

JANUARY 2024



LAKE AREA NEWSLETTER

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It is a few years since the last newsletter for the Lakes Area and much has happened in the meantime. We hope you enjoy reading this edition, we are looking forward to it being the first of regular newsletters. We would welcome information and suitable articles for future editions to help update BMC members in the Lakes area and beyond.

Please contact Ron Kenyon to submit any comments or information/articles.
ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com

FORTHCOMING BMC LAKES AREA MEETING

Note for your diary

17th January 2024 - 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Venue - Lyon Equipment Offices at Tebay. Close to Junction 39 on M6

Details of the meeting will be sent out separately. Topics for discussion are:

- Current situation with new CEO for BMC and future BMC strategy
- Access issues
- And no doubt – much more

Please come along!



THE BMC LAKES AREA NEEDS YOU!

The BMC is the national body for climbing, walking and mountaineering for England and Wales. There is a diverse membership with a wide spread of activities, including:

- rock climbing: trad, sport and bouldering;
- indoor climbing: recreation through to international competitions
- walking on fells and mountains
- mountaineering on foot and ski and various means throughout the world

The BMC and connected organisations are involved in:

- access and conservation
- lobbying and communications with Government on related matters
- mountaineering and climbing clubs
- mountaineering and climbing insurance
- climbing competitions
- climbing walls
- owning and looking after crags
- mountain heritage - with Mountain Heritage Trust
- mountain and climbing training - with Mountain Training
- personal protective equipment technical standards - Technical Committee
- and much more.



**THE BMC LAKES AREA
NEEDS YOU!**

**Vacant positions:
Chair and Secretary**

**Please contact Ron
Kenyon if you are
interested in helping.**



There is a dedicated head office in Manchester with staff at the hub of the organisation, however there are many members who volunteer in numerous ways, such as:

- Directors of BMC
- National Council of Members
- Chair and Secretary of Areas around the country
- Access Representatives - help with access and similar issues
- Other area representatives with links to clubs, walking groups and climbing walls who can feedback issues to the main body of the BMC

The BMC can seem somewhat unwieldy, but it is amazing what it is involved in and deals with - usually behind the scenes!

The BMC is split into various Areas, which each have meetings throughout the year. Members are very welcome to come along to these to express any concerns and find out what has been going on. The Lakes Area covers the area of Cumbria, including the Lake District, which is one of the most popular mountain areas in the UK and in which there are roughly 1,600 BMC members.

We had the recent Lakes Area AGM in October and set the scene for the coming year. Most Area positions have been covered, however the following positions are open if you are interested in 'doing your bit'.

POSITION VACANCIES

Chairman - This is an important and interesting position. (There was an offer from a prominent local member, but he is immersing himself in a what will be an interesting autobiography of his life).

Secretary - A similarly important position. We would welcome someone stepping forward.

More vacant positions below.

Election of officers for 2023/24 at AGM

Area Chair:	Position vacant
Frank Bennett standing as temporary Chairman	

Area Secretary:	Position vacant
Ron Kenyon took on temporary acting secretary position	



Area Treasurer:	Ron Kenyon
Area National Council Representative: Others welcome to take up a position on the National Council	Dave Brown
Area Access Coordinator:	James Bumby
Area Access Reps -	
i. South Lakes:	Christian Dodsworth
ii. Kentmere and Longsleddale:	James Bumby
iii. Duddon and Eskdale:	Position Vacant
iv. Wasdale, Ennerdale and St Bees:	Richard Outhwaite
v. North Lakes:	Richard Outhwaite and Ron Kenyon
vi. East Lakes and Eden Valley:	Ron Kenyon
Climbing wall representative:	Position vacant
Area Youth Co-ordinator:	Position vacant
Club Representative:	Anne Chevalier
Hill Walking Representative:	Position vacant
Newsletter editor:	Marjolein Thickett
Park planning representatives:	Richard Outhwaite and Ken Taylor

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BMC LAKES AREA CLUBS REPRESENTATIVE



At the last BMC Lakes Area AGM, I volunteered to become the Area Club's Representative and act as the link between local clubs and the BMC.

First, I would like to gather thoughts & opinions of clubs relating to local issues and identify club needs to communicate them to the BMC. The job might develop further as the year progresses!

For now, feel free to contact me (annechevalier28@gmail.com) to let me know of any concerns you may have that are associated with climbing and walking in the Lakes area. I will present them at the meetings. Thank you for the replies I have already received.

Clubs are such an important aspect of the climbing and walking scene and the BMC. In this edition of the Lakes Area Newsletter, we have information about the Eden Valley Mountaineering Club. We want to include details of other local clubs in future editions of the newsletter.

Anne Chevalier

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MEND THE MOUNTAINS

"GET STUCK IN!" 2023



BMC Mend our Mountains has been going for some years, raising money to pay for upland restoration projects. This year, volunteer projects were also offered so that BMC members could give their time instead of (or as well as!) money. This is the "Get Stuck In!" initiative.

There have been 3 multi-day "Get Stuck In!" projects in the Lakes and 3 in Eryri in 2023. In April, volunteers stayed at FRCC hut at Raw Head in Great Langdale and worked on sections of the footpath at Stake Pass with Rangers from Fix the Fells. In June we returned, staying at Raw Head once more, and worked on a section of the footpath up The Band. In October, staying at Birkness, the FRCC hut in Buttermere, BMC volunteers worked with members of FRCC and Fix the Fells Rangers in the Northern Fells in Mousthwaite Comb on Blencathra. Work has included stone pitching (stone steps), stepping stones, construction of drainage gullies and also landscaping to concentrate the path on one line (making it more sustainable), and to deflect water away from the path, to reduce erosion. Thanks to all who attended.



In 2024, there will be 4 projects in Eryri and 3 in the Lakes: two in Great Langdale (8-10 April and 14-16 August staying at FRCC Raw Head) and one in Wasdale (29 April-1 May staying at FRCC hut at Brackenclose). The model is that there are 2 work days with Fix the Fells, followed by a free day for social hiking or climbing, plus 3 nights of accommodation provided by the BMC. Registration will go live early in January 2024.

<https://hillwalking.thebmc.co.uk/get-involved-volunteering>

ROCK CLIMBING ACTIVITY IN THE LAKES AREA



New routes continue to appear around the Lakes and even new crags developed. Much of the activity for new routing is quite a long way from the road, but often on fine rock in great locations. Closer to the road, there has been a lot of bolting of new routes and retrobolting at crags.

There have also been many 50th anniversary ascents over the last few years by Rob Matheson, such as Paladin, Holocaust, Catacomb, Tarkus, Pink Panther. Another name from that era - Pete Whillance - has continued to be prolific, but has recently been wielding a drill involved with others in the bolting of the slate quarries around Coniston some 43 years after the joint discovery of Hodge Close by Pete and Rob and their teams.

Aaron Moran on crux of Over-Hung Top,
Mallerstang Edge



The FRCC continue to produce a series of free downloadable PDFs on the FRCC website. These cover a wide range of crags throughout the area, and are well worth looking at and using for the often newly-developed crags, but also other crags now not included in FRCC guidebooks.

Langdale

Attention for hard routes has continued on **Pavey Ark** with the ascent of Magical Thinking E10 7a, which gives a stunning direct finish to Eclipse, taking the wall right of Sixpence climbed by Mat Wright in July. Further up the valley, Martin Scowson and pals have developed another, **Black Crag** is located on Rossett Pike. It is a small buttress providing some very pleasant low grade routes on immaculate Langdale rock.

Slate

Pete Whillance, Keith Phizacklea and gang have been busy bolting at various crags providing some high class routes.

Bursting Stone Quarry is on the side of Coniston Old Man and well worth the walk up.

At **Moss Rigg Quarry** there has been a lot activity. There are two companion routes to Titanic Arete - White Star Line F6c+ a worthwhile two pitch 6c,6b on the right (looking in) and the four pitch Heart of the Ocean F7a+ to its left. There are also well over twenty routes on three sectors on the sunny side ranging from F6a to F7b, all very worthwhile and completely unlike Bursting Stone in character.

Sadly, **High Fell Quarry**, which contains some excellent, if difficult, routes is now closed to climbing after a change of tenancy.

Pete also climbed the superb Blade Runner F7a*** in **Hodge Close**, taking the wall left of, then crossing, Joie de Vivre to climb a superb slabby arete.



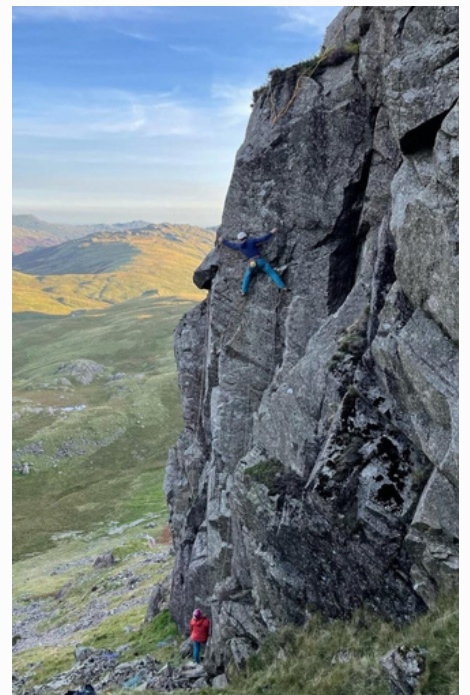
Dow Crag. Centennial ascent of Eliminate A. Dave Menadue.



Boogie Wonderland (E4),
Chapel Crag



Born To Be Alive (E6), Chapel
Crag



Black Mamba (E5 6a),
Greenhole Crag

Dow and Coppermines Valley

The new guide to this area was eventually published by the FRCC and coincided with the centenary of the first FRCC guide to Doe Crag in 1923, as well as the centenary of the first ascent of the classic Eliminate A.

Duddon Valley

The new guide to the Duddon Valley was published by the FRCC in 2022 and raised the profile of this area with the many crags scattered along its length. Some new routes and crags have been developed - some good - some not so good - but it is an area well worth visiting.

Eskdale

A new guide is being produced for the valley and is expected to be published, again by the FRCC, in 2024. Much development has taken place throughout the valley, with particular intensity around the North-West side of **Harter Fell**, **Greenhole** and the moorland around **Green Crag**. At one point, over 100 new routes were developed in as many days!

Wasdale

Blackem Headwall is tucked well away up Mosedale, above Wasdale Head, and has a lot of rock and is being developed by a keen bunch of climbers. Rob Matheson and Ian Cooksey climbed Mosedale Groove E5 6b - a superb pitch in this fine mountain setting - the long walk being part of the overall experience! Later, Chris Moore and Scott Quinn climbed Mutiny E5 6b which starts up Mosedale Groove before stepping and climbing up with a hard crux at the top above a nest of small RPs.

Buttermere

High above Buttermere is **Chapel Crag**, previously the preserve of winter climbers, the dedicated group of Scott Quinn, Tim Millen and Ben Kent have developed the superb Disco Buttress with a number of hard routes.

Eden Valley

Brough Scar is a limestone crag, which was developed by Robin Curley and friends from Appleby in the 1980's, but the crag never became popular being both somewhat steep, but also protected by pieces of tat. It has recently been fully bolted to provide a collection of sports routes in a tremendous setting.

Mallerstang Edge is located high above the Mallerstang valley. John Proctor and friends have been developing this gritstone edge over the last few years with a number of routes across the lower grades, and in a stunning location.



Brough Scar - Pete Gunn checking out line of Break Boy Beats (F6c)



SUMMIT MAGAZINE

Summit magazine is mailed direct to all BMC individual members four times a year.

Club members get one printed copy in March and now all members - that's both Individual & Club members - can freely download every issue via iTunes or Play with a valid BMC membership number.

More details on the BMC website in the membership section
<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/summit-tablets?s=6>

BMC YOUTH MEET, 5/7 JULY

This event is based at the FRCC Hut at Rawhead in Langdale on the weekend of the 5/7 July 2024. It is open to young climbers aged 12 to 17 who have climbed before either indoor and/or outdoors. Places are limited therefore there may be restrictions. It is preferable to have young climbers who have limited access to getting outside - but this all depends on the number applying.

There is a charge for the young climbers, which covers accommodation for the weekend and a communal meal on the Saturday night. All attending are expected to have climbed before and should have their own harness, rock shoes, helmet and belay plate.

These events are a great way to meet other young climbers and experience time at a climbing hut (with no internet!) in the great setting of Langdale.

Details for the weekend are being drawn together, however if you would like more details or know of a young climber who would be interested in attending, please contact Ron Kenyon:
ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com

Ron Kenyon



JANUARY 2024



LAKES AREA LOCAL CLUB INFORMATION

EDEN VALLEY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY



The EVMC was formed on 13th December 1975 and is now entering its 50th year. As with any club, much has happened over those years and members of the club have been involved in many activities.

Based in Penrith and the Eden Valley, members have been very much involved in the development of crags and rock climbs in the Eden Valley, but this has extended around the world on crags, fells and mountains on foot and skis, bikes and kayaks. It has been an important glue for many of the local climbers, walkers, fell runners and ski-tourers and has drawn many together to form friendships over the years.

Many of the members focus their interests on rock climbing throughout the UK as well as locations such as Kalymnos and beyond. The fells and mountains draw members in all seasons. The Club was instrumental in the building of the Eden Climbing Wall in 1995 and has been closely involved since then with its operations.

Over the years, there has been an interest in fell running with a number of members having completed the Bob Graham Run. In 1993, eight members traversed all the Wainwrights as a relay over 4.5 days. It established the New Streets Race in Penrith, which has its annual fell race over Gowbarrow.

With the 50th year coming up, there are a number of activities arranged and the Club is looking to involve members past and present.

On the 20th January, there is a special evening organised around the 50th, as well as a ceilidh for members past and present. If you are interested in attending please contact the Club Secretary, Al Davis for more information: aldavis863@gmail.com

Also on the 20th January, there will be the Club fell race, starting at the Royal Hotel, Dockray and going over Gowbarrow. Start time is 11.00 am with refreshments afterwards at the Royal.





EDEN CLIMBING WALL PENRITH

The Eden Climbing Wall is located at the Penrith Leisure Centre. The wall is a leading wall, 9 metres high, with 32 bolt lines and over 100 routes at various grades. The local climbing community is closely involved in the running of the wall which has evolved over the years since it was built in 1995.

There have recently been some interesting and useful developments, as follows:

- Over the years, the wall has not had any top ropes in place, however recently top ropes have been installed to help with climbing classes held at the Wall, but these are also available for all to use.
- With the lack of top ropes in place, there was a restriction that there had to be two adults with children at the wall, due to belay issues. However, now the top ropes are in place, it is normally only necessary to have one adult present when are children climbing.

- Two auto-belays were installed a few years ago, and a further two are now in place making a total of four auto-belays. These are excellent additions enabling you to climb the wall on your own, without the need for a belayer.

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Area**



EVMC CHALLENGE

WAINWRIGHTS WITHOUT A CAR



The Eden Valley Mountaineering Club (EVMC) caters for a wide mix of activities, now mostly geared to rock climbing, but also fell walking, scrambling, mountaineering, fell running and ski touring. The Lakeland fells and the “Wainwrights” on our doorstep often see members present right round the year. At the end of 2022, one of the club members suggested a collective challenge for the club to climb all the Wainwrights in 2023 without the use of a car. There was some scepticism, but the idea caught hold and on the 17th January, Ron and Chris Kenyon set off on the X4 bus to Keswick with a snow-covered Latrigg in our sights – the first of the 214 Wainwrights.

Keswick is quite a hub, with buses going in all directions and the two soon got to learn about the various services promoted on the excellent Stagecoach Timetable. Penrith is also well situated as it has access to the Ullswater Valley on the 508 bus, which also goes over Kirkstone Pass to Windermere (not in the winter).

Details were put on the EVMC website and a Facebook page was created (EVMC Wainwright Challenge) with details and tales of the ascents.

Some of the fells were on the doorstep, and the group were able to walk up Little Mell Fell and Great Mell Fell to then make use of bikes for Carrock Fell and High Pike.

The area to the north of the Skiddaw range was somewhat tricky, however with a scan of the bus timetable, there was the 73 bus (The Caldbeck Rambler) on a Saturday, which runs from Carlisle via Caldbeck to Keswick then Patterdale and back. One particular stop is at Uldale, a village not too far

from the hamlet of Longlands and near the Wainwright summit of that name. So, the X4 to Keswick, then on to Bassenthwaite and across the fields, with the ascents Bac'o'Skidda of Great Cockup and Meal Fell followed by The Knott, Great Sca Fell, Braeside and Longlands and a pleasant walk to Uldale, with afternoon tea at Mae's Café, before catching the bus to Carlisle and Penrith.

Two areas with Grey Crag and Tarn Crag above Longsleddale (the Far Far Eastern Fells area) and Grike, Crag Fell and Lank Rigg (the Far Western Fells) caused some pondering and the tent came into action on the following routes.

Scafells from Grey Friar



Buttermere from Hencomb

For Grey Crag and Tarn Crag, there is a local Fell runner Bus Service to Burnbanks, next to Haweswater, which runs on a Thursday. This was followed by walking up by Naddle Valley onto Selside, then Branstree followed by Tarn Crag and Grey Crag with good timing to set up camp, next to a stream, on the way down with a fine view over Morecambe Bay. The next day was down into Longsleddale and up along the opposite ridge with Shipman's Knott, Kentmere Pike etc. to eventually drop down to Hartsop. 10 summits in the bag!

For the Far West, it was necessary to take the train to Whitehaven, then the bus to Cleator Moor and up the Nannycatch Road over Blakeley Moss, eventually gaining the fine peak of Haycock before camping by some ponds, just above the Pods of Ashness. In the morning, after Seatallan, Middle Fell and Buckbarrow, use was made of the Wasdale Shuttle bus up to Wasdale Head before using the same bus to go to Ravenglass in the late afternoon.

Perhaps the easiest summit was Wansfell with the 508 bus by Patterdale and just over the summit of Kirkstone Pass. A gate by the road leads on to Wansfell and then a path along its ridge and dropping down to Ambleside. From Waterhead, the steamer was taken to Bowness-on-Windermere, then quite a stiff hike up to the railway station. Afterward, the train back via Oxenholme to Penrith. A rather varied day!

One of the benefits of using public transport is being able to complete linear walks and not being tied to go back to the car. Another delight is meeting and talking to many people from many places and nations (Canada, US, Mexico and China).

The final summit was Blencathra - by way of the 9.15 am bus from Penrith on 17th December. It has been interesting to change one's mindset to think more of using public transport to get about. This is not always possible and can be expensive, though the £2 bus fares have been a great incentive to encourage bus usage. The Club is planning a similar challenge for 2024!

More details in the Winter 2023 edition of Summit magazine.

Ron Kenyon



WITH THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED

We hope you enjoyed this edition, which was put together by Ron Kenyon and Marjolein Thickett.

If you would like to submit any articles for the next edition of the BMC Lakes Area Newsletter, please email to Ron Kenyon.

ron@jaggedlakes.plus.com