

Ad Altiora

The newsletter of the Achille Ratti Climbing Club



Working party at Little Ground House, August 2015

Photo by Pat Mitton

AGM EDITION

A celebration of Mass for Deceased Members will be held in the Chapel at Bishop's Scale following the AGM. Start time approximately 16:00 hours.

This will be followed by light refreshments in the hut.

It is hoped that the Club Annual Dinner will be held in Chapel Stile Village Hall, similar to last year, at 19:00hrs. The catering arrangements are still to be finalised and details will be posted on the website and emailed to those on the email list as soon as possible. Tickets for this function will be available from Chris Lloyd after 1st October 2015. Please email or phone if interested -

Chris.Lloyd731@gmail.com, 07816 603207.

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CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS

David Jackson: I said in the last Newsletter that: *"The Club is going through a period of change in all sorts of directions and for all sorts of reasons – some good, some not so good"*. This theme has to continue – as you will gather below. In addition to the usual grand calendar of events and meets at Bishop's Scale, Tyn Twr and Beckstones and individual / group use of the huts, involving the enjoyment and participation of so many members and guests reflected elsewhere in this Newsletter, in the background major changes continue and occupy the rest of these Ramblings. First though we must record the Club's memorial celebration of the lives of Arthur Daniels and Peter McHale.

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ARTHUR AND PETER

This took place on Saturday July 11th at Our Lady of the Snows Chapel. In the morning a good number retraced Arthur's route round the valley and quietly recalled their memories on the tops. In the afternoon Fr Gerry Hanlon concelebrated Mass with Mgr Frank Slattery. Fr David Elder had to send his apologies. The Chapel was full to overflowing. Folk had the opportunity to offer their tributes and memories of Arthur and Peter at the end of Mass. The day ended with the customary BBQ. All in all folk said it was a very fitting, necessarily sad "send off" for two extremely well respected and loyal members of the Club.



Remembering Arthur and Peter at the Altar



Gathering for Arthur's walk



The Chapel fills for the memorial mass

“LAUDATO SI” – CARE FOR CREATION

Fr Gerry Hanlon took the theme of Pope Francis’ latest letter for a two day reflection on the environment (July 13/14) in the Chapel at Bishop’s Scale: how we can celebrate and enjoy creation; how it is now under pressure and threat from humanity’s unrestrained search for economic growth; what can we do to conserve and respect the planet. Thanks are due to Fr Hanlon from the small but appreciative 10 folk who were able to attend (plus 5 who had to send apologies). He hopes to repeat this sort of event next summer.



Fr Gerry and the Environmental Pacesetters

AGM PAPERS: CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND INCORPORATION (PAPERS WILL BE CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBERS – EITHER WITH THIS NEWSLETTER OR SEPARATELY)

AGM SATURDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2015, CHAPEL STILE

Chris Farrell: Once again the Annual General Meeting will be asked to make some important decisions about the Cub's future. Those present last year will not have forgotten the debate, a very constructive one, about our membership rule and the impact of the Equality Act 2010. The decision eventually taken was to await further advice from the barrister employed by the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales, William Garnier. This was duly obtained and printed in full in the January Newsletter. The nub of his advice was that as long as the Club continues to discriminate we will be open to legal challenge. The AGM agenda papers therefore set the management committee's proposals to change our Constitution – including a revision to our objects.

Also up for debate are the proposals to bring about Incorporation. At the last AGM the decision was taken in principle to go ahead with this and the detailed changes necessary to achieve this have now to be agreed. There are also a number of other changes to our Rules proposed, in particular, those which govern the size of the quorum at AGMs and when new members can bring children to the huts.

This is the opportunity for members to express their views on these important issues so let's hope the good attendances of recent AGMs will be repeated.

UPDATE FROM LITTLE GROUND HOUSE

Paul Charnock: Work is proceeding steadily in Wasdale and the priority at LGH now is to complete the two bathrooms. We have employed a local plumber to install shower trays and shower panels and by the time you read this the flooring contractor should have installed a special vinyl flooring to provide a waterproof barrier to the rooms below! The priming of the bathrooms' walls ceilings and windows was completed by David (Chairman) and his wife over a long hard day and the top coats were applied by Bill and Pat Mitton over over two and a half days....their second painting spell at the Hut! Once the flooring is done then the toilets, basins etc can be plumbed in. After this the toilet

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cubicles and shower doors need installing. In parallel with this the plumbing and water tanks installation on the 2nd floor is nearly complete and all pipe runs positions have been established and partly installed. Thanks here to John Rogerson's skills and Terry Kitchen's technical advice.

Dave Ogden has wired the distribution board for the electrics and we are ready to bring back John Morrisey again as a contractor to complete the wiring and issue the essential certificate.

In the kitchen the worktops (all 22 feet of them!) are awaiting installation on all the 'nearly new' base units that Chris Bagot obtained for us free of charge together with oven, hob and extractor. Building work remaining is to apply plasterboard beneath the staircases and landings. These require skimming after installation and hopefully Mick McGovern's plaster will not set solid in my new mop bucket before he applies it to the walls! There is still a vast amount of rubbing down of wood work, painting and cleaning to be done at LGH but we are getting there.

I am frequently asked by members why more use is not made of contractors so it will open sooner and can be used sooner. My answer is this... every project has three major controlling factors... time, money and manpower. These are all interdependent.

I have done the best I can with the manpower available but to keep the timescales as short as possible I have employed contractors for jobs we did not have the skills for. Finance is probably the key factor in any project and to this end together with the Treasurer's assistance I have tried to spend money wisely because there is a limited amount available.

To be able to open Little Ground House to members I need to obtain 5 certificates.....Electrical, Fire Alarm, Gas, Water test and Building Inspectorate approval. At the moment I have an agreement with Copeland Borough Council that ARCC pays no rates as long as we do not use it for Club activities, but a small number of workers on site are acceptable.

Outside, the fields around the hut are rented out to the local farmer for sheep and cattle grazing. This is part of his livelihood and though providing ARCC with an income we need to respect this fact and not encroach on the surrounding field structure. The field for overflow parking is also a grazing field so please ensure no Herdwicks 'escape' when parking.....they are quick moving and intelligent....honestly!

In line with the Club policy on dogs they will not be allowed inside the Hut and need to be under full control in all areas outside the Hut... reference the grazing animals. Needless to say the Club expects dog owners to clean up any mess their animals might make anywhere around the property.

Little Ground House lies within the National Park and as such in Wasdale the **Club must adhere to the Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) rules which forbids any camping, caravans or motor homes being set up** anywhere except at official campsites e.g. Wasdale Head National Trust site or Church Stile Campsite in Strands, which is the nearest to LGH. ARCC must follow this policy as it was an obligatory requirement when permission was granted to alter the change of use for LGH to a Climbing Club.

I would love to have had the hut open for the summer season and for those working on the Hut it must have been very frustrating not to have been allowed out for a walk....but I couldn't allow that could I?! We will all continue to do our best to complete the work and have LGH open to members as soon as we can. My thanks to any other people who I have not mentioned but whose help I have really appreciated.

LITTLE GROUND HOUSE SEPTEMBER 2015

Mick McGovern: The conversion of Little Ground House from a farm house to a climbing club hut. There are a set of images, just placed on the club Website, showing the development of the new climbing hut in Wasdale. I've attempted, with the photographs available to show redevelopment process that's taken place to bring about this change and the progress that has been made. Thanks must go to the many members who've supplied the pictures. More can be found on the club's Facebook page. By the time you read this the two waterproof bathroom floors will have been laid and some of the new electricity circuits will be connected along with much else.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Sue Carter: Annual subscriptions are due and payable by 1st October. Members who do not pay by direct debit can either send me a cheque payable to ARCC for £25, (£12 for members who are full time students aged between 18 and 21), or payment can be made by direct banking into the club's account, details of which are: RBS Sort code 16 28 33 Account number 11118155.

If payment is made by direct banking please advise me when you have made the payment as I have to confirm receipt with our treasurer before I can issue renewal cards. If you pay by post please remember to enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope.

Quite a number of the direct debit forms which I have issued since last October have not been returned to me. As usual I will take the 2015/16 membership renewal cards to the AGM in November so that members can collect them for, themselves, family members and friends (when payment has been made) as this can save the club the cost of postage.

In the previous newsletter I asked if any member could help me source some small plastic wallets for issuing membership cards with ID photos to new members. Two members kindly got in touch with me and I have now been able to order some wallets and I am waiting for them to be delivered, so thank you to those members.

Deceased member – in July we were very saddened to hear of the death of Mike Foster, he had been a full member since 1976 and prior to that a junior member (possibly one of the first). His parents were Joyce and John Foster. Our condolences go out to his daughter Charlotte.

It is expected that after the AGM there will be a revised Membership Application Form which will request more information from applicants. In the past few years there have been quite a number of membership applications which have not proved suitable.

My contact details are: tel 01706 841978 or susan.d.carter@hotmail.com. As I will be away for some time in September (caring for grandsons), if you leave me a message with your contact details I will respond to you as soon as possible when I return, though I will be able to reply to emails.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

REPORT FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENT POSITION

At its meeting on 9th September 2015 the Treasurer outlined the present state of the Club's finances. Since the last AGM (November 2014) finances have not fared well. Partly this continued a trend which included: the sale of Dunmail realising less than anticipated; the purchase and on-going refurbishment of Little Ground House costing more than estimated - some due to unforeseen additional structural work.

Reserves are down to c £10K due to unforeseen expenditure at LGH and unavoidable expenditure on electrical systems at Bishop's Scale and Tyn Twr to ensure compliance with legal, insurance and health and safety requirements.

At the moment members' temporary loans are keeping the Club afloat.

THE FUTURE

Reserves have to cover the usual outgoings but in addition several major items which include:

The costs of fitting out Little Ground House will require a further £6k to meet all legal and insurance requirements (See report in this Newsletter).

New water installations at Langdale are required to meet new South Lakeland Council legal regulations – over £7,550 will be needed to purchase and install these. Copeland Borough Council will also require these upgrades in the near future at LGH.

Fire doors at Tyn Twr are required to comply with all legal and insurance requirements and will be costly.

Treatment for woodworm for the Chapel and hut at Langdale cannot be delayed much longer

There will be legal fees involving incorporation and the need for a revised Constitution.

DECISIONS

The management committee had no choice but to consider the following measures to ensure the future financial health of the Club:

To increase the annual membership subscription for the year 2016. The subscription has not been raised from its current £25 for many years. The exact amount will be agreed in time for next year's payment.

Members need to know now that fees will be increased for next year.

The Committee next considered whether the hut fees could be raised and came to no agreement. Hence hut fees are to remain at £8 but the Committee is aware of the need to review the fees regularly to ensure they cover all running costs. These are being covered in the case of Tyn Twr and Langdale but will rise continually on an annual basis. Let any member of the Management Committee know if you have a view about the level of hut fees. They must be open to consideration annually.

It will take some time before the impact of any increase in hut usage and Subscription fees will take effect therefore:

MOST IMPORTANTLY THE COMMITTEE IS NOW ASKING MEMBERS TO CONSIDER MAKING DONATIONS TO BRING THE CLUB THROUGH THIS TEMPORARY BUT CRITICAL TIME.

Donations preferably by bank transfer with an e-mail to Jean to let her know you have done this.
treasurer@achille-ratti-climbing-club.co.uk

Cheques also accepted of course

HSBC

Sort Code: 40-24-24

Account No. 31290444

Lastly members of the Committee are well aware of the short time that has gone by since the last time it had to appeal to the generosity of its members – but we all need to be aware of the constraints and circumstances that have led to this further appeal.