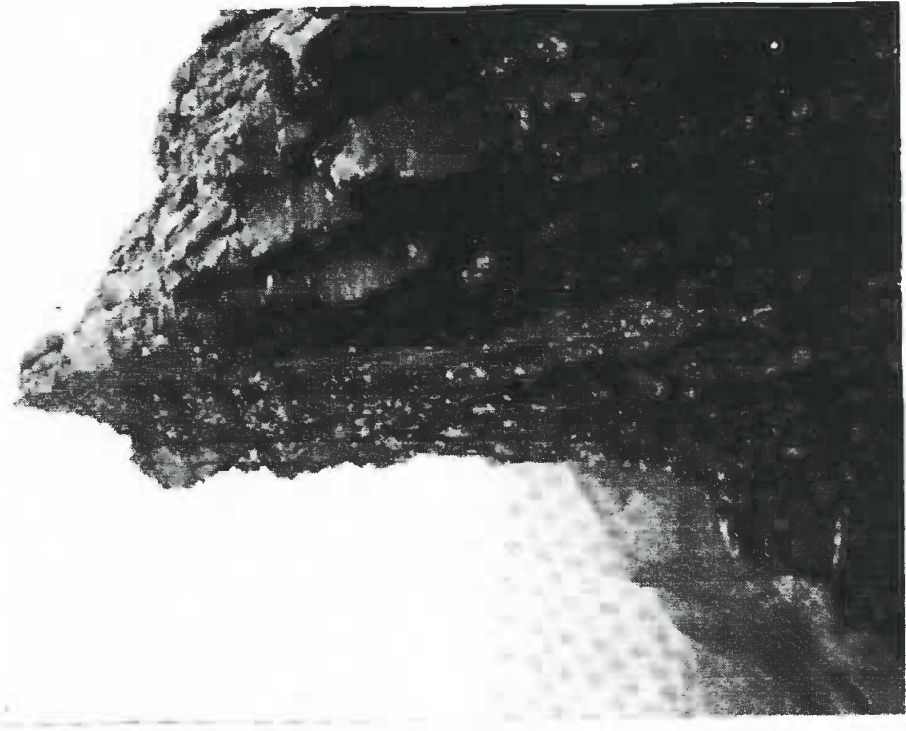


NEWSLETTER July 2002

David Ward atop Lord Berkley's
Seat, An Teallach



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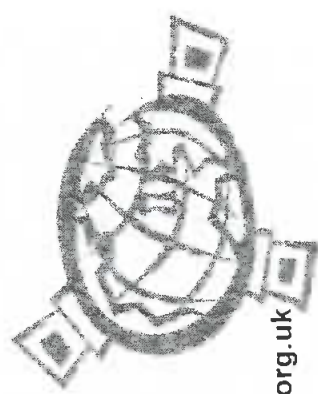
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Editor's bit.

Since I got back from my cycling trip across the Pyrenees I haven't had a moment to myself. S, if this edition looks a bit rushed...it is. Sue and I go to Italy for a month on the 26th of July. I only have six days to get this edition out. Maybe I need Bruce Willis to help me on this one!

Since the last edition I competed successfully in the British Orienteering Championships held at Magilligan Sands on the Antrim coast, climbed 21000 metres on my bike on a Pyrenean traverse at the end of May and got drowned and eaten by midges whilst helping at the Lowe Alpine Mountain Marathon in the Trossachs last weekend.

I have corrected the Old Git's telephone number on the back cover (Mike Tolley to the uninitiated), and got a b****cking last night on the boozy bike ride for getting the name of the pub in Woodplumpton wrong. (Actually I didn't want to make it too easy for Lou to find!). For those interested it is called the Wheatsheaf not the Spread Eagle and it is a Top pub. Relaxed closing time and an excellent pint of Charles Wells' Summer Solstice as the Guest Beer. It was a three pint stop, needless to say. It had to be actually because we'd only visited four pubs up till then and had to get the mandatory seven pints in. The general consensus was "why bother cycling to all the other pubs, when we could have come straight here?" followed by "why cycle, we

could have come by taxi!"

All contributions to the rag are accepted, articles, advertisements, anecdotes, poems etc.. I promise that I will sort out the cost of laser printing to improve the quality of photograph reproduction and produce a more professional publication. Another job to do when I get home from Italy.

I know that cycling isn't really mountaineering but I could be persuaded to write a full account of the trip if enough interest is shown.

On another sporting note, David Ward, one of our introductory members, completed the London Marathon on the 14th of April in a very creditable time of 3 hours 5 minutes. He raised over £500 for Multiple Sclerosis. I seem to recall that another FMC member, Ian Evans did a similar time in 1988, believe. No doubt Ian will correct me if I'm wrong. Perhaps there are other unsung marathon runners, triathletes and *sportif* performers in the club.

JD

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Summer Walks

Wednesday 26th June-Wheelton

Meet 7pm pub car park Dressers Arms

GR 604212

John Hickman & Clare Addy

01253 899282

Wednesday 10th July-Parlick &

Fairsnape

Meet 7pm

GR 599445

Pub Green Man, Inglewhite

Clive Bell

01772 635306

Tuesday 23rd July-Warton Crag

Meet 7pm. Park up lane NE side of pub

GR 499722 look for pub

Pub George Washington

John & June Wiseman

01253 826594

Thursday 8th August-TBA

Clive Bell

01772 635306

John Wiseman reports that the walks have proved very enjoyable with good attendances of a dozen or more members. I'm told that Donald is desperately trying to complete one, going in reverse at Nicky Nook and attempting to do the Hutton Roof one by car after a navigational blunder

Outdoor Meets

June

29-30 Alstonfield, camping
Martin Dale

01253 772073

July

6-7 Intro Members-Stair
Mike Tolley

01772 791121

13-14 Chester Hut

Mike Sissons

01253 857929

27-28 Obscure crags, Langdale

Martin Dale

01253 772073

August

3-4 Galloway, camping

Andy Dunhill

01434 682018

17-18 Chester Swap, Llanberis

John Wiseman

01253 826594

24-26 Pembroke, camping

Mike Sissons

01253 857929

LANGDALE WORKING WEEKEND: 18/19th MAY

A well attended meet with 8 or so grafters on hand to marvel at the still-working dehumidifier.....

Much work was done by all, assisted largely by the naft weather, including cleaning, weeding, cleaning, tiling, cleaning ...and no climbing.

The "little nipper" toilet seat has now gone to the great dumping ground in the sky and with new door locks, it is now possible to shower or "powder ones nose" in privacy.

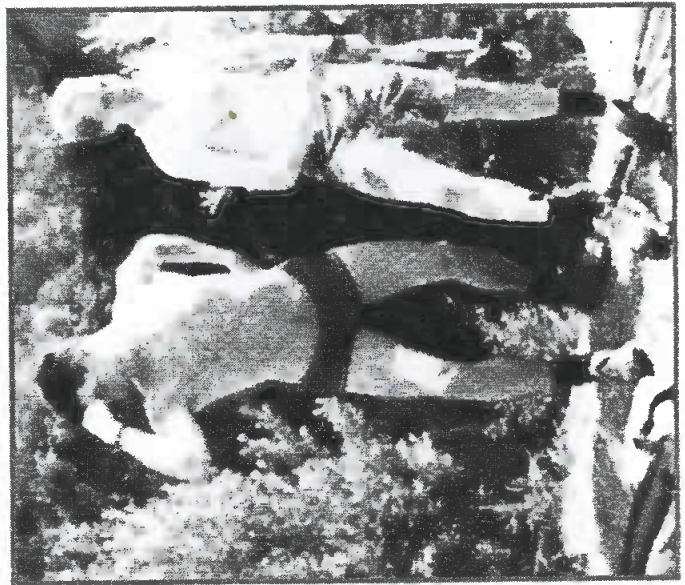
The red gloss paint downstairs has also gone, in favour of 50's retro green - in honour of the clubs 50th anniversary. Apparently it's now the same colour as when first acquired. Don't worry if the colour makes you sick - it can be easily wiped down.

Anniversary photos were also hung, serving to illustrate how unkind the passing years have been to some club members.

Thanks to all who helped.

Chris Bell

On the subject of Chris Bell, here is one from the archives at Hodge Close when he was but a lad. Alongside him in statuesque pose is the new father-to-be, Andy Hird, who has been doing the Charles Atlas course.



DORSET MEET (MAY DAY)

Although the section of the Dorset coast between Bournemouth and Portland offers a host of activities for club members, the seven members plus one guest were all climbers, so non of the superb walking opportunities were taken advantage of. We camped in Toms Field, which has a good Pub nearby and you can walk to the sea cliffs.

Saturday found us all down on the Swanage sea cliffs, The Tolley's, Chris Thistlethwaite and Chris Bell, Joanna Goorney and her guest - Pamela, all went to the Subliminal area, which has easy access (10 minutes), short abseils, down to the non tidal platforms and it catches the sun all day. The routes are short, (10 metres) but quite steep. One young lady fell off and the air/sea rescue, very efficiently lifted her off by helicopter - fortunately her injuries were not too serious. Martin and Kevin climbed further along the coast on the Boulder Ruckle, where I joined them for their 3rd route. This area is longer - 40 metres - and much more serious, with no really easy option to get out if you can't climb your chosen route. A team of 3 found this out and yet another rescue was performed by a local team roping the "team of 3" back to the top of the cliff

Sunday was back to Swanage with myself and Jennie, Chris and Chris at the Cattle Troughs, Joanna and Pamela on Dancing Ledges, and

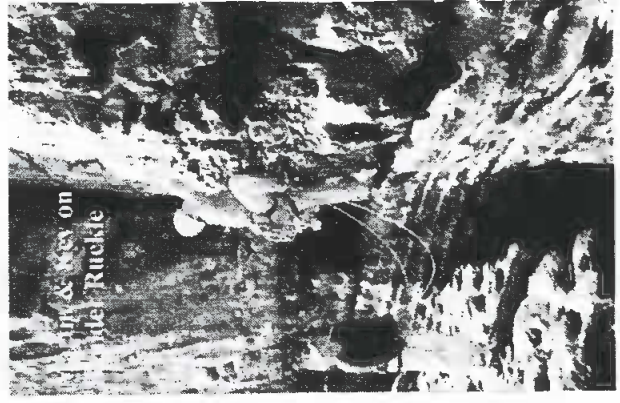
Martin and Kevin back down the Boulder Ruckle. Again, superb weather and scenery calm seas and lots of boats cruising passed. The evening started at a Beer Festival in the village of Corfe where the Sealed Knott had been doing battle round the ancient castle. It was like being in a time warp milling around the bar and the "pig roast".

Monday was spent looking at damp rock on Portland, plus the drive home.

There was a "warning" notice about dangerous caterpillars in the area and there were very many of them. They caused a skin irritation, and some of us were afflicted some more than others! So beware.

A great area - you should come next time.

Mike Tolley



LADIES MEET AND THE ROUND OF THE FOUR PASSES

It was Angela Lovett's idea to combine the two as the meet clashed with the annual hike. The round of the four passes" (a fund raising organized walk in aid of the YHA, for a mere £8 entrance fee). As the walk is a Lovett family tradition it seemed churlish not to include the men, who could also benefit from our delightful company. So Mike Tolley and Alan Lovett and a friend of Gill Fenna's accompanied us = 6 females in all. So Saturday morning, early by FMC standards, we set off from Longthwaite Youth Hostel in Borrowdale after we had clocked in.

The distance is 18miles, the ascent 4500ft and the highest point 1800ft. The four passes leads you through the heads of 4 Lakeland valleys and is effectively a circuit of the Great Gable Massif. The route takes you to the head of Borrowdale, over Sty Head Pass to Wasdale, which is the longest stretch, and an ascent over the shoulder of Pillar, Blacksail Pass which is the highest point. We then went down to the head of Ennerdale to the Blacksail Youth Hostel where tea, coffee or a cold drink where on offer, then ascended Scarth Gap pass and down to Buttermere with another opportunity for refreshment. Most of us ascended Honister pass via the miner's track, but there is an option of following the road and then the descent into Borrowdale and back to our starting point at Longthwaite

Youth Hostel where we partook of tea, soup and sandwiches. The weather varied and we experienced hail and sleet, some wind, a little sun but mainly unclouded views and we all completed in about 9 hours. Not an outstanding time but extremely enjoyable

The meal in the evening was in the pub with lots of well-earned beer and self-satisfied smirks. The following day was fairly manky, wet and uninspiring so some departed for home and some of us helped Mike complete the dismantling of the fallen trees in the farmer's field returning same to Stair Hut land. (Bonfire fuel) and then we did what every self respecting Lady does - we went shopping in Keswick.

Jennie Tolley

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERS' MEET 10/11 MAY

A poor turnout for this meet. Only one introductory member and he only came for the Sunday.

Three members climbed on the Saturday at Grey Crag, Buttermere. The weather was dry, but there was a cool breeze at times..

Saturday evening saw a few more people arrive and on Sunday eight of us went to Lining Crag on Greenup Edge. Many good climbs were done although the crag could be a bit cleaner if it got more traffic.

A good weekend, just a pity that no more intro members attended.

Les Ward



Angela Lovett takes to the rope



Jennie and An Teallach