co.uk](http://www.lakesfestivalofclimbing.co.uk) to find out more.

Camping, bunkhouses or a cottage are available at Wallowbarrow Farm. Book early to guarantee a bed for the weekend!

**Rig for Victory**

On any day out climbing you are at your most vulnerable when abseiling. But have you ever arrived at an abseil point on a Lakeland crag to find it festooned in faded slings joined by a corroded snaplink?

This is a familiar sight on our crags. The usual practice is to add your own 'emergency ab tat' – cross all your digits and ab off. Fret no more: it need not be this way! With forethought you can help make abseil descents safer and a lot more jolly!

What I'm talking about is replenishing these abseil points with two easy-to-prepare ingredients: the first a full weight rope, and the second a steel maillon. Chop that old climbing rope in the cupboard into sections – 4m is a good length. By adding a maillon to thread abseil ropes through, you ensure the anchor rope stays free of friction burns and sheath damage caused when ropes are pulled through in a rope-on-rope situation.

Maillons are cheaper than leaving a snaplink behind, are all marked with their strength, and provided you chose the right shape are more resistant to cross-loading than a karabiner. Many different maillons exist; my preferred one for our purpose is the 7mm diameter long oval steel design, found in most climbing and caving shops. It weighs 60g so won't drag you back down the route.

Having found a tired abseil point, simply strip away all the crusty old tat, and replace with the rope and maillon you threw in when you packed the rucksack that morning. By removing the old tat you are tidying up the crag, womble-style and getting a warm glow by giving a little. What are you waiting for?

John Kettle, a little ginger mountain instructor and AMI member based in the Lake District

**Proposed Berrier Hill Wind Farm**

You can find more information about proposals for a wind farm development between Greystoke and Blencathra at [www.blencathra.net](http://www.blencathra.net). There is a lot of opposition to large-scale wind farms in the area. The objectors support renewable energy in appropriate locations, but do not believe that large schemes should detract from the Lake District National Park landscape. The proposed scheme is 1km outside the National Park boundary, and will impact on views from various vantage points.

Dave Bodecott, local climber

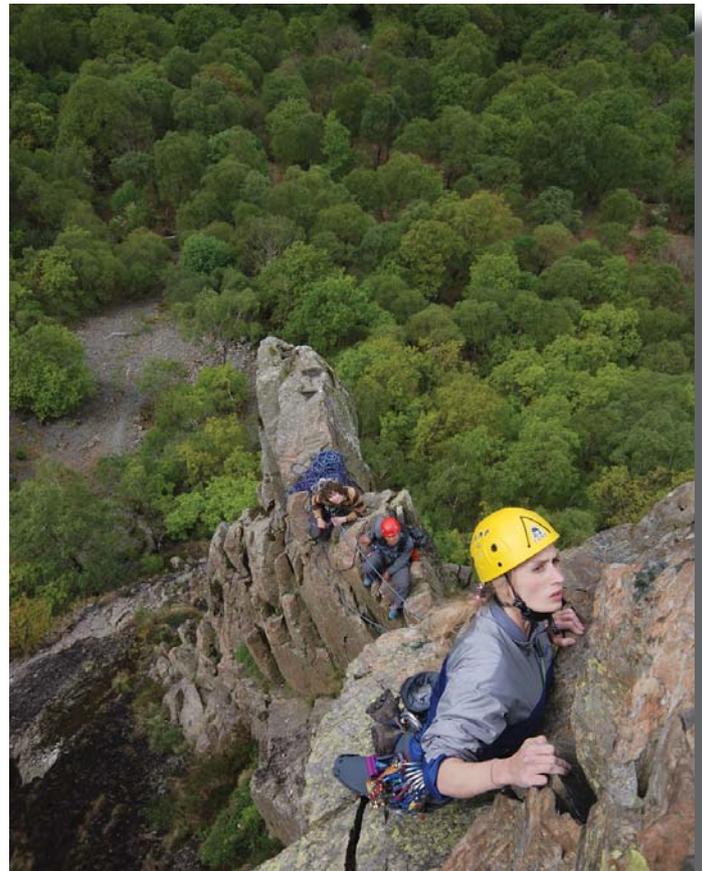
**Contact**

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 Area News 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)



Mhairi Cameron on Troutdale Pinnacle [S], Black Crag, Borrowdale  
[photo: Mick Ryan]

**Carlisle Mountaineering Club**

This is a friendly club with a good base of active members. The club meets every Thursday evening – cragging in the summer or at Penrith wall in the winter. They have a full programme of weekend trips away to the Peak District, North Wales, Scotland and other climbing destinations. The club also owns a hut in the Newlands Valley.

To find out more about the club and joining, go to [www.freetimeonline.co.uk/CMC/index.cfm](http://www.freetimeonline.co.uk/CMC/index.cfm) or contact Ray Cassidy (Membership Secretary) on 01228 527307.



where's winter? Blea Water Tarn [photo: Kerlana Tracey]

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

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)

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