



Lakes Area Newsletter - May 2020

Well - who would have thought, three months ago where we would be at the moment !!

The next meeting of the BMC Lakes area will be a Zoom Meeting on Wednesday 27th May 2020 at 7.30 pm.



Helvellyn Ridge from Red Screes

We will all have been affected by COVID 19 and we have a full meeting touching on a number of areas and we welcome input and feedback from the BMC Lakes Area members.

Please come and join in – with the click of a few buttons !!

COVID 19 and the fells, crags and mountains

At the beginning of May, there were hopes for the opening up of the fells and crags but we realised and appreciated that it would probably have to be a progressive process as there were obviously many issues to overcome as follows –

Mountain Rescue Teams

- Have, on average 30- 50% of their members who are medics and involved heavily with the NHS
- Only one person, unless they are co-habiting, is allowed in a vehicle – so need to take separate vehicles – which is difficult when the land rover is able to go further along tracks
- Issue of PPE for members and if the casualty has COVID 19 then all the team, there, would have to self isolate for 2 weeks
- Which all leads up, understandably, to having a limited and restricted service

Facilities update and transmission risks in the Lakes.

- No pubs or cafes or accommodation is currently open, as of May 18th.
- Some car parks are opening, LDNPA/NT/Council but most toilets are not, partly because of staffing issues and partly of infection risks.
- Opening of gates and possible transmission, use gloves where possible.
- Worries by local residents of transmission into Cumbria which have already some of the highest infection rates.

Wildlife and Bird Restrictions

- With there being no climbers on the crags since the start of the Covid-19 restrictions some birds have been nesting on crags, where they previously have not nested. The Bird Restrictions are established each year based on past nesting patterns but now more crags, often with established routes, have nests on them. Nesting birds should not be disturbed. Some of these additional nests have been identified and included in RAD but others have not

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been reported. If there is a nest on a new crag / route then please refrain from climbing there and notify the BMC or the Local Access Rep, so that this can be included on RAD. Some of these have been.

- **It is recommended that climbers check RAD to see if there is a nesting bird at a crag to be visited.**

When Boris gave his talk to the nation on 10th May and indicated that people could exercise up to a full day without any restrictions on travel – this for many would be greeted with enthusiasm but for many others with dread. It is great to know that we have much more flexibility in what we can do but hope there is no backlash in the future.

As the situation develops, the BMC will adapt our guidance. At this point the key message is to be:

- ***Cautious in your actions and keep within your abilities (no accidents !!)***
- ***Respectful of local communities***
- ***Extremely vigilant in avoiding transmitting the virus***

The BMC will continue to provide the best advice they can as the crisis develops and ask the outdoor community to be respectful of others as we navigate our way back to some form of normality.



Some recent images from Great Langdale !!

BMC - Organisation Development Group (ODG) (Fiona Sanders - Chair ODG)

It is anticipated no resolutions in response to the work of the ODG will be taken to the membership for approval at the June AGM to ensure due consultation with members is completed before implementing - this means that meaning these will be deferred to the 2021 AGM. In particular the consultation to the wider membership on the National Council reconstitution, recruitment of Nationally Elected Councillors and the anticipated Article changes that would have been presented if we were Face to Face. An additional impact is the loss of face to face member engagement opportunities, namely area meetings.

The ODG is working hard with staff and volunteers to continue to review, consult and provide further recommendations in response to the work by the Organisation Review Group (ORG). The use of digital technology as recommended in the Membership Engagement Report (2019)



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which is currently being developed further by the Digital Strategy sub-group, is being implemented at a much faster pace in response to the situation, the virtual AGM being an example of this.

Further, as Chair, I am working to produce an approach on how best we proceed as some of the changes have been around a while and the Board needs to start considering how we review the success of the changes and whether it is still sensible to dissolve the ODG at the June AGM.

Work that has progressed

1. Sign off by Board and NC of the Cymru sub committee's Terms of Reference. Their first meeting is likely to take place virtually in May, followed by a call to action for specific roles within the committee.
2. One thing we are aware of is that our communications about elements of the ODG work has not always been easily accessible or timely. With the appointment of Chris Stone as CND, the Board asked him to take on the role of membership engagement and with his help we have produced a communications plan for the next twelve month. He is going to work closely with us to make sure we provide regular updates to members and ensure full engagement takes place on papers requiring consultation.
<file:///Users/BMC/Downloads/ODG%20Communications%20Plan%202020%20-%202021.pdf>
3. Chris has already helped in producing a suite of video updates.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnk8TuZq2r4&feature=emb_title
4. The proposed clubs strategy was promoted and a poll for clubs was utilized to get a sense check. A big 'Thank you' to all of you that completed it.
5. Work on the review of specialist committees has started and Chairs of the committees will shortly be interviewed to gather further information. Review of Specialist Committees and Working Groups Terms of Reference.
6. The CPPG (Competition Climbing Performance Group) has had its first meeting
<https://thebmc.co.uk/update-ccpg-work>

Unfortunately, much of the Culture, leadership and management work has been put on hold as staff have been furloughed and the need to manage finances through this tricky time has meant that the new Senior Management post has been put on hold until we know more about what is happening going forward.

More information at <https://odg.thebmc.co.uk/hc/en-gb>

Equity Steering Group

Our very own James McHaffie and Cressida Alwood will be providing an interesting update at the next Lakes area meeting on 27th May.

The BMC is, and indeed climbing, hill walking and mountaineering generally have always been, open and welcoming to people of all ages, abilities, backgrounds, cultures, races, religions and orientations. To this end, the BMC has an Equal Opportunities policy and an Equity Steering Group to reinforce this position.



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The BMC Equity Steering Group is composed of members with an interest in this area of the BMC's work. The group oversees the reviewing of the BMC's Equal Opportunities Policy and the processes required to meet [The Equality Standards: A Framework for Sport](#).

A large part of their work involves the Group looking at barriers that under-represented communities face when they want to do any of the activities the BMC covers and then suggesting strategies for removing those barriers.

There are several areas that the Group looks at very closely. These are people with disabilities, people from black and minority ethnic groups, and also women and girls. That's because these groups are generally underrepresented within climbing, hill walking and / or mountaineering.

In essence, the work of the Equity Steering Group pervades all that the BMC does.

For example, the BMC publication [Young People: Climbing, Hill Walking, Mountaineering, A Parent's Guide](#) starts with a statement that everyone can enjoy the activities described in the booklet and that disabilities should not be seen as barriers to participation.

See the booklet [Climbing For All: Disability Awareness in Rock Climbing](#)

and also [Walking For All: Disability Awareness in Walking](#)

BMC Awards - 2020

Peter Judd and **Ron Kenyon** are both worthy recipients of the prestigious **George Band Award**. The voluntary work that **Peter** is involved in has had a huge impact on the BMC, its members and the wider hillwalking community. **Ron** has carried out lengthy and wide-ranging voluntary work over his lifetime...and he shows no sign of slowing down.

What better person to receive the **Rehan Siddiqui Award** this year than **Jesse Dufton**. What an amazing few years he's had and a true inspiration to everyone. He is a role model in how disability need not prevent someone from pushing their limits in multiple areas of climbing. Many of you will have seen him in action in the film **Climbing Blind**, during which he leads a climb up the Old Man of Hoy.

Kody Bradley has been awarded the **Young Volunteer Award**. She started out through the youth competitions and is now putting an outstanding commitment back into them.

More details are on the BMC website.

BMC Lakes Area – AGM in November 2020

The year is rattling along and there will be an AGM for the Lakes area in November. Please note we require a new Chairman, Secretary and Newsletter Editor for AGM in November 2020. Please think about this and if you would be interested in any of these positions please contact Mike Parsons or Ron Kenyon accordingly.

- **Do your bit for the Lakes Local Area !!**



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BMC AGM - 13th June 2020 - 3.00 pm - scheduled to last for approx 2 hours

- See BMC website for details
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BMC Lakes Outdoor Festival (Lakesfest) - 11-13 September 2020



This is planned to be over the weekend - however this will depend on the Covid-19 restrictions. It is planned to be based at the Turner Hall Campsite, at Seathwaite, in the Duddon Valley. There will be a wide range of activities with rock climbing; fellwalking; bouldering; talk and Q&A with local legends; music and song; courses for navigation, rock climbing etc; Fix the Fells; looking at Coniston Coppermines and more.

We will decide nearer the time whether or not the event will happen – further details are available on the website – www.lakesfest.co.uk

Lakes Sports and Slate – rock climbing guidebook

The FRCC is now finishing the publication of the *Lakes Sports and Slate* guide and this should be available in July. This is part of the Wired Guide series and covers the sports crags around Cumbria as well as the slate quarries. This is a new collection of crags in the guide and covers a wide spread of crags, rock types and grades.



Hopefully shops will be open and/or have their websites available or alternatively copies can be purchased online on the FRCC; BMC or Cordee websites.



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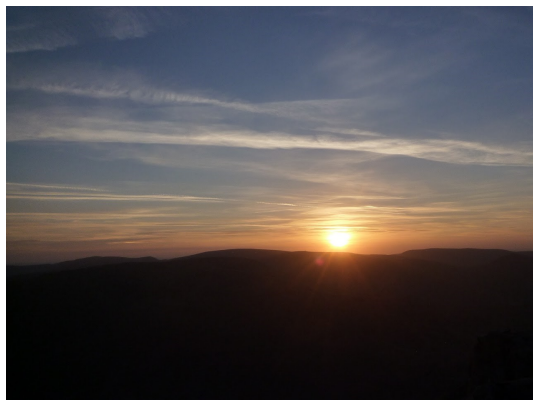
CONTACT DETAILS of the officers of the BMC Lakes Area are as follows –

Area Chair:	-	Mike Parsons	theomm.mike@gmail.com
Area Secretary:	-	Ron Kenyon	ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com
Area Treasurer:	-	James Bumby	
Area National Council Representatives	-	Fiona Sanders	
		Changing.peerspective@icloud.com	
		Mike Parsons	theomm.mike@gmail.com
Area Access Coordinator:	-	James Bumby	
Area Access Reps			
• South Lakes	-	James Bumby	
• Kentmere and Longsleddale	-	Max Biden	
• Duddon and Eskdale	-	Al Phizacklea	
• Wasdale, Ennerdale and St Bees	-	Richard Outhwaite	
• Borrowdale and Thirlmere	-	Richard Outhwaite	
• East Lakes and Eden Valley	-	Ron Kenyon	
Climbing wall representative	-	Ali Wood	
Area Youth Coordinator	-	Ali Wood	
Clubs Representative	-	Ged Campion	
Hill Walking Representative:	-	Stu Smith	
Newsletter Editor	-	Ron Kenyon	
Park planning representatives.	-	Richard Outhwaite and Ken Taylor	

Something to look forward to --



Oxford and Cambridge Climb - Grey Crag - Buttermere



New Dawn over High Street !!