



LAKES AREA NEWS

issue 03 May 08

Next Meeting

Next Lakes Area meeting – **Thursday 5 June**. Come along to the Staveley Beer Hall (in Mill Yard) on the 5th June, starting at 7.30pm. Martin and the BMC will be there with free butties and chips; you can catch up with your friends, local heroes and the latest news & ideas.

The agenda includes:

- A report from the Bolting Workshop (17 May)
- An update on Lakes Festival of Climbing (13-15 June)
- Access reports
- Newsletter feedback
- Abseil chains in the Lakes – are these the next step forward?
- Removing rotten or unnecessary fixed gear
- An open forum
- Contact martin@thebmc.co.uk if you'd like to add anything to the agenda.

Climbing Restrictions at Warton Main

Peregrines are nesting at Warton Main and climbing there is banned for the spring. Unfortunately in a recent incident, police warned two local climbers for being at the crag. This was a genuine mistake, but birdwatchers are now regularly checking the crag. Please do not climb at Warton Main - you will jeopardise future access to the quarry.

Lakes Festival of Climbing 13-15 June 2008

What better way to celebrate summer and the mountain crags in the Lakes than coming along to the Lakes Festival of Climbing! The festival is based at Seathwaite, in the Duddon Valley. From here it's not far to get to Wasdale, Eskdale, or a walk over the hill to Dow crag. There are lots of valley crags, bouldering and walking nearby as well.

Arrive Friday evening at the Newfield Inn for beer and a pub quiz at 9pm, climb all day Saturday before returning to the Newfield for music, beer and food. Cups of tea and more climbing on Sunday.

There's plenty of camping and other accommodation available – see our website www.lakesfestivalofclimbing.co.uk for details.

We've booked sunshine, music, good food, good beer and more crags than you could shake a stick at – all you have to do is bring your friends and join us!



[above] Lucy Ham cruising the traverse on Haste Not, White Ghyll [photo: Lord Cooper]

[left] Tom Ripley on the superb Philistine, High Crag, Buttermere [photo: Will Ripley]

The Lakes Area Meeting - Wednesday 5 March

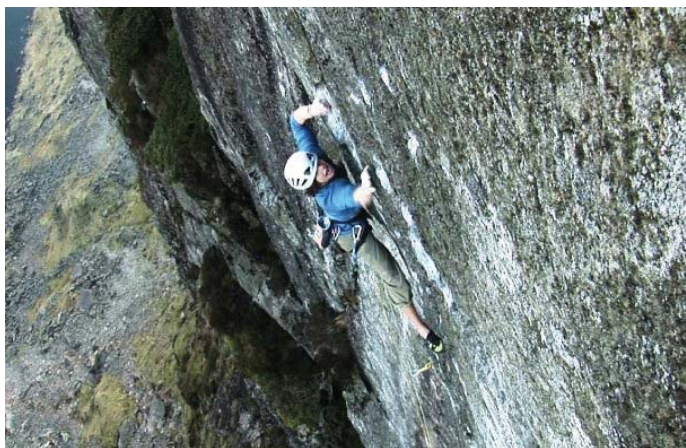
39 people came along to the meeting, and everyone had a great time. Al Phizacklea again did a fantastic job as Chair.

1. Richard Fox (Lake District National Park Authority) and a presentation on National Park footpath repair work and Fix the Fells. There's been lots of mumbling about the LDNPA's footpath repairs. Richard gave a 15 minute presentation that went down well and seemed to answer everyone's questions. The footpath work, with before and after slides, was agreed to be a Good Thing.
2. Feedback on the 2nd Lakes Area Newsletter (Carissa Lough)
There was lots of praise for the newsletter team and their work. We still need articles and photos. Ideas for articles:
 - Great one and two day walks in the area
 - Your recent trip somewhere funky (doesn't have to be the Lakes)
 - "Enchainements" of rock routes
 - Café reviews, pub reviews, guidebook reviews
 - Visits to crags that no one's been to in the last 10 years
 - Great lakes scrambles, great epics in your life
 - Funky recipes, interesting sandwich ideas for a day out on the hills.
3. Proposed increases in BMC subs.
This was originally on the agenda, until someone realized that they'd been agreed at December's National Council. If you think the rises are too small, then the AGM in Northumberland (18 April) is the place to express your views.
4. Access news and updates (Peter Latimer/ Access Reps) Peter asked people to be aware of this year's nesting restrictions. Many of these are from start of March until end of June. See the BMC's Access Database at www.climbingcrags.co.uk
5. The Lakes Festival of Climbing (Carissa Lough/Tom Dixon). Carissa and Tom gave details about the weekend, where and when, plus info about accommodation and beer. If you don't know anything about it, then pay attention, and if you have any great ideas about how to improve the day, speak up! It's going to be great!
The weekend is from 13 - 15 June and you really should come along.
www.lakesfestivalofclimbing.co.uk
6. New Venues for area meetings (Al Phiz)
Everyone likes Staveley and the beer hall, so here we stay for now.

7. Bolts Update (Ron Kenyon and Dan Middleton). Dan Middleton talked about holding a bolting workshop in the Lakes. This will be on Saturday 17 May – see article in this newsletter for more details.
8. Open Forum, followed by chips, butties and beer. No one raised anything, so out came the butties and chips (except there weren't any chips).



We do get winter routes in the lakes! Andrew Mitchell on the top of V Corner, near Red Tarn [photo: Tom Ripley]



Who says no one climbs hard in the lakes anymore?

During a week of great weather in February, George Ullrich (19) ticked off a series of 'ard routes in the Lakes. George's ascent of Torture Board (E7 6c) at Reecastle inspired him to then climb two of Dave Birkett's routes - Dawes Rides a Shovel Head (E8 6c) on Raven Crag Langdale and Impact Day (E8/9 6c) on Pavay Ark.

George has always lived in Kendal so has a keen interest in the outdoors and a passion for climbing. At the age of nine he joined the junior climbing club at Kendal Wall, which led him on to BMC youth meets in the Lake District. After a month deep water soloing in Mallorca last summer, George returned to the Lakes feeling confident and psyched to try harder trad climbs. Carissa Lough caught up with George during a rainy spell to talk to him about what inspires him and what he's planning to do next.

Favourite crag?

George: My favourite crag at the moment would be Reecastle, in Borrowdale. But in Mallorca a deepwater solo cliff called Cova Del Diabalo is amazing!

What do you enjoy most about climbing?

Being out in the mountains, pushing my mind and body to the limit but still staying in control.

A route that really stands out for you?

'Shere Khan' on East Buttress of Scafell.

How did it feel to top out on Impact Day?

Buzzing... what's next?!

Was Impact Day a long-term ambition of yours?

A few months ago I would never have dreamed of getting on routes such as 'Dawes' and 'Impact Day'. It just shows if you don't try, you won't know. Doing these routes has opened my mind to what is actually possible. I am really excited to put up some new lines in the lakes, I already have my eye on some.

And what's next?

At the moment I am working on a route called 'If 6 was 9', considered to be one of the most serious and technical climbs in the Lakes, put up by Dave Birkett.

You've also climbed some impressive routes in the Peak, like Masters Edge, do you prepare differently for a grit route than a Lakeland route?

I wouldn't say I prepare any differently for a grit route. But I definitely have less motivation for gritstone routes, because it feels less adventurous than high mountain crags.

And beyond climbing?

I'm off to California for a couple of months, and then I'm hoping to go back to Majorca before spending the rest of the summer in the Lakes. I'm then starting a degree at Bangor University. Sometime in the future I'd love to drive from here through Russia, Kazakhstan and China, then end up in Mongolia. I think it would be an amazing adventure!



[above] George Ullrich dynoing for the crucial hold while deep water soloing in Mallorca. [photo: George Ullrich collection]

[top left] George Ullrich concentrating during his ascent of Impact Day. [photo: George Ullrich collection]

Great Mountain Days in the Lake District By Mark Richards

In time for summer, Cicerone has published an inspirational guide to fifty memorable expeditions on the Lakeland high fells. The circular routes in the guide have been chosen with the moderately adventurous walker in mind. The walks are graded, and are suitable for less experienced walkers, and walkers familiar with the region who are looking for new summits.

Priced at £16.99, the book is slightly larger than Cicerone's standard guidebooks. As it is 288 pages, many walkers will probably use it to generate ideas, rather than a guide to take out with them. Route descriptions are described with care, so it is useful to put alongside a map if you don't mind the extra weight.

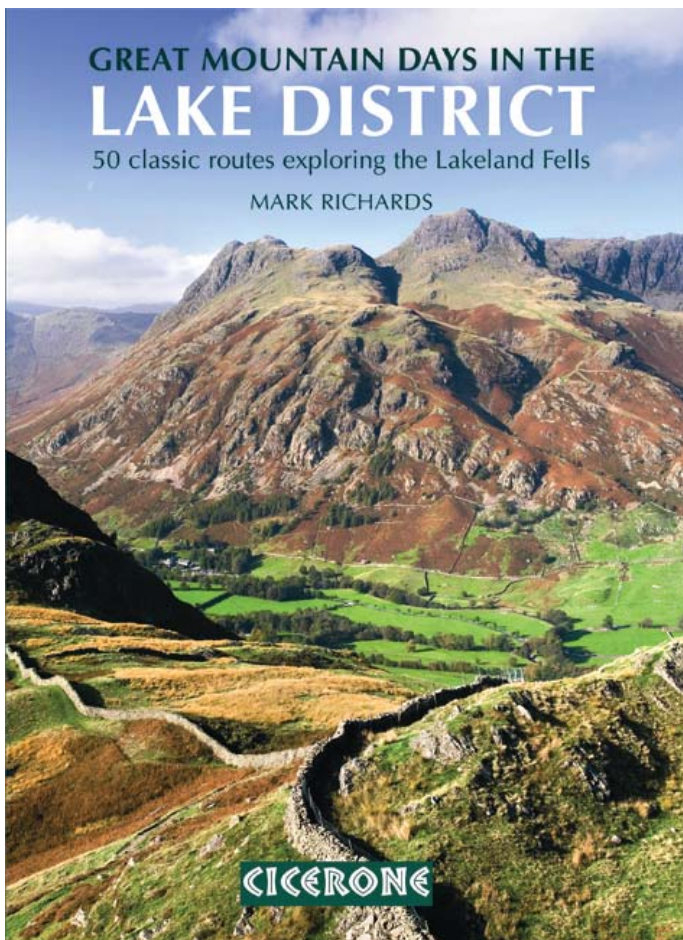
Cicerone supports the Fix the Fells project (www.fixthefells.com) and will make donations based upon every copy sold.

Visit www.cicerone.co.uk for more information and direct ordering, or pick up a copy from your favourite Lakes outdoor shop.

Whitehaven Rambling Club

Whitehaven Rambling Club was founded in 1928 and this year is celebrating its 80th anniversary! The club meets on alternate Sundays throughout the year to do different grades of walks. During the summer they go on evening walks on Wednesday nights - these starting again from 2 April 2008. There are also a couple of walking and social weekends each year. These include walking in locations such as the Isle of Arran, Glencoe, the Lake District and even walking holidays abroad. During the winter months the club has a number of Wednesday evening lectures.

Current membership is £5 per year, plus a small joining fee and charges for lecture costs and ramble transport. Everyone is welcome on rambles and at lectures, although the club expects regular ramblers to eventually join! For further information on the club visit the website at www.whitehavenramblingclub.org or contact the Membership Secretary at phil_stanwix@hotmail.com (note underscore!) or on 01946 822438.



Lakes Bolting Workshop – Saturday 17 May

There are a few crags in different parts of the Lakes that could do with having the bolts replaced (been to St Bees or Millside recently??). Dan Middleton (BMC) and Ron Kenyon are holding a bolting workshop on Saturday 17 May, starting at 11am at Scout Scar crag (near Kendal).

Anyone interested in learning how to bolt properly can get free tuition from those skilled in the art. Also included in the day will be lots of information about setting up a 'liability free' bolt fund, and where to get bolts and funding from. Please contact Ron Kenyon if you'd like to come along (01768 864728 or ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com)

Please take climbing gear with you, including abseil gear and prussiks or similar. If you have a drill, please take this along too. Ron and Dan are hoping to have a few small groups working on different parts of the crag.

Neckband crag - Langdale

Some people, who climb much harder grades than I, argue that Reecastle is the best single pitch crag in the lakes. However, if you're like me and climb HVS and push the boat out to E2 on a good day - then Neckband crag takes some beating.

Not many folk have heard of Neckband. It's hard to pick out from the valley floor, tucked away on the side of the Band. This means that Gimmer crag and Bowfell buttress can both be full of climbers on a busy summer's day and you can climb in solitude.

Neckband has a strange atmosphere. The crag has a mountain crag feel but it's also a bit like an outcrop. The walk in and mountain setting make you feel like you've had an adventurous day but you can be productive and get lots of routes done.

The routes are brilliant. Including some variations there are over 15 starred routes. Most of the routes follow strong lines such as corners and arêtes and are on immaculate rock.



Some of my favourite routes:

Cravat (VS) - Gives good exposed climbing.

Aragorn (E2) - Traverses the base of the hanging slab and gains the hanging groove on the arête. Bold at the top.

Gandalf's Groove Direct (E2) - Climb further up the big corner, step down and across to the left arête. Cross Cravat and get some good gear before questing off to the top.

Mithrandir (HVS) - The huge obvious corner can be damp at the top. In which case do...

Glorfindel (HVS) - About half way up Mithrandir tiptoe right and make an awkward step into a crack hidden round the corner. Watch that your runners don't all fall out!

Gillette Direct (E2) - A line of hanging ramps and grooves to the right of Mithrandir. Utterly brilliant climbing that calls for good footwork as you tiptoe up using the good underclings.

Razor Crack (E1) - Start as for Gillette Direct but head right at the first overlap and then gain the obvious crack in the wall above. This route is pure class and never desperate.

To get down from the routes, look for a large pile of jammed blocks with numerous excellent threads at the top of Mithrandir. One of these currently has an insitu 'biner and cord, allowing a quick abseil descent. Or scramble down to the left (looking in).

To get to Neckband, saunter up the Band until just after the first flat bit. As soon as Bowfell comes into view (large white cairn on left of path), head directly right across rough ground and you'll see the crag on the left. Don't turn off the Band path too soon or you end up contouring loads of broken ground.

Neckband is a north facing crag at 550m above sea level so it's a summer venue. It can be mossy early on in the year and is best after dry weather. Because the routes are single pitch, you can climb there when it's a bit cold - just take a duvet jacket and a flask of tea. If you're lucky and have a job where you can disappear at 3:30, it makes a superb evening venue in June or July.
Jim Danson (Ambleside)

[left] Overview of Neckband crag on a cloudy day [photo: Jim Danson]

[right] The loweroff at the top of Neckband crag [photo: Jim Danson]



Who's who in the Lakes...?

Polly Sullivan – BMC Lakes Area national council rep

I live in Ings and have been a Lake District resident for 6 years. I started hillwalking, scrambling and climbing about 15 years ago after bringing up 4 children and my dog Dylan. I now find that there are lots of adventures to discover but not enough time to cram it all in! Living in Ings, the fells and crags are right on my doorstep, and if I lost my passport I'd be happy enjoying the Lakes. My favourite part of the Lakes is Langdale as there's so much variety, even on rainy days.

I work in an accounts office, hold my summer Mountain Leader award and sometimes lead for 'Walking Women'. I'm working towards confidently leading Severe and completing a Single Pitch Award. My outlook on life is that I'll try anything once – except caving!



Tom Ripley

Polly Sullivan

Lois Sparling

Tom Ripley – BMC Lakes Area national council rep

I'm really enthusiastic about climbing, and try to fit as many trips in as possible around my studies. I've lived in Cumbria since I was 2. I reckon I'm lucky to live in a beautiful part of the world, at Watermillock on the edge of Ullswater.

My love of the hills started from a young age, and I've been climbing since I was about 6. There are too many amazing places to climb in the Lakes, so I couldn't say where my favourite crag is. But I've had some great days out on Esk Buttress, and walking through a cloud inversion on Swirl Edge in the winter is probably one of the most memorable.

Discovering new places with new friends is one of the things I enjoy most about climbing in the Lakes. A good beer at the end of the day is hard to beat too!

Lois Sparling – Lakes Area newsletter proof-reader

I moved to Kendal three years ago, for work, and still can't believe that I'm living on the edge of my favourite place. I've spent time in the Canadian Rockies and although the mountains are spectacular, the pubs aren't as good and the skies aren't as interesting. I've recently started as Editorial Manager at Cicerone Press which gives me lots of inspiration for walking holidays. My favourite village in the Lakes is Far Sawrey and my favourite fell is Bow Fell.

Contact

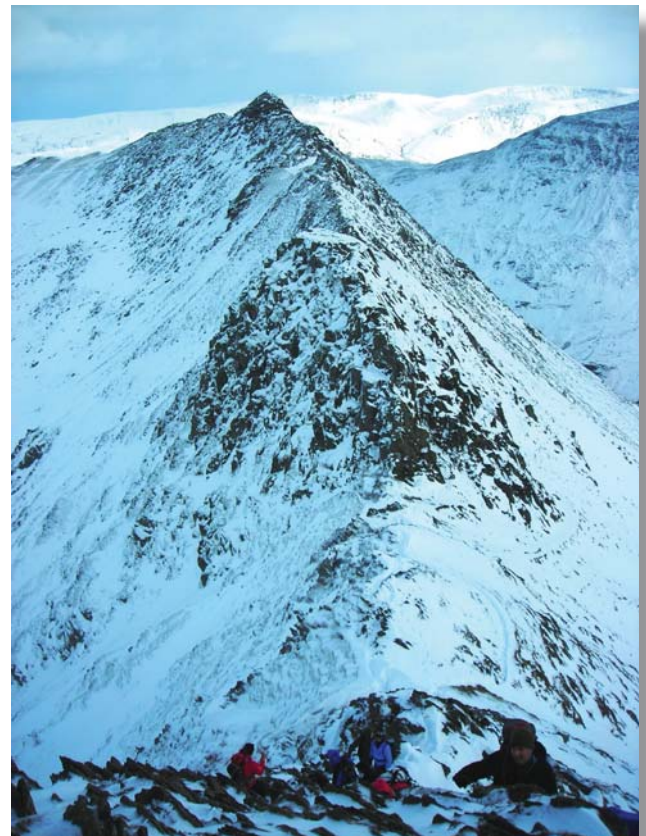
The Lakes Area newsletter could be your chance for fame and glory (but no fortune)! Send us an article and your best climbing or walking photos. Thanks to every-one who contributed to this issue.

Get in touch by emailing the BMC's Lakes Area News team:

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or

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Striding edge, Easter Sunday 2008 [photo: Alex Pryor]