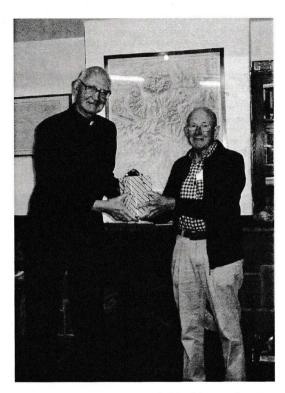


The newsletter of The Achille Ratti Climbing Club



Ben Carter making a presentation on behalf of the Club to Monsignor Slattery to mark Monsignor's Diamond Jubilee

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1

CHAIRMAN'S RAMBLINGS, JUNE 2014

Chris Farrell: As spring merged seamlessly into summer, members needed no encouragement to continue their usual varied round of activities in the hills both in Lakeland and in Wales. On 17^{th} May, in bright sunshine and under clear blue skies, though with a strong cool breeze on the higher fells, the ARCC once again pulled together to host a magnificent Old County Tops fell race. Members were out in force on the summits and at roadsides marshalling and recording the 150+ runners. The finish at the New Dungeon Ghyll field resembled a village fair with vast quantities of sandwiches, cakes and drinks available undercover of a marquee. It's a serious business managing one of the longest and toughest fell races in the UK – in many previous years it has been a battle against the elements. We can be proud of the way this and other fell races are handled by the Club. On this occasion well done to Chris Lloyd and the team.

Our congratulations are due to our President, Monsignor Slattery, who recently celebrated no less than 60 years as a priest. An account of the events marking the occasion including a presentation to him on behalf of the Club is below.

There is no doubt the ARCC is a very successful Club with an enthusiastic membership. But all organisations need to change and develop to continue their success. We have recently moved forward with the acquisition of our new hut in the Wasdale valley (Paul Charnock's update is below) and two other significant developments are now under discussion. One, of course, is the consultation of members on our membership rules. David Jackson reports on the results so far. The second is the question of whether the Club should, in these litigious days, seek incorporation as a mutual society as a way of limiting the liability of our members, a step already taken by a number of climbing clubs including the Fell and Rock. A summary of what this would mean for the Club follows.

Overlaying these major issues we have an urgent, unexpected and rather vital one to resolve in relation to the Club's 66% Catholic membership rule which has just been brought to our attention by the legal firm DWF which is dealing with the incorporation initiative. We will take that first.

The membership rule and the law

The opinion expressed by the legal firm DWF is that the Club's 66% Catholic membership rule is now unlawful. The advice from DWF is as follows:

"We remain of the view that while a club that only allowed Catholics to become members is permitted under the Equality Act, a club that restricts the number of non-Catholic members is not.

Under section 101 of the Equality Act 2010, an association must not discriminate in the arrangements it makes for deciding who to admit to membership.

Paragraph 1 of Schedule 16 of the Act provides an exemption to this, but only for associations that restrict their membership only to persons who share what the Act describes as a "protected characteristic". (The Act bases itself around a number of "protected characteristics", on the basis of which it is unlawful to discriminate against someone. One such protected characteristic is religion.) As the Club would not be restricting membership to people who shared the protected characteristic of being a Catholic, the exemption would not apply.

DWF adds that:

If the rule were to be removed, obviously the threshold on non-Catholic members would be too. There are though other parts of the Club's existing Rules that are designed to ensure that it has a Catholic character, and these could be retained, and, if thought fit, strengthened to say that they could not be changed without the consent of (for example) 100% of the membership."

Being in breach of the Equality Act has serious consequences for the Club and must be addressed as a matter of urgency. The management committee will be considering options for the way forward over the summer and will be seeking views of members. Of course, no change can be made to the constitution without members voting for it at a

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general meeting. Members will also note that one of the suggestions made by DWF (to strengthen the Rules to ensure the Club's Catholic character) is one of the tasks the new sub-committee (see below) will consider.

Incorporation and limited liability

For the past two years the management committee has been investigating whether the ARCC should seek corporate status in order to afford its members the protection of limited liability. The great advantage of limited liability for a club like the ARCC is that it would protect members from legal action which could result from accidents in the club huts or during any of our activities elsewhere should the insurance that we already have in place be insufficient. At the moment the ARCC is an association of members without any legal standing which means it cannot itself be sued. Should there be a claim against it, the target could be any member, one of the office holders, an ordinary member or, perhaps, a trustee – no one would be safe. This formalisation of our affairs would be a key milestone in our history and the committee has taken appropriate legal advice. We are also keen to listen to the views of the members and will invite members to scrutinise our proposals.

The committee has looked at various options including a mutual society and a company limited by guarantee. Many sports clubs, acting on the advice of the UK Athletics Association, have already changed their status and become companies limited by guarantee. The Fell Runners Association is a company limited by guarantee. In the climbing world, the legal firm DWF (based in Manchester) has advised a number of climbing clubs on their way to becoming mutual societies. We have taken legal advice from lawyers at DWF on what this would mean for the ARCC and the best way to achieve it. As a result of this advice, the management committee unanimously agreed to invite DWF to prepare the ground for an application by the Club for mutual status as an 'industrial and provident society'. This will provide members with the protection offered by limited liability. Their report and recommendations will be ready for circulation to members for consideration at the November AGM. Members will then be in a position to make an informed decision on whether in their opinion this is the right way forward for our Club.

MONSIGNOR FRANCIS SLATTERY - DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Barry Ayre:

Our President, Monsignor Slattery, attended the ARCC Annual Reunion where, after leading us in prayers in the chapel, giving thanks for our wonderful club, he was presented with a decanter and tumbler engraved with the Club's logo. The presentation and the reunion together made for a very convivial time, greatly enjoyed by everyone. Numbers were low but all there are looking forward to the next reunion. Ben Carter stood in for the chairman who was unable to attend.



On Friday 16th May, Mgr Slattery celebrated 60 years in the Priesthood. This special anniversary was concelebrated at Christ the King Church, Milnthorpe, attended by Bishop Michael Campbell of Lancaster, Mgr Slattery's family from the USA, more than 20 priests, many past and present parishioners, members of the Achille Ratti Climbing Club (of which he is President) and friends from near and far.

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In his sermon Monsignor spoke of the period of his priesthood covering the time in Europe after the War—a time of relative peace, though there had been conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine. There was a Second Vatican Council and the updating of the Church which this council inaugurated, particularly the change to the vernacular in the liturgy. But what he emphasised mostly was the remarkable support and encouragement he had received over the years from so many priests and laypeople. It had enabled him to exercise his ministry with confidence. Also he spoke of the deepening of faith he received and the great leadership in the Church.

He concluded, quoting from Philippians how Jesus Christ had captured him and bestowed so much on him. Now he was running for the finishing line, the goal. In the power of Christ he hoped to attain this. Bishop Michael responded, echoing the thoughts of all of us—he must not run too fast! We need him.

After the service, 120 guests joined him in the Cross Keys Hotel, Milnthorpe for a meal and cake.

At the age of 15 Frank Slattery started at St Joseph's College, the junior seminary at Upholland, as he expressed a wish to pursue the priesthood. At 18, having clarified his intentions through prayer and reflection he realised that this was the way to go, and moved on to the senior seminary. For six years he studied philosophy and theology while preparing for the priesthood. He was ordained on 16th May 1954. Philosophy and theology were not enough to satisfy his need for learning, so he moved on to Cambridge University for a further three years, graduating in history in 1957. He taught briefly in Kirkham and then St Michael's College at Underley Hall, the junior seminary in Kirby Lonsdale until it closed in 1975. His next move was to the Cathedral in Lancaster where he was its administrator for 12 years, before moving to Milnthorpe and Arnside for 3 years. This was followed by 21 years at St Herbert's in Windermere where Monsignor celebrated his Golden Jubilee, returning to Milnthorpe just over a year ago.

We look forward to celebrating his 75th Jubilee!

PROGRESS REPORT: CONSULTATION ON MEMBERSHIP RULE AND CATHOLIC IDENTITY

David Jackson: Events have now overtaken the debate on the proposal to change the Club's membership rule (66% Catholic) as is made clear above. However, it is worth recording that of the 85 replies received 65 favour the change (equal numbers of Catholic and non-Catholic) and 20 oppose it, mainly but not totally Catholics. All responses were acknowledged. The responses represent about 10% of the total membership. They all reflect the desire to safeguard a Club recognised to be unique as a Catholic climbing club with a great atmosphere which benefits from the efforts of Catholic and non-Catholic members alike. Many who supported the proposal argued it would take the Club forward in new ways; many who opposed the proposal feared it would threaten its identity. Thanks are due to those members who responded.

What is now more important than ever is the management committee's decision to set up a sub-committee to strengthen links between the Club and the local Church. Many of the responses pointed out the need to redouble efforts to inform Catholics about this Catholic Club and recruit new members. There is a whole raft of ideas to renew what is meant by the Club's Catholic character practically and in regard to its rules. The sub-Committee will maintain the harmonious respect which has always existed between Catholic and non-Catholic members. The Catholic identity of the Club would suffer if any examination of that identity were to lead to any diminution of that harmony. Hence:

IF YOU THINK YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A MEMBER OF THIS SUB-COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE HOW THE CLUB'S CATHOLIC IDENTITY CAN BE MAINTAINED – PLEASE REPLY TO THE VICE-CHAIR ON 01274 581094 OR dandt43@gmail.com. WE NEED NON-CATHOLIC AS WELL AS CATHOLIC MEMBERS.

The first meeting will be held at Bishop's Scale, possibly on the weekend of the AGM (Nov 15th) – to decide all other details. Watch the website and notice boards in the huts for further information.

UPDATE ON LITTLE GROUND HOUSE - JUNE 2014

Paul T. Charnock (Committee Member) on behalf of the ARCC Management Committee: The good news is that the work on LGH is progressing really well but more volunteers are needed. We wanted to give you an update on what has been happening since the last newsletter went out in January.

The story so far...

Firstly the design for LGH was passed as complying with Building Regulations and met the required Fire Regulations too. This meant that we could get started on the main structural work to transform LGH into our newest ARCC climbing hut. During the first few months of the year Dave Makin, one of our members and the main contractor for LGH along with his brother Sean, worked to create the large L-shaped room on the ground floor by removing two walls and inserting two large beams to carry the loads above. This work was checked by and fully approved by the Building Inspector.

Making sure that we use the funds that we have for LGH as effectively as possible has been a key priority as a large part of the funds are from member contributions. This means that when there are significant contracts we need to get the best value for money so we have been requesting at least three quotes for each of these types of jobs. We took this approach when ordering the two new staircases that we needed to meet fire regulations and these staircases have now been fitted in new positions in the hut.

We have always known from the initial survey of LGH that there would be some work needed to the roof at some point in the future. But during the process of fitting the upper staircase we had to remove part of the ceiling and other covering materials and this exposed some defects in the roof that could not be seen initially. Clearly as we are putting a considerable amount of work and money into the hut we didn't want to risk damage from water and dampness occurring in the future if we didn't deal with the roof issues now. We recognised this would affect the opening date for the hut but it was vital that we sorted the problems as soon as we could. We got quotes for the roof work, two from local suppliers and one from Dave Makin. Dave's quote came in as the most competitive and the Management Committee agreed to award him the contract.

The roof now has no broken slates, it has new lead flashings, roof timbers repaired, the gable ends and the chimneys have been re-rendered and capped plus new gutters and downspouts have been fitted. The roof should definitely keep out the worst of the Wasdale weather now! We also had a special roofing felt fitted under the slates which will be part of the insulation plan for the top floor sleeping areas to keep them cool in summer and warm in winter. Plus we've added three Velux windows to the roof which makes the top floor light and airy. While the roof work was underway we also fitted a flue liner for the wood burning stove which will be situated in the lounge.

Work has carried on inside the hut with the removal of all the old electrical wiring and the installation of an RCD (residual current device) safety system to protect people whilst they are working in the building. Also all the plumbing except for one toilet and one cold water tap has been removed. A whole plumbing system will be put in later on. At the moment all the water has to be boiled before drinking because the filter and UV treatment system have been removed so that they can be checked and repaired. The water supply to the hut is being re-positioned to give us improved access to the rear of the hut.

In order to get more space in the first floor bedrooms we've removed two studded walls and re-positioned them to improve the layout. Fire-resistant doors and frames have been ordered and once these have been fitted and the plug sockets positioned we can fit the plasterboard to the walls. Also on the second floor two new windows with toughened glass have been fitted into the gable ends.

The next phase

As you can see a great deal of work has already been undertaken and we are now working towards completing the next phase which will start with the installation of the fire sensors, alarms and emergency lighting together with the main electrical system. We've still got some studding work to be done on the second floor around the top of the stairs

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where two more fire doors will be fitted. To save money the kitchen will be fitted out with the existing units to provide a basic but functional layout. The long term plan is do a total refurbishment of the kitchen but for now we will manage by using what we already have. On the first floor we need to fit the new bathrooms and flooring.

Outside the hut there is also work to be done which includes fitting a new soil pipe and extra manhole with a connection to the existing sewage system. This soil pipe will also connect to a toilet cubicle in the downstairs utility room. To improve the parking around the hut we have asked for quotes for removal of walls and the creation of a new car parking area with a ramp.

At the moment it is still not possible to stay at the hut overnight. This is because we don't yet have the basic facilities all in place and as you can imagine the level of dust is a significant problem. We are keen to have members who are working at the hut able to stay there as this would clearly be more productive, however, we need to be mindful of safety issues. In order for members working on the hut to be able to stay we must have the following in place: the fire resistant doors fitted, fire alarm, sensors and emergency lighting in place and a basic electrical supply. We also need a functioning toilet in the utility room, washing facilities and a drinkable water supply.

Your hut needs you!

Following the last newsletter and an appeal via the huts and the web for volunteers, disappointingly we have had only a very small number of members offering to help with the work. It is possible to come and work on the hut without having to stay at LGH - Beckstones is only around 40 minutes' drive away and at the moment we have the benefit of long days with lighter nights for working and travelling. In the first instance if you are able to help please do contact Paul Charnock via highgatehelen@hotmail.com or on 07929 155419, or Mick McGovern on 01254 851176 or via michael.mcgovern@care4free.net so we can arrange the best time for people to get involved. If we don't get more volunteers coming forward it will unfortunately mean that it will take longer before the hut is ready for opening.

The work so far, apart from the contractors, has been completed by around ten regular volunteers and we are really grateful to these members for getting involved. Little Ground House will be a fantastic asset to the club and a place to be proud of, so if you have any time available to help please do get in touch - all offers welcome!

LITTLE GROUND HOUSE REFURBISHMENT - JULY 2014

Mick McGovern: There are a set of images on the club website showing the refurbishment of the new hut to date More will be added as time goes on: if you have any pictures of the refurbishment please let me have them. Contact details helow

From the Extraordinary General Meeting of the club held in March last year attended by more members than at any other club meeting in living memory, there was an overwhelming mandate to buy Little Ground House to use as a club hut.

The club took possession of Little Ground House (LGH), our new hut in Wasdale, in September of last year. From then the property was cleared of its clutter and detailed plans for its new function laid out over the following weeks.

Work on the conversion to a climbing hut commenced on 7th January 2014. In all, including external professional input, about 25 people have been involved to varying degrees. From this number and a club membership close on 800, there has been a core of about 8 volunteers regularly working at Little Ground House.

The immediate refurbishments priorities are now focused on reaching the stage where members can stay in the hut while they are working on it. This will greatly facilitate efforts, for example, by removing the need for the 40 minute journey to and from Beckstones or staying at the YHA hostel in Wasdale. At the moment there's a toilet and basic kitchen facilities but the new kitchen area will be ready for the re-installation of kitchen fittings soon and a shower will be installed.

Structural steel work installed. The removal of two ground floor structural walls. The removal of all lath and plaster ceilings.

Stripping out the old bathroom fixtures and fittings.

Installation of a modern electrical system (ongoing)

Removal and storage of the original kitchen fittings. The old kitchen room will now be a utility, toilet and drying room. The removal of existing staircases and installation of the new in new positions.

Removal of all 1stand 2nd lath and plaster walls and some stone ground floor walls as required.

Rebuild with studded walls as required (ongoing)

Removal and making good of the three ground floor fire places (ongoing)

The repositioning and construction of several of the doorways.

The removal of the chimney breast in the new kitchen area and stone work above.

Flue liner installed for lounge area stove.

The fitting of securing straps from roof members to the internal walls.

The rebuilding of the external parts of the two chimneys.

Renewal of the roof and installation of three Velux windows.

Remedial work to attic window openings and installation of new windows.

Renovation of UV water treatment system.

Arranging for the felling and sale of a large mature tree plantation (very involved and ongoing)

Re-rendering of gable end and chimneys.

JOBS TO DO

JOBS DONE

Ongoing work on the electrical installation of power, light and the fire alarm systems. Plumbing throughout. Plastering throughout. Create the new kitchen. Build new stud walling and fit Fire Doors. Remove outside stone walls and make good. Build the new car park adjacent to the hut. (Use the thirty tons of building rubble generated during the refurbishment and use in the construction of the car park.) Carry out the conversion of the rear porch. Create the Utility/ Drving Room. Create downstairs toilet. Install waste and water system throughout the hut. Insulate for sound and heat where required (this is more involved than it sounds.) Create new, modern, women's and men's bathrooms. Fit out new women's and men's dormitories. Create attic dorm. Create staircase enclosure to comply with fire safety regulations. Painting and decorating internally and externally.

From its commencement to date, about a third of the refurbishment work has been done. Referring to the fourth paragraph above and doing the maths, if it's taken eight club members (one of whom is now out of the frame for three months through injury) six months to do what's been done so far, then, with the same number the rest of the job will take a further twelve months. But let's say, if a core of sixteen members formed, it would take six months etc. etc. There have been enquiries and offers of help, some of which we haven't been able to take up at the time because of the difficulties in arranging mutually convenient work dates.

But.... the conversion is now at the stage where more volunteers are needed, particularly plasterers, joiners, electricians and plumbers. If you've got time, come and help! Where possible please contact me by email and I'll get back to you: michael.mcgovern@care4free.net or 01254 851176.

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August 2014

KAYAKING CAPERS AND LATE SUMMER MADNESS BBQ AT TYN TWR, 22 – 24 AUG 2014

Chris Lloyd: Please note the date change for this meet due to the unavailability of some key people the following weekend. We now have the added bonus of the Monday being a bank holiday, so no need to rush away on the Sunday. This weekend has become a regular fixture on the meets calendar and I think without exception it has been enjoyed by all who have taken part over the last few years. What we will actually do is very much weather dependent, but it will hopefully involve exploring a section of the wonderful North Wales coastline with a bit of fishing en route. Previous kayaking experience is useful but not essential – we will not be doing anything that is beyond the capabilities of most fit Achille Ratti members. Obviously access to a kayak is essential. Most of us will be using 'sit on top kayaks'. These are far more stable than a traditional sea kayak and are very difficult to capsize even in relatively rough water. There may be one or two spare boats within the club, otherwise for those without a kayak there are options to hire one. The day will conclude with a BBQ and beer at the hut. It would be great to see a few new faces as well as the regulars at the end of August. For those not keen on the kayaking option don't forget that Tyn Twr is at the foot of some of the best mountains that this country has to offer. Please contact me about kayak availability and for further details on 07816 603207 or via <u>chris.lloyd731@gmail.com</u>.

OLD COUNTY TOPS 2014

Chris Lloyd: The 26th annual Old County Tops fell race took place on 17 May 2014, a day on which we were presented with close to ideal conditions. This made a great change following the dampness of last year. Once again club members came together to put on a fantastic event. The amount of positive feedback we get afterwards really has to be seen to be believed – it is actually one of the highlights of the year for many of the runners. The fact that this amazing event was instigated by club members and that over a quarter of a century later it is more popular than ever is something that we should all be very proud of, particularly those that have been involved in the organisation and staging of the event over the years.

This year 78 pairs started the event and sixty eight of those managed to finish within the allocated 12 hours – congratulations to them all. The winners Jon Morgan and Stephen Pyke of Dark Peak completed in a time of 7hrs 10mins 45secs setting a new V90 record in the process. They were closely followed by Daniel Clark and Graham Lund of Bolwand Fell Runners (7hrs 11mins 16secs) and Ian Symington (Calder Valley) and Ed Bailey (GWR) (7hrs 12mins 34secs). Other notable performances included 4th placed Stuart Shuttleworth and Gary Thorpe of Ambleside (7hrs 43mins 16secs) who were just over the V100 record, Jo Gillyon and Catherine Evans of Keswick (8hrs 54mins 40secs) who were the first ladies' team for the third year running, and the first mixed team Chris Knowles and Liz Barker (8hrs 44mins 59secs) of Ellenborough. I was pleased to be able to hand out the V120 trophy once again this year (it having been on the mantelpiece in the Bishop's Scale lounge for the past 12 months), to Yiannis Tridimas and Neil Shepherd of Bowland (10hrs 22mins 26secs).

There were a smaller number of Achille Ratti teams running than usual. I find it hard to believe, but it has been suggested that some may have been resting for Jura, although injuries were put forward as the official excuse. At least Andy Pooler and James Lurati flew the club flag and they completed in a time of 9hrs 12mins 34secs; clearly sleepless nights and the pressure of fatherhood has not slowed down James too much – well done!

Our thanks must go to Stuart Ferguson and Jim Mann of Hangar 18 for supporting the event once again. It was great to have them on the field displaying the fantastic gear that they have to offer. Please note that they offer Achille Ratti members a 20% discount on all of their products – contact me for details. Thanks also to Paul Charnock and Graham Dawson for the use of their marquee; because of this, kit check, registration and the feeding of competitors at the finish was a much slicker affair this year. Thanks to the New Dungeon Ghyll Hotel for the use of the field, and to the Stickle Barn/National Trust for opening the Stickle Ghyll car park toilets early. Finally, as always, many thanks to the Raynet team and to all the Achille Ratti members who worked non-stop from five in the morning till eight in the evening to ensure that the race ran as smoothly as ever.

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8

ANNUAL DINNER - TO BE OR NOT TO BE?

Ann McGonagle: It is the intention to hold the annual dinner on Saturday 15th November 2014 this will follow the Annual General Meeting that will take place at 1.00 in the village hall in Chapel Stile, Langdale.

Mass for the deceased members will be offered in the Chapel, at approximately 4.00pm, following the AGM. Members can then gather in the Hut for tea and cakes and a chat.

As you are aware the dinner last year had to be cancelled due to lack of support and this was a disappointment for the committee and those members who did wish to attend. After discussions with members an alternative suggestion and provisional arrangements have been made.

Venue:

Chapel Stile Village Hall - meet at 7.30 ready to enjoy a three course meal at 8.00

Menu: Home cooked food by Brambles Cafe, choices as follows:

Starters:

Soup and roll / Salmon and Dill Tart / Brie, cherry tomato and basil tart / Parma ham and remoulade rolls

Main course:

Chicken, baby vegetables in a creamy tarragon sauce / Sausage, butter bean and butternut squash casserole / Lasagne and salad

Vegetarian options:

Leek, apple, hazelnut and stilton crumble / Three cheese and tomato bake

Desserts:

Apple pie with custard or cream / Tiramisu roulade / Winter berry trifle

Cost: £22 per head and will include a glass of wine

The club will obtain a barrel (or barrels) of beer under the usual arrangements at events held at Bishop's Scale and Tyn Twr.

Members who wish to could bring their own drink of choice.

The Club is hoping to obtain a speaker to entertain us all.

In order for the event to go ahead we need a commitment. A viable number attending is a minimum of 35 and a maximum of 65.

Please come and join us; if you wish to attend please send a £10 per person deposit (this would only be refunded if the event does not go ahead). Cheques to be made payable to ARCC and forwarded to Secretary Ann McGonagle, 33 Revidge Road, Blackburn BB2 6JB by 5th SEPTEMBER 2014 including your menu choices.

We really would like the event to go aheadand that is the question!

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

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August 2014

Sue Carter:

Current membership total is 811. Life members 80, Full members 701, and Probationary members 30. Plus Associates 49 and 170 Juniors.

New members

If you, as a member, propose a new probationary member please can I ask that you check that the proposed member is aware that being a member involves becoming an active part of the membership. As well as pursuing their personal outdoor activities they must be prepared to take part in and/or help at some events and be interested in the club as a whole and not just using the huts as somewhere to stay. I find that several probationary members who apply for full membership at the end of their probationary year have hardly visited the club and have not taken part in any event.

Updating your details

As always please remember to advise me of any changes in your postal address, email address, and bank details if you pay your annual subscription by direct debit.

Annual subs

If you do not currently pay by direct debit just either give me a ring or email me and I will send you a form, it is a much easier way to pay your subs which are due 1st October and then they don't get forgotten.

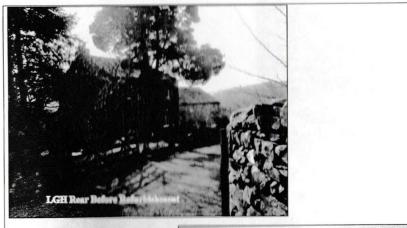
Payment can be made by direct banking to the club's bank RBS 162833 11118155 but you must advise me when the payment has been made as I have to check receipt with the club's treasurer before your membership renewal card can be issued.

My contact details are: Tel: 01706 841978, email - susan.d.carter@hotmail.com.

SOME PICTURES OF LITTLE GROUND HOUSE



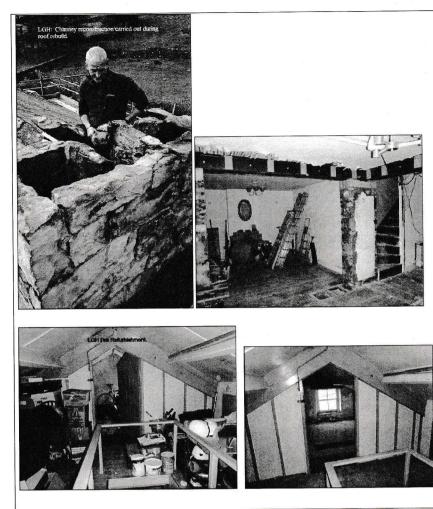






August 2014





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