

ACHILLE RATTI CLIMBING CLUB

NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 2011

Scafell from Crinkle Craggs



Mick McGovern

Chairman's Ramblings, December 2010

My thoughts following the AGM have left a question mark over the future of Dunmail. I personally was ready to spend a large sum of money on the project, my feelings after the meeting and the discussion that took place has left the question of Dunmail open.

In the first instance it is absolutely imperative that we find a replacement Hut Warden and Booking Secretary. Mike Crawford and Joan Ogden are wishing to stand down from these posts after many years service. Before any major decisions are made to Dunmail's future we need YOU to come forward and take on these jobs.

Money must be spent on Dunmail to stop the fabric of the building deteriorating. In the October newsletter I explained that the Club faced an important decision: do we invest the significant sums needed for urgent refurbishment of the hut and continue to use it primarily as a source of income or should we consider selling it and replacing it with premises in a more suitable location for use by members? The issue was an item on the AGM in November. Not surprisingly, strong views were expressed. There were some who argued that retaining and investing in Dunmail would not only reflect the intentions of the founder members but would ensure continued significant income for the Club; separate accommodation for members within the existing building would also be feasible. Others believed that the focus of the Club should be on developing huts for the use of members rather than acting as a landlord for non-members. Furthermore, Dunmail was located too close to Bishop's Scale to attract regular use by members; the opportunity should therefore be taken to consider relocation.

Concerns were also raised about the practical difficulties of developing usage of Dunmail including the water supply, car parking and management arrangements. The Management Committee is taking on board all the views expressed and will be setting up two working groups - one to look in detail at retaining Dunmail and the other to assess the feasibility of selling Dunmail and purchasing alternative premises elsewhere. The views of members are vital for this process and if you have not so far expressed a view please write to me and let me know what you think. I should at this point acknowledge the magnificent work done by Mike Crawford, Joan Ogden and their team in managing the Dunmail Hut over many years. An untold number of visitors to the Lakes have used the hut and the Club has benefitted financially; without their hard work and dedication this would not have been possible. Discussions will continue within the Management Committee and I will keep you informed of any decisions that are made. Can I thank the members who took the trouble to telephone and write to me regarding this matter.

The constitution amendments were agreed at the AGM and will appear in due course on the website. Hardcopies are available on request and I wish to thank Ben Carter, Chris Farrell and Ken Jackson for their input in this long and tortuous process in finally bringing this to its current conclusion.

Three ordinary members of the committee completed their term of office this year, Faz Faraday, Dave Hugill and Dave Makin. I would like to thank them for their long and loyal service to the club. Faz Faraday has served for 18 years as a committee member. He was the BMC representative until we parted company from them, his wise counsel will be missed. Dave Hugill served on the committee for many years working with four chairmen! He has also been bulletin editor, journal co-ordinator and photographer extraordinaire - whose pictures enhance the huts. Dave Makin was the fell runner representative on the committee and he is the inspirational mentor for many Bob Graham attempts.

I would like to welcome our three new Ordinary committee members. Paul Charnock the younger, although reputedly not the better looking. Chris Lloyd, our own CSI who will be a voice for the active family members. Mike McGovern, fell runner Horwich RMI and long time club member, Mike has agreed to take over the mantle from Dave Hugill as Bulletin editor. I look forward to working with them all.

The dinner at the Old Dungeon Ghyll was a great success and thank you to Arthur for the organisation of this event which will be repeated next year on 29th October.

Another success was the buffet tea following the AGM. Again the catering provided by Arthur, Beryl and their team. Our thanks to Mgr Slattery, for offering Mass for the deceased members and to Nicola Kirkman, for arranging the service sheets and flowers.

Congratulations to Dave Makin on becoming the Club Fell running champion a cliff hanger of a championship, the final race being the clincher.

Thank you to Alex Erwin our web master, changes are afoot. keep on looking at our website Achille-ratti-climbing-club.co.uk Messages can be

sent via the website to the committee or you can telephone or write.

The Chairman, Secretary and ex-Chairman attended the funeral Mass for Rita Baron at Morecambe. Tom and Rita Baron were long time wardens at Dunmail. Please remember Tom and family in your prayers and may Rita rest in peace.

We have a volunteer! A very big thank you to Pauline McGovern who has agreed to take over 'Arthur's clothing emporium' Information regarding this will follow. I hope that you are able to spend many hours on the fells during 2011 doing your own thing or just enjoying the company of fellow members of ARCC. I look forward to meeting you at one of the many social events organised for 2011.

John McGonagle

New Bulletin Editor

At the AGM in November it was agreed I join the committee as an ordinary member and become Bulletin Editor.

At the club Management Committee meeting on the 8th. December. it was decided that I would fill the new one year post and there after remain on the committee as Bulletin Editor.

I first went to the hills as a fourteen year old with a lifelong friend Brian and his dad Cyril. We were both hooked after a circuit of the Snowdon Horseshoe in winter in very wild, wet weather. Crib Goch in a Pac-a-Mac (remember them?) and eating soggy jam butties from a brown paper bag. At eighteen I was lucky and was sponsored from work on a month long course at Outward Bound Eskdale. One of the instructors there had just come back from an Alpine season during which he'd climbed the Eiger North Face. Inspired by his stories, I hitch-hiked there and back to see the mountain in my two week summer holiday. These were the years as a member of Preston Mountaineering Club (PMC), learning the ropes from experienced climbers. PMC Meets invariably started sedately with tea and biscuits in some Lakes hostelry. We rarely came back off the hill though before dark, summer or winter. Gill Aldersley was a PMC member then and one of my companions on the hills. The PMC meet leaders always navigated by consensus, this often lead to wayward route choices particularly in bad weather. From those experiences I got to rely on my own map and compass.

I've been a member of the Achille Ratti since 1978 and a Graduate Member for about seven years before that. In those days I used to visit the huts with Leo Pollard and the other lecturers from Bolton Tech., Cyril Hodgson, John Foster, and Dave Ogden from Blackpool all of whom were ARCC members.

Along with the climbing and hill walking, my twenties and thirties were fell racing years. I was mainly doing the long 'A' category events, later interspersed with things like the Fellsman, Calderdale Way-in-a-Day, Karrimor 2-day and many Long Distance Walker Association walks. I did the Bob Graham in '79 and have helped on loads of others before and since then. I've also done some mountaineering abroad. The last trip being ten days on the Via Ferreta routes in northern Italy.

These days as a concession to creaking joints, Pauline and I do a lot of cycle touring and Audax events (see www.audax.uk.net), nearly always in the mountains, sometimes abroad.

I hope to bring the same enthusiasm and dedication to the job as that shown by Dave Hugill over the past ten years or so. He'll be a hard act to follow. Dave's been unstinting in the help he has given me in this changeover period and I thank him for that. I also want to thank Ken Jackson and Brian Guilfoyle for their helpful comments and examples for the layout of this news letter. Finally Ann and Pauline for their proof reading of the drafts.

Mick McGovern

Membership Secretary

Thank you to everyone who has paid their subs on time and those who have helped me out with a variety of payment problems. Hopefully all are nearly sorted out now. May I remind any member, who has not yet paid their subs. That they are very much overdue and membership will lapse.

Increase in Hut Fees:-

There is an increase in the overnight hut fees.

From the First of January 2011 they are:-

Members from £4 50 to £5 00

Guests from £6 50 to £7 00

Juniors £2 00 to £2 50

Associate Members £6 50 to £7 00

Re-union on Wed 11 May

Everyone is welcome to turn back the clock with their memories of years gone by. Bring your old photographs and memorabilia. Last year about 35 members turned up and had a great day. Meet late morning about 11am, or earlier if you plan to fit in a

short walk on the fells. (bring some lunch refreshments) Contact Barry Ayre on 01524 701318 if you want any more information.

susan.d.carter@hotmail.com

Sue Carter

Tyn Twr

We had a cracking maintenance meet in October, 21 members turned up and a great deal of work was completed and I am very grateful for all the effort by everyone.

The old coal shed was demolished, stone removed and the quarry waste spread over bringing up the level of the area and has made a huge difference to the parking space. Ken and Joan Jackson spent two days constructing a magnificent picnic table with seating for eight people – Bishop's Scale eat your heart out! The gutters were all cleaned out; a new outside light was fitted. The garden and surrounding trees and bushes were pruned back. The new coal bunker was fitted with new sliders to access the coal. Inside the ladies bathroom and toilet doors were stripped ready for varnishing, the men's shower was given a complete de-coking. The lounge was washed down and the cupboards given a new coat of beeswax. The cracked basin in the ladies dormitory was removed and a new unit was built around the remaining wash basin. Part of the walls in the men's dormitory were knocked off and plastered up ready for painting. The final job on leaving the hut was the repainting of the kitchen floor.

We were fed and watered all day and even though everyone was working hard there was an enjoyable camaraderie atmosphere all weekend. I am pleased to say that a bonfire was enjoyed on the Saturday night and the old cane overlarge furniture met its end – sorry Arthur!

Since the Maintenance meet John Hope has replaced the rotting window in the pantry and this has improved the light in that area. The window in the drying room has also been replaced.

Our final social event of the year was Christmas at Tyn Twr 11th/12th December. This was a fully catered meet from Friday evening until Sunday breakfast. Seventeen members enjoyed a walk on Anglesey discovering ancient sites on their circular 10 mile trip from Moelfre, taking in Lligwy Burial Chamber, the fortified village of Din Lligwy and the ruins of a 12th century Chapel, Hen Capel Lligwy. Reaching the highest point on Anglesey, the final part of the walk was along the coastal path. On their return they sat down to an excellent Christmas meal with all the trimmings and my thanks to the cooks, Ann and Hilary McGonagle.

Although visiting clubs swell the coffers, I do not like to have too many as members should be enjoying the facilities that we have. A reminder that the hut is never booked out to visiting clubs during the main holidays of Christmas, Easter, Spring Bank and the whole of July and August and October half term.

Bookings from visiting clubs for 2011

18 th /20 th February	Bob Spencer
11 th /13 th March	Sale Walking and Activity Group
13 th /15 th May	King James Fell walking club
8 th /10 th July	St Helens MC

John McGonagle

Email

In an effort to reduce production and distribution costs we want, where possible to distribute the club publications by email. If you would like to receive your News Letter, Journal, Meets Card etc in this way. There will shortly be a facility on the ARCC Web Site for you to place your email address and any other contact details you wish to share with other ARCC members on the site. This address list will be password protected and therefore only available to up to date club members. The club web site is being developed by our

webmaster Alex Erwin. Alex is a club member and is developing a very informative and interesting Club web site at: www.achille-ratti-climbing-club.co.uk -

For the time being if you wish your email address to be included on the address list please send your email address to the Membership Secretary, Sue Carter at susan.d.carter@hotmail.com or via the ARCC website CONTACTS page.

Beckstones

Beckstones in winter



Mick Mc Govern

Beckstones Working Weekend:

There is a Working W/E at Beckstones on the 26/27 March. Along with the continuing upgrading of the hut facilities, general painting and refurbishment of the hut will take place... It's in a wonderful spot and the continuing efforts of the Beckstones team have produced a comfortable and pleasant hut.

The working weekends are always jolly and the Saturday evening meals are becoming renowned for their quality and quantity and are always lively affairs.

There's always time for the 'hill, be it a'round' of the skyline or a stroll to the top of Pen.

If you intend to come let Terry know in plenty of time.

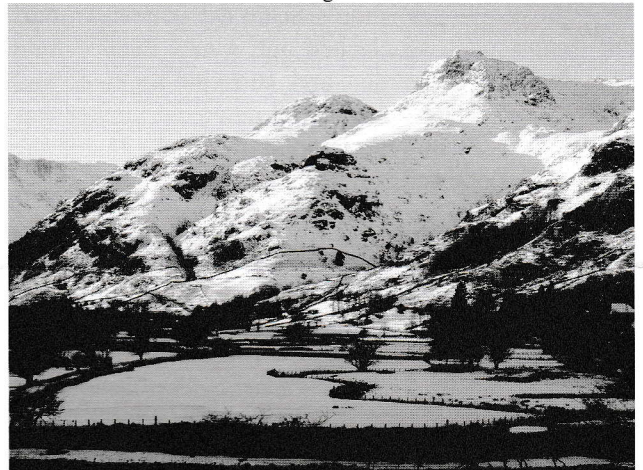
Bishopscale

Bishopscale Working Week:

There is a full working week at Bishopscale from the 14 Feb. to the 20 Feb. inclusive. Arthur feels that the general upkeep of the hut has been adversely affected over the last two years by the efforts needed to create the women's new dorm. This work is now drawing to a close and it's time to give the whole hut a spring clean. To this end a painting, decorating and refurbishment week is planned. Come for as long as you wish and help, bring skills if you have them or a pair of hands if not, there's plenty to do.

As always there will time to get out on the 'hill'. Let Arthur know if you are coming.

The Langdale Pikes



Mick Mc Govern

Dunmail

As John McGonagle says elsewhere this is a time of great change for Dunmail. Strategic decisions about the hut will be made in the coming months. Mick Crawford and Joan Ogden along with the other members of their team there have operated the hut for many years and want to hand the job over to a new hut

warden. There's interesting and exciting times ahead for the member(s) who step forward to take their place. The membership owes Mick and Joan a big thank you for their efforts.

Yorkshire Dales Weekend, 11-14 March

The Yorkshire Dales weekend is from the 11th to the 13th March and is at: ELLERGILL BARN, Halton Gill, Littondale. Grid ref 882765 (self catering. Pub in Litton Village). See Ellergill Barn website for

accommodation details. 12 places are available, bring your own sleeping bag and towel: £27 pp for two nights Fri. & sat. To book ring: Dave Hugill Tel 01524 734467

Finally

Did you know that the club has a Library/Archive? well it has. Few people visit it and I suspect that fewer club members know of it. It's located in Preston. Its available to any club member via the club Librarian Margaret Price. In the next news letter I'll include more details of how to get access to it. The club Journal will be sent out in spring, Dave Hugill

and his team are putting the finishing touches to it and I for one look forward to it landing on the door mat. I'll then be on with the next edition, so think of putting pen to paper when next you're out and write or email of your adventures.

Mick Mc Govern.

5/1/2011