

The newsletter of The Achille Ratti Climbing Club

Chairman's Ramblings

Chris Farrell: As I follow John McGonagle's path as chairman, what better way to start than by using his preferred method of communication: the 'Chairman's Ramblings'. If he could ramble so can I.

John stepped down as chairman at the AGM after his three year stint having guided the Club through a number of knotty issues, not least the constitution update and the Dunmail initiative. He did a great job – at the same time as being a very active hut warden at Tyn Twr – for which we must be grateful. Also stepping down was Paul Charnock (the younger, as we say) in line with policy of rotation for 'ordinary members' and Mick McGovern as Journal Editor. We thank them both. Succeeding Paul is Tony Shanley (who gave a lively account of members' activities on the hills at the annual dinner and who will, I should think, also live up our future meetings) and taking over as Journal Editor is Phil Hodgeson. Mick will still do the Newsletter but will be assisted by new volunteer, Alana Storey. Finally, the last vice-chairman having been elevated one step higher (not quite kicking and screaming), the role is taken by David Jackson. David has a uniquely broad experience within the Church which I believe will be a great asset to the committee and to the Club as a whole. I look forward to working with them all.

Discussion at the AGM was again dominated the future of Dunmail. At the time of writing it is far from clear that we will have both a buyer and a ready replacement for the hut within the 12 month period we allowed at the 2011 AGM. However, there is a potential buyer in prospect and the next few weeks will determine whether a suitable property can be recommended to a general meeting of the Club.

The AGM was as usual followed by Mass for deceased members offered by Mgr Slattery. Hearing the ever growing list of names of members who have passed away over the years is always moving and, sadly, this year those of Eddie Kelly and Bernard Hayes were added. I remember rock climbing with Bernard in our teens; his children and grandchildren were a welcome presence at the Mass.

The weekend after the AGM the Annual Dinner was held at the ODG which once again proved to be an excellent venue (thanks to Arthur for all the organising) and we already have booked our place for 26 October 2013; this time two weeks before the AGM.

Tony Shanley has not only become a member of the management committee but has taken over from Alan Kenny as the organiser of the CAFOD Derek Price memorial race and the Harrison Stickle race from Bill Mitton. We are grateful to both Alan and Bill for their efforts over the years; Alan managed the CAFOD for 14 years.

There has been plenty of activity on the hills despite the weather this year. Jean Lochhead won an orienteering gold medal in Germany which means we have our very own world champion. Terry Kitchen has completed all the Munros and Andy Pooler was presented with the club shield as fell runner of the year. Dave Makin continues to impress, not only did he achieve the extremely demanding time limit for the over 50's Joss Naylor challenge (making the time allowed for my own over 60's Joss Naylor look positively leisurely) but he completed his own version of the 50 peaks at age 50 Bob Graham Round by doing 53 peaks at 51 – in 24 hours of course. Arthur Daniels is I think the only other member to have a 50 at 50 BGR to his credit. Mike Quinn did his bit for the 'Help for Heroes' appeal by completing all the Wainwright summits and 50 classic rock climbs, all within a 12 month period.

Finally, we must thank all those members whose hard work makes the Club what it is, including the invaluable hut wardens and the volunteers who add so much to Club meets. The events calendar for 2013 will be circulated shortly together with a rather fine club journal. Let's look forward to another great year in the hills.

Hut reports

Bishop's Scale

Arthur Daniels: Please see the Meets Card for details of the events taking place at Bishop's Scale during 2013. There is a working week scheduled: work planned at this stage includes making a start on upgrading the men's dormitory and loos and to create a further dorm along the same lines as the new women's quarters in the roof space. More details will follow in future newsletters. Do come up, whether for a day or a week; there'll be time to enjoy being out on the hill but there is plenty of work to do! Please let Arthur know if you'll be there – 07845 125077.

Tyn Twr

John McGonagle: We had a very successful maintenance meet in October. Fourteen members attended and various jobs were completed including new air vents in the loft with the hope that this will improve the ventilation and alleviate the mould growth in the bedrooms. Following the completion of a new roof there was a large pile of wood left by the roofer; this was cut and bagged ready to be used on the wood burner. A new concrete base was made to house the large industrial waste bin. The windows and gutters were cleaned. The sheds and picnic bench were re-proofed ready for the winter. The front garden had all the shrubs pruned and the branches of the trees at the rear of the house were cut back. The men's toilet and shower room was cleaned and repainted. The communal downstairs toilet room was cleaned and wood panel replaced and outside window painted. A door thresher was fixed to the front door and painted.

An excellent weekend's work and I am extremely grateful for the hard work and enthusiasm of all the volunteers, there was plenty of work done and there was a great feeling of camaraderie. At the end of the day a visit to the local hostelry to quench the thirst was a must! We were fed and watered all day and my thanks to Ann for this.

Since October I have been down to replenish supplies and Ann and I also did a recce of the Christmas walk due to take place on the weekend of *Christmas at Tyn Twr* 8th December. The weekend is fully booked and hopefully the weather will be kind to us.

Beckstones

Terry Kitching: The family bothy is booked for the new year but there are no other bookings at time of going to press.

Please do bear in mind when visiting Beckstones that there can be no parking between the cattle grid and the field gates as this has become an issue with the local farmer.

Dunmail

Brenda Loxam: Usage in 2012 – 26% down on 2011. 2013 bookings have been made for: 11th-12th, 16th-18th and 23rd-24th January; 20th-23rd and 27th-28th February; and 15th-16th March.

Membership Secretary

Sue Carter: Thank you to all members who have duly paid their annual subs. Each year I still have to remind quite a number who are not on direct debit... Currently there are 11 members and 7 associates made who have not paid and they risk having their membership cancelled if payment is not received very soon. If I have sent you a direct debit form with your renewal card please will you return the form to me as soon as possible to that it doesn't get forgotten and then it is in place for 1st October 2013. This all saves time and money for the club. Thank you.

It was agreed at the recent Management Committee meeting that the overnight fee for guests be increased to £10 per night from 1st January 2013. It was felt to be unfair to members who pay their annual subs of £25 that the current overnight fee of £7 meant that guests had "a better deal" than members. All other fees remain the same including Associates who currently pay £7 overnight fee as well as annual subs.

Please remember to advise me if you change your address, name, email address or bank account details, the banks do not advise ARCC if an account holder changes their account details as they do with more commercial direct debits. The only way I find out if members don't advise me of their bank account change is when their direct debit is rejected when ARCC try to collect annual subs in October, and then it takes considerable time to sort out, whereas if a member advises me when the change occurs it can be dealt with quickly and easily.

My contact details are: Sue Carter, 214 Rochdale Road, Shaw Oldham, OL2 7JA. Tel 01706 841978, email susan.d.carter@hotmail.com

Happy Christmas everyone

Club correspondence

If you're able, please do opt to receive club information by email. Around 30 people responded to the last request which is a great help to the club in reducing costs; the immediacy of email is also a benefit to members. Email addresses should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Sue Carter, at susan.d.carter@hotmail.com or via the ARCC website CONTACTS page.

Please also note that committee members have changed since the AGM, and some members have changed their contact details. New details are on the 2013 Meets Card.

Sponsor required – Old County Tops Fell Race

Chris Lloyd: We are looking for a company which would be prepared to give financial support to this prestigious fell race which is organised by the club. In return the company logo will be printed on the back of the T-Shirts that are awarded to all finishers which could provide longer-term publicity. We would also do our best to plug the company's name in local and fell running media.

If you know of anyone who may be able to support us with this can you please pass their details on to me (or my details on to them).

Thanks very much.

chris.lloyd731@googlemail.com

Personnel request

We still need a member to step forward as a replacement for Jean Lochhead who is retiring as club treasurer. Jean is happy to talk through the role with anyone interested on 01484 687030; any other member of the Management Committee will also give advice or information.

Catered meets – essential info

Members please all note that booking is essential when an event is named as a 'catered meet' on the Meets Card. This allows the organisers both to plan for numbers (and avoid supermarket dashes!) and to cater for any particular requirements.

'New' newsletter

Alana Storey: You'll have noticed a slightly different layout this time, to the printed copy at least. I'm helping Mick with collating this edition and, if I'm allowed, a few more. Thank you to all who have written for this edition.

Further to Mick's request in a previous newsletter, all contributions are welcome. I've been thinking about possible new content: my aim would be to cover a fairly broad spectrum of interest and in doing so to showcase members' talents as they have been inspired by the Club and its activities. So, if you have been motivated to write poetry or create artwork following a visit to the hills, please consider sharing it with us. Perhaps you haven't taken part in any of the big events, but an informal activity has been no less an achievement and is something you'd like to tell us about. I've thought too that there must have been plenty of amazing meals made in the clubs over the years: maybe you could share a recipe for a great energy-boosting snack to take out, or you have a favourite, hearty meal you love to come back to. If you don't reach the club so much at the moment you might have memories or photos you'd like to share in a 'reminiscences' section. Finally, I loved the pieces by Ruby and Tom in the last newsletter and by Emma this time: perhaps junior members would like to share their stories in a regular children's section?

I'm fairly new to the club and it must be said, new to the hills! I love cycling, though that was mostly city-cycling in Edinburgh, and have recently done some indoor climbing; I'd like to develop both those pursuits in the next few years. Earlier this year I had a baby boy, Siôn; at six months he is a gorgeous, determined, livewire. I've promised him lots of "swimming, cycling and climbing ... reading ... and times tables"! I plan to raise him with a spirit of independence and adventure, and hope that ARCC will be a big part of his childhood.

Please send any items to me via alana.storey@hotmail.com or to 35 Green Lane, Addingham, LS29 0JH, or feel welcome to call/text me on 07920 572900.

Family Meet at Langdale, 14th -16th September 2012

Amy: The weekend was great. Packed with fun, adventure and challenges. The people who couldn't make it to the meet missed out on a lot! With walking, running and a bit of scrambling, it was a great opportunity to get out and explore the great outdoors - which is exactly what we did!

Samuel: On Saturday all of the juniors who met walked from Glenridding up over Striding Edge to Helvelyn summit down Swirral Edge and back into Glenridding. The Chimney was dead easy but provided a challenge to the young 'uns, and just before the summit was a good old scramble. It was a good day indeed (and it didn't rain!!)

Bronwen: On Sunday, I did my first Junior fell race. It was throwing it down - and I nearly didn't get out of bed! I got really wet taking part but I came in 2nd in my age group. It was good fun and I'll definitely take part again.

Rachel: We couldn't have asked for better weather on Saturday; the juniors had a great day on the fells, and the views were great. Good on the juniors for battling the torrential rain during their club race and well done to Amy who, on her first ever club race, persevered to the bitter end (all 15 minutes of it). Arrived back last and came 1st! Well played.

ARCC Langdale Junior Fell Race 2012 - Results

<u>Under 6</u>	1 st Edward Kelly	
<u>Under 8</u>	1 st James Kelly	2 nd Alicia Rutter
<u>Under 10</u>	1 st Isobel Kelly	2 nd Bronwen Harling
<u>Under 12</u>	1 st Megan Mayoh	3 rd Ruby Makin
<u>Under 14</u>	1 st Jack Lloyd	2 nd Tom Makin
<u>Under 16</u>	1 st Amy Harling	

Kayaking Capers at Tyn Twr, 8th - 9th September 2012

Chris Lloyd: With a growing number of members being tempted by the fantastic experience of sitting on the sea on what is not much more than a large plastic tray, the inaugural Kayaking Capers weekend was held at Tyn Twr in September under the expert guidance of Gary Pollard. On the Saturday we were fortunate to be blessed with favourable tides and one of the calmest days of the summer; a trip round Puffin Island became the obvious choice. Seven boats were loaded with fishing gear and plastic bags (for collecting mussels) and off we set from Penmon Point. Kayaking on a flat sea after some of the windy days of the summer was indeed a special treat. Fishing lines were soon in the water and it wasn't long before a shout came from Sean Makin's boat. We paddled round the island in a clockwise direction, seeing the cliffs and associated bird life that are obscured to all on the mainland. Encountering the colony of seals at the far tip of the island was an amazing experience for all. The sea was so calm we were able to get right amongst the seals, with some of them nearly joining us in the boats. We then continued onto the only landing spot on the island, which is almost opposite from where you set off. Lunch was eaten there and the next hour or so was spent collecting some of the many mussels. The final paddle across the strait back to the Penmon posed no problems in such calm conditions; this can be a far more fearsome short stretch of water on a windy day. The day was rounded off by the more hardy taking a swim in the sea followed by crabbing on Beaumaris Pier. I think we are the only people who walk off Beaumaris Pier with buckets full of crabs and we do get some strange looks. Little do they know the wonders of Gary Pollard's Shore Crab Soup. Back at the hut soup and mussels were prepared and the barbeque was lit. The rest is history. A few of us thought about kayaking on Sunday, but with much rougher seas and a hangover we soon managed to talk ourselves out of it.

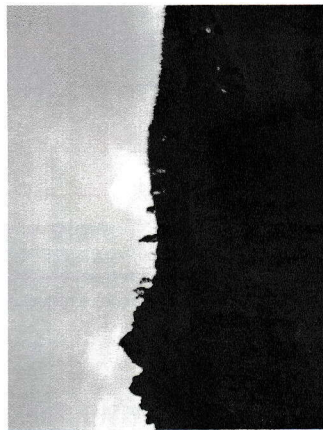
In summary, a great weekend was had by all who attended. Thanks very much to Gary organising the meet (and making the soup). This is definitely one for the calendar from now on and we hope to see some new faces next year.

Autumn Amble

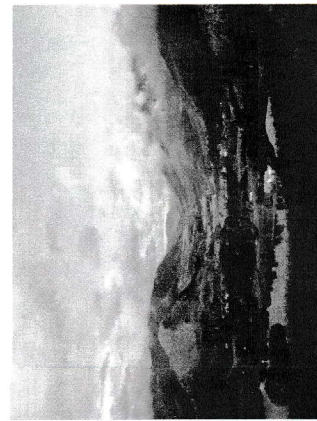
JOHN SMITH: May I thank **Ian and Rose Costello** for compiling this report on our Autumn Amble and also all those who took part, it was a great day out. Also I would like to take this opportunity to apologise to those who considered the walk a bit too strenuous, I promise that the 2013 walk WILL be an amble.



The Morning of Saturday 13 October 2012 saw an overcast start to the Autumn Amble from Bishopscastle. A large group of walkers set off with our leader, John Smith, with only a vague idea of where we were heading. At least John seemed to know, so we were happy to follow with Adrian being "Gate Monitor" and "Straggler Chaser".



The group happily made our way following our leader on to the main path to Loughrigg where we were met by two experienced-looking mountain men (Arthur and Peter) who were off to the pub in Ambleside. They had decided to check up on us on the way and make sure everyone was having a good time.



Who needs the Alps when we have views like this?

Bronwyn enjoyed a little scramble, looking down on the rest of us below.

Leaving the summit of Loughrigg behind us we made our way down past High Close by the most lovely route through mature woodland and returned to the Langdale Valley via Elterwater. The colours were absolutely fantastic in the bright afternoon sunshine. It made us all realise how lucky we are to be members of Achille Ratti CC, enjoying fabulous views amongst good, friendly company. Refreshment was sought at both the Britannia and Wainwrights before returning to Bishop's Scale. Many thanks to John and Ian Smith and everyone involved. A wonderful day!

Family Meet at Tyn Twr, August 2012

Emma Lloyd: We had a very eventful week at the Tyn Twr family meet this summer, including one trip to the hospital, a lot of fishing and some killer waves.

One of our great but stupid ideas during the week was to go surfing... So we went to Rhosniger and hired some boards, stupidly we forgot to check what the waves were like before we paid £25 to hire them, of course Jack got hit in the face with a hard board and ended up having to have 7 stitches in his lip and drinking out of a straw for the next few days. It was hilarious; he obviously didn't think it was thought.

One of our favourite activities when we go to Wales is coasteering; the only really bad part about it is that the sea is always cold. It's so much fun jumping into the sea from the rocks, well most of us jumped, some did flips and there were even a couple of unintentional belly flops (not mentioning any names). And of course whenever we go to Wales, it always seems to rain so this year we went to Electric Mountain and had the nicest hot chocolates ever!

Whenever we go to Wales the two things we DEFINITELY have to do are fishing and crabbing. Yes, crabbing takes a lot of patience (which most of us don't have) but eventually we got enough of the little devils for Gary to make his crab soup, which pleased Owen, Tom and Yves as they got to crush the crabs with hammers.

And of course we can't even go to the Achille Ratti without our parents forcing us out of bed too early to go for a walk. So at half ten we left to go for a walk at Aber Falls, apart from it being way too midgy and rather bad weather it wasn't a bad walk. Once we got to the falls most of the children decided to have a shower under the waterfall, and only then did they realise they didn't have any clothes to change into. All in all it was an eventful week at Tyn Twr.

Ratti International

Collette Pfeiffer:

Greetings from the Rocky Mountains, Colorado.

I am an almost lifelong member of the ARCC, who now lives in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains - about four miles above Boulder, Colorado

I would like welcome any ARCC members who are in my part of the world to drop by - we can put you up and point you in the direction of some beautiful mountains and maybe even come on a hike or rock climb or two.

Looking forward to seeing you.

Collette Pfeiffer (nee Mercer) and husband Matthias.

cpfeiffer03@gmail.com



The picture shows me at the Continental Divide in the Rocky Mountains - magnificent and very windy as you can see!

Forthcoming events

Fell Runners Meet at Bishop's Scale

Saturday and Sunday 2nd and 3rd Feb with pie and pea supper on the Saturday night. Contact Dave Makin 07801 0254374.

Dales Weekend - Reeth

The Bunkhouse at the Dales Bike Centre in Reeth, Swaledale is provisionally booked for Friday and Saturday 15th and 16th March. There's bed and breakfast for 14 in two buildings; the cost is £56 pp for the weekend. This is a great area for walking, running and mountain biking. Please contact Dave Hugill to book on 01254 734467 or via ahugill@btinternet.com. Payment is required on booking, cheques are to be made payable to ARCC. A taster can be found at <http://www.dalesbikecentre.co.uk/index.php/accommodation/>.

Beckstones working weekend

To be held towards the end of March, this is a catered meet so please do tell Terry Kitching if you'll be there – tel 01325 721390. Previous weekends have attracted from 3-20 people – the more the better. At the time of going to press work to be done isn't confirmed, however it is a good opportunity to enjoy Beckstones and the surrounding area too.

Reunion

To be held on Wednesday 8th May at Bishop's Scale; full details to be confirmed. Barry Ayre is organising this and can be contacted on 01524 701318.

Bike Ride in Wales

Saturday 21st September from Tyn Twr; again contact Dave Makin for further info on 07801 025437

Autumn Amble

After the great success of this year's walk in which 27 people took part, John Smith will be organising the Autumn Amble again on Saturday 12th October 2013 from Bishop Scale. John can be contacted on 07757 115359 or 01204 669926.

Mountain Bike Ride – Bishop's Scale

Saturday 19th October from Bishop's Scale Dave Makin 07801 0254374

Dunnerdale Fell Race - Beckstones

Saturday 9th November. This is a catered fell runners' event for which booking is essential. Please contact Dave Makin on 07801 0254374 to confirm.