



Alpine Club newsletter

SUMMER ISSUE | TWENTY22

KYRGYZSTAN EXPEDITION 2021

THE KYRGYZSTAN EXPEDITION
2021 DEPARTED THE UK FOR
BISHKEK ON 31 JULY 2021 ...

OUTDOOR TOILETING

IT'S A STICKY SUBJECT TO DEAL
WITH - BUT SOMEONE NEEDS
TO GET A GRIP OF IT!

A WIDER LANDSCAPE

AN EXHIBITION THAT OFFERS
A FEMALE PERSPECTIVE ON
MOUNTAIN PAINTING.



message from the President

My friend, the Editor of our esteemed Journal, Ed Douglas, is far too erudite. I came to this conclusion sometime in the last century but I am constantly reminded of that. I am currently, and very slowly, working my way through his masterly Himalaya, a Human History. But the article that got me thinking this way today was a piece in the 1999 edition of the AJ, a print of a talk, actually a lecture, originally titled Parenthood and the Morality of Risk, which he delivered before an audience at the Banff Mountain Literature Festival. The references Ed used begin with Herodotus commenting on the battle of Thermopylae, “who tells us that Leonidas, the brilliant Spartan general who led the action, hand picked only those men who had a living son. Their biological function was fulfilled; they had heirs to their fortunes. They could afford to die.” After the usual entertaining Douglas excursion though time and space (the War of the Roses, war on the Eigerwand, Sherpas in Nepal) Ed finally arrives at Nigella Lawson writing in the Times. She holds with the opposite view of Herodotus when it comes to women.

Ed was particularly, and quite correctly in my opinion, irritated by the two journalists and socialites: Polly Toynbee and Nigella Lawson, who excoriated Alison Hargreaves for daring to risk her womanly life with mountaineering. Ed knows a thing

Ed was particularly, and quite correctly in my opinion, irritated by the two journalists and socialites ...

or two about this subject, together with David Rose he authored Regions of the Heart; the biography of Hargreaves.

I remember the controversy well, thinking how odd it was that the fiercest critics of Hargreaves were other women. It was August 1995. Britain was in the middle of one of the longest and fiercest

heatwaves of the century. The West Indies were touring the country and Lara was stroking out big beautiful centuries. But also the climbing was brilliant, the wettest and dankest cliffs in North Wales and the Lakes were dry and the routes felt easy. It was a superb summer and then ... on 13 August Alison Hargreaves with several others was blown off K2 in a sudden and violent storm.

Part of her argument was that mountaineering was a self serving optional risk ...

Nigella wrote a long opinion piece in the Times. Part of her argument was that mountaineering was a self serving optional risk, not to be confused with the risk of dying from other things such as cancer. She was not a climber and couldn't see why people could not be content with a “normal” life. But mainly she flayed Alison because she was a woman and a mother. Nigella ended her article with an odd sort of admission of ignorance, a throw-away line designed to soften the message and amuse ... “after all what do we Jews know about schlepping up mountains?” I was so exercised at the time that I wrote an answer to the Nigella, and bless their hearts, the Times printed my reply which began “What do we Jews know about schlepping up mountains? Better tell Moses” and went on to argue that the same social rules should apply to both parents irrespective of gender.

It is hard to imagine that was just 1995. That twenty-seven years ago people of influence still thought climbing was dangerous (they obviously had not compared it to smoking) and that women, mothers especially, should not be involved.

Fast forward to 2022 and in my local climbing wall there are as many women as men. The ratio climbing in the alps is increasing, especially with more and more “cordées féminines”. And this is now reflected in our club. The Honorary

Secretary tells me that 27% of our 48 new members in this year are women. This is a big improvement on the 10% ratio of recent years, but it is still work in progress. There is more: I was lucky to be present at the aspirant's meet at the George Starkey Hut in May where 5 of the 14 aspirants were women. 36% is definitely going in the right direction.

It is always difficult to be sure what the underlying reasons for progress are, but possibly the Women Rise Up meet last September was one of them. Maybe having greater visibility, more women Honorary Members and committee members (we have had women vice presidents for the last three and half years) has helped a bit too. Or maybe the climbing walls are the key to bringing new social groups into the scene. Perhaps it is just that our society at large that is changing.

It is always difficult to be sure what the underlying reasons for progress are, but possibly the Women Rise Up meet last September was one of them.

In any case, Alpine climbing (and climbing in the Greater Ranges) is a wonderful, spiritual, occupation. In the 16c William Byrd advised that since singing is so good a thing, he wished all men would learn to sing. And climbing is like singing I suppose. All people should learn to climb. It is a really good thing. Polly and Nigella just didn't know that at the time; they didn't know that mountaineering is for everyone, not just the bearded ones. Maybe they also didn't know or heed the counsel of Ludwig Wittgenstein “Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent”. ■

- VICTOR SAUNDERS

club news

CLUB DEATHS

Lutz Bormann	John Brailsford
John Burrows	Ed Hammond
David Ford	Stewart Hawkins
Dr Jim Milledge	Piero Nava
Ted Norrish	Brian Peart
Kev Reynolds	David Roberts

YVONNE HOLLAND

Yvonne Holland, a long-time AC member, sadly passed away in January 2020. Yvonne did not leave any specific wishes after her death, but her sister kindly offered Yvonne's mountaineering clothes and equipment to friends who could make good use of them. All the remaining gear was donated to the University of Sheffield Mountaineering Club who auctioned it, raising £910.50. Not only did the equipment go to good homes but the monies raised are to be used by USMC to help young women start and/or continue their alpine career. ■

- ADELE LONG

NEW CLUB MEMBERS

NEW MEMBER	TYPE	PROPOSED BY	NEW MEMBER	TYPE	PROPOSED BY
Sam Poletti	Full-ACG	T. Elson & R. Nadin	Charlene Gibson	Asp	M. Streeton
James Price	Full-ACG	T. Elson	William Gould	Asp	J. Hoyes
Tom Shaw	Full-ACG	T. Elson & R. Ive	John Harrison	Asp	R. Nadin
Chris Blundred	Full	S. Umpleby & RN	Alistair Jeffs	Asp	R. Nadin
Matt Glenn	Full	G. Shellard & T. Elson	Christian Kuhlmann	Asp	R. Nadin
Thomas Golden	Full	R. Nadin	Bill Laurence	Asp	R. Nadin
Patrick Hickie	Full	P. Frost & R. Nadin	Zac Loftus	Asp	R. Nadin & N. Atkinson
Ronnie Legg	Full	A. Long & R. Nadin	Paul McKenzie	Asp	R. Nadin
Tom Masheder	Full	T. Moore & R. Nadin	Steven Price-Brown	Asp	F. Shah and R. Nadin
Ian Milne	Full	K. Milne & R. Nadin	Stephen Pritchard	Asp	T. Bell
Vincent Perrin	Full	R. Nadin & T. Elson	Dai Richards	Asp	S. Gibbons
Gillian Radcliffe	Full	C. Radcliffe & R. Nadin	Hannah Scott	Asp	M. Windridge
Andy Syme	Full	R. Nadin & J. White	Nick Shearman	Asp	P. Jardine
Mairi Teasdale	Full	R. Nadin & N. Smith	Anna Soligo	Asp	R. Nadin
Ian Wall	Full	J. Porter & R. Nadin	Nick Steventon-Pell	Asp	R. Nadin
Alan Henderson	Asp-Full	R. Nadin & P. Meredith	Urszula Stopka-Farooqi	Asp	R. Nadin
Laura Arthur	Asp	A. Long & N. Smith	Arran Turton-Phillips	Asp	R. Nadin
Paul Bennett	Asp	R. Nadin	Christopher Vernon	Asp	R. Nadin
Alex Burton	Asp	C. Vernon	Sacha Wiginton	Asp	R. Nadin
Bex Capewell-Salisbury	Asp	C. Cummings	Abbey Wrathall	Asp	R. Nadin
Ian Cooper	Asp	P. Jardine	Graham Young	Asp	R. Nadin
Matthew Day	Asp	R. Nadin	Mat Savage	Asp-UK	R. Nadin
Felix Dowidar-Jackson	Asp	R. Nadin	Oliver Banks	Asp-UK	M. Teasdale
Paul Fairburn	Asp	A. Scawcroft	Kasha Platek	Asp-UK	B. Coles
Nikolaos Germanos	Asp	R. Nadin & N. Smith			

FRESHFIELD RETURNS ...

Freshfield returns to the library after 30 years

In the first week of October a Library volunteer spotted a book long missing from AC Collections in an online auction catalogue, which noted that it had the Alpine Club bookplate. It also had the AC's original shelf mark inside the front cover. We had only two days to have it withdrawn from sale.

Douglas Freshfield's 'Across Country from Thonon to Trent' published in 1865 is his first and rarest book, having been withdrawn from publication shortly after it was issued. It relates his first season of climbing – Mont Blanc, Monte Rosa and other Alpine peaks.

After exchanging images with the auction house of our early bookplate and that in the copy being sold, and with detailed records and the history of our missing copy, we didn't manage to stop its sale – where it was knocked down to a bidder for £4,000 – but after many more

emails with the auction house director the sale was cancelled and the book put in his safe. During another five weeks of phone calls and email exchanges with the auctioneer and the vendor, Barbara was able to trace and identify the booksellers who had bought and sold this copy since 1992 or 1993, not long after it disappeared from the Library.

It was collected from the auctioneer mid-November and has been returned to the Library's reserve shelves, for reading at Charlotte Road. ■

Environmental Seminar

After the AGM on 27th November 2021, members were invited to attend, in person or by zoom, an Environmental Seminar hosted jointly by AC and MEF, chaired by current MEF Chairman Duncan Sperry.

The seminar was designed to continue the discussions begun at Blencathra in 2018 when the environment and mountain ecology were identified as an important area of focus for the AC: that it should be involved in increasing awareness of environmental responsibility and sustainability in the mountains, leading the way in some of these areas, joining in wide discussions to consider the impact of humans on the environment.

As a result of this the Green Group was formed. Outcomes so far are:

- *Defined Terms of Reference*
- *Guidance on travelling*
- *Addressing work practice in the Himalaya*
- *Regular Newsletter articles*
- *Conducting and analysis of a survey of AC Members*
- *A designated area of the AC website*

The MEF policy for the 21st Century is to encourage expeditions with a scientific focus, expeditions by women, by young mountaineers and by those from diverse ethnic backgrounds. It has commissioned Marta Mills, who has done work with the UIAA, to investigate the impact of commercialisation. A synopsis of her report should be available soon on the MEF website.

After an introduction by Duncan Sperry, Marta gave a presentation about her research. It included a website/literature search of 65 organisations, such as academic institutions, alpine clubs, grant giving organisations and private companies, as well as interviews with heads of commercial expedition organisations in Nepal. She found a lack of any explicit sustainability criteria.

However, in national alpine clubs she found several had dedicated paid staff teams working on sustainability issues e.g.

establishing and administering an environmental fund, a conservation fund, a sustainability department.

In Nepal there are more than 2,000 commercial expedition companies which are effectively unregulated. There is no consideration of environmental impacts or safety standards. Amongst clients too there is low awareness of sustainability issues and clients generally don't know what questions to ask about safety and sustainability.

Finally, there are international organisations e.g. UIAA, UN whose foci range from pollution, waste, wildlife trade, gender inequality and social exclusion.

In Nepal there are more than 2,000 commercial expedition companies which are effectively unregulated.

Marta defined three pillars of sustainability: environmental; community, social and cultural; and economic. The MEF is focussing on the first two as it cannot realistically interfere with the 'wild west' economic market in Nepal. MEF aims to demonstrate leadership in this area and raise awareness. It will use the data to influence and inform applicants. It will include sustainability criteria in its application guidance and selection criteria and expect an evaluation of an expedition's impact on these areas in its final report. Once these guidelines are finalised, in March, they will be shared with AC, BMC, UIAA.

In the discussion that followed, the following points were raised:

- *There are some reputable companies and sanitation has improved remarkably in the Khumbu as a result of the increase in commercial visits to the area.*



Photo: Toomas Tartes on Unsplash.



Photo: Kasia Palitava on Unsplash.



Photo: Ashok Sharma on Pexels.



Photo: Sanjay Hona on Unsplash.

The mountain environment is a living symbol of climate change. We, given our history, can assume a leadership role in the way mountains are treated.

- *A prerequisite for scientific research is approval from the ethics committee of academic institutions. British Mountain Medicine Society is working within these.*
- *There is a need to also highlight good practice. MEF is happy to act as a forum to collect and disseminate good practice – AB to action.*
- *The Green Group Survey has uncovered heartening examples of good practice within the club. AC could facilitate the role of members as facilitators, giving examples of good practice.*

- *The AC should use its archive and heritage collections to highlight the impact of climate change on the mountain environment.*
- *Work with commercial organisations that are considered to be exhibiting good practice – get recommendations from institutions such as the Indian Mountaineering Foundation.*
- *AC could release some of its equity to establish a Mountain Environment Fund. MEF prepared to cooperate in creating a Mountain Environment Fund – will pull guidelines together.*
- *AC properties should be effectively insulated to conserve energy.*
- *AC should sign COP Declaration of Sustainable Tourism.*
- *AC should audit its investment fund with respect to environmental relevance. It could consider placing more emphasis on environmental funds and environmentally conscious companies.*
- *Research good carbon-offsetting companies to provide advice for members.*
- *The BMC is providing advice about small steps that individuals can take that build up to the bigger picture.*
- *Sustainable tourism is better (economically) than no tourism.*
- *We should recognise that as travellers we have roles as producers of greenhouse gases, as consumers of what is already there, and as influencers.*

FINAL REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR:

The mountain environment is a living symbol of climate change. We, given our history, can assume a leadership role in the way mountains are treated. We can become advocates and communicators of sustainable tourism by producing guidelines and standards. Working in conjunction with other bodies and alpine clubs would be a very good start. ■

– SHERRY MACLIVER

Alpine Club Kyrgyzstan Expedition 2021

The Kuiluu is a seldom-visited range in Kyrgyzstan's Tian Shan, lying to the south of the Terskey Ala-Too. Bound to the north by the Kuiluu River, and to the south by the Uchkul River, the range stretches for nearly 50km with a north-eastern orientation. The highest point in the range is Constitucia Peak, 5281m, first climbed in 1937 by Soviet mountaineer Ivan Cherepov. The range has an abundance of unclimbed 4000m peaks and offers plenty of opportunity for adventurous expeditions to attempt exploratory mountaineering at a reasonable technical difficulty.

Against nearly all odds, the Alpine Club Kyrgyzstan Expedition 2021, postponed from 2020 due to the global pandemic, departed the UK for Bishkek on 31 July 2021, and returned safely on 28 August. The aim of the expedition was to make first ascents of previously unclimbed 4000m peaks, whilst appealing as a first major expedition for confident independent climbers with previous Alpine experience. The team of Tom Davis-Merry, Tom Simpson, Wayne Auton, Alex Metcalfe, Sam Davis, and Sam Mace sought to climb in good Alpine style, without fixed ropes or bolted protection, and with a minimal impact to the natural environment.

Despite months of detailed planning, travel uncertainty due to the Covid-19 pandemic meant funding from the Mount Everest Foundation and Alpine Club Climbing Fund couldn't be released until just days before the expedition flew out, and clothing support generously provided by Montane arrived with just hours to spare. Wayne Auton, a specialist paramedic who held the expedition's medical supplies and prescription drugs, was unable to join the trip when the BMC refused his insurance, as he would be flying to Bishkek from Chamonix and not from the UK. To top it all off, Tom Davis-Merry and Tom Simpson then missed their flights to Bishkek, when

their fit-to-fly PCR test results got lost by the laboratory courier, and had to fly the following day.

Once arrived in country and with final administration complete, the team took three days to travel overland to the Kuiluu Range and establish basecamp at the confluence of the Bardytov and Kuiluu rivers at 3100m. Using a series of gear caches enroute to ferry loads, the team then established an advanced basecamp on the East Bordlu Glacier at 4050m. Whilst hauling loads, Sam Mace developed an infection and after returning to basecamp to recover, the decision was made to evacuate by helicopter. Sam then underwent minor surgery in Kyrgyzstan before flying back to the UK.

Returning to ABC the following day, the remaining team of four prepared to start climbing and exploring the glacier. On 13 August, the expedition successfully summited Pk 4788 via its west flank and a broad summit ridge. From the glacier, the route is approximately 2.5km long with 700m of height gain and graded PD. The team were fortunate to have stable weather with moderate cloud cover and low wind conditions. Understood to be a first ascent, the peak was climbed in Alpine style, moving together throughout and without the use of fixed rope. On 14 August, the

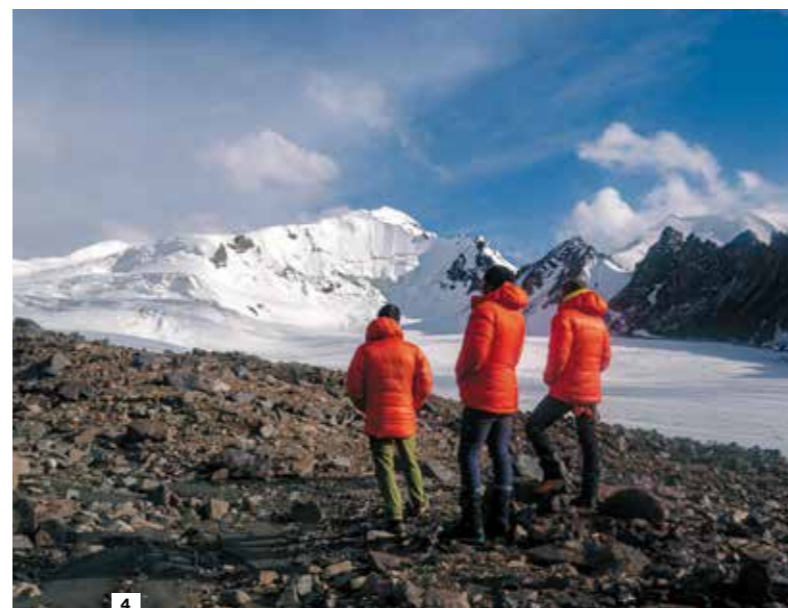
team climbed a second line on the same peak, reaching a col 100m below the summit on the west flank, via a broken ridge and upper snow slopes, graded at AD(+) depending on conditions.

Returning to basecamp on 15 August to rest, the team discovered the expedition cook had been attacked by a local farmer, robbed at knifepoint, and several of the tents had been damaged. ITMC was immediately informed, and a quick reaction by the border security guards meant the perpetrator was captured the following day. Several days of dealings with the Kyrgyzstan police force followed before the team could extract from basecamp on 19 August and return to Bishkek. This incident cut short the climbing window by approximately eight days, and no further objectives were attempted. The perpetrator was taken to court in December 2021 and sentenced in January 2022.

With the exception to the basecamp security incident and medivac of Sam Mace, once arrived in country the expedition ran smoothly. The climbing was adventurous and exploratory, in a superb setting, and the team made a first recorded ascent of Pk 4788, which they fittingly named 'Perseverance Peak'.

This Alpine Club expedition was made possible by support from the Mount Everest Foundation and Alpine Club Climbing Fund and was endorsed by the British Mountaineering Council. The team are also grateful to Montane, Expedition Foods, and FATMAPs for their generous support. Logistics, permits, and in-country support were provided by ITMC. ■

– TOM DAVIS-MERRY



1 Herdsman's huts on the journey to basecamp. 2 The team & their Kamaz truck at sunrise before crossing the Kuiluu Valley river to establish base camp. 3 Tom Simpson, Sam Davis & Sam Mace rest whilst hauling gear to advanced base camp. 4 The team looks out over the East Bordlu glacier at sunset on their first night at advanced base camp. 5 Tom Simpson & Tom Davis-Merry gaining the ridge towards Pik Perseverance. 6 Sam Davis & Tom Davis-Merry watch on as Tom Simpson leads the first pitch of the Argen Spur. 7 Sam Davis just below the summit of the team's second established line, The Argen Spur. 8 Tom Davis-Merry looks out over the Tian Shan on descent from the team's first successful summit, Pik Perseverance. 9 Sunrise over the East Bordlu glacier from Advanced Base Camp. 10 Tom Simpson & Alex Metcalfe pause for views over the Tian Shan on the way to ridgeline to Pik Perseverance. All photos: Tom Davis-Merry.

meets reports

8TH AC SAAS ASPIRANTS MEET 28TH AUGUST TO 12TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Aspirant: "This is a bit steep"

Jim Kerr, UIAGM: "Mountains are steep, son"

The highlight of this meet for me was the 2 days of training at the beginning of the meet. Owen Samuel UIAGM has been running this for several years with colleagues. This year he was joined by fellow British mountain guides Jim Kerr and Paul Wright. Owen has put a lot of thought into how this 2 days of training is run and each year it gets better. The training is suitable not only for aspirants but also for more experienced members of the club. I would strongly recommend it.

The top of the Saas Fee lifts provides quick access to deep (200ft) crevasses. Extremely realistic terrain for crevasse rescue. To begin with we were all lowered 30ft in and prussiked out. We all found getting over the lip an extreme struggle.

If you haven't done this recently it is well worth doing. We then practised holding falls (very difficult) and building an ice axe anchor and a z-haul. The following day was spent on "Owen's nipple" – a rocky ridge above Hohnsaas learning techniques for moving together.

The base for the 2 weeks is the slightly quirky campsite opposite the Hotel Schönblick. One big advantage of being based in Saas is that staying overnight grants you free use of the lifts.

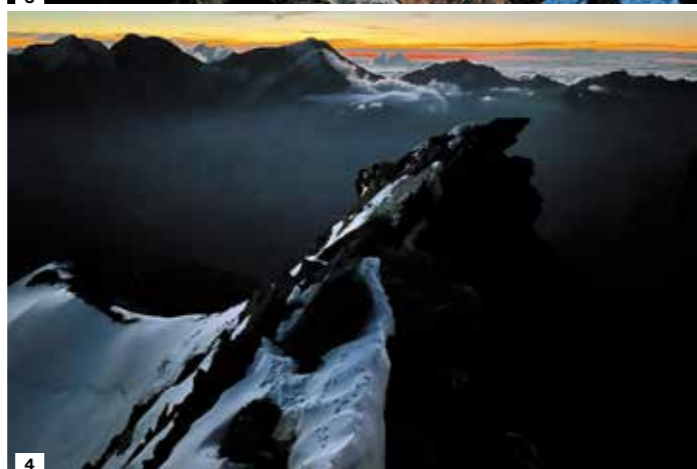
After the training 2 days, parties explored the mountains on both sides of the valley which are well described in previous meet reports.

A solo ascent of the NE face of the Lenzspitze was made by Ross Bell, and an impressive 15-hour Täschhorn Dom Lenzspitze Nadelhorn traverse by Matt Glenn and Gareth Shellard. Trips further afield were also made including to the Dent Blanche and the Gross Grünhorn. A big thank you to Nicholas Smith who organises this meet so well. See you next year!

Attendees: James O'Connor, Oli Beswick, Oli Birkill, Andrew Drury, Phil Jardine, Andy Wigley, Wayne Auton, Matthew Walton, Declan Phelan. *Guides:* Owen Samuel, Jim Kerr, Paul Wright. *Also in attendance:* Victor Saunders, Trevor Campbell Davis, Alf Robertson, Ethan Jenkins, Gareth Shellard, Matt Glenn, Neil Sawyer, Nick Simons, Nigel Bassam, Nigel Buckley, Patrick Hogan, Richard Nadin, Nick King, Derek Buckle, Ross Bell and Nicholas Hurndall Smith. ■

– PHILIP JARDINE

1 Crevasse rescue on the Feegletscher. Photo: Philip Jardine. 2 Richard Nadin preparing for action. Photo: Philip Jardine. 3 Nick Simons on the Nadelgrat. Photo: Nicholas Hurndall Smith. 4 Lenzspitze ENE Ridge. Photo: Nicholas Hurndall Smith. 5 The Matterhorn seen from high on the Dent Blanche's S Ridge. Photo: Nicholas Hurndall Smith.



1 Derek on Mignonette. 2 Geoff on Mignonette. 3 Max and Derek at top of Mignonette. 4 Naomi at Skiadianiko.

GREECE MEET REPORT

We had to cancel the Morocco meet in 2020 due to Covid restrictions that required quarantine when returning to the UK. The relaxation of restrictions in summer 2021 meant it was looking optimistic that we would get back in November. However, late in October Morocco banned flights from the UK due to the high infection rates here, so we were stopped again. Last year plan B (and C and D!) also failed but this time it worked and 6 of us headed out for two weeks around Leonidio in Greece.

Leonidio is a relatively new areas for sport climbing and is still being rapidly developed. It offered plenty of routes in the grade 5 and 6 region we were looking for. Routes considered easy and suitable for beginners by the guide book writers!

Accommodation was found at the Manoleas rooms just up the coast from Leonidio.

We arrived on Sunday 7 November without problems and climbed every day for the next 7 days at a different crag. Some close to Leonidio and others up the impressive valley to the West. Most climbing is single pitch, but with routes up to 40m. The 7 pitch Mignonette offered a nice change, finishing on the plateau above Leonidio.

Unfortunately this at 5c+ was the only multi-pitch route in our grade range.

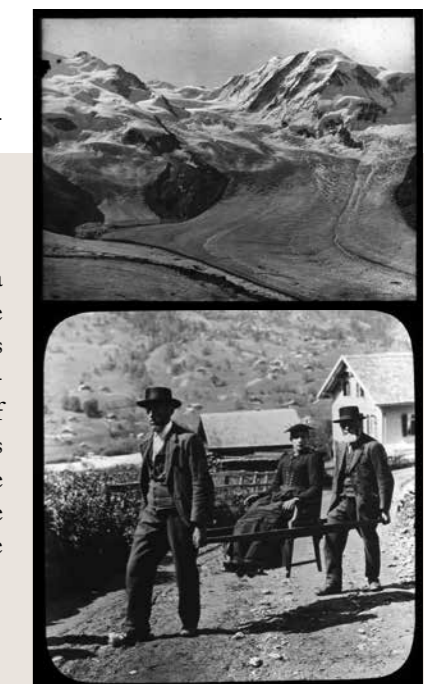
The second week we had slightly more mixed weather, but only two days were lost to wet conditions. A late flight even allowed some of us to climb on the last day while others opted for sightseeing near Athens.

The area provided plenty of excellent and low-cost places to eat in the evening, including the local sea food, fresh off the fishing boats. The weather in November was typically a comfortable 18deg, and warm enough for swimming after climbing. Most days we were pleased when cloudy conditions provided shade for climbing as the sun is still very strong. The Manoleas was a great place to stay with a very helpful host and great food. The breakfast in particular set us up for a day's climbing.

Although we missed the exciting trad climbing of Morocco, it was a great trip, and we were all glad to get away to climb in the sun.

Attendees: Malcolm Streeton, Naomi Bourne, Nigel Bassam, Derek Buckle, Tim Sparrow and Geoff Thomas. ■

– MALCOLM STREETON



DONATION OF WHYMPER GLASS LANTERN SLIDES TO THE ALPINE CLUB

We thank Peter Berg, our ex Honorary Archivist, who recently successfully bid for a boxed set of Whympers glass lantern slides, which he subsequently donated to the Alpine Club. Peter even renovated the wooden box in which they were stored! Most of the slides are captioned and are of general alpine views around Zermatt, but several are more mountaineering specific. We believe that the slides are from the early 1900's, as quite a few of them have the maker's label of E.G. Woods, 1&2 Queen Street, Cheapside London. As well as the Whympers slides there is also another interesting glass slide titled "The Alpine Chair". Generally, the slides are in a poor condition, and so after scanning them all, the scans have required quite a lot of cleaning using Photoshop. A couple of these slides are shown here. ■

– BERNIE INGRAMS KEEPER OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Outdoor Toileting

meets reports

Anyone venturing up Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) in the past year or so, or to popular spots in the Lake District or Scotland will have seen vastly more people visiting. Whether one thinks this is a good thing (lots more people enjoying healthy activity and uplifting landscapes) or a bad thing (litter, camp-fire scars, loss of sense of solitude), no-one can doubt that in some places there are many more people visiting and we need to consider what changes we need to make to traditional best practise as a result.

One aspect of this is what to do about toilets. Managing human waste is a very large topic. This US document which is over 25 years old (www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/html/95231202/95231202.html) illustrates the wide range of toileting situations and complexity solutions. Many of these require significant finance and infrastructure, and would require much consultation to determine their appropriateness in any setting.

The question for us here however is a simpler one, aimed at each of us as we consider the best way to enjoy the mountains given the infrastructure that we have. Responsible dog owners will be well used to managing solid waste. Sometimes it is appropriate to leave the excrement to naturally compost where it will not be a nuisance or health hazard, but sometime it is necessary to pick it up to be disposed of later. What about human waste? Everyone reading this will be well used to the long-standing guidance of burying one's own produce, and either burning or bringing home any paper. Much is made in the press about those who are new to the outdoors, and the need for better education in this regard. We can set the right example.

Heading past Sprinkling Tarn on a summer evening one can count tents well into double figures. Finding a suitable fresh place to get out one's trowel becomes ever more challenging as the numbers grow. Wandering around the Cromlech Boulders is at times a bit like negotiating a mine-field. While there may be nothing wrong in principle with the idea of natural composting in the field, the number of people at 'honey pot' locations or environmentally

sensitive locations drives us to question whether this remains the best approach when numbers of visitors are so high. Perhaps the term 'honey pot' will become increasingly inaccurate! We need to consider the alternatives, and further embrace the 'leave no trace' ethic.

The idea of extending "Tek it Hame" campaign to this aspect of one's trip to the hills is nothing new. It is common practise in some parts of the world to insist that visitors take out all excrement. Carrying out is increasingly encouraged here too, as represented by this publication from Mountaineering Scotland which explains what is involved with bagging one's waste and carrying it out in a suitable plastic container. It is well worth reading. See: www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/pdf/where-to-go-leaflet.pdf

This new video from BMC also addresses the overall subject well: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uOb9Qk09i1M

There are plenty of commercial products e.g. 'Wag Bag' designed for this, and plenty of YouTube videos on topics such as how to make a "poop tube" out of plastic pipe as the container for carrying the used bags safely and cleanly. There is even a fancy titanium trowel available for sale from BMC, though the light hard plastic ones may be gentler on your rucksack and wallet.

Having dedicated some time to this matter over the last year as Covid Lockdown permitted, I found it very easy to get started. I recommend using two compostable bags – one as a 'target', and one to gather up all the waste, so that it is double-bagged as it goes into the wide-mouthed plastic container.

These (www.becopets.com/products/home-compostable-poop-bags-handles-96) cornstarch based bags with handles work pretty well. A wide mouthed plastic container which originally contained dog treats worked fine as transport. Just have a look around for something you can re-use. An even bigger bag would be easier if you are having to perform in a precarious position, for example a food composting bag.

I see no merit in burning toilet paper since it is so easy to carry out and rarely burns completely. Instead of a trowel I carry a large tent peg designed for sand or snow which therefore serves two purposes. Whether you buy commercial products or make up your own kit, it is very easy to keep your facilities in your bag whenever you go out. Remember that compostable bags don't last forever!

This is an issue for us all. Whether we are in the Greater Ranges, the Alps, or here in UK we all need to go. None of us want to have to deal with other people's mess. Wherever we are we should do our best to leave no trace. As more people participate, this increasingly means carrying it out.

Anyone who wants to explore further may want to look out for *How to Shit in the Woods: An Environmentally Sound Approach to a Lost Art*. By Kathleen Meyer. Published by Ten Speed Press. 4th Edition 2020. ■

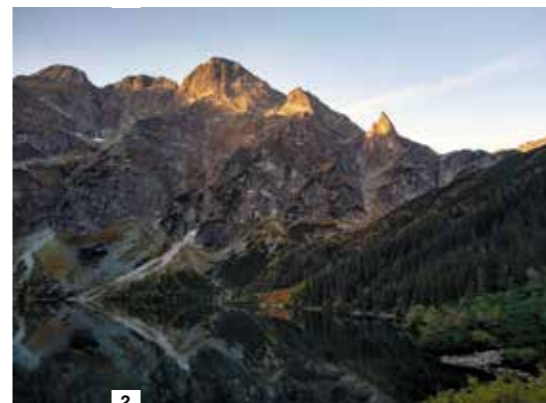
**- MIKE FLETCHER
AND THE AC GREEN GROUP**



Photo: Markus Spiske on Pexels.



1



2



3

**TATRA MEET
SEPTEMBER 2021**

At 35 miles long and 12 miles wide, the Tatras are often referred to as the "biggest little mountains in Europe". I'd done some walking around there before, so was really looking forward to getting out there on the AC climbing meet.

The meet assembled on 25 September in Krakow, where we got together and reviewed kit with our climbing partners – the idea being only to carry what we really needed into the Mountains and ditch everything else into storage.

The next day we took a two hour bus ride from Krakow to Zakopane – the gateway to the Polish Tatras and Mecca for hikers, skiers and mountain enthusiasts. At the bus station we quickly jumped on to a local bus that took us the short ride to the entrance of the Tatra National Park.

From there it was a just over 5 miles hike and 500m of ascent to the shores of Morskie Oko Lake and the Morskie Oko Hut, our home for the next 5 nights. It is only on reaching Morskie Oko that you get a real feel for the terrain and type of mountains here; the view from the hut makes it clear why this region was the training ground and meeting place for great Polish mountaineers like Wanda Rutkiewicz, Jerzy Kukuczka, Kurtyka and Wielicki.

On the third day of the meet we all hiked (90 min) up to the base of Mnich – 2068m; the majestic shark's fin can be climbed from all sides with scores of routes varying in difficulty from grade III to IX+. We climbed in two ropes of two with Raf and Max leading; our chosen route for the day was the "Droga Orłowskiego" (Orłowski route), a four pitch V- with suitably entertaining slabs, chimneys and overhangs. Despite being a Trad route, belay stances were protected with bolts and the crux moves on each pitch had conveniently placed in-situ pitons. From the summit there is a bolted abseil back to the col.

On day four we dispersed to follow routes that had caught our eye the

previous day: Pam explored the trails around the Lakes, Damian scrambled Czarny Szczyt Mięguszwiecki and Rafal and Max traversed the Ciemnosmreczyńska Grań (PD-) located between the Chałubiński Pass and Ciemnosmreczyńska Przełęczka.

Day Five we split up into two parties, Raf and Pam returned to Mnich where they climbed the "Droga klasyczna" (IV+), Max and Damian had a full day on the "Gran Mięguszwiecki Szczyt" an airy exposed ridge with an alpine feel to it – 2438m (AD+).

After an amazingly lucky run of good weather, the rain came in on day six and afforded us an excuse for a well needed rest! It was this day that we got to enjoy the warmth and friendliness of the local hikers, singing along to Polish sea shanties after our evening meal and partaking in slices of pickled cucumber with shots of Russian vodka (thank you Robert!).

Day seven the group trekked to visit the 5 Lakes hut (Dolina Pięciu Stawów) in the next valley and all summited Szpiglasowy (2,172m) on the return leg. Back at Morskie Oko we collected out kit and decamped to spend our final night at the Dolinie Roztoki hut further down the valley, just a few yards from the Slovakian border.

After a hearty and relaxed breakfast, we retraced our steps back to Zakopane and on to Krakow, where we wrapped up the meet with an excellent traditional Polish meal just off the Krakow main square. ■

- DAMIAN ROSE

1 Max Streeton, Damian Rose, Rafal Malczyk. Entrance to Tatra National Park, 26 September.
2 View from the Terrace of the Morskie Oko Hut. From Left To Right: Czarny Szczyt Mięguszwiecki (2,410m), Mięguszwiecki Szczyt Posredni (2,393m), Mięguszwiecki Szczyt Wielki (2,438 m), Cubryna (2,376), Mnich (2,068m). The Hut itself is a fascinating, comfortable and robust wooden structure that could have a whole report all to itself covering its history and famous visitors!
3 Max Streeton, Rafal Malczyk, Pamela Holt and Damian Rose. Krakow, 2 October 2021.

meets reports

LAKE COMO MEET 2022

The meet was based in the Grigna mountains, north of Lecco at the Piani di Resinelli (1200m). This location gives access to snow and ice climbs high up and, on lower south facing crags, rock climbing venues. Unfortunately however the winter 2021-2022 south of the alps was the driest on record, and there was very little snow and no ice.

We originally had planned to stay at the "Rifugio Carlo Porta", however this was shutdown at short notice, and was no longer available. Another rifugio nearby was contacted, "Rifugio Locatelli", and the guardians, Fabio and Isa, very kindly offered to stay open all the week. (They are usually closed on Mondays and Tuesdays).

The hut is on the road, and notwithstanding the numerous hairpin bends on the access road, gives fast car access to numerous venues. It is also possible to climb directly from the hut on the Grigna Meridionale (2180m) or low lying crags. On Sunday we did not do any climbing due to time lost trying to find a parking place – the location is very popular with the locals on Sunday. It was like Brighton beach on the summer bank holiday. We had a snack at Laurretta's place, she is the daughter of Casimiro Ferrari. Later we went to the hut to check in and have our evening meal: 4 starters + 3 main dishes + sweet; washed down with copious quantities of wine.

Notwithstanding the heavy dinner, and abundant breakfast (various cakes and croissants), we managed to start the first full day of the meet (Monday). We went by car to the Northern side of the Grigna Settentrionale (2410m) to climb the classic ridge "Cresta di Piancaformia" (PD). Hoping to find some hard snow we were disappointed to find that what little there had been, had been blown away by the wind. Anyway as a 1000m height difference it was good training especially because of the intake of calories at the evening meal. Arriving at the summit we were greeted by a flock of choughs.

Back at Fabio's place we again had to contend with multiple starters, main courses and grappa.

Day two (Tuesday) arrived, with the usual brilliant blue skies. Rock climbing was the chosen activity of the day and we went to a low lying crag, 2 minutes from the road, in the valley below us (Rocca di Baeido). This crag offers solid limestone slab routes, at first fairly vertical and higher up sloping. So the climbing progresses from athletic to friction. The routes are of 5/6 pitches of 4a/5b. Back to Fabio's and I will spare you the details, but suffice to say at this point he started feeding us his homemade tiramisu ...

Day three (Wednesday) dawned, usual blue sky. John and Vincent bravely decided to try the "Cresta Segantini", an easy route in the summer (2c/3a), fairly long 500m, but in winter reaches AD/AD+. It requires an early start as the approach is quite long (up slightly overhanging ladders) and reaches the summit of the mountain (Grigna Meridionale). Meanwhile the rest of us (Gordon, Rafal, Nigel and Nick) went to rock climb on a mountain (Zucco dell'angelone) nearby to where we were yesterday. The same compact limestone slabs, but routes are longer. We did a route of 9 pitches 4a-5a. Nigel and Nick made a detour venturing on to 6b ground before returning to the canonical route. Back to Fabio's for venison and guinea fowl.

Day four (Thursday) John, Vincent and Rafal wanted to climb on the lake (no, not literally). So they headed off to the picturesque lakeside village of Varenna to climb on the outside of a road tunnel to the sound of passing traffic. There are numerous single pitches starting from above the water line (4a/6c). However it seems they found it not particularly interesting so they went for a pizza and a visit to the botanical gardens of Villa Cipressi.

Meanwhile the rest of us, including the guest Marcello, went to do the Central Pillar of ... wait for it ... Grigna. It entails

a long approach (a couple of hours) and the route (4a) takes you to the summit.

Back to Fabio's for rabbit.

Day five (Friday). John and Vincent thought that the weather would be better at the North end of the Lake, even if at the hut it was not too bad, a bit cloudy. So they went off to do some slabs at Sorico (6a+). Rafal, Nick and Nigel went to do the Cassin Route (5a) on the "Corno del Medale", a 350m south-facing crag just above Lecco. The route opened by Riccardo Cassin in 1931 is a super classic. It has been climbed 10s of thousands of times, and is renowned for being extremely polished and slippery.

Back to Fabio's for octopus and bass.

Day six (Saturday)

We wake up to snow, it has already put down 1cm and continues to snow. Nick and Nigel go to try climbing at a crag an hour's walk from the hut. After one pitch they return. The rest of us stay in the hut next to the fire. At 12.00 our friends from the Saluzzo CAI (Livio Perotti, Carlo Galgariadone, Silvia Perona and Giorgio Fresia) arrive. We have a nice lunch with them and try the excellent artisan beer they brought with them. This is the last day, and the following day everybody returns to the airport.

Attendees: Nigel Bassam, Marcello Ceci (guest) Gordon Chisholm (organiser), John Hayes, Rafal Malczyk, Vincent Perrin, Nick Smith. ■

- GORDON CHISHOLM



SCOTTISH WINTER WEEKEND. CORRAN BUNKHOUSE, 25-27 FEBRUARY 2022

Journey back to late February 2020, AC members are enjoying the Scottish winter weekend, some of us discussing this strange new virus in the Pub. I remember Paul McWhinney and I, being professionals in that sort of subject, telling others that there was something special about this one, we weren't going to escape. But I had no idea it was going to turn out so bad. The 2021 Meet was of course cancelled due to another viral resurgence, but this year we were back. Perhaps it was the long time of being cooped up, and the difficulty of going abroad, but the meet was incredibly popular this year, it seemed the places could have been filled twice over. Apologies to those who missed out.

The weather turned out to be about average, good in parts, but with the usual issues of wind and temperature. Jim and day

visitor Matt Day took advantage of a good start to the Friday and did Tower Ridge (it must have been quite wild by the end though, a good effort), while Charles and Susan skied up Chno Dearg. Saturday was forecast to be extremely windy, with the freezing level just that bit too high. There was good ice high up on the Ben, but would the wind dictate against climbs finishing on the plateau? In the end Oli and Ross decided against Point Five and did Tower Scoop instead, while Damian and myself kept in the shelter of Garadh Gully. A large team of Jon, Sean, Paul, Tony and Andrew, plus day visitor Martin Gillie opted for Schoolhouse Ridge. Others enjoyed lower level activities.

Sunday was much brighter, plenty of blue sky and sunshine, although perhaps freezing level wasn't quite as low as expected. Oli and Ross skied gullies Three and Four on the Ben, Jon and Sean did Garadh Gully, while the majority enjoyed a massive group outing up the East Ridge of Beinn a' Chaorainn.

All in all, another convivial and successful meet. For me, the time has come to pass on the baton of meet coordinator, with Charles taking over the role. Book early for next year to avoid disappointment!

Attendees: Damian Rose, Jim Tamlyn, Oli Beswick, Ross Bell, Kate Ross, Keith Lambley, Graham Uney, Sharon Kennedy, Jon Eden, Ann Eden, Sean Mackey, Paul McWhinney, Andrew Moore, Tony Wescott, Mike Dunn, Charles Stupart, Susan Marvell, Dairena Gaffney, Roger Everett, plus Matt Day and Martin Gillie. ■

- ROGER EVERETT



1 Enjoying the sunshine at the end of the day at Bowden Doors. 2 Nick Smith on Deception Crack. Photo: Charles Stupart. 3 The only dry rock to be found at Back Bowden. 4 Nick Smith and Nigel Buckley climbing Zed Climb. Photo: Martin Bewick. 5 Tom topping out on Lorraine. Photo: Charles Stupart.

NORTHUMBERLAND ROCK MEET 25-28 JUNE 2021

Well, if I had to put together a soundtrack for this weekend I'd have to include the Scottish soft rock band, Wet Wet Wet – it rained and poured, we felt it in our fingers, we felt it in our toes. The first day of the meet we met at the campsite, where we discovered an amazing view over Budle Bay, but sadly nothing else was on offer, including any facilities. Anyway, despite the gale we got back in the cars and set off in search of dry rock ... which we found! We climbed all day at Kyloe-in-the-Woods – ticking off Zed Climb (VS 4c**), The Flutings Direct (VS 4c**), and Piano S 4c**); an emotional time was had on all, but the tops were reached. Afterwards, we sampled fantastic fish and chips, admired the extraordinary castle at Bamburgh, and enjoyed a couple of pints.

The following day Paul Balderson and Bruce McKnight drove up in search of this dry rock, which by Saturday had become a touch more elusive, and were greeted with

just two patches – both in caves – at Back Bowden. On the way we found facilities on offer in a cafe in Belford (if you're reading, thank you very much) and then spent the day bouldering in caves.

The Sunday brought good weather (and more people), and as is now traditional, we started with breakfast at the previously mentioned cafe, and then climbed for the rest of the day at Bowden Doors sampling classic Northumberland routes. The slippery Banana Wall (VS 4c**) was tackled by several parties, as was Scorpion (VS 4c**), The Scoop (VS 4c**) and Crescent Wall (S 4b*). One of the top 50 in Northern England (according to Rockfax), Russet Groove (VD***), was also enjoyed by a couple of parties. Castle Crack (HVD), another classic, and one that really takes you through the architecture of Bowden's sandstone fortifications. Tiger's Wall (HVS 5a) was braved by Peter Hill and Georgina Brookes who made excellent use

of the little protection on offer, and the super classic Lorraine (VS 5a) was climbed by a few climbers. Ross Bell and Tom Cusick made an ascent of the route, Little Red Rooster (E1 5c) just next door.

On Monday, just Nick and Charles remained and they enjoyed the day at Kyloe-out-of-the-Woods. They climbed Mo (S 4a) and Conifer Direct (S 4b), Flake Crack (S 4b) and Deception Crack (HS 4b).

Attendees: Nigel Buckley, Martin Bewick, Nick Smith, Ross Bell, Paul Balderson, Bruce McKnight, Peter Hill, Georgina Brooke, Charles Stupart, Susan Marvell, David Teasdale, Paul Figg and Tom Cusick. ■

– NIGEL BUCKLEY



New Members Meet. Photo: Mark Stitson.

NEW MEMBERS MEET 25-27 MARCH 2022

We had a successful new members meet with 12 of us meeting up at the George Starkey Hut. Marian and Mike Parsons came to welcome us to the hut on Friday evening.

A few new climbing partnerships were formed and a few crags across the lakes scaled on Saturday and Sunday. The weather was unexpectedly good.

Everyone helped to make a big chilli for Saturday night and we had a few existing members join us for dinner. Nick Smith and Victor Saunders (remotely) gave a welcome talk to the AC. Charlie Burbridge introduced the MEF to the new members and Grace Hurford talked to us as the chair of the AC Green Group.

We're hoping to get more existing members to join us next year and are renaming it "Meet the new members Meet" which will be from the 24-26 March 2023.

Attendees: Mark Stitson, Steve Pritchard, Andy Dennis, Chris Vernon, Andrew Drury, Dafydd Richards, Paul Bennett, Matt Day, Nicholas Smith. Guest: Jon Turner. Meet Visitors: Charlie Burbridge and Henry Burbridge. ■

– MARK STITSON AND NICK SMITH



AVON MEET 22-24 APRIL 2022

The meet, convened at fairly short notice, had a positive response from all the participants. Meeting initially on Friday morning at the Sea Walls, Avon Gorge. We introduced the uninitiated to the delights of "upside down" holds of Avon limestone, always a perplexing experience, but somehow addictive too. Ascents of the evocative Nightmare, Sleepwalk and classic Gronk amongst others as introductions to the ice cream van on the Clifton Downs above (didn't turn up dammit!)

Curiously, the best camping we found was across the Severn waters near Chepstow. Beeches campsite offered beautiful scenic views of the Wye Valley but a cold breeze across the field, preventing us from using our fire pits unfortunately ...

Saturday saw us back at the Gorge. This time at the Main Area and Giants Cave Buttress. Classics included a "polished" ascent of Piton Route; Reveille, Clarion, Petros, Aftermath, Sinister, Pink Wall Traverse, as well as the aforementioned Giants Cave Buttress in front of an admiring birthday party celebrating in the adjacent lay-by, sipping their Moët and eating quails eggs by the dozen.

The list could have come straight out of Ken Wilson's cherished volume, even if not included.

Yes, you guessed it. Cold, windy, camping again on Saturday night. Rewarded by a balmy morning before an amble down the path to the friendly Shorn Cliff. Gill, Paul and Rhys in top form along with guests, Richard & Katerina. "Motion Pictures" was Paul's test piece. No Musketeers, Laughing Cavaliers, War of the Worlds, and Gill's smooth ascent of Bubble Memory amongst



other memorable lines in a warmer balmy atmosphere closed the weekend.

Dave Wynne Jones and partner, Irina, chose the delights of Bottle Buttress, Wintours Leap as an alternative venue. I'm sure we will wish to include this crag in the menu next time.

I believe folk are really keen to have a repeat next year!

Attendees: Nathan Moore, Nick Simons, Gillian Radcliffe, Paul Winder, Dave Wynne Jones, guests Irina, Rhys Nadin, Katerina Avaramides, Richard Handy, and meet co-ordinator Richard Nadin. Gareth Shellard joined us on the Friday, but unfortunately afterwards had to retire from action due to illness. ■

– NIGEL BUCKLEY

Social Climbing

After a year of confinement, uncertainty over a covid passport scheme on the continent and PCR costs making the European Alps more expensive for British climbers there is plenty of aspiration. Thus it was that, on the evening of 4 June 2021, a half dozen or so AC aspirants met, covid tests in hand, in front of the Club's George Starkey hut in the Lake District's Patterdale just as the sun set over Helvellyn.



Practising crevasse rescue under blue skies and sunshine is much more pleasant than the alternative.

With bunks more comfortable than the shelves still found in traditional alpine huts and a kitchen big enough for several hungry climbers, the hut made a fine basecamp in a relatively tourist-free part of the Lakes only half an hour from the M6. The kitchen even proved large enough for the weekend's organisers (John da Silva and former AC librarian Nigel Buckley) to rustle up a superb carbo-loading supper on Saturday, ably assisted by AC Vice President Richard Nadin.

The hut also has some insanely comfortable sofas around a very appealing fireplace. This had some of us scouring the bookshelves for information on nearby winter routes over a glass of Jura. Without wishing to be too subversive, the hut has enough Gemütlichkeit and Hygge that non-climbing husbands or wives could be safely abandoned for the day.

Saturday morning knocked the rust off our coil-taking and crevasse-rescuing ropework beneath glorious sunshine at the foot of a small crag only twenty minutes dawdle from breakfast. Books, zoom sessions and YouTube videos were no substitute for having our two instructors, Nick and Robin, with only three or four students each with scope to ask plenty of questions.



The view from Eagle Crag.

More self-effacing than some of their less-experienced Chamonix equivalents, the breadth and extent of their knowledge only become apparent slowly over the course of the weekend. This level of experience might be considered overkill for teaching basic alpine skills but, for aspirants with a variety of skills and a diversity of ambitions, it was invaluable. We could (and did) ask anything.

As well as obvious things like what is it like to pull somebody out of a crevasse 'for real', topics ranged from alternative rope choices for different routes and how things might differ in the Greater Ranges to alpine nutrition for longer trips, the pros and cons of the various ratchet devices and the utility and battery-hungriness of various apps. It was good to understand they whys and wherefores – the obvious example being the many methods of tying in for the middle person on the rope – so we can make our own decisions. Lastly, for those of us with specific targets in mind, it was helpful to be able to ask questions about specific, if not necessarily well-known, alpine crags. Having been met with blank looks when asking the same questions at the Office de Haute Montagne in Chamonix, it was nice that the answer started with 'it depends on which direction, what time of year and whether you have skis ...'

One of the joys of the Alpine Club is the diversity of its membership. Over a few pints of Wainright's, the consensus was that the only things we had in common were a love of mountains and imposter syndrome as we wondered how we had managed to get accepted as 'aspirants'. Some had started their mountaineering career in a Whillans'



The grass in front of the George Starkey Hut made a fine viewpoint for the sun going down over Helvellyn. Photo: Runner Lambda on flickr.

harness while others were younger than the oldest member's boots. Some had driven up from London whereas others had only come over the hill. Some had mountain rescue experience while others were keen ski mountaineers.

Naturally enough, conversation turned to maintaining fitness during lockdown with a certain amount of envy over locals who had spent the first part of the year being able to put on their ski boots in the kitchen. The most innovative and

impressive method of keeping 'in trim' however was certainly the program used by one of the aspirants to train for swimming the channel. Combining daily exercise with a diet of pizza, ice cream and Guinness, it is to be hoped that details of this regime will feature in the next edition of 'Training for the New Alpinism.'

Sunday entailed another pleasant, if somewhat warm, walk-in to Eagle Crag where we put our newly honed moving together, short-roping and alpine climbing

skills into practice, ascending gradually more difficult routes. Now that they knew us slightly better, Nick and Robin were able to put us into relatively well-matched rope teams and climb alongside us. There is no substitute for climbing beside people with vastly more experience for improving your skills and judgement. We were also able to learn from each other, although for some reason there was doubt as to the effectiveness of a sticht plate as a chat-up line in London climbing walls.

Overall, it was a satisfying weekend in a beautiful and peaceful area of the Lakes. Not only did we learn a lot, but it was also a great way to meet like-minded climbers. The nearby covid-compliant beer garden of the White Lion meant that the aspirants got to share a pint with AC Committee Members who dropped in. Even if the aspirants' meet fails to produce any climbing partnerships to rival Mallory and Irvine, such sociable climbing can only be a good thing! ■

– AL GILL

THE GEORGE STARKEY HUT MEMBERS SPECIAL OFFER

To encourage members' use of our great resource, the George Starkey Hut in the Lake District, the Alpine Club is subsidising the basic bed rate for Alpine Club members and their guests by 95%. This discount, on the basic bed rate, will cover up to two Non-Members accompanying each Member and will be for an initial period of one year.

To take advantage of this fantastic offer:

- Book places by going to the george-starkey-hut.com website as normal.
- From the menu, click on **Members**.
- Enter the **Check in** and **Check Out** dates.
- Click **Check Availability**.
- On the next page, at the top right is a **Promo Code** box.
- Enter the code **AC95** (or **ac95**) in the **Promo Code** box.
- The basic nightly bed rate will then be reduced from £9.00 to £0.45.
- Select the number of **units** (beds).
- On the **Additional Extras – Supplement for Non-Members** page – if you have any Non-Members leave this as **0**.
- On the next page fill in the rest of the required information.
- For any Non-Members please suffix their name with **NM** (indicating **Non-Member**) For example: **Fred Bloggs NM**.
- Complete payment with any Credit or Debit card.

For any additional help or questions please email: george.starkey.hut@gmail.com
Enjoy your stay at the George Starkey Hut!



future meets

AC/CAI MEET IN THE LAKE DISTRICT.

11 June–18 June
Adèle Long.

AC MINGULAY AND PABBAY MEET.

18 June–26 June
Roger Everett.

AC WOMEN'S MEET NORTH WALES.

24 June–26 June
Clare Cummings.

AC/FRCC WYE VALLEY CLIMBING MEET.

02 July–03 July
Nigel Buckley.

AC SUMMER MEET, ARGENTIÈRE.

02 July–23 July
Paul McWhinney.

ALPINE CLUB TRANS-ALAI EXPEDITION 2022, TAJIKISTAN.

3 Aug–3 Sept
Tom Davis-Merry.

AC FAMILY MEET IN THONON-LES-BAINS.

15 Aug–28 Aug
Tom Bell.

GEORGE STARKEY HUT MAINTENANCE MEET.

24 Aug–27 Aug
Marian Parsons.

9TH AC SAAS ASPIRANTS MEET.

27 Aug–11 Sept
Nicholas Smith.

AC LUNDY MEET.

30 Aug–3 Sept
Nathan Moore.

AC PIEDMONT ORCO MEET.

10 Sep–18 Sept
Richard Nadin & Andrea Giorda.

LATE SUMMER LAKES MEET.

16 Sep–18 Sept
Nigel Buckley.

WAYFARERS/AC MEET. ROBERTSON LAMB HUT, LANGDALE.

7 Oct–9 Oct
David Carpenter & Nigel Buckley.

AC PEMBROKESHIRE ROCK MEET.

21 Oct–23 Oct
Sue Hewitt.

AC ANTI ATLAS MEET.

05 Nov–19 Nov
Malcolm Streeton.

AC AGM AND DINNER LLANBERIS

26 Nov

AC COSTA BLANCA MEET.

5 Dec–15 Dec
Malcolm Streeton.

ABMSAC/AC NEW YEAR MEET, GEORGE STARKEY HUT.

28 Dec–2 Jan 2023
Judy Renshaw.



REMEMBERING TOM PATEY 1932–1970

Older members and those who've enjoyed repeating Tom's climbs may be intrigued to hear that the Patey Park was officially opened by the Duchess of Fife and Tom's son Ian and family at the new town of Chapelton outside Aberdeen on 26 May.

Aimed at encouraging imaginative play, the Patey Park on Cairnhill is an area of semi-wilderness containing slopes and hollows, trees, stumps, rocks, boulders and other natural elements where young adventurers can test their limits: a worthy objective that Tom would have supported. ■

– JOHN CLEARE

A wider landscape



Lucia and the Black Swan, 2021. Oil on linen, 60x50cm. By Lisa Rigg.



Alpine 1, 2017. Oil on carborundum, 125x90cm. By Jenny Pockley

This is an exhibition that offers a female perspective on mountain painting, with works from The Alpine Club collection & contemporary artists.

Women artists and mountains have a long history, but their work is rarely exhibited. Historically, female artists were largely limited to painting indoor scenes. It was felt that the lifestyle of a landscape painter was unsuitable for women. But that did not stop many who climbed, sketched & painted, just as skilfully as their male counterparts.

Attitudes to female alpinists and painters have since changed, but even for modern day artists, painting alone in the mountains is not without complications and danger. Each voice in this exhibition tells a story, but there is also an interplay between the works, particularly the historic and contemporary.

The artists approach their practice in different ways. Some work traditionally “en plein air”, others draw from memory or imagination. Some observe the conventions

of representational painting and others more interpretative. Prints, aquatints, woodcuts and sketchbooks are also exhibited. This show explores the multiple ways artist see, think and fantasise about mountains.

The exhibition is curated by Polly Townsend. From the Alpine Club collection are works by Molly Dicker, Clara Durnat, Hilda Hechle, Margaret Pilkington and Philippa Anna Frederica Stephenson. The contemporary artists are Zoe Benbow, Serena Curmi, Janet Johnson, Jenny Pockley, Lisa Rigg and Polly Townsend.

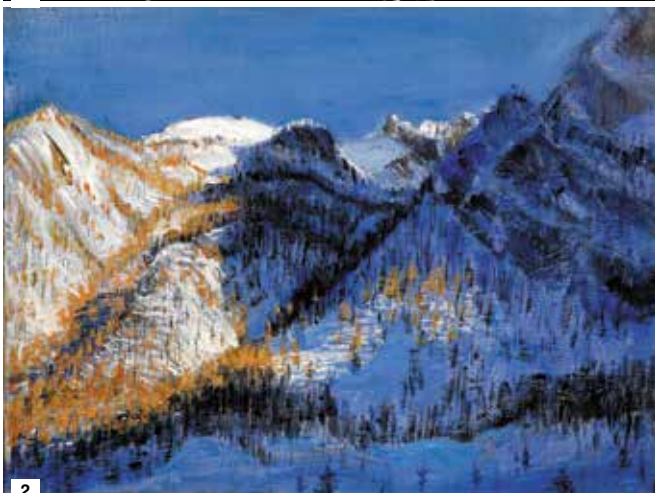
“For me walking and drawing in mountain environments is a meditative process in which I aim to find stillness in an ever shifting landscape, falling water, wind and sky. I’m drawn to the mountains for sheer scale

and wonder, but at the same time am interested in the landscape as intimate and surrounding as opposed to distancing and remote. As a woman alone, I’m acutely conscious of safety and tend to stay at lower altitudes – wandering, searching, stopping and looking. I’m not motivated by ascending peaks, but would rather conserve my energy to make art works and find myself a quiet spot”. – Zoe Benbow

The exhibition runs from:
13 September to 13 November 2022
Alpine Club, 55 Charlotte Road,
London EC2A 3QF

Opening times: Tues and Wed from 12:00 to 17:00. Please book in advance by calling: **0207 613 0755** or by emailing: admin@alpine-club.org.uk

It will also be available to a digital audience.



1 *Sassolungo from Santa Cristina*. Woodcut. By Una Cameron. 2 *Sunlight on the Larches Viviere*. Oil on canvas, 31x41cm. By Janet Johnson 3 *The Alphubel, Taschhorn and Dom seen from the Jaghorn above the Fee Gletscher*. Watercolour. By Hilda Hechle. 4 *Save the Day*. Oil on panel, 50x70cm. By Polly Townsend.



The Alpine Club – 55–56 Charlotte Road, London EC2A 3QF
 t: 020 7613 0755 e: admin@alpine-club.org.uk w: www.alpine-club.org.uk

Committee Members 2022

President	Victor Saunders
Vice-Presidents	Adèle Long Paul Ramsden
Honorary Secretary	Sherry Macliver
Honorary Treasurer	Alan Henderson
Honorary Editor of AJ	Ed Douglas
Honorary Librarian	Barbara Grigor-Taylor
 Sub-Committee Chairs:	
Climbing	Nicholas Hurndall Smith
Marketing, Communications & Publications	Ed Douglas
Elective Members	Grace Hurford, Chris Martin, Richard Nadin, John Porter
Co-opted Member (Secretary of Climbing Sub-Committee)	Giles Robertson

Library

ACL Chair	Philip Meredith
ACL Treasurer	Alan Henderson
ACL Secretary	Nigel Buckley
Book Sales	Gordon Turner
Photograph Sales	Sue Hare
Honorary Archivist	Glyn Hughes
Himalayan Index	vacant

Honorary AC Keepers

Artefacts	Nigel Buckley
Monuments	Charlie Burbridge
Pictures	vacant
Photographs	Bernie Ingrams

AC/ACL Staff

Office Manager	Paige Newman
Librarian	Beth Hodgett

Newsletter design & production: www.ryderdesign.studio

Front cover image: Olly Metherell under seracs E Face Mt Cloos main summit, Hotine Glacier, Antarctic Peninsula. Photo: Derek Buckle.