

FYLDE MOUNTAIN HIKING CLUB.

NEWSLETTER

JAN. 1984

SPECIAL CROSSWORD EDITION.

EDITOR'S NOTES

Looking back 1983 might be considered a not uneventful year and Barrie Crook and the committee are to be congratulated on their work for the Club, especially as they had more than their fair share of tough decisions.

Basically the Club continues to offer to members a great deal. Facilities improve and effort has gone into providing a more effective and cohesive programme both on and off the hill. This has been partly successful and partly disappointing. Members hut usage seems to be increasing for the first time in years and hut meets in general have been popular. Coach meets on the other hand are somewhat unpredictable.

Also, I suppose it could still be said that although less pronounced, a certain level of antagonism exists between some sections of the Club, or do I exaggerate?

Anyway from my point of view the newsletter enjoyed a good year. Thanks to all those who contributed articles. I hope to hear from more of you in the coming months. Make an effort to attend the A.G.M please and all the best for '84.

Eddie Craig.

NEW MEMBERS

The following are welcomed as introductory members:-

Mathew Henderson	82, Belvedere Road, Thornton-Cleveleys.
John D. Roper	16, Carr Head Lane, Poulton-le-Fylde.
Mark Rees	51, Osborne Road, Blackpool.
Kevin Stephen	Flat 2, 8 Beach Road, St. Anne's.
David Sagar	65, Park Road, St. Anne's.
John Lander	11, Alder Grove, Poulton-le-Fylde.
J. Wilson & J. Parker	19, Kenwyn Ave., Blackpool.
Mr & Mrs. P. Brierly	17, Spen Place, Blackpool.
James Greaves	"Threeway" 69, Poulton Old Rd, Blackpool.
Stuart Gascoine	40 South View Road, Sheffield.

MEMBERS' LIST - Alterations and corrections.

Please note the following changes and additions:

D. Brown	8, Whalley Old Road, York, Langho, Blackburn BB6 8DU
Alan Peel	Room 9, Flat 13, 16 Endcliffe Crescent, Sheffield, S10 3ED.
George Parker	Add Audrey (wife) and correct phone no. 856426.
Dave Laycock	add Linda (wife again)
John & Barbara Sealey	correct phone no. Kirkham 687147
Martin Pickup	* * * Longridge 3158.
Martin Dale	can be contacted at work. DHSS Morcross Room 406, Ext.233
Kevin Stephen	22 Delaney Drive, Freckleton. Tel. 634189

And Last But Not Least.....

Jack and Dorothy Jowett. This entry to be followed by five exclamation marks indicating: walker, climber, Alpinist, pot-holer, skier, sailor, musician, poet, playwright, producer, linguist, Raconteur, canoeist, photographer, Scottish dancer, etc. etc. etc..

CLUB SYLLABUS CORRECTION

Don Nichol. 46, Rookwood Avenue, Cleveleys.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A.G.M. 15th February, "Buccaneer", 7.30 pm (Prompt Please)  
See enclosed agenda.

LOST AT THE CLUB DINNER

Janet Wilkinson lost her duvet jacket from the hotel lounge on the night of the club dinner. Someone may have picked it up by mistake. If so, please contact Janet or Brian Wilkinson, 19, Larkholme Parade, Fleetwood, Tel.2594.

SOCIALS (at The Buccaneer 8.30pm) (See also on Page 10)

1st Feb.	Painting with light	Dave Earle
22nd Feb.	The White Mountains of New Hampshire	Dave Langhorne
7th Mar.	Movie Film, "The Matterhorn" (North Face Expedition)	
21st Mar.	Iceland with Rucksack, Boots and Camera.	Bill Ruthven
11th April	Maps and North Wales	John Parker.

With regard to the above entertainments your very own social secretary, Donald Duck, has requested that members make a little more effort to arrive on time for socials so that they can begin as stated at 8.30pm. Many people are in the habit of arriving after this time and delaying the start. Donald considers this ill-mannered and discourteous in the extreme and may lose his temper with you if it continues.

Needless to say, the last three socials have been late starters due entirely to the failure of Donald to appear with screen or projector much before 9.15 pm.

How does he do it? (Answers on a postcard please.)

RIVAL FEATURE.

The Ski Club has arranged a lecture on March 7th at the River Wyre Hotel, Poulton, when the speaker will be Ron Rutland, Leader of the 1933 British Himalayan Winter Expedition to Annapurna I.

Our members are welcome to go along. The lecture commences at 8.00 pm and admission is £1. per person.

HUT AVAILABILITY

3/4th Feb.	Langdale	6/7th April	Stair
10/11 "	Stair	13/14 "	Langdale
17/18 "	Langdale	20/21 "	Stair
24/25 "	Stair	27/28 "	Langdale
2/3rd Mar.	Langdale	4-6th May	Stair families
9/10 "	Stair	" "	Langdale
" "	Langdale families	11/12 "	Stair
16/17 "	Langdale	18/19 "	Langdale
23/24 "	Stair	25/26 "	Stair.
30/31 "	Langdale		



### GET NOTICED

The FMC notice board is now firmly installed in the Alpine Centre. It should be used by members for notices eg. adverts, lifts required, walking/climbing partners required, gear for sale etc. A regular poster on it will inform members of up coming socials and outdoor meets as well as providing prospective members with a glimpse of where to find us and what we do.

Any contributions will be welcomed. There are 3 photos on the board at the moment depicting members in action. Any members who have photos they wish to display on the board of members walking, climbing etc. should give the photos to Martin Dale or leave them with the staff.

### ACCESS AT LOCAL QUARRIES

There is no access at Witches Quarry but try a friendly approach to the farmer.

There is access at Hoghton between 1st Feb. and 30th June each year. Anyone sneaking in after this date is asked not to tread on the baby pheasants. Claim ignorance of any restrictions.

Access to Chapel Head Scar is available between 2nd Aug. to 28th Feb. using the marked path for access, to the right of Central Gully. No more gardening. Descend by abseil from fixed ring at top of Atomic Bang, or path at right end of crag.

### BRITISH MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL

The Council announce "The Shape of Things to Come".... National Mountaineering Conference, The Opera House, Buxton, Derbyshire on 23 and 24th March 1984. Tickets £6.

Details from B.M.C. Crawford House, Booth Street East, Manchester M13 9RZ. Tel. 061-273-5835.

### PAUL BRAITHWAITE AND COLIN BROOKS LECTURE

Paul Braithwaite will be lecturing on climbing and trekking in the Himalaya, and Colin Brooks on the Troll Wall in winter, at the Civic Hall, Uppermill, Nr Oldham on Thurs. 9th Feb. '84, at 8.00 pm. Tickets £1. (OAPs and under 16s 50p) from Nick Estcourt Sports, Altrincham, Paul Braithwaites in Oldham, Rochdale and Warrington; Brighams, Manchester; YHA, Manchester; Peak Gear, Glossop; Saddleworth Riding, Delph; or on the door.

All proceeds will go to the appeal for renovations to the Alex MacIntyre Memorial Hut, Onich, nr Fort William. The hut has recently been purchased by the BMC MC of S; is dedicated to the memory of Alex MacIntyre former BMC National Officer, and is being repaired and improved to provide a 20 bed hut available all year as an excellent base for climbing in Glencoe and on the Ben.

### B.M.C. COURSES 1984.

Scottish Winter. One week course.

Feb 4-11th; 11-18th; 18-25th; 25th Feb to Mar.3rd.

Onich Hut, £99 excl. food. Over 16 yrs.

Rock Climbing. One week course.

April 21-28th Borrowdale

May 26th-Jun 2 Ogwen.

Jul 7-13 (Shorter Course, incl. Food)

Jul 14-20 Peak District.

Aug 4-11; 11-18; 18-25th Borrowdale.

£99 excluding Food. Over 16 years.

Rock Climbing 3 day course.

July 22-24; 25-27. Self-catering. Peak District £45. Over 16 yrs.

July 29-31 " " " " £45. Over 50 yrs.

Youngsters' Courses

Aug. 12-17th; 19-24. Lakes. £99. Age 12 to 16 yrs.

B.M.C. Members' Weekend

20-22 Jan (full); 3-5th Feb. Cairngorms. £35. inc. food and travel.  
Over 16 yrs.

Mountain Craft. Skye.

Sept. 1-8th, Glen Brittle. £99. Over 16 yrs.

Alps

Dauphine July 14-21st, 21-28; 28 Jul.-4th Aug. 4-11th; 11-18;  
18-25, 25th Aug - Sept. 1st. Camping & Huts. £99. excl.  
Hut Fees and food.

Arolla Jul. 28-Aug. 4th; 4-11; 11-18. Dorms and Huts. £115, excl.  
Hut Fees and food.

Chamonix Jul 14-28th; Aug.18-Sept.1st. Camping & Huts. £175, excl.  
Hut Fees and food.

Age limits - over 16 yrs.

Ski Mountaineering - Age limits Over 18 yrs.

Apr 7-14th Valais £99. excl. Hut Fees, lifts, food etc..

Ski Mountaineering leaders. Age limit over 20 yrs.

April 24-May 4th. £99. includes some assistance for food  
and travel.

Book with B.M.C., Crawford House, Precinct Centre, Booth St. East,  
Manchester M13 9RZ. Tel. 061-273-5835.

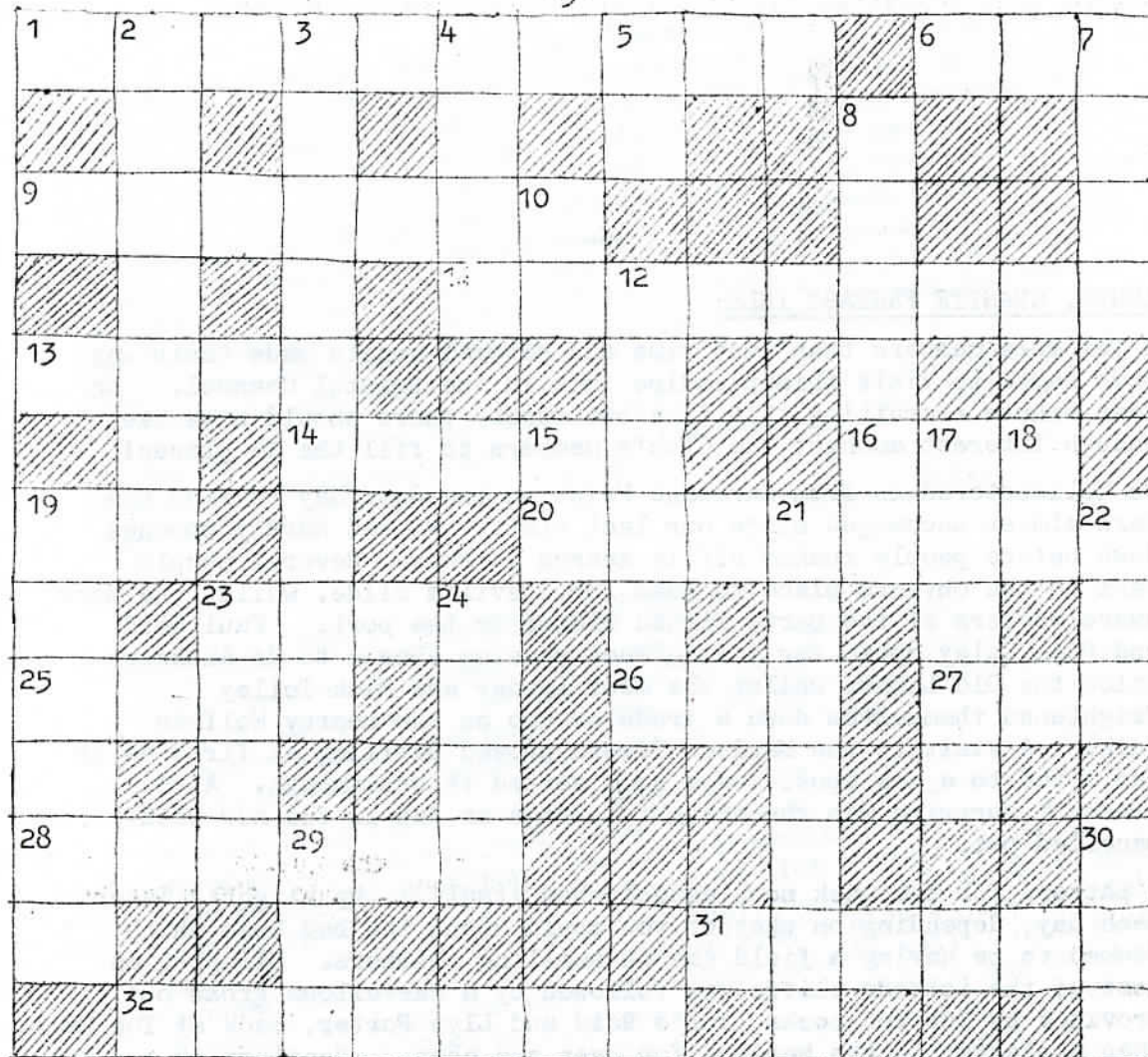
A CROSSWORD

Mental stimulation from Martin Pickup folks.

The secret, so I'm told, is to get to the mind of the compiler!  
Be that as it may, if you get stuck see the Editor. Answers  
supplied at the usual rates: One pint of mild per clue!

see next page.....





Across

1. Irrate fruit? (10)
6. & 31. Deer cress known to Kilnshaw? (3,6)
9. Spectral part of Germany (7)
11. Where malt is found in the Coniston Fells (9)
13. See 23 Down.
14. & 23 Across. Sanctuary for Tilman (5,4)
16. Found in Arctic experience (3)
19. Difficulty of unclimbed route (2)
20. Venue thats all around sir (8)
23. See 14.
25. View the Ben from the one at Corpach (4)
26. Paddle in Boardale tarn (3)
27. High ranking pass (3)
28. Howgills' seat (6)
31. See 6.
32. Dormant heather with a ruddy hard slot? (7)

Down

2. Beat good golf for this high spot? (7)
3. Clive Horn is the place to make an ascent - sounds like it could be through woods (9)
4. Eat valley skyline for a fell race (4)
- 5 & 7. See 17 Down.
8. Rice or mixture for Cwm (6)
10. Back bearing from SW (2)
12. Dance with right to gain tower (6)
15. See 23 Down.
- 17, 5 & 7. Classic on Sron na Ciche (5,2 and 4)
18. Hard climbs? (2)
19. Sent up near Everest (6)
21. Dumbartonshire & Perth each have one (1)
22. Crag alias lofty agent (3)
- 23, 15 Down and 13 Across. Tim did nude in French Alps (4,2 and 4)
24. Benbecula or Colonsay? (4)
29. One of 541 (3)
30. Pass in Alpine ski resort (3)

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### LUNDY, GRANITE FANTASY ISLE

A few more members than last time and several guests made their way down south to visit this paradise isle in the Bristol Channel. No last minute recruiting this time but surely there should have been enough interest amongst the Club's members to fill the 14 places!

We helicoptered in from Hartland Point on the Saturday to find the Barn almost unchanged since our last visit. We had hardly touched down before people rushed off in search of rock. Several people went to the obvious place to head for, Devil's Slide, whilst the more aware members of the party fished closer to the port. Paul Reid and Phil Caley opted for a long knot passing abseil to do Albacore below the Old Light, whilst the meet leader and Mick Tolley frightened themselves down a grade or two on the nearby Wolfman Jack. A visit to the Marisco Tavern proved baffling at first as it had moved to a new spot. Joe soon sorted it out though. Also a pleasant surprise was the draught Courage on tap in the new wood-panelled pub.

A pattern for the week soon established itself. Up slightly later each day, depending on whether you could stand the bed bugs which seemed to be having a field day on smelling climbers. Climbing on most of the islands cliffs was followed by a marvellous gross out, provided by our two cooks, Julie Reid and Lynn Porter, back at The Barn. Then a stagger to the Marisco for beer and chat. Needless to say the Fylde drunk the pub dry again, of its draught Courage anyway, too early in the week for comfort so we had to resort to the gaseous John Smith's alternative. The nights passed quietly this time and no-one slept with a peg hammer under their pillows.

When the tide was right, Roger Brooks and Andy Dunhill ventured into Black Tendrills Territory and, benefitting from the drought conditions, emerged with an ascent of Stone Tape. Possibly the most sought after route on the Island. Several teams climbed the established classics such as Spacewalk, Quatermass and American Beauty and lesser known gems like Good Vibrations. Of the newer routes, Ice received ascents from Roger and myself, Dave Parker and Bobby Windsor and definitely deserves its stars and grade. Roger and Andy also managed to climb Wild Country over two days using some strange karabiner fishing rod techniques. Of the easier routes ascended most of the classic Devil's Slide routes and Fluted Face routes were done as Joe, Glenn, Psycho, Mick Donnelly, Phil and Paul plugged away. Diamond Solitaire and Ulysses Factor were also popular. Eclipse at severe proved to be a real gem with a 'Very Out There' top pitch. The Soil Arete finish also proved exciting.

On the Thursday, the wind got up and it looked like rain. Late on me and Paul Reid managed to traverse into Wierd Wall from Montague Steps.

A very complex route finding job passing through very impressive scenery, we arrived below the routes only to be greeted by the first real rain for months. We had no alternative but to climb out by the other recommended descent route which I definitely would not recommend to anyone except rabbits! Keith Darbyshire wasn't joking when he described the place as 'Heaving with semi-detached bungalows'. That night quite a few big ships anchored in the lee of the island and the lifeboat was on hand. The wind blew and the only place to be was snuggled up in the Marisco. Friday was impossible. A quick visit

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threatened. Psycho, who must have sensed this bad weather coming went trundling on Thursday with Joe, Glenn and Mick. He also managed to trundle himself and injure himself badly enough to blag a lift off the island with the R.A.F. on the Saturday, leaving the rest of us marooned. The helicopter for Saturday was cancelled and even though the day dawned sunny, it was still very windy indeed. A walk round the island and some shipwreck investigations was the order of the day. Roger, always keen, managed a route in the Quarries on the east side of the island. Another excellent meal, under the circumstances, from Julie and Llyn was followed by more beer in the Marisco.

Sunday saw us back on the mainland after a slightly sideways flight. Summer had ended and winter was on its way. It was September 1st. Undeterred, we'll be back in 1985.

Martin Dale.

GOD'S PLAYGROUND Brimham Rocks Meet.

Winter days on Gritstone can be magic and this Sunday meet was to prove no exception. We assembled at Skipton outside the caravan for bacon butties and mugs of tea. It was fairly mild and the sun was threatening to break through.

Brimham Rocks is an amazing conglomeration of boulders. As if God was playing dice and just rolled a load of them across the country, some ending up as slabs, some as overhanging walls such as the first area we visited. The Cubic Block is like a big dice stuck in the ground. A slabby side provided easy routes such as Great Slab and Heather Wall whilst the overhanging side yields to the Painful Minions' Way, and the very improbable Joker's Wall. The slabs and side walls provided us with sport here for a while and Martin, Andy and Psycho ascended Rough Wall (VS). From the top we watched Barrie Crook and Andrew Hartley getting to grips with Maloja (SEV) on the nearby Cannon Rock. On our way to the main rocks, Notice Board Crack/was ascended only to find the top crack choked with tin cans. (M 3) Barrie and Andrew also made an ascent of this Brimham Classic. Tom seemed content bouldering and fielding Martin who had a mild grip soloing Lancet Crack (VS). On the main edge Brian Nelson and Rob Killen climbed Right Hand Crack (H-SEV) whilst the problems of the area got a white paste-ing. Andy Blaycock and James Greaves made mincemeat out of Birch Tree Wall (VS). Andy also managed to solo the first section of the Black Chipper after concerted efforts by most of the party, whilst Martin got into making craters at the bottom of an arete to the right. Moving on to the Fag Slab area, a fitting climax to the day was Andy's ascent of Allan's Crack (VS). As darkness fell several people proceeded to make fools of themselves in front of a large appreciative audience, seconding Andy in the gathering gloom.

The day ended with a tea stop in Skipton to give the pubs time to open and then several ales in the Wagon and Horses, Clitheroe. All involved agreed that more people should have enjoyed an excellent day out.

The Meet Leader

NANT PERIS October 7th and 8th 1983.

So far as numbers and enthusiasm was concerned this proved to be a very successful meet with a full hut, a good crowd and plenty of tramping around the fells.



As far as the weather was concerned it was an unmitigated disaster with torrential rain morning, noon and night. The only redeeming feature was the Chester M.C. dinner and dance which fortuitously was being held in Llanberis on this particular weekend. We were treated to an excellent meal, a superb stomp crowd, and were able to renew many old acquaintances over the customary pint or two.

Saturday dawned inclement. Masochists set off into the gloom anyhow. The wise followed the meet leader down the Gwynant valley and through the Aberglaslyn Pass to give a beautiful and spectacular low level walk. The rock climbers went to Tremadoc, but made little progress in the rain. They eventually found solace in the Plas Y Brenin climbing wall, which was worth its 50p just to get out of the rain. If only the editor had been with us instead of wandering around Wigan, we could have put him through his paces on the "wet" ski slope and taught him all we know. They certainly go much better in the rain!!

Arriving back at the cottage we found that the Hon. Life Member for Blackpool South had been trying unsuccessfully to mend the water heater. Never mind, this could be a job for .... Martin Dale. And verily he drew forth his magic wand and he smote the air mightily to the North and to the South, and to the East and to the West. And ho! water flowed pure and hot from the recalcitrant contraption and the multitude were amazed, not the least being Roscoe.

Dusk found us all repairing to the Royal Victoria in various states of "smoothness" depending on whether or not we were dining with the Chester M.C.. The fish course proved to be a whole trout, followed by roast beef and meringue, all of which made a pleasant change. The disco played plenty of lively stuff and went on much longer than is ever allowed in the Lakes. Strange for a country that does not allow drinking or enjoyment on the Sabbath!

Sunday dawned even wetter if that was possible. The climbers disappeared in the direction of Craig Y Furwen which I suspect was just as wet as the Cromlech and the walkers disappeared up the Glyders and Snowdon. The meet leader, with more sense, visited friends and some found themselves wandering the Beddgelert woods.

All in all a successful though damp foray into the Principality.

D.A. Earle

(possibly the Club's only Meet leading, walking, rock climbing, Piste bashing, ice climbing, pot-holing, dingy sailing, photographing, off-shore racing, ski-touring, Club lecturing, fell running, raft racing, underwater canoeing, Secretary; and "Official Lady", to boot.)

### GREENLAND'S ICY MOUNTAINS - A Walk in the Staunings Alps.

We landed our small Twin Otter aircraft at Mesters Vig, a tiny Danish radio station in N.E. Greenland and were greeted by the town's entire population (12). That's Mesters Vig for you. From here we would leave for our base camp at the Roslin Glacier in The Staunings Alps.

First we had to collect food from past expedition dumps. Our own was still in a room at Sheffield University due to an R.A.F. airdrop which literally never got off the ground.

Base camp was seventy odd miles distant and we were to travel in three groups, two walking it in five days and one group flying by helicopter in twentyfive minutes. Sounds unfair.



This is the walk.

We left Mesters Vig to cross miles of featureless tundra. In July 24 hour sunshine melts winter snows and meltwater streams swell to torrents. Lack of fitness, 70lb packs and bog wading made the going a touch boring. However our arrival at the summit of The Heste Pas gave us amazing views. Immense icebergs on King Oscar's Fjord and beyond the frozen arctic ocean. Nearer at hand steep hillsides were ablaze with yellow arctic poppies and purple saxifrage. Our route over tundra and moraine was also plainly visible.

We descended to the fjord and walked along the frozen shore. Icebergs shifted and cracked, shattering the eerie silence. Also disturbing the silence was the helicopter flying out our companions.

We climbed the hillside to our accommodation for the night, the Sortehjorne hut. Arriving at the hut we feasted on meat curry and ginger pudding. We were the first visitors for over a year.

The next section to the Mellen Pass of the journey involved glacier negotiation and snow concealing crevasses and meltstreams of unknown dimension. We listened hard for the sound of running water beneath the snow but even so every now and then someone gave a shout as they broke through, though thankfully we were lucky to avoid any injury.

A slog brought us to the summit of the pass in thick fog and freezing conditions. Descending from the mist we made for the Malmbjerg mine buildings at the foot of the Arcturus Glacier. Again we were wading through snow and the going was tricky. Falling into an Arctic supra glacial meltstream doesn't bear thinking about. The icy waters plunge down icy channels, resembling bob runs, offering no friction whatsoever, eventually disappearing into the bowels of the glacier.

Eventually we found the mine buildings and also tins of salmon and fruit pudding left there three years before. We ate and spent a rest day.

Next day we set off, crossing the upper Schuchert glacier followed by more tundra. We bivvied that night, now only a day's walk from our objective. Sleep being difficult due to the lack of darkness and constant buzzing of mosquitoes.

The final day began with some difficult river crossings and a final long march down tundra enlivened by some sightings of local inhabitants. A gyrfalcon hovered high above us, whilst snowwhite Arctic hares leapt about in alarm at our intrusion. High on the valley side a pack of musk oxen circled their young guarded by a lone bull. These strange animals with their large drooping horns and shaggy brown fur trailing on the ground are an unforgettable sight.

At last we could make out the orange tents of our camp and John and Hal, the helicopter party, standing by. Within an hour the entire party was reunited and celebrations began with a brew.

Footnote This trip was undertaken on the Sheffield University N.E. Greenland Expedition during the summer of 1978. I was geologist on this expedition which aimed to discover evidence of thermal activity (not springs or possible volcano) on a glacier to the north of King Oscar's Fjord. The first part of our expedition however, was spent moving equipment into the Staunings Alps for the scientific section of the expedition.



STOP PRESS!

An illustrated lecture by Ron Fawcett at Pont-y-Pair, Betws-y-Coed at 7.30 pm on Saturday, 25th February 1984. Tickets £2.50 at the door, but can be obtained for only £1.50 from Dave Earle, telephone Poulton-le-Fylde 890283.

A visual lecture by Chris Bonnington on behalf of the British Heart Foundation at 7.00pm in Keswick Lower School on Saturday, 11th February, 1984, plus a film "Kingdom of the Gods". Tickets £3.00. Details from 182 Pauls Walk, Lichfield, or telephone (05432) 56047.

Two "extremes" for the price of one, plus bar and disco up to 2.00 am. Probably won't appeal to our abstemious, stoical, monastic members! Slides and lectures by Doug Scott (on mountains) and Jerry Moffatt (on rock) at 8.00 pm on 2nd February, 1984 at Sugar House Alley, Lancaster. Tickets £2.50. For further details telephone (0524) 66876.

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SOCIALS

(addendum from P.2)

Apr. 4th

Kevin Stephen - Slide Lecture Sea cliff climbing.

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