

Ad Altiora

The newsletter of The Achille Ratti Climbing Club



The Wasdale Hut Edition

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

Chris Farrell: Dunmail hut is sold.

The final transaction in the purchase of LGH was achieved on 11.12.13 (an interesting date) by the completion of the sale of Dunmail. We must not forget that without the Dunmail Hut to sell we would never have been able to purchase a property in Wasdale. Our thanks must therefore go to the many hut wardens and volunteers who have kept Dunmail going over the years. As it happens, the completion was precisely 12 months to the day since the management committee set out on its first serious viewing of properties in the western and northern Lakes in its search for a new hut to replace Dunmail. The period in between was a roller-coaster ride of offers made and withdrawn, an EGM and emergency management committee meetings, funding difficulties and endless legal queries to respond to and problems to overcome. Even in the final week we were besieged by queries from the buyer's solicitors. But we got there! We would not have reached our goal without the generous loans from members which have now been largely repaid.

A new era for the ARCC beckons. Plans for converting Little Ground House to the great club hut which we are sure it will become are described below. The aim is to have an efficient & comfortable hut which retains the character of a Lakeland farmhouse.

I must start, however, by announcing the second phase of the Wasdale Hut Appeal. We hope the response from members to this appeal will be just as generous as in the past.

Wasdale Hut Appeal (phase 2)

We need your continued financial support. Now that the Club has secured our long awaited property in Wasdale we face the challenge of developing it into a thriving base for members. Little Ground House has the potential to be an excellent hut but it needs development, specifically ladies and gents showers and toilets and alterations to observe building and fire safety regulations. Paul Charnock sets out full details in his report below.

It was always the intention to seek additional funding from members to achieve these objectives but as we received less for Dunmail than first anticipated our reserves are now depleted and the need is even greater. This time we are seeking not loans but donations towards the refurbishment and conversion of our new hut.

When we appealed for loans we had a target of around £70K and were overwhelmed by the response (which included a number of donations as well as loans); we ended up turning down some offers of loans. This time, our target is not quite as high but we need donations only – a greater challenge. We hope to achieve this by spreading the load wider and are appealing to all club members to consider making a contribution. An average donation of £100 by all members would be sufficient! Please show your commitment to the ARCC by making a donation however modest. The wider the response the sooner we will have a superb hut up and running.

Please send your cheque made payable to Achille Ratti Climbing Club or ARCC along with your e-mail address if available to: Jean Lochhead, 16 Broad Lane, Upperthong, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, HD9 3JS. Jean can also be contacted via jean@lochheadj.fsnet.co.uk.

If you prefer make an online bank transfer to the following account, please use HSBC sort code 40-24-24 Acc No. 31290444 and drop Jean an email to let her know you have done this.

Jean or I will be happy to address any queries you may have. **There is no deadline but it would really help the work schedule to receive your donation by 31 March 2014.**

LITTLE GROUND HOUSE - HUT UPDATE

Paul T. Charnock: Once ARCC took ownership of LGH work began apace!

The view from the front door is even better now that two large non-native conifers have been felled. This gives a much clearer view of the Wasdale valley stretching away towards Scafell. The interior has changed since we got the keys in September. Gone are all the carpets, floor coverings and old furniture plus other odd bits left by previous tenants. All this had to be brought to the tip at Preston by trailer, the local tip is at Frizington.....a 2hr round trip away! Too much to take on during the short winter working days. The empty hut enabled measurements to be taken in great detail for the architect (Mo Kelly, Club member) to produce a comprehensive drawing of the hut as it is now. Knowing what you have got then enables you to produce further schemes for the changes required. We are changing from a normal household to a multiple occupancy building.....a climbing hut. We have therefore by law to do these changes to meet Building Regulations and Fire and Safety requirements. These are quite extensive requiring such things as changes to staircases and exits which must be approved before the hut can be used. Changes are also being made to the layout of the building to make it more suitable for the needs of the Club.

We will have a 'L' shaped room on the ground floor, similar to that in Beckstones, where there is a sitting area around a wood burning stove, a kitchen and dining space. This type of layout has been found over the years to be friendly and welcoming, especially to visitors, as it automatically involves them in the life of the hut. It also will provide the versatility to be changed around to provide seating for up to 22 people for a meal after a Club event. The existing kitchen will become a drying room and toilet area. On the first floor we are planning for male and female toilets each with a shower and there will also be two bedrooms, with a further two on the second floor.

The new design for LGH has now been approved by the Management Committee and we hope to have approval in line with Building Regulations and Fire Safety requirements before the end of January. Soon after this we will have contractors working inside to open up three ground floor rooms into one large 'L' shaped area. Two new staircases will also be installed plus the fitting of fire doors to all rooms.

The plan is that hopefully by mid-March members will then be very welcome to assist in the continuous Working Weekends planned until the basic amenities are functioning. The Committee are endeavouring to have LGH open for 'normal business' as soon as is practically possible. There will be a LOT of work for members to get involved in! Safety is paramount and therefore these weekends will be carefully planned and managed.

The Chairman and Committee realise from your generous loans and donations that members have high expectations for this new hut... so please be patient, we want to get this right - from the beginning! It is an exciting prospect for ARCC to once again have a hut in the Wasdale Valley..... and this time IT'S YOURS!

COMMITTEE MATTERS

Chris Farrell: This is a summary of some of the issues discussed at the recent AGM and management committee meetings. Your views on any of these will be very welcome.

AGM Quorum

We were unable to discuss at least one important proposal at the AGM because there were insufficient members present to constitute a quorum. Rule 10 v) requires a minimum of 50 members before a meeting can begin (AGM's can continue after an hour has elapsed but EGM's will then have to be dissolved). In fact, we have failed to achieve this number at the last two AGM's (at least). The background is that when a range of amendments to the constitution was made in 2010 the quorum was raised from 20 to 50 to reflect the increased number of members in

the Club; it looks as if we overdid it. An alternative proposal to lower the number required for a quorum will be put to the 2014 AGM.

For a Club of our size we really should be getting a bigger turnout at AGM's than we do. These meetings determine the future direction of the club and we need a healthy number of members present to ensure that a representative range of views and opinions is heard.

Venue for future AGM's

In 2013, both an EGM and the AGM were held at St Silas in Blackburn. The EGM attracted over 80 members despite terrible weather conditions - a reflection no doubt of the interest aroused. We thought that if the 2013 AGM meeting was held in Blackburn it might also have a good turnout and succeed in reaching the magic figure of 50 to satisfy the quorum rule. Sadly this was not the case so the decision is that we will revert to our former venue at Chapel Stile which, of course, is more in keeping with the character of the club.

Club Dinner

It was disappointing that we had to cancel the annual dinner because so few tickets had been sold. We shall try again in 2014 but with different arrangements. It will be held on the same day as the AGM, which will be followed by the Mass for deceased members at Bishop's Scale, and the annual dinner, at a new venue we hope. Let's hope this will encourage more members to attend all these events.

Hut Fees

It is two years since we set the current hut fees. In that time energy and other costs have risen considerably and fee income no longer covers the outgoings of the huts. The management committee have therefore determined that from 1 Jan 2014 hut fees per member will rise to £8 per night and £12 per night for visitors and guests; still great value for money! Fees for junior members will go up to £3 per night.

Beckstones

The future of Beckstones has been questioned ever since the purchase of Little Ground House became a possibility. It is unlikely that two huts in the western Lakes would be viable in the long term and it is now clear that continuing to pay rent for Beckstones when LGH comes on-stream is a luxury the club is unlikely to be able to afford. Last year, when Beckstones' maintenance cost are taken into account (the figures were not available when the accounts were drawn up for the AGM), expenditure, including the £5,500 rent, exceeded income by over £7,300. The management committee are therefore considering proposing to the next AGM that we do not renew the lease at the next opportunity which will be in July 2015. We must make a decision on this before 22 Jan 2015 as we have to give a minimum of 6 months' notice.

Incorporation

A number of climbing clubs, including the Fell and Rock, have taken the step of becoming limited companies. This is a development the management committee has been exploring for the ARCC with Jean Lochhead (treasurer) in the lead. Members of an unincorporated association, like a climbing club, if faced with a major claim not met by insurance, face unlimited liability. The officers of the club, including hut wardens could be particularly vulnerable. By becoming a limited company, the club becomes a legal entity in its own right, separate from individual members. Also, the club itself, rather than the individuals are responsible for the club's obligations and debts (unless negligence or fraud are involved). Individual members can only be held responsible for a nominal sum such as one pound. On the other hand there are rules which we will have a legal duty to comply with; the process for achieving incorporation is quite complex; and, it does change fundamentally the legal status of the club. Legal advice is essential and is being taken. Generally, incorporation is seen as conferring significant benefits to members of clubs such as ours. We will keep you informed of progress.

BECKSTONES BOOKED

Terry Kitching: Beckstones hut is closed to members Friday 24th January until Sunday 26th January 2014. I have taken a booking, from Dunmail, for Shrewsbury Mountaineering Club. They have booked the whole place.

Check the booking calendar to see if the bothy is free if you wish to visit that weekend. There are beds for five in the bothy.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Sue Carter: The current membership total is 800. Life members 81, Full members 695 and Probationary members 24. Plus 48 Associates and 172 Juniors.

Thank you to all members who have paid their annual fees promptly. I had to send out quite a number of reminders either by post or email and there are still several who have not yet paid. As stated in the last newsletter if payment has not been received by the end of December, their names will be taken off the membership list and in order to reinstate membership an admin charge of £25 will be payable in addition to the annual fee of £25.

Please remember if you change your postal or email address please let me know, also any change to bank details if you pay by direct debit.

NEW YEAR'S DAY FELL RACE 2014

Participants

Owen Pollard
Jack Lloyd
Tasha Fellowes

Tom Makin
Chris Lloyd
Yves Pollard

Time Keeper

Adrian Dearden

Marshals

Adrian Crook Arthur Daniels
Dot Woods Pete McHale

Owen Pollard : The race was from The New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel to the top of Side Pike. The weather was awful: heavy rain and strong wind. We had to run along the road to Sidehouse farm, behind the campsite and up to the cattle grid. The fields were wet, muddy and slippery. Chris led the group until we reached Adrian at the cattle grid. Then we continued to climb to the summit of Side Pike encouraged by Adrian's magnificent hooter. At this point the runners had split into two groups with Owen, Tom, Tash and Yves leading.

Owen was first to the summit followed closely by Tom. Dot was waiting at the top while Arthur and Pete sheltered from the horrific weather. Meanwhile back at the cattle grid there had been a disaster! Adrian's hooter had broken and if it wasn't for Adrian's hooter improvisations then the party could have ended up in Wasdale.

On the descent Owen led followed again closely by Tom and this is when we met Jack and Chris coming up. Even though Jack's back was aching on the way up it didn't stop him overtaking Tash and Yves on the way down. After we passed the checkpoint at Adrian, Owen was ahead by 200 yards. Our feet were soaking wet and muddy and our legs were aching.

Meanwhile Yves decided to slide down the mountain with no grip on his shoes whatsoever. Yves' fingers had gone on holiday to the Arctic Circle and he felt as if they were going to fall off. At this point the very strong wind was on our backs pushing us down the mountain, but at some stages was also causing us to slip and fall on our backs.

Considering the harsh weather conditions everyone completed the race under an hour with Owen- 48 mins, Tom- 50 mins, Jack- 54 mins and Yves- 55 mins.

And last of all a huge thank you to all the Marshals and Time Keepers who were very important in getting the party to the summit and finish safely.

Barry Ayre's new contact details:

23 Church Hill, Arnside, Carnforth, Lancs, LA5 0DQ Tel 01524 762737. monica@placzek.plus.com

MADAGASCAR 2015 - APPEAL FOR SPONSORS

Emma Lloyd: Achille Ratti junior member Emma Lloyd has signed up for an expedition to Madagascar in the summer of 2015 after completing her A Level exams:

"The expedition is being organised by a company called World Challenge and I will be going with a group of young people that attend the same college as me (Winstanley College). I will be in Madagascar for a whole month during which I will be doing a project to support the local community as well as trekking in the Madagascan jungle.

I see this as a fantastic opportunity to 'broaden my horizons'. As well as getting the opportunity to help people less fortunate than me, I have always wanted to travel and it will be an amazing life experience.

My participation in this expedition is dependent upon raising a large amount of money over the next 18 months and I am already hard at work doing a range of things from dog walking to busking.

In February I will be taking part in a sponsored abseil off a crane at the Manchester Velodrome; this is a big challenge for someone who is a bit scared of going down a *rock* face attached to a length of rope, let alone dangling from a crane. It would mean a lot and help a lot if any Achille Ratti members were able to sponsor me. You can do this by visiting the website www.fundrazr.com and searching 'Emma's world challenge to Madagascar'; my page has a picture of happy children on it and says I come from Wigan, United Kingdom. If you would like to sponsor me in a more traditional way, you can write to me at the following address – 28 Spencers Lane, Orrell, Wigan, WN5 8RA. One of the latter would be my preferred method since fundrazr.com take a small percentage of all donations! Alternatively, email me at emma.lloyd@talktalk.net and I can direct you to a paypal page.

Thank you very much for reading this, I will keep members updated with my progress towards raising the money and of other fundraising that I am doing through the newsletter and the Ratti facebook page. If all goes well you will be able to read about the expedition in the 2015 club journal.



Emma in a snow hole with her brother Jack, Owen Pollard and Ruby Makin. Langdale, Easter 2013.

AUTUMN AMBLE

Anne-Marie and Stephen Clancy: After a week of pretty iffy weather John somehow managed to book clear skies for us yet again, off set our eager party at the crack of dawn venturing into the unknown. My first blister started just before we reached Elterwater, Bronwyn sensibly put a plaster on hers before it resembled a bedsore! Surprisingly, no thirty minute toilet stop this year, as we snuck past the lavvies on our left, clearly last year's comfort break hadn't been forgotten.

We approached the lake walking alongside Great Langdale Beck, photo opportunities at every turn, [fortunately not too many of my beloved's rear, disappearing into the distance. The company was so good he obviously didn't feel the need to charge ahead in his attempt to conquer in record time.]



The trees still retained most of their leaves, which this time last year were full of autumnal colour, but given our amazing summer were in the main still green. Adrian volunteered to take up the rear as chief gate shutter, while our leader expertly judged a pace that even I could maintain without thinking 'never again', and the conversation flowed. We ventured upwards slightly after leaving the lake, and I must admit to a fleeting dread, which proved unfounded.

Sam managed to go unnoticed at various spots along the route, fortunately not being related my heart didn't suffer, not being the target of his 'Jack in the box impersonations.'

Up and over the metal bridge, strange unearthly signs indicated the way through the fields and at some point we followed the Cumbrian Way; all the while Sheilarella worked up an appetite as we all discussed the problems of what to wear when accompanied by the dashing Prince Leo to the Josh Naylor Ball later that evening, apparently gold lame waterproofs aren't the done thing!



After our undulation through the woods Adrian was caught leading the children astray pinching beer money out of the coin-filled tree, although he claimed he was putting it in, not taking it out! Rosemary had a heavier rucksack after leaving this spot too!!

Brave lunchers perched close to the edge of the hillock looking out onto Colwith Falls, a well chosen spot for those with nerves of steel.

We ate our fill, Paul even had the foresight to enjoy his first pint of the day while enjoying the view, well, it was after noon!

Sound of Music views as we approached the farm, we all admired the masons 'apprentice piece' set in the barn wall, where some clever young man had carved out his letters far neater than most of us could have written them.

Reaching the ford and bridge at the bottom of the hill a beautiful Ridgeback was taking in the water with his mountain biking companions here we waited for our rear end to catch up, [loaded down with all those coins]!

A little further on the main photoshoot was being arranged. Various poses were taken up on Slaters Bridge and around the Brathay, before climbing the little knoll beyond, with views of Langdale tarn below.



The sun by this time was shining brightly and by the time we reached our first hostelry at about 3pm, yes I did say 3, we were stripping off layers it was so warm. Cinders rushed off to the ball, for some the first pint of the day was enjoyed in the Britannia, and later some of us managed to enjoy a few more tinctures in the Wainwright.....what a good day.

Thank you, John, for another brilliant day.

IGNORE THE CONFUSED LAYOUT BELOW – HAVING PROBLEMS WITH FORMATTING – WILL SORT

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS & MEETS CARD 2014

President

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| Chairman | Chris Farrell | 8 Hallams Lane, Chillwell, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 5FH | 01159 170356 chris.farrell2@virginmedia.com |
| Vice-Chairman | David Jackson | 43 Moorhead Cres., Shipley, West Yorkshire, BD18 4LQ. | 01274 581094 dandt43@gmail.com |
| Treasurer | Jean Lochhead | 16 Broad Lane, Upperthong, Holmfirth, West Yorks, HD9 3JS. | 01484 687030 |
| Secretary | Ann McGonagle | 33 Revidge Road, Blackburn, BB2 6JB | 01254 265574 ann@amcgonagle.wanadoo.co.uk |
| Membership Secretary | Sue Carter | 214 Rochdale Road, High Crompton, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 7JA | 01706 841978 susan.d.carter@hotmail.com |
| Ordinary Member | Paul Charnock | 55 Kingsway, Penwortham, Preston, PR1 0ED | 01772 743078 highgatehelen@hotmail.com |
| Ordinary Member | Tony Shanley | 28 St Mary's Gate, Rochdale, Lancs OL16 1DZ | 07799 232523 tony.shanley@hotmail.co.uk |
| Ordinary Member | Sean Makin | 36 Holm Ave., Swinley, Wigan, WN1 2EW | 01942 248826 seanmakin1966@sky.com |
| Beckstones Hut Warden | Terry Kitching | 3 Peaceful Valley, Hurworth Place, Darlington, DL2 2DB. | 01325 721390 / 07766202882 terry.kitching@btopenworld.com |
| Bishop's Scale Hut Warden | Arthur Daniels | 59 Oak Avenue, Todmorden, OL14 5NT. | 07845 125077 |

**L G H
Hut Warden**

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Tyn Twr Hut Warden | John McGonagle | 33 Revidge Road, Blackburn, BB2 6JB. | 01254 265574 ann@amcgonagle.wanadoo.co.uk |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--|

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Francis Slattery, M.A.

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB MEETS 2014
TO AID ACCURATE PROVISION OF FOOD & ACCOMMODATION AT CATERED MEETS

TELL THE MEET LEADER - WELL BEFOREHAND - THAT YOU ARE COMING.

Trustees Rt. Rev. Monsignor Francis Slattery, Ben Carter, Michael Pooler

| MEET DATES | EVENT & COMMENTS | VENUE | CONTACT | PHONE |
|--------------|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Jan 25 | Fell Runners Meet Catered on Saturday - Famous Wigan pie & peas supper | Bishop's Scale | Dave Makin | 0780 1025437 |
| Feb 16 to 23 | Bishop's Scale Working Week | Bishop's Scale | Arthur Daniels | 0784 5125077 |
| March 16/17 | Working Week End Phone Terry if you are coming | Beckstones | Terry Kitching | 0776 6202882 |
| March 22/23 | Yorkshire Dales Meet Oysterber Cottages, Benthams | Benthams | Dave Hugill | 01524 734467 |
| April 5 | New Dungeon Ghyll Fell Race | Bishop's Scale | Tony Shanley | 0787 2059879 |
| April 26/27 | Long Walk Based from Bishop's Scale | Bishop's Scale | Arthur Daniels | 0784 5125077 |
| May 8 Wed | Fourth Annual Reunion Meet from 11 a.m. onwards. See January newsletter | Bishop's Scale | Barry Ayre | 01524 762737 |
| May 10/11 | The Beckstones Skyline Phone Mick for details | Beckstones | Mick McGovern | 01254 851176 |
| May 17 | Old County Tops Race. Marshals & helpers needed | Bishop's Scale | Chris Lloyd | 01695 623768 |
| June 14/15 | Walk/Run/Cycle. From Bishop's Scale to Beckstones Catered meet at Beckstones - hut booking essential Transport from Beckstones to the start @ Bishop's Scale | Beckstones | Dave Ogden | 01253 398252 |
| July 12/13 | BBQ, book Catered Meet | Bishop's Scale | Arthur Daniels | 0784 5125077 |
| Aug 1-3 | Family Meet | Tyn Twr | Chris Lloyd & Tash Fellowes | 01695 623768 |
| Aug 16/17 | Classic Passes Bike Ride. Catered meet Booking essential for meals & food en route | Bishop's Scale | Arthur Daniels | 0784 5125077 |
| Aug 23/24 | Kayaking Capers with Late Summer Madness. <i>Booking essential for food, accommodation and Kayaks</i> | Tyn Twr | Chris Lloyd | 01695 623768 |
| Sept 6 | Derek Price Memorial Fell Race CAFOD Meet Helpers & marshals needed | Bishop's Scale | Tony Shanley | 0787 2059879 |
| Sept 13 | North Wales Cycle Tour (Road Bikes) | Tyn Twr | Dave Makin | 0780 1025437 |
| Sept 20/21 | Bird Watchers/Walkers Meet:- <i>leader Tom Walkington</i> Saturday evening meal catered. Book through Ann | Beckstones | Ann Gaitskill | 01524 733694 |
| Sept 21 | Club Fell Race | Bishop's Scale | Dave Makin | 0780 1025437 |
| Oct 4/5 | Walk/Run/Cycle. Catered meet, booking essential | Bishop's Scale | Arthur Daniels | 0784 5125077 |
| Oct 11 | Autumn Amble Meet Mob. Tel. 07757115359 | Bishop's Scale | John Smith | 01204 669926 |
| Oct 18/19 | Maintenance W/E. Jobs for All Catered meet, booking essential for Fri. & Sat. nights | Tyn Twr | John & Ann McGonagle | 01254 265574 |
| Oct 19 | Mountain Bike Ride Meet | Bishop's Scale | Dave Makin | 0780 1025437 |
| Nov 8/9 | Dunnerdale Fell Race meet (Race on Sat) <i>Catered fell runners event, booking essential.</i> | Beckstones | Dave Makin | 0780 1025437 |
| Nov 15 | AGM, Mass and Dinner | Chapel Stile Bishop's Scale | Arthur Daniels Ann McGonagle | 0784 5125077 01254 265574 |
| Dec 6/7 | Christmas at Tyn Twr Walk & Christmas Meal Catered meet, booking essential for Fri. & Sat. | Tyn Twr | John & Ann McGonagle | 01254 265574 |