

FYLDE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB ADVENTURES...AND MORE

SPRING 2023

No room at the Inn

An "evolving" walk

Falls at the Crag

Excellent rock

Who nearly missed the boat....





Chairman's remarks

I have been really pleased to see so many members getting out on the crag, on the hill and going underground. It is encouraging that we have some new young and very active members joining the club and getting out there. I will be interested to read this issue and see everyone's first-hand accounts of what they have been up to. Hope to see you all soon.

Dave

Cover photo-Mark and Viv Broughton on Albion-Lundy. Photo by Steve Clark.

Insert photo-Taken from the summit of Eggerhorn in Switzerland, looking across the Rhone Valley. Photo John Wiseman.

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Welcome to the Spring edition of your magazine. 2023 already, I don't know where time goes! I guess it flies by when you are having fun as we do with our outdoor adventures.

Not all your activities went according to plan though as you will read in the magazine, and it just shows how careful you have to be. There has been fun though and a big Island get together climbing above the waves! Also some nice memories of a walk gone by and a change of Venue for the Annual Dinner last year.

I enjoyed the FMC fell Challenge last year-it made me get out and try fells I haven't done before, though there was only John and June and I who did it which is a shame. We are having it again this year and hopefully there will be more interest.

As you may notice this edition of the magazine isn't quite as full as previous ones-I need more articles! I do sometimes have an article to take over to then next mag but this time I have none..... so more articles please!

As always thanks to those members who have provided articles for this mag. Hope you enjoy your read.

Christine

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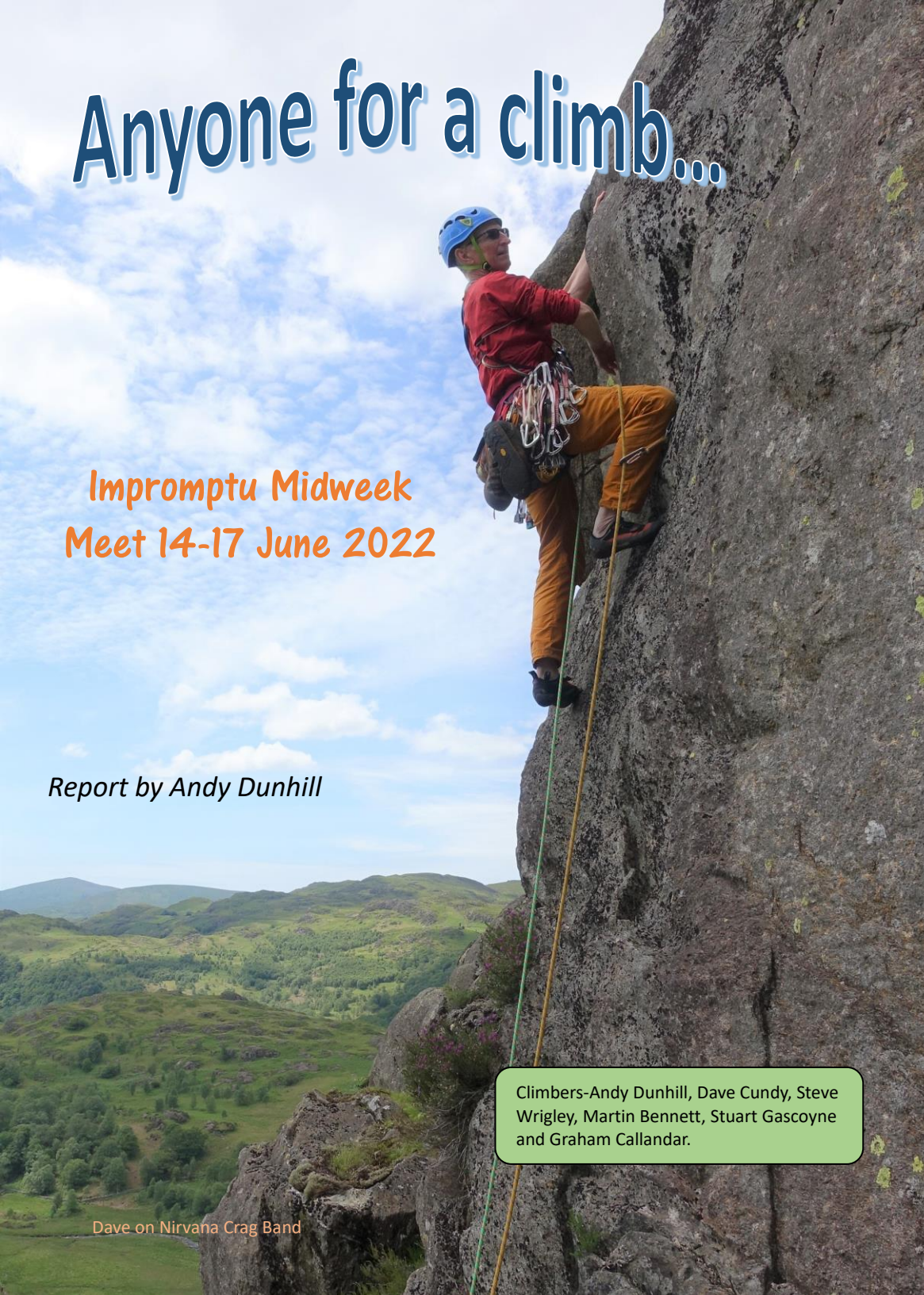
Anyone for a climb...

**Impromptu Midweek
Meet 14-17 June 2022**

Report by Andy Dunhill

Climbers-Andy Dunhill, Dave Cundy, Steve Wrigley, Martin Bennett, Stuart Gascoyne and Graham Callandar.

Dave on Nirvana Crag Band



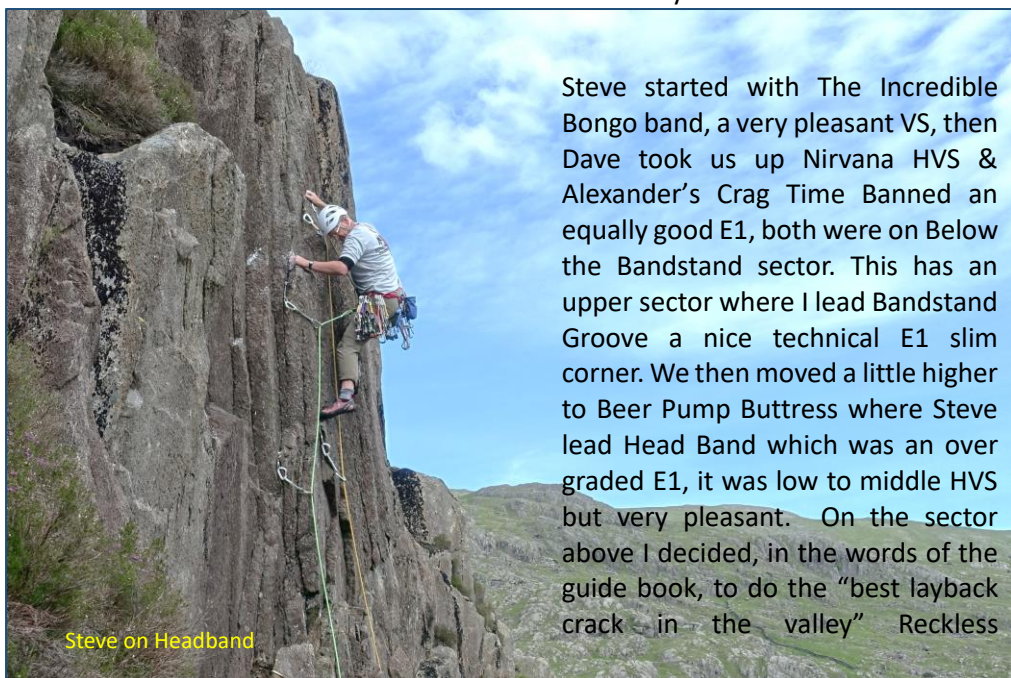
Dave Cundy & I had arranged, a few weeks earlier, to meet at Little Langdale, but the good weather prompted me to ask Mike to send out a Club email to make it a midweek vintage meet which brought out a few others. Dave & Steve Wrigley arrived early on Monday. I was late because I'd been to a Parish Council meeting that evening. The forecast was good & we had the new Duddon guide.

We'd heard good reports about Crag Band a short distance north of the Newfield Inn so we headed there on Tuesday. We did 6 routes, leading 2 each, ranging from VS to E2. All were single pitch & had stars. The various sectors are dotted around the



Andy and Dave on Nirvana Crag Band

hillside a bit but it was easy enough to identify the climbs.



Steve on Headband

Steve started with The Incredible Bongo band, a very pleasant VS, then Dave took us up Nirvana HVS & Alexander's Crag Time Banned an equally good E1, both were on Below the Bandstand sector. This has an upper sector where I lead Bandstand Groove a nice technical E1 slim corner. We then moved a little higher to Beer Pump Buttress where Steve lead Head Band which was an over graded E1, it was low to middle HVS but very pleasant. On the sector above I decided, in the words of the guide book, to do the "best layback crack in the valley" Reckless

Abandon which proved to be a poky E2 requiring a positive approach.



Andy and Dave on Bandstand Groove

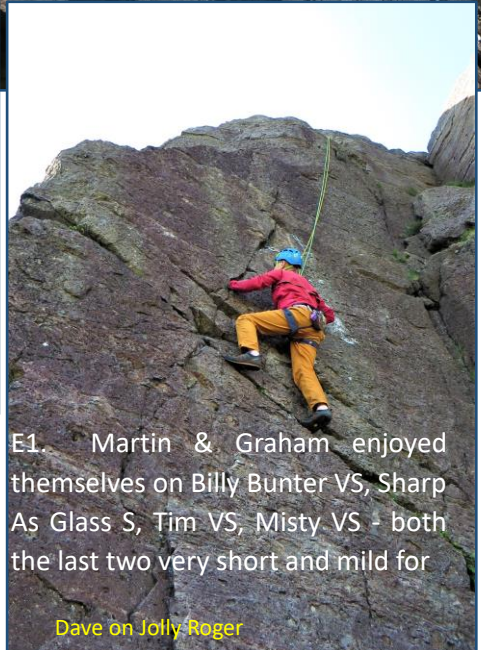
pairs we did over 20 routes in glorious sunshine. Stu hadn't done much climbing for a few years but managed to follow a few VS's & then lead a V Diff. Meanwhile Dave & Steve worked their way up Stop Showing off HVS and The First Touch



Graham on Sharp as Glass



Martin on Jolly Roger



Dave on Jolly Roger

On Wednesday we were joined by Stu Gascoyne, Martin Bennett & Graham Callander. Black Crag on Pike O'Bliscoe was the venue. In three

E1. Martin & Graham enjoyed themselves on Billy Bunter VS, Sharp As Glass S, Tim VS, Misty VS - both the last two very short and mild for

the grade, Just A Minute VS and Roger VS. Whilst not generally of the quality of the routes further left, all are enjoyed on the excellent rock Black Crag is known for.

On Thursday it was just Dave & I. We went to Shelter

Crag on the top of the Crinkles. We decided to approach it by walking up the Band so we could see the crag &



unbeknown to him he became part of the meet. If I go there again, I'd probably walk from the top of Wrynose.



hence where we were going. By pure chance we met Mark Harding coming down from a walk over Bowfell so

This is a north facing mountain crag, despite which it was warm, dry & relatively clean considering we were

probably the first team to climb there in the last 2 or 3 years. We did two excellent 3-star E1's – Panjandum & Pleasurezone. The first pitch of Panjandum had a tricky start requiring a bold approach & the second pitch was no pushover.



Andy and Dave on The Band

The final day was a short one so we went to Runestone Quarry, a short walk from the hut. We managed 5 bolted routes before black clouds brought some rain. Neither of us had been before. It was reasonably good, but bolted quarries are not why we

climb in the Lakes, we both prefer proper climbing! And it was a midge free trip.

Andy, plus Dave, Steve, Martin, Stu & Graham.



Steve, Andy, Martin, Graham and Dave by Black Crag

Accidents and forgotten gear at the Evening Climbing meets 2022

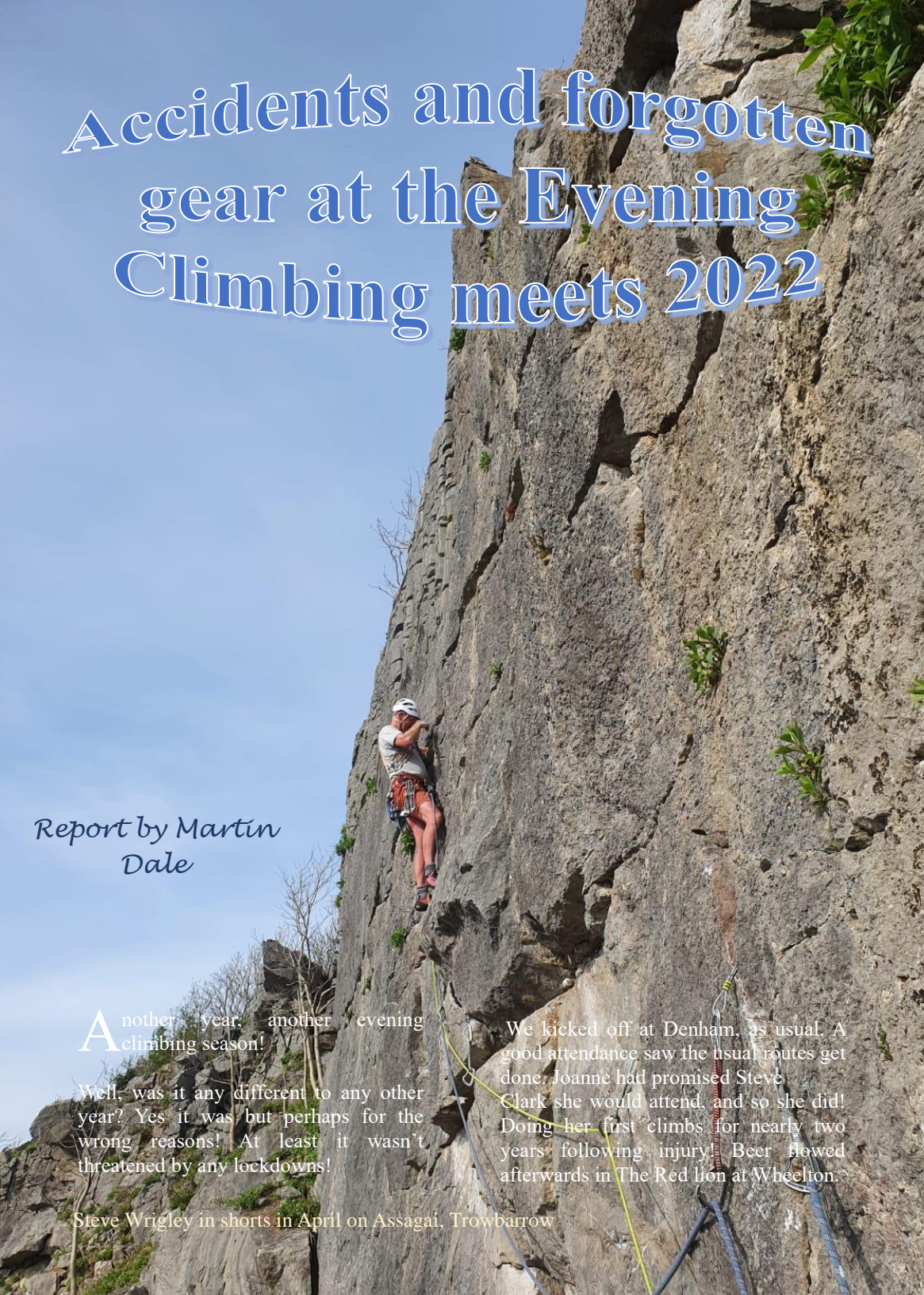
Report by Martin Dale

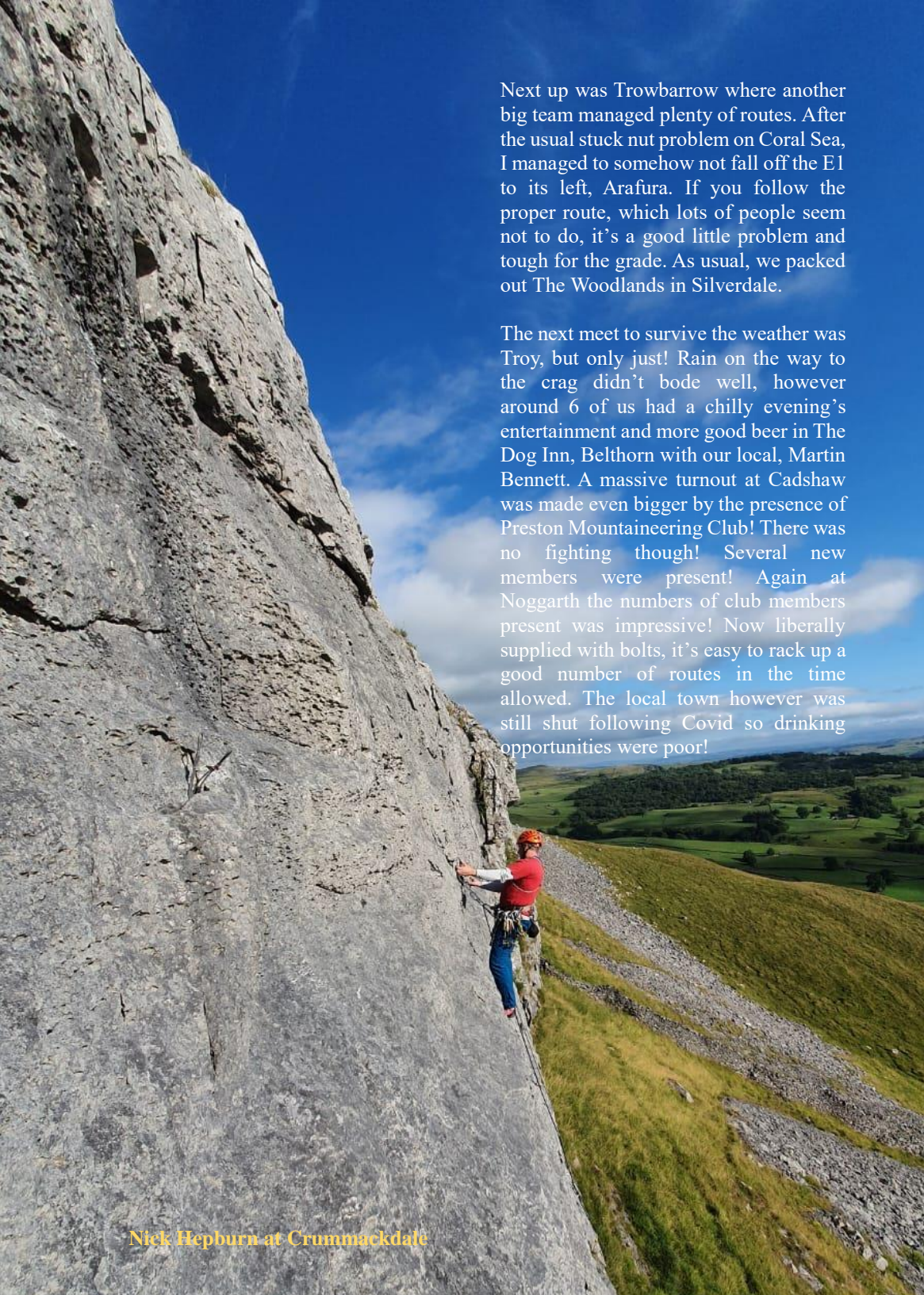
Another year, another evening climbing season!

Well, was it any different to any other year? Yes it was but perhaps for the wrong reasons! At least it wasn't threatened by any lockdowns!

We kicked off at Denham, as usual. A good attendance saw the usual routes get done. Joanne had promised Steve Clark she would attend, and so she did! Doing her first climbs for nearly two years following injury! Beer flowed afterwards in The Red lion at Wheelton.

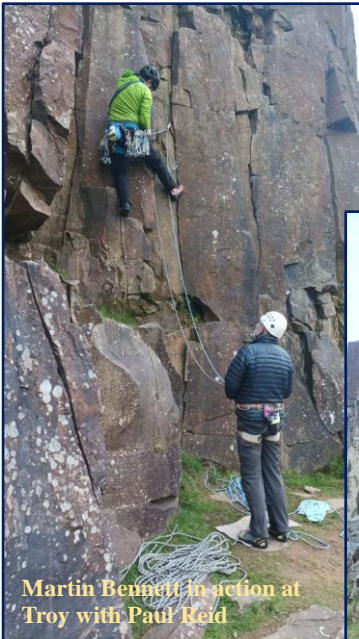
Steve Wrigley in shorts in April on Assagai, Trowbarrow



A photograph of a person climbing a large, grey rock face. The climber is wearing a red shirt, blue pants, and a red helmet. They are positioned on the right side of the rock face, with their body angled towards the left. The rock face is textured and has several cracks. In the background, there is a valley with green hills and a blue sky with some clouds. The overall scene is outdoors and appears to be a climbing site.

Next up was Trowbarrow where another big team managed plenty of routes. After the usual stuck nut problem on Coral Sea, I managed to somehow not fall off the E1 to its left, Arafura. If you follow the proper route, which lots of people seem not to do, it's a good little problem and tough for the grade. As usual, we packed out The Woodlands in Silverdale.

The next meet to survive the weather was Troy, but only just! Rain on the way to the crag didn't bode well, however around 6 of us had a chilly evening's entertainment and more good beer in The Dog Inn, Belthorn with our local, Martin Bennett. A massive turnout at Cadshaw was made even bigger by the presence of Preston Mountaineering Club! There was no fighting though! Several new members were present! Again at Noggarth the numbers of club members present was impressive! Now liberally supplied with bolts, it's easy to rack up a good number of routes in the time allowed. The local town however was still shut following Covid so drinking opportunities were poor!



Martin Bennett in action at Troy with Paul Reid



Steve Clark giving Neil Baines an edge at Troy

Attermire proved popular again with a good turnout on a nice evening. Again there were new members present!

fall

It's not often that we have accidents or near misses on our meets but 2022 proved the exception. Two experienced members were involved in falls resulting in hospital visits! First up was Widdop. The weather was decidedly dodgy as I drove up out of Brierfield. Then it started to rain. I was nearly there and with nothing better to do I carried on over the pass and down to the reservoir and it's a good job I did! I could see a motionless climber over on Mystery Buttress. It was Craig Hargreaves. Just before I'd got there he'd taken a fall off one of the V.Diffs. He was sat motionless on a ledge belayed by new member, Sara. He said he was ok but there was blood on his t shirt so he'd obviously hurt himself. Peter Wilson was also there and had taken a loop of rope up

the gully with the intention of lowering Craig down. I could see that Peter was not going to be able to manage this. We needed the full rope! Craig was safe on the ledge and wasn't going to roll off so I got him to untie and then we were able

to take the whole rope up to the top and set up a belay. We lowered him off. Peter abbed down for his gear. It was now drizzling and the midgets were horrendous! Craig had some gritstone rash to his back and had also hit his head and cracked his helmet, which he was fortuitously wearing! Sara was a little shaken I think but was able to drive Craig to hospital to get checked out. He had started up the climb in the dry but

then a sudden shower of rain had turned it into a slippery mess. Thankfully his gear was good and held his fall, which by all accounts was a spectacular tumble! Craig was also ok apart from damaged pride and some cuts and bruises. Me and Peter retreated to the Packhorse! Sara has not been put off and is now regularly attending the climbing wall readying herself for this year's outdoor season!

Normal service was resumed the following week at Gigg North. Myself, Steve Wrigley and Donny Domville visited and had an enjoyable evening at the far end of the crag. Donny is another of our new members, and very keen he is too! He hadn't encountered anything like

this before though and his eyes were on storks as we walked along the base of the crag. A team did go to Crummackdale where the aforementioned Donny managed to turn up at the crag with nothing other than the clothes he stood up

Fall 2

Accident no2 occurred at Witches. Not the first time a club member has come a cropper at this venue. Martin Bennett was attempting the classic VS, Peel Off, when he did! Sounds like he virtually had his hands on the top. He inverted, smashing his head and also badly dislocating his shoulder. Another incident where a helmet almost certainly saved him from worse injuries! Chris Bell was holding his ropes and was able to lower him to the ground in some considerable pain. Donny Domville drove him to hospital. Thankfully Martin has made some recovery but was forced to pull out of the Lundy trip. He is still not back climbing!



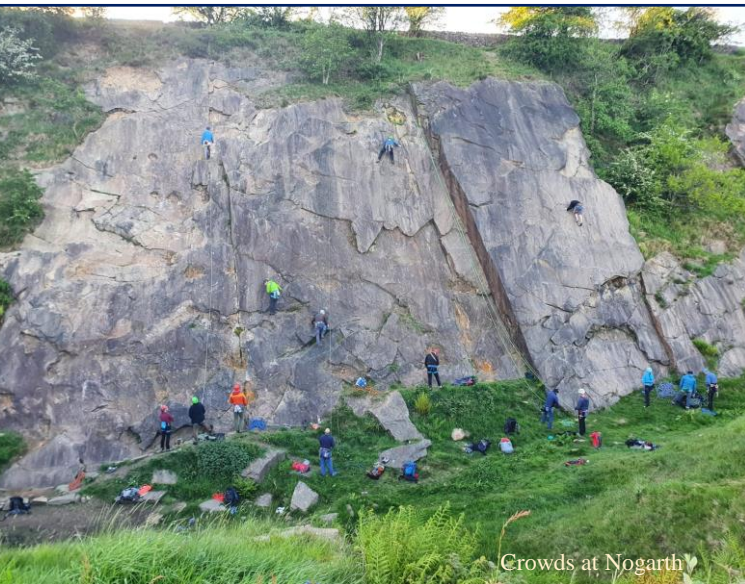
Everyone loitering at the bottom at Troy

in! Thankfully others had spare kit so he was able to enjoy some routes.

A lot of the rest of the summer meets didn't happen for one reason or another. One strange one being it was too hot!! Some members did visit the upper tier of Warton Main to do the sport routes, whilst myself and John Hickman managed an ascent of the recently cleaned Terminal Trajectory in the

blistering heat of the lower quarry. A Lundy training meet occurred at Trowbarrow with various parties showing off their sea cliff rescue skills, or lack of as the case may be!

All too soon we were back at Denham for a dusty ascent of Mohammed! All in all an eventful summer evening cragging season! I hope to see you all again very soon for another round of meets!



Crowds at Nogarth

Martin

Rain & wind on Lundy... but great company



AS TOLD BY MARTIN DALE

INTREPID TRAVELLERS—L-R NICK HEPBURN, STEVE WRIGLEY, ANDY HIRD, ANDY MCCARTHY, GRAHAM CALLANDAR, CAROL WILLIAMSON, SIMON FENNA, VIV BROUGHTON, CHRIS BELL, MARK BROUGHTON (BACK), JOANNE LEADBETTER, MARTIN DALE (SAT), DAVE CUNDY, (BACK), RICH MCGUINNESS, STEVE CLARK (BACK), JULIE REID, PAUL REID, PAUL TAYLOR, CHRIS THISTLETHWAITE, PHIL LEE AND CLARE RANT.

Sat at home looking at the Christmas tree in December 2020, I wondered what there was to look forward to in the coming year. We'd



The MS Oldenburg

already had a year severely disrupted by Covid and I wasn't looking

forward to another one! What about another trip to Lundy I thought? Surely there would be enough interest to fill the 12 beds in Millcombe House?

I scanned the Landmark Trust website, initially just out of curiosity really. Nothing free in 2021, so



Millcombe House

obviously people had been booking up the Island's properties hoping to be able to travel despite the threat of Covid! 2022 was also pretty full but wait a minute! There was a week free in early September. After conversations with the Chairman and Treasurer, I decided to go for it and booked Millcombe House for the first week in September 2022. John Wiseman sent out the email and the deposits started rolling in almost immediately! We soon had 19 members scrabbling after the 12 places. Really we needed another property, or two! Another look at the website revealed Bramble Cottages East and West were free! They slept 4 in each and were only round the corner from Millcombe House. Booking them as well would bring our numbers up to 20. Having Ok'd it with the treasurer, I booked them both. I soon managed to get the 20th name on board, so we were full and eventually as word got round we also had a reserve list!

There were bound to be drop outs along the way in the two years leading up to the meet, however I managed to fill all the places which became available, with club members. Only when Martin Bennett came a cropper just weeks before we were due to go did I start to struggle finding suitable replacements. Thankfully Dave Cundy had a

climbing partner who was keen. Then again with only days to go I had John Hickman and Matt Reed pulling out due to family problems and injury. Some last minute communication and blagging was needed and I managed to fill the places with a couple of Lundy veterans, Chris Thistlethwaite and Paul Taylor. We also had Nick Hepburn and Rich McGuinness along camping, so we were 22 strong with only one non-member on board.



a near miss

The day of departure was soon upon us. The weather prior to our week had been great but unfortunately it broke the very weekend we were due to set sail. So, it was cool and a bit drizzly as we boarded the MS Oldenburg at Ilfracombe. All were present and correct except for Paul Taylor. Where was he? A few frantic phone calls revealed he'd gone to Bideford by mistake! He'd caught the bus round to Ilfracombe and had been informed that it would arrive at 9:45am, just 15 minutes before we were due to set sail! It was a bit touch and go but just as they were about to cast off Paul came sauntering along the quayside without a care in the world. Mug of the year attempt!

The crossing was a little bit choppy but not unduly so. We were soon

tramping up the track towards our accommodation and the Islands only pub, The Marisco Tavern. The weather wasn't great, however some intrepid folks razzed off in the hope of getting a route done. The drizzle intensified so most of us wandered up to sample a beer in the pub. One by one the climbers arrived looking bedraggled and wet. Most had been beaten by the conditions but Dave Cundy and his mate, Andy McCarthy managed a couple of routes on Beaufort Buttress. The beer was flowing and at £4 a pint was not too costly. We retreated for tea and then returned in the evening for more beer!

a good day

The Sunday dawned sunny and breezy. It turned out to be one of the better days. A big team went out in search of Frontispiece at the top end of the Island whilst Mark and Viv



Seal

Broughton went for Seal Slab. Myself and Joanne turned up just as Mark was finishing. We abbed down to nearly sea level and joined another couple on the stance. Joanne was suitably impressed as the waves crashed in just below our feet. However she coped admirably on her first climb of the trip! Mark and Viv went down again to do Walrus. We



Martin and Jo in the old Lighthouse

wandered back up to our sacks for a booty just as the first spots of rain started to fall. We headed back to the sanctuary of the pub! Meanwhile, Simon and Graham managed to do The Devils Slide and Steve and Nick, Satan's Slip, Fear of Faust and Albion. A good day indeed, and unbeknown to them at the time, probably their best climbing day of the trip! Others had climbed at various locations on the west coast.

driving rain

The next day was to set the pattern for the week! Initially dry but then deteriorating in the afternoon with driving rain often coming in on a strong southerly wind. We joined Phil Lee and Clare at The Battery. They had got out early and had already managed a route. We went down to do Horseman's Route but the sea was too rough to risk the lower pitch from sea level. Mark and Viv had already been repulsed trying to get into Diamond Solitaire. We managed the top pitch of Horseman's Route before having to cower in the little shed at the top as the driving rain lashed in. Phil and Clare just managing to get up their route in time! We trudged back up to the top in the rain then headed back via the Old Lighthouse to the pub. Some of our party had managed a route elsewhere but most had got very wet trying!

Tuesday was just plain bad.

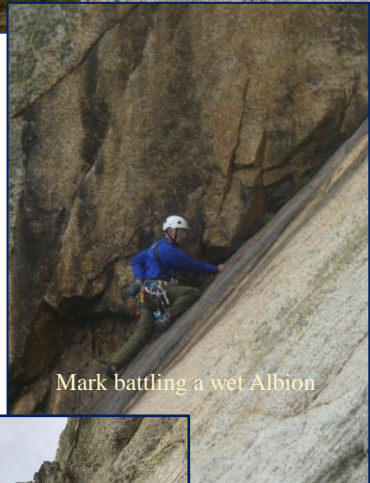
Wednesday saw myself and Joanne optimistically head for the Devil's Slide, only to get to the abseil then cower for an hour or so as the rain again lashed down. We aborted the attempt then wandered back to the pub via the path on the west side of the Island. The sun did come out briefly and we found Steve and Nick drying their gear out on some rocks above The Battery. They then attempted to get



Mark and Viv on Albion



Steve and Nick about to go down for another drenching. Joanne and the Old Lighthouse behind.

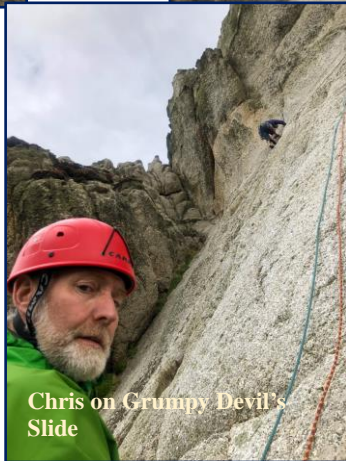


Mark battling a wet Albion

another route in but were thwarted by more rain.

frustration

By this time, many of us were getting increasingly frustrated by the weather. The jigsaws had come out in Millcombe House and we had acquired another couple of residents, Rich and Nick having been washed out of their tents on the camping field. Steve Clark was putting his caving skills to good use, abseiling down to take photos of the limited climbing being done



Chris on Grumpy Devil's Slide

then jumaring out again up the clubs newly acquired 100 metre static rope. Graham, Chris Bell and Steve Clark did manage to get the Devil's Slide done during a brief interlude in

the weather. Mark and Viv also did Albion in the rain on a day that saw

another aborted attempt by Joanne and myself to climb the Slide.

Thursday was the day of my 65th birthday and as we were all assembled in the pub for our one meal out of the trip, the waitress arrived to announce that the Queen had passed away! I won't forget that birthday in a hurry!



All too soon Saturday was here and time to go home. Sods Law it was the best day weather-wise so a lot of the team managed some routes before it was time to embark. Dave Cundy and Andy McCarthy did Shamrock down

Landing Craft Bay, closely followed by Steve Wrigley, Nick Hepburn and Rich McGuinness. Simon Fenna, Carol Williamson and Graham Callander (again) did the Devil's Slide. The crossing back to Ilfracombe was nice and calm.

Birthday cakes

So, all in all a frustrating week climbing wise, but we all had a really good time and much merriment and camaraderie in the pub and in the accommodations. A big thank you to Julie Reid, who baked two birthday cakes for me (65) and Chris Thistlethwaite (70) from scratch at Millcombe House. I would also like to thank Joanne and Julie for providing those of us in Millcombe House with great cooking all week and also for all those people who came on the meet for making it such a memorable trip. We'll be back!



Myself and Joanne did stay on in Devon for a couple of days and finally enjoyed a good afternoons' climbing on Baggy Point!

Martin

wind, rain and choppy waters on the Wild swim & BBQ weekend at Stair



Fun seekers-Karen and Dave Hicks, Neil Baines, Martin Dale, Joanne Leadbetter, Jo's daughter Vicky, Howard Shaw, Jill Hodge, Caroline Webb, Christine Fry and Tony and Becky Hulme.

With Karen Hicks

Once again the swim venue was Crummock Water which is perfect as it is crystal clear and shallow for quite a way out. There is a little island which is a great target for the less confident to swim to and the more confident can swim over to the other side of the lake. The setting is gorgeous with stunning views of the fells all round.

It was a good turn out with some of the regulars, Caroline and Fryup, myself and Dave, Nobby and Jo

arrived with Jo's daughter Vicky, and Neil Baines brought his inflatable canoe.

Jo, Nobby and Vicky swam to the island as did Caroline and Fryup. I set off swimming to the other side with Neil accompanying me in his canoe. Dave launched his paddle board and began to follow, however it became clear the he was struggling against the strong wind and eventually had to turn back. Everyone had a great time

and had a hoot playing on the paddle board in not so perfect conditions, and generally messing about in the water. Caroline had her waterproof camera and took some great shots of the action.

Jo was a star and had brought hot drinks and snacks for everyone to have while we were getting changed. We went to the Kirkstile Inn for apre beers only to be turned away by unwelcoming staff who appeared to

only want diners there. A little disappointed, we headed back to the hut and drank our own supplies.

Tony and Becky, Jill and Howard all joined us for the evening BBQ which Dave gallantly provided despite the rain. A great evening was had with lots of merry making and we all retired with full bellies.

The weather was pretty grim the next day so we all did our own thing.



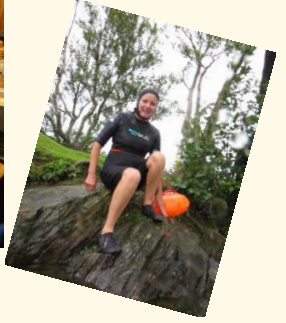
You started without me!



Some people are just camera shy



Ere I've lost me arms



Eeh that was good



Cheers



Another successful year, thanks to all for joining us.

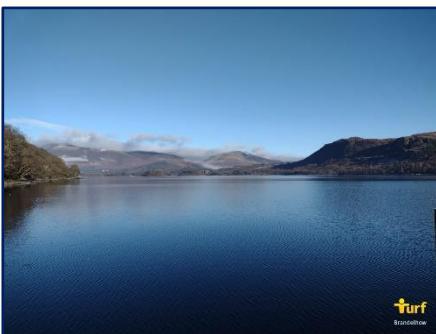
Karen



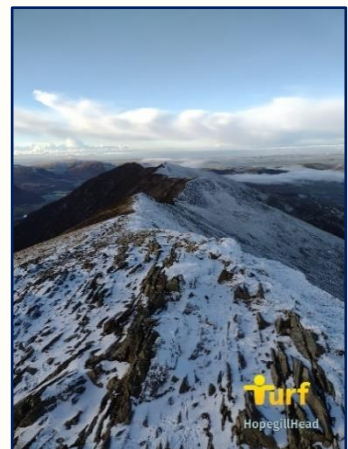
A crisp Christmas at Stair

Ladies Meet Dec 9-11 2022 with Angela Lovett, Liz Rawcliffe, Pat Bennett, Liz Hird, Sue Denmark, Christine Fry, Frances Watkins and Sue Mayers.

We arrived at Stair through heavy frosts as the first cold weather of the winter began. There was a quick meal, then off to 'The Borrowers' at the Theatre by the Lake, with mulled wine, mince pies, a Christmas jigsaw and much catching up on the return.



turf
Brantholme



turf
Hopegillhead



On Saturday we scattered. Frances skipped around the Coledale Round, a more sedate party explored Barrow and Outerside, with compacted snow making the paths 'sporting' (as Mr Dale once remarked). A final contingent took the direct route to the Coledale, where we all met up for beer and hot chocolate. Back at the hut, there was the usual magnificent feast, carols and quizzes.



Sunday was varied, too, with 'Turving' (a kind of online treasure hunt), walking from Keswick and a long drive back to Scotland all in the mix. We hope to have meets in June, December and March in the next syllabus, and welcome all women members and their guests.

Angela

In days gone by.... A “memorable” day out with the FMC

A Hut to Hut walk that “evolved” as the day progressed

By John Wiseman

Once upon a time way back in the misty past when we were young..... .

It all began at a committee meeting after an AGM.... I was Booking Secretary then..... We had been on several H-H walks and taken advantage of someone else ferrying the gear between the huts, so I put June and myself down to lead the annual Hut-to-Hut walk on a weekend in June. As the weekend approached I had a few names booked in when, on the usual Wednesday night meeting in the pub two days before we were due to go, the numbers went up dramatically. This was probably due to a good weather forecast, or it might have been the beer talking because not all turned up.

On the Friday night we got to Langdale to find Bob Travis and his

Willing walkers-John Wiseman, Barrie Crook, George Parker, Barbara Sealey, Sue Reeve, Bob Travis and friend and others, plus Donald “The Duck” Nichol, and June Wiseman ferrying the gear.

mate already there, they had come up from Portsmouth. As the evening wore on more arrived in the Three Shires and plans for the morrow were discussed. In the early hours of Saturday (5am) we were awakened by Bob and his mate getting up cooking breakfast and going up and down stairs repeatedly, until eventually they left and drowsing became sleep. This was not for long, my thought was that it was only a minute later, as at 6 my alarm went off. So our turn for a quick breakfast, add our butties from the fridge to the ready packed sac and away leaving the rest to slumber again.

Our team was Barrie Crook, George Parker and myself, there might have been one or two more that I cannot remember. Barrie also cannot

concentrate and take the correct path along the tops.

Meanwhile at the Little Langdale hut



remember, it was a long time ago. Our plan was to head for the Crinkles and along to Esk Pike then down to Sty Head and then think of a route to Stair. We set off down to the ford and along to Fell Foot—a beautiful day to be up and about early. Up the Wrynose Pass road we went and to the Three Shire Stone. With no traffic this was not too bad for a road. Our route then took us up the path to Red Tarn and Crinkle Crag. It was a good summer morning with a slight cap of mist on the tops, some cloud and some blue sky. We were in good spirits chatting away as we entered the mist on the first top, then as we set off again we soon thought “this is not right” so back to the top to

Barbara Sealey and Sue Reeve had got up, selected their running gear and set off to Chapel Stile, Sergeant Man, Greenup Edge and down into Borrowdale. Mention at this point should be made of Donald “The Duck” who was due to be at Langdale on the Friday night, though he had said that he might not make it but would be up early Saturday morning – he knew we planned to be away for 0630am. He had not arrived when we left. Surprised we were not, for “The Duck” had a reputation for erratic time keeping even being late by over a day on some occasions.

June had a leisurely breakfast and loaded the car with everyone's gear



and set off for Stair. Driving down Little Langdale she saw Donald driving the other way, but due to the narrow road and traffic she could not stop, so she carried on to Stair where she unloaded then went for a walk. Donald eventually went for a walk and then drove to Stair.

Back on Crinkle Crag we were walking along enjoying the stunning views as the mist had retreated and every peak looked majestic. We then overtook Bob and his mate, exchanged pleasantries and carried on. We continued on to Bow Fell and Esk Pike where we sat having a break and some food and looked at the view.....someone, I cannot remember who, said "Why don't we go over to Scafell Pike it looks good". This divided the group, George (and others?) stuck to the original idea and went down to Esk Hause and Sty Head Tarn and Barrie and I headed to

Scafell Pike. Once there the views were stunning and Barrie said "Let's go over to Scafell", so we did by going up Broad Stand which I found challenging, and back via Lords Rake. Back on Scafell we took the corridor route to Sty Head. From there straight up Great Gable, it was going up there that Barrie got ahead of me as muscles began to protest. Barrie had recently been to Clunie Lodge in Scotland for a week and on the hills every day while I had been at work. A rest was called for when I got to the top before setting off for Green Gable, Brandreth and Honister Pass, which was mainly downhill and gave me a chance to recover. The weather was turning and cloud was coming in. However we still had to go up to Dale Head Tarn. As we went up the steep ground, muscles that I did not know I had even got started protesting, however we got there and so did the rain, light persistent drizzle. Then the

final stretch, High Spy, Maiden Moor and then it was all downhill to the hut. Wrong, the road from the village Hall to Stair felt seriously uphill right at the end of the day. By this time it was getting late, the local pub would have stopped serving food, so June drove us into Keswick for food and beer. A memorable day.

Catching up with the others, Barbara and Sue had got to Borrowdale early and met Pete Roscoe and gone climbing. Bob and his mate had also come over via Dale Head Tarn and made it back about the same time as us. The star turn was George who also got to Honister Pass and headed up to Dale Head Tarn, he also found it steep and a long way, all became clear as he emerged at Dale Head about 1500 feet higher than Dale Head Tarn. He was laughing about it as he told us. He had got to Stair late afternoon.

Sunday we went back to Langdale by an easier route.

Postscript.

Using modern technology a possible approximate measure of the distance we walked was 36km. (22miles) with a total ascent of 2122 metres (7,000 feet).

While trying to remember the details of this day out I consulted the club newsletter for October 1985 which had the report of this meet. At the start of the newsletter it had "the editor spouts forth" written by Martin Dale followed by a welcome for some new members. Among the introductory members one name

stands out-Simon Fenna and among the full members John Hickman. The newsletter also advertised a forthcoming FMC public lecture at the Teanlowe, Poulton. £1.50 to hear "The Big Walks" by John Allen.



A modern photograph taken from Crinkle Crag. On the extreme left is Scafell then Scafell Pike, then Broad Crag/Great End. I think it is Pillar in the background on the right.



Bowfell from Shelter Crag

John

Cuisine at The Coledale

FMC Annual Dinner 2022

With Tony Hulme

Just about a year ago I was looking to book the annual dinner at the Skiddaw Hotel in Keswick, a venue we've used on many a year. Problem was they had come back to me with a 30% increase in the cost for our dinner. Although costs had been rising for pretty much everything during the year I thought it would be worth looking at an alternative venue at least to compare costs - so glad I did!

The Coledale Inn at Braithwaite came back to me with a much more reasonable cost and with it being a place close to our hearts (we've spent many an evening in there sharing our adventures and sometimes drinking to celebrate surviving some of them) it was the best candidate, they didn't let us down.

The dining room was intimate enough to hold around 50 people (38 members attended) the food was

excellent and plentiful. Following the chairman's address and the toasts we had some new awards to be presented.

First new award was Biggest Contribution to the Club

After recognising the efforts of the committee throughout the year the award went to Steve Clarke. A member who has not only kept the website working, created numerous whatsapp groups but also rejuvenated the club's subterranean antics ("Nutters" as Martin would say).

Next up was the Personal Achievement Award

There were a couple of candidates for this one but the award went to John Hickman who last year completed the Lakeland 100.

After all this perfection it was time to add a little Yang to the Ying. For example where would the works be

without a spanner in it and yes you've guessed it, the return of **Mug of the Year award**.

After some members had been reported for general incompetence in the outdoors such as turning up to a crag without any climbing equipment whatsoever or arriving at the wrong ferry port to sail to Lundy the award was decided by employing the Wiseman Clappometer.

Unanimously the award went to Drew Hird for checking the waterproofness of his boots on several occasions on the same day. Christine Fry narrowly missing out after her nomination of Clive Bell backfired. We got so engrossed in it all we forgot to present the Fell Race Trophies.

The rest of the evening gave us all chance to catch up with friends we hadn't seen for a while and drink a pint or 2. From members comments I think we all had a most enjoyable evening.

Tony





Crags at Calpe

A tonic in January

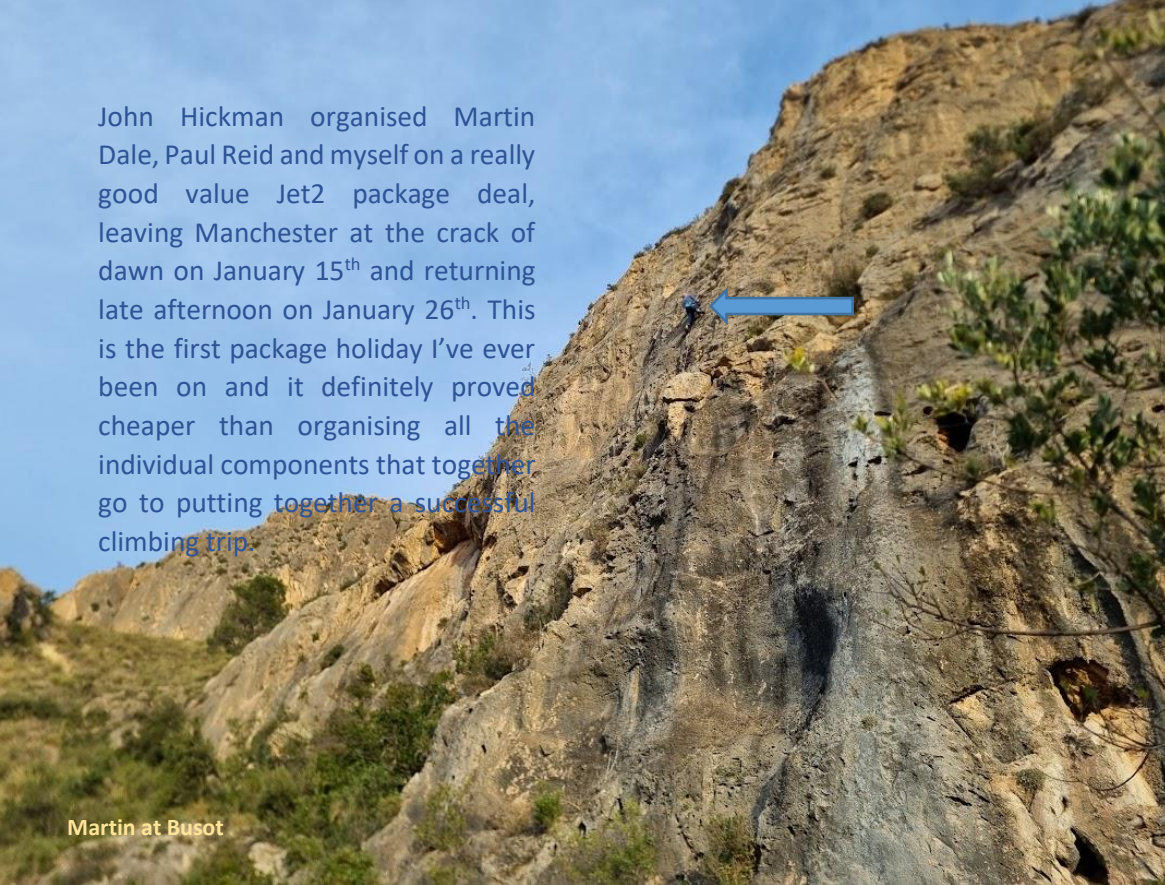
15th-26th 2023

With Chris Thistlethwaite

Members of the club have regularly visited Calpe for many years now with only the pandemic putting a halt to this tradition. Thankfully normal service has now been resumed and once again I thoroughly enjoyed this year's 12 day's trip, and this is one of a number of visits by club members this winter which no doubt will be documented in this or the following journal.

Climbing partners-Martin Dale, Paul Reid and John Hickman

John Hickman organised Martin Dale, Paul Reid and myself on a really good value Jet2 package deal, leaving Manchester at the crack of dawn on January 15th and returning late afternoon on January 26th. This is the first package holiday I've ever been on and it definitely proved cheaper than organising all the individual components that together go to putting together a successful climbing trip.



Martin at Busot

This wasn't exactly a 'Hot Rock' trip as I've had better weather at this time of year in the past, but between us we climbed every day except for the last 2 days when it rained and even then, if we were prepared to travel further south, we could have salvaged something.

As usual the first day was spent at Toix West. Paul and I immediately dropped down to the 'Placas' to climb 8 of the easier routes whilst Martin and John initially climbed higher up, only to retreat to the routes near us as the cold wind made

the climbing unpleasant. The following day, Tuesday, was spent at Sella which was even windier at the more exposed sectors. Wednesday saw us at Alcalali in a more sheltered and sunny position, but the day was marred by the crag being crowded and the presence of a couple of loud, thoughtless folk.

Martin and John had a rest day on Thursday whilst Paul and I climbed a few routes at Font d'Axia. Busot, a new crag for me, was the venue for Fridays entertainment. We focused on the East facing Lower crag, Paul



Martin at Adsubia

and I on the easier 'Jamon York' slabby sector, whilst John and Martin moved to a more sporting sector further North after ticking off a few harder routes to our right.

We went to the 'Penya Maura' at Guadalest on the Saturday and another new venue for me, Adsubia, on the Sunday. Martin and John had another great days climbing here, whilst Paul and I had an unplanned rest day as the easiest routes were on the stiff side for us. Still we enjoyed watching the boys on the rock in an idyllic sun trap. A little tricky to approach and get down



John and Martin at Adsubia



Martin at Adsubia

from as the path, at present, hasn't had a lot of traffic, but plenty of scope for the 'Top' guys to develop.

Our last climbing day proved to be another rest day for Martin and John. We went to Ambolo where Paul and I climbed all the routes on the 'Lower Slabs'.

Overall a great respite from the UK winter. This was Paul's first sport climbing trip and his first visit to Spain so everything was new to him. The accommodation we had was acceptable for us just to sleep in and have breakfast. We ate out fairly cheaply every evening after the compulsory post climbing beers. On the Thursday we were joined by the quartet of a recuperating Martin Bennett, Ali



Paul and Chris at Ambolo, Paul climbing



Martin at Adsubia

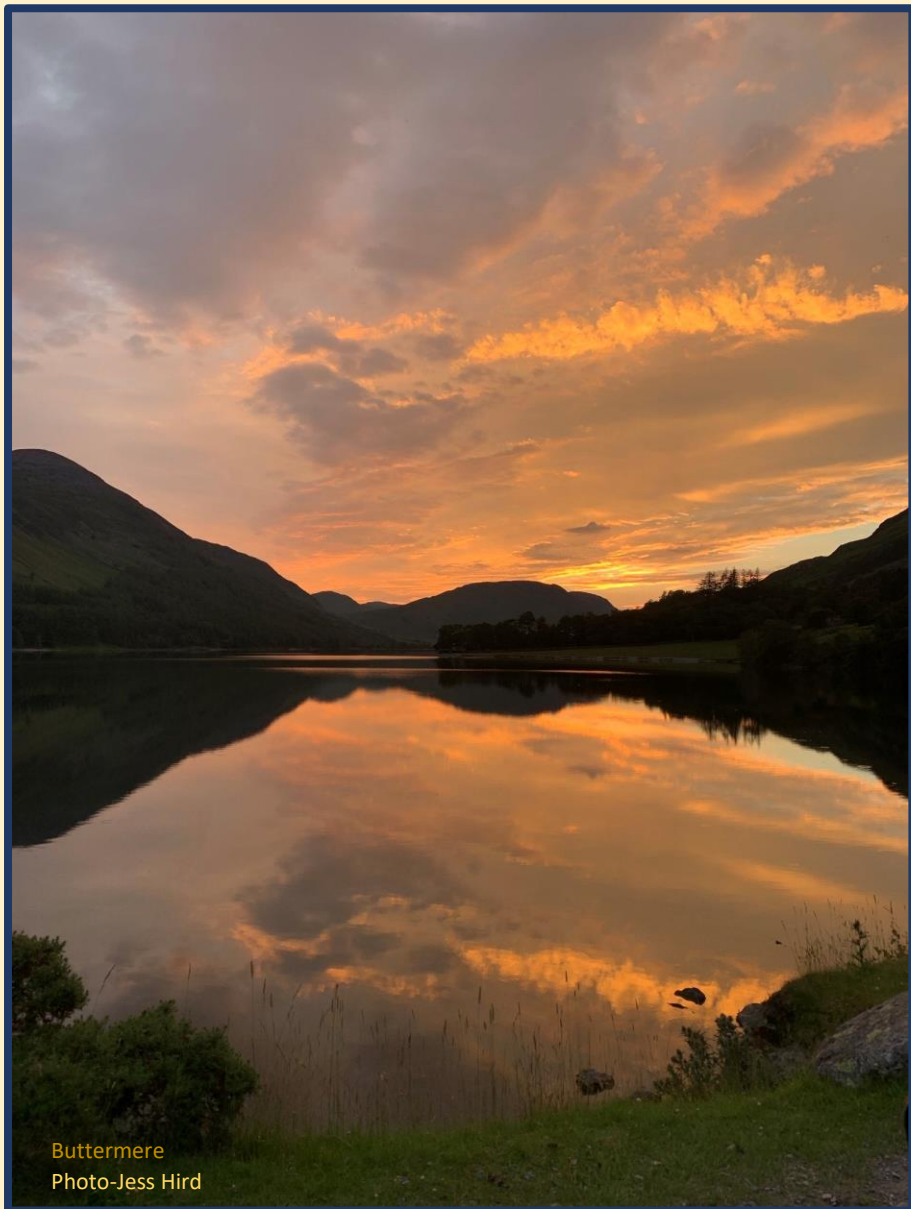


John at Adsubia

Welsh, Dan Ellis and Ali's pal Neil Hamilton. Although they did their own thing we did meet up in the evenings for meals etc. I'm sure everyone present would agree that

the trip was most worthwhile and will certainly not be the last visit to the Costa Blanca.

Chris



Buttermere
Photo-Jess Hird

Fylde Mountaineering Club

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