

# The Yorkshire Mountaineer



**Issue 364**

**February 2015**



## ***In this issue ...***

- **The Isle of Skye Loch Coruisk Memorial Hut**
- **Castle Carr Fountain**
- **Cheddar Gorge**
- **A joint meet with the FRCC at Coniston**
- **Osmotherly Meet**



*Newsletter of the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club - Founded 1941*

## Editorial

In the Club there are a number of gifted and skilled photographers, as proved once again in the photo competition organised by Pete Fenlon. The entries include impressive photos of exotic places but some also capture the superb landscapes of the British Isles. Some photos can be viewed on the club's website and a few are included in this issue.

### The results

#### **Overall winners**

**1st - Richard Walker**

View from the 'Aiguille du Midi, French Alps.

**2nd - Jane Wainwright**

Views of Breithorn, Jungfrau, Swiss Alps.

**3rd - Laurie Morse,**

Cotopaxi, descending near seracs, Ecuador.

#### **Landscape Winners**

**1st - John Hunt,**

Above the Clouds Helvellyn, English Lake District.

**2nd - Richard Walker**

View from the Aiguille du Midi, French Alps.

**3rd - Jane Wainwright**

Views of Breithorn, Jungfrau, Swiss Alps.

#### **Climbing Winners**

**1st - John Hunt**

Cow's Mouth Quarry, England

**2nd - William Hunt**

Pulling hard on Airedale Wall, Flasby Fell, England.

**3rd - William Hunt**

Forster's Leap, England

#### **Junior Winners**

**1st - Tara Hunt**

I do love climbing, England

**2nd - William Hunt**

Pulling hard on Airedale Wall, Flasby Fell, England

#### **Ernest Shepherd Award 2014**

**1st - Elaine Gamble**

Coastal Path, Cartegena, Spain.

**2nd - Laurie Morse**

Peacock Butterfly.

**3rd - Ian Gamble**

Sandstone Sculptures, Boneuvo, Spain.

**3rd - Malcolm Lomas**

Bog Off, England.

The club also has a number of excellent and enthusiastic writers. I am sure there are many more who could contribute articles for inclusion in 'The Yorkshire Mountaineer'. Our many thanks goes to Jim Aveyard for appraising the articles published during 2014, his conclusions are described here.

## Editorial cont..

### THE YMC NO BELL PRIZE FOR LITERATURE 2014

by **Jim Aveyard**

Another year passed and the Yorkshire Mountaineer arrives again. There is more vicarious adventure to enjoy from the warmth and comfort of my armchair. There is also the exciting new format of the magazine. It shows what an accomplished bunch the YMC members really are, from photography to cycling through climbing to setting me a real problem by the excellence of their writing. Last year was one of nostalgia so this year I decided to concentrate on more current doings.

As a consequence, in third place with an entertaining account of a trip to Dovedale is Peter Fenlon. The members present had a varied time, walking, cycling, sunning themselves (this latter should appear in the club rules) getting wet and generally having a good time.

In second place is Andrew Sugden's account of his trip to Ben Alder. It is easy to picture the scene, dark and eerie, full of strange noises and a hut cold from lack of use. The past history and the stories handed down over the years all give atmosphere to the piece. I slept with the light on that night.

Winner this year is Laurie Morse's account of his trip to Ecuador. Almost a mini Himalayan expedition, with acclimatisation trips to ever increasing

altitudes, with the added bonus of being on different hills. There was a successful end to the trip with the summiting of Cotopaxi and good photographs of the event. The QI fact that the summit of Chimboratsu is the furthest point from the centre of the earth because of the bulge on the equator was a bonus for the reader.

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I have not had one entry for the competition featured in the last issue, November 2014, which asked members to try and remember and identify the members shown in the compilation photo of members of 1978. For the time being I have stopped featuring a photo competition.

To go back to issue 362, the answers for the four Lake District features to be identified are

1. The walled track on the west side of Church Beck below the Miner's Bridge and leading to Coniston Village from the Copper Mines Valley. 2. The wall at right angles to the track, which leads from Coniston to the club hut, on the east side of Church Beck. 3. Part of the boundary wall of a car park at Hodge Close water filled quarry. The rock is Tilberthwaite Tuff with a shot hole used for explosive shot firing. 4. A spoil heap of waste rock at one of the

## Editorial cont..

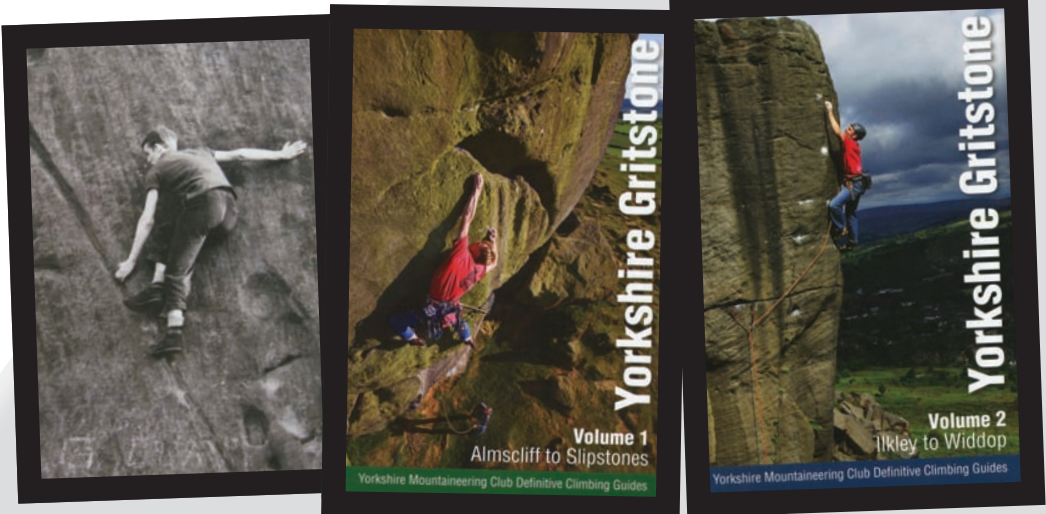
quarries on the east flanks of The Old Man of Conistone.

On the 12th March it is the club's Annual General Meeting in The Black Bull pub at Birstall near Bradford. The meeting starts at 8.15pm. This year there will be light refreshments available after the meeting. Free copies of the 'Yorkshire Gritstone Guide' The Millennium Edition 1998, will be available to about 30 members who are there to collect their copy.

While on the subject of Yorkshire Guide books, on behalf of all the members of the YMC I wish to compliment all those who have contributed to the two magnificent volumes, Yorkshire Gritstone Volumes 1 and 2, 2012 and 2014. Open the guides to see spectacular climbing action photos, superb landscape, aerial and crag photos, and clear route lines. Get to your chosen crag

with excellent detailed sketch maps. Read detailed route descriptions and read about the history of climbing on Yorkshire Gritstone. These guides are encyclopaedic.

In the next issue of The Yorkshire Mountaineer there will be more interesting articles. Sean Kelly writes the account of the YMC meet of May 2104. Andrew Sugden remembers his climb of The Cioche of Sron na Ciche on the Isle of Skye. Tom Thompson describes how he came to the aid of friends to do a long spell of baby sitting in the Alps. Bev Barrat reminisces about climbing with friends in the 60s. Mike Bebbington tells the story of his climbing of 'Cenotaph Corner, North Wales in 1964. Has any climber in the club climbed the route in recent years using modern gear? I would like to learn about their climb and include as a comparison.



## A trip to Coruisk

### ***With a stay at The Memorial Hut May 2014***

**by Jane Wainwright**

**Party:** Jane Wainwright, Sue Wales, Malcolm Lomas (Sol), David Girt

Having seen a picture in a book 'The Best Viewpoints in the UK', I thought I must see one. Just a small hill in the Cullins on Skye, I had never heard of it. Also having sailed into Scaavaig and spent a night there last year I really got fired up for some time in the JMCS hut there.

Eventually I got some others to go. Sol was keen then David Girt, so with others wanting to do the Trotternish Ridge it worked out. (I was staying up in Scotland so they needed a lift home.) By chance Sue Wales heard about it and wanted to join us so that made four for Coruisk.



*Photo By: Jane Wainwright*

We all met at Broadford Youth Hostel for one night then Sol, David, Sue and I drove to Elgol for the ferry. We had coffee and shortbreads whilst we waited for the ferry. With a super commentary on the boat, we took more coffee and shortbreads whilst they got the other folk off the boat and we manhandled our stuff ready for our three night visit. After a short walk we reached the hut. Even though four other people were there, we were very impressed with the space. It was very well equipped, clean and tidy and a great place to be.

After lunch and getting installed we wandered over to the Bad Step. Sol was back to his climbing days. Very happy on the ground, David also but Sue and I seeing we didn't need to cross it we decided not to tackle it.





Photo By: Jane Wainwright

On Sunday we walked around Coruisk. It was a good day and a bit drizzly. We had good views of the ridge and all the corries. We even met a wedding taking place on the loch side as we returned. They wore traditional Scottish, long black dress and kilts. We could not see their foot wear, but they must have been in wellies!

On Monday we climbed Sgurr na Stri. It's only a small hill but a superb situation for views the length of Loch Coruisk and all the Cullin Ridge. Clouds kept drifting by hence the name of 'Misty Isle' but we saw plenty between the cloud cover. We could see the islands of Rhum, Eigg, and Soya.

The first two nights we were entertained by the Scottish lads, climbers and fishermen. Billy Connolly hadn't a look in with Billy – we never stopped laughing all evening. Although most went over my head as I couldn't understand more than one word in

## A trip to Coruisk

ten. They did catch a massive pollack and gave us a portion.

We thought the last night would be boring on our own, but no. We had a very arrogant young 'lady' using our toilet and another relieving herself in full view, not realising anyone was in. David is more familiar with the details of the incident!



Photo By: Jane Wainwright

We left by boat Tuesday afternoon and learned later that Thursday the boat couldn't sail as the winds were too strong. We were very fortunate to have had such a great trip. Excellent situation, superb hill, brilliant food, and the company was great too – what more could anyone want!

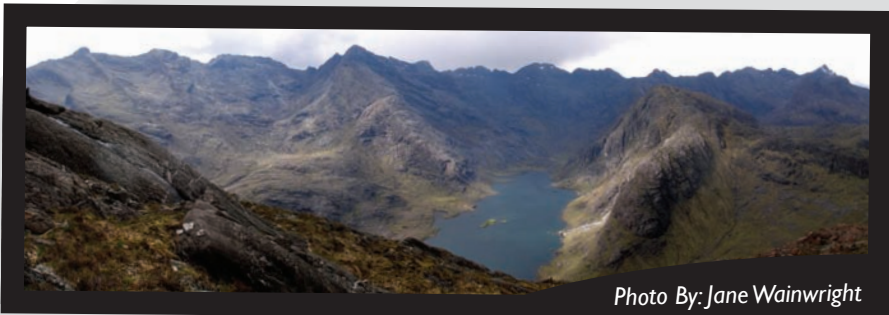


Photo By: Jane Wainwright

## Loch Coruisk Memorial Hut

***Isle of Skye. May 2014***

***by Malcom Lomas (Sol)***

Four of us were standing on the slipway at Elgol, waiting for the ferry to the Loch Coruisk Memorial Hut; all the hard work by Jane in planning the trip is behind her, and we were finally off.

Over coffee and biscuits at the booking office, we learn that the boatman and his grandfather, in 1958/9, helped to build the hut on the site of an Armadale fishing station. We load our gear on to the boat, and head northwards out into Loch Scavaig with the Island of Soay on our left, famous for Gavin Maxwell and Tex Geddes whale hunting exploits.

The boatman takes us close in to see the seal colonies basking in Loch Cuilee and then across to Lochan nan Leachd to view 'The Bad Step', very

intimidating from sea level. We finally arrive at the landing stage and a steep metal stairway which leads up onto terra ferma. Once ashore we manage to take all our gear in one carry up to the hut, which is not very far away.

The hut is a square brick built structure with windows on three sides overlooking the sea. Inside, in two corners are three three-tiered bunks. In another corner there is a kitchen with sinks, gas cookers with work surfaces and plenty of utensils. A gas fire adds to the comfort and to complete that a flushing W.C. is accessed from outside. It is obvious that we are sharing the hut with others as there is gear all over the place.

*Photo By: Tony Crosby*



## Loch Coruisk Memorial Hut

While we are sorting ourselves out the other occupants (Kenny, Rab, Billy with Kyloe the dog, and A.N.O.) arrive in dribs and drabs, four male climbers, walkers, and fishermen from Ayrshire, not sure in which order. They turn out to be a real laugh, very friendly and good company. Bill, the youngest of the four shares a tent with Kyloe, who otherwise takes whichever bottom bunk he can get for a nap.

We have still time to explore our new surroundings. Loch Coruisk a freshwater loch is only a few feet higher than the sea water of Loch Scavaig. Across the outflow there is a series of stepping stones. We cross these and make our way to The Bad Step which is on the walking route from Elgol.

The Bad Step is a huge rock slab which faces into the sea, with a diagonal crack line crossing it. The idea is to walk with your feet in the crack, and balance with your hands on tiny holds in the rock above. Not for the faint hearted, especially if you have a big pack on your back. Years ago I rescued an old lady from Loch Coruisk and took her back to Camasunary via The Bad Step. She told me she had never had a rope around her waist before; I told her she was going to have one now.

We returned to the hut, and our friends had been fishing and caught three huge line caught pollack. Billy gutted them and showed us a parasitic worm he found in the flesh. Ugh! Guess what was for supper that night....

Next morning we woke to a dull overcast day. We would do a low level walk around Loch Coruisk. Crossing the stepping stones, once again we went up the west side of the loch and high up into Coire Uisg, before we found a dry spot to cross the river. Passing under the Dubh Slabs and coming down the other side of the loch we eventually came across a group of four people. From a distance we didn't know what they were doing, but as we got closer we realised it was a wedding ceremony taking place. The bride was in an off the shoulder, backless, long black dress and the bridegroom in traditional Scottish kilt and cropped jacket. There was a man performing the wedding service and a photographer.

Photo By: Dave Girt



Back at the hut our Scottish friends had been out scrambling on the rough gabbro with the dog whose paws were now red raw. He was there curled up on a sleeping bag with his master administering 'TLC' and antiseptic cream to the sore paws.

## Loch Coruisk Memorial Hut

Late in the afternoon a sailing dinghy arrived and anchored in the bay and the two sailors aboard erected a "tent" over the hull to "camp" for the night. Later on they came ashore in an inflatable dinghy and told me of their expedition down the west coast.

Next day our hut friends were leaving. After saying our good byes, we set off for Sgurr na Stri, a fine view point for the whole of the Cuillin Ridge. Crossing the stepping stones once more, we followed the stream which took us up on to a bealach overlooking Glen Sligachan. Turning south we followed a footpath along the ridge to Sgurr na Stri. A marvellous viewpoint, with the whole of the Cuillin Ridge to the north west, and to the south a huge seascape of Canna, Rhum, Eigg and the southern point of Skye. We took a long time soaking up the views and having lunch with not a cloud in the sky (or Skye!).

Our friends had gone by now. All four of us were in need of a good wash. Dave and I made ourselves scarce while Sue and Jane had a strip wash in the washing up bowl. Then it was my and Dave's turn while standing in the washing up bowl.

That evening we dined very well, as we did the whole of the time we were there. Special thanks to Sue who volunteered to take on the task of catering manager, and to Jane who shared the cooking; also many thanks from Dave.

We had arranged for the boat to pick us up at mid-day. We spent the morning cleaning, then walked to try to get to the 'Mad Burn'. The water supply for the hut is piped from the 'Mad Burn', which is at the opposite side of the loch to the hut. The pipeline is visible in place stretched between overhanging crags, but how it was placed there is not at all obvious. We gave up in the end as it involved some serious scrambling.

We sailed back to Elgol in some quite rough weather. We learned later that the next occupants of the hut had to curtail their visit with the risk of being stranded there. We then drove back to Broadford to meet up with Martin T. and Ali H.

We had arrived in Skye on the Glen Eig to Kylereea ferry, the last working timetabled ferry sailing in Scotland. A few days later we went on to Raasay and the ferry there is a brand new state of the art hybrid diesel electric, the only one of its kind at the moment. A second one is being built at the Mouth of the Clyde. The captain took us on to the bridge to show us the state of the art workings. Everything is controlled by a short lever, no bigger than the gear lever in your car.

Later on this holiday we went up on to the north of the island, to explore the Trotternish Ridge, but that's a story for later.

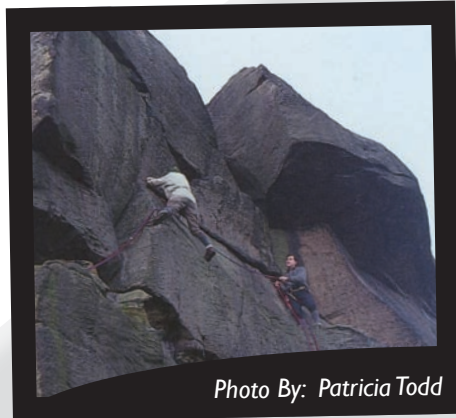
## Castle Carr Fountain

### **YMC members visit Castle Carr Fountain July 13th**

It was Bryan Church's birthday so Landon and I wondered what we could give him for a gift. Martin Tetley and I decided to take Bryan on a trip to a Castle Carr's famous fountain. Castle Carr is a Mock Tudor Castle, now a ruin, completed in 1867 for Captain Edwards. The Water Garden was designed by John Hogg of Halifax and included a gravity fed fountain which climbs to 130ft high. The estate is now a private farm and is open for one day each year so the Rotary Club of Halifax are able to raise money for local charities by selling tickets for £5.

Five hundred tickets had been sold, so we joined the rear of a very long line of walkers assembled at the Catith Well Inn, for the 2 mile walk to Castle Carr. We met Malcom Lomas (Sol), whose idea it was to visit. He had ridden with

his Rough Stuff friends, to the ruins. At 2pm promptly a Yorkshire Water engineer turned the tap on to start the fountain. It flowed slowly at first, then suddenly water shot into the air with a great cheer echoing round the valley. It was a lovely sunny day but quite windy so a many people near the front had an early shower.



*Photo By: Patricia Todd*



*Photo By: Derek Field*

We travelled home with Bryan, back there in time for the party organised by Marion, Susan and Ann. After seeing our photos they planned to visit the fountain the next year. There is a description and picture of the estate in Mike Harding's book 'Walking in the Peak and Pennines'. Hopefully when I find out the date of the 2015 event I will try to put a note in the The Yorkshire Mountaineer. We plan to organise a visit for more members of the YMC. If you want to know where the fountain is, look on the South Pennines map at the top of Luddenden Dere. otherwise known as 'the back of beyond'.

## Cheddar – Gorgeous?

**by Laurie Morse**

In the run up to my next titanium implant in the shape of a new hip and being inactive for a while, we decided to take the opportunity to get the caravan out and head south. Neither of us had ever been to Cheddar and although my walking was limited, even with pain killers, decided to go and have a potter around the area.

Pitched on the Caravan Club site on the southern outskirts of the town we were in easy reach of the star attraction, the gorge. Our first impression was of slight disappointment. We didn't know what we were expecting but perhaps it was the fact that we have been spoilt with iconic limestone vistas such as Malham Cove, Gaping Ghyll and

*Photo By: Laurie Morse*



## Cheddar – Gorgeous?

Gordale Scar all within easy reach of us and much visited in the past.

There are definitely towering 400ft. cliffs but the bed of the gorge is on quite a steep slope and the size of the cliffs soon diminishes. Spectacular as they are, for some reason we expected more. You can visit the many caves in the area at a cost. Goughs Cave seems to be the most popular and it will set you back about £18 for the privilege including a couple more less interesting caves. Apparently, skulls have been found in Gough's Cave that date back 14,700 years.

The town of Cheddar nestles at the foot of the Mendip Hills and makes a good base to explore the many paths in the area not to mention the Mendip Way which winds its way through the whole area. We had several short walks in the hills but rarely saw other walkers, although there were a lot of road cyclists using the many lanes in the hills, but beware, there are a lot of ups and downs to negotiate.

The circular reservoir right next to the town is huge, covering as big an area as the town itself. Rather than the water filling a hollow it has reinforced earthen walls built around it, elevating the water level some 6 metres above the surrounding ground level in some parts. There is a footpath all round the perimeter on top of the wall that is used mainly by local joggers and dog walkers.

One of our forays took us onto a disused railway that runs for about nine miles north from Cheddar to Yatton and would make a good excursion on a bike if linked to some of the quieter local lanes.

The Somerset Levels are close by and we had a short walk there around a nature reserve. It was difficult to imagine the flooding earlier in the year when the whole place was several feet under water. It was early June and there was no evidence of the floods. The Levels are home to lots of wildlife and there are many areas designated as nature reserves. No hills to get to grips with but interesting wildlife. The levels have been drained over the years with man made rivers, some dating back to the middle ages.

We couldn't leave without visiting Wookey Hole and Wells. Wookey Hole is in somewhat of a hole as you descend into it from all directions. Although only a small village it seems very touristy with the 'Cave' being the main attraction. Wells enjoys the title of 'Smallest cathedral city in England' and is well worth a visit if, like me, you appreciate magnificent stone structures and carvings.

Our visit was quite low key with some sight seeing and a bit of enjoyable walking. It would be nice to go back without the painkillers, firing on all cylinders and also take the bike too.

## YMC/FRCC Joint Meet

**At Coniston Hut,  
Sunday 4th October - Thursday 9th October 2014  
by Jenny Hawkin**

**Present: FRCC:** Wendy Dodds, David Stephenson, Ian Dixon, Graham & Sue Harkness, Hatty Harris (day visitor)

**Present YMC:** Derek Field, Tony Crosby, Ceri James, John Ward

**Both clubs:** Jane Wainwright, Martin Tetley, Jenny Hawkin (Meet coordinator)

I was a wee bit concerned about this meet when the three earliest bookers had to drop out and then even Neville was unable to go. No worries though, by Monday evening twelve members had ignored the dire weather forecasts and the cosy hut was buzzing with activity. Sometimes I wonder what the miners of old would make of it all if they were to return today.

Monday morning was fit only for bus trips to Ambleside and Ulverston but the afternoon brightened enough to tempt Wendy to dash up the Coniston Old Man and back before the rain started again. The Ulverston trio returned to read in the 'destinations book' that Ian had also been tempted out to do 'The Pike'. Much puzzlement over which Pike this could be until Ian returned from enjoying A Pint in the village. Scribe Wendy had miss-heard Ian's Cumbrian accent.

The weather was slightly better on Tuesday. A team of six set off for Coniston Old Man. We'd planned to go via Red Dell, Swirl How & Brim Fell but as we climbed higher the

mist descended on the west side of the valley and looked permanent. We decided that the Old Man could wait and followed Red Dell Ridge up onto Wetherlam, avoiding the clag and keeping the fine views. Graham had Birketts to tick off so descending Wetherlam Edge we headed over to Birk Fell, Hawk Rigg and Blake Rigg, then over Hole Rake towards the hut. All without rain until the top of Hole Rake track when the heavens opened and it was everyone for themselves. Wendy shot off & had the tea made by the time the rest of us arrived, dripping everywhere. Tea and cake revived us enough to welcome a wet Hatty who'd walked up from the village to see what we planned for Wednesday.

Tony, John & Ceri, went to climb a V.Diff route on Great How Crag on the north west shore of Levers Water. They spent the day scrambling on a variety of routes but didn't find the route.

Later in the day, they came across a cold, wet and bedraggled man and his dog, lost in poor visibility north of the

## YMC/FRCC Joint Meet

summit of Conistone Old Man. They guided him to safety over the mountain to the sheltered east slopes and to a lower level.

A kind benefactor had left us a large bag of apples after the YMC housekeeping meet so Jane and a team of peelers, rustled up a huge crumble for all to enjoy. During their stay John and Ceri used a chainsaw to cut the large fallen conifer into smaller logs.

On Wednesday morning a watery sun appeared although the Old Man remained hidden in mist all day.

In the afternoon Tony & Martin hired a 19ft yacht from Low Wood Marina to sail on Windermere with Dave and Martin Girt. They had travelled up for an afternoon of fun and adventure! You get a very interesting view of the fells from the lake. They managed to sail the full length of the lake and return the keel boat back to the Marina in one piece.

Ceri and John fancied routes on Shepherds Crag so left early full of optimism for Borrowdale. While the rest of us, joined by Hatty, retraced yesterdays steps up Hole Rake to Tilberthwaite, this time in sun. Holme Fell was our aim. What a super walk,

*Photo By: Tony Crosby*



## YMC/FRCC Joint Meet

not high but a surprising amount of climbing and fantastic views all around. As the nine of us sat on the summit picking out the peaks and enjoying the views, Derek was chatting to a young couple who said that this was the first hill they'd ever climbed. We hoped it would be the first of many and they said it certainly would be. This prompted much reminiscing and trying to recall our first hills. We returned via the village where Graham, Ian & David were compelled to try the local brew in the Black Bull.

On Thursday some had to leave for home and the wind and rain were back with renewed vigour. Tony, John & Ceri headed over to Langdale with plans to inspect Bowfell Buttress for climbing. It rained throughout the day, so they had a long circular hike at the head of Langdale passing the Buttress streaming with water.

Jane enjoyed a low level walk. Ian visited the Ruskin Museum & pub in Conistone and David, Sue & I spent the day visiting Brantwood, home of Ruskin. It's over twenty years since my last visit and we were surprised at how much there is to see. The exhibitions, house, grounds and excellent cafe kept us amused for over five hours.

Another convivial evening around the fire before everyone departed on Friday. Many thanks to all who ventured up to the hut bringing good craic, delicious goodies and ensuring a great YMC/FRCC meet.

***Morning amongst the  
Conistone Fells by JMW  
Turner, 1797, a painting in  
the Tate Gallery London.  
Included courtesy of the  
Tate Gallery London***

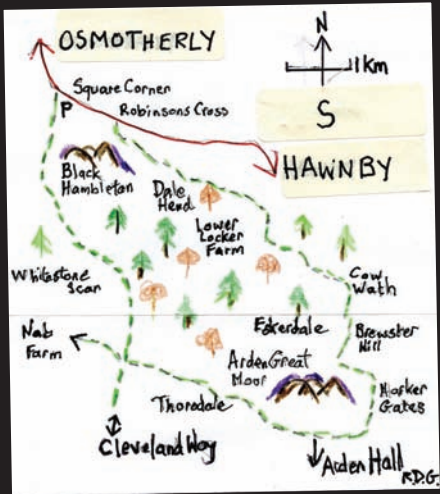


# Osmotherly - 19 October

**By Dave Girt**

**Present:** Jane Wainwright and Dave Girt

Map by Dave Girt



A strong breeze was blowing when we parked at the exposed Square Corner, and gales were forecast for later, but luckily no rain. After waiting for possible latecomers we got away at 10.15, south on the Cleveland Way over Black Hambleton and past White Gill Head (but they were more brown and green!). We had to retrace our steps to the Thorodale path turning when the field boundary landmarks on the O.S. map turned out to be invisible in the bracken, but shortly we found our way to a splendid spot for late elevensies with fine views down into beautiful remote Thorodale.

After snacking we dropped steeply down into the shelter of the dale though the wind continued to tear at

the tree tops as we entered Thorodale Woods. The bridleway was plain to follow for a couple of kilometres until the sharp turn to Arden Hall (at “Nun’s Well” – we didn’t even know she’d been ill!) where a footpath straight ahead took us on to Mount Pleasant Farm. From there a foresters track led on past the isolated house at Harker Gate (with a rare shepherds caravan in the garden) until we picked up a footpath down into Eskdale where we found a low wall to perch for a comfortable lunch stop with a view.

Up the opposite valley side, past Brewster Hill farm, the path takes a contouring line through woodland and pasture, past isolated barns at Cow Wath and derelict Far House Farm before crossing Locker Beck, then dodging round Lower Locker farm, before reaching open moorland. Robust dense heather now obscured the line of the path, so we diverted to the nearby parallel bridleway just to the north. After the derelict farm at Dale Head, a lovely position, a landrover track lead us back to the Hawnbly Road and for the last kilometre we pushed against the gale now arrived, on past Robinson’s Cross (not surprised he’s angry, standing exposed all year round at the side of the road) back to the car for 15.30. About 16 km/10 miles.

## Mid Winter Meets

**By Derek Field**

### **Christmas Dinner, Tuesday 9th December 2014**

On a cold windy day twenty six members and guests assembled at Drop Farm on Penistone Hill for our annual Christmas lunch. Most arrived by car but eight hardy souls travelled by train to Keighley. Then they caught a bus to Haworth followed by the half hour walk against a very strong wind over the hill to the farm, their return journey was much easier.

The usual excellent meal was washed down with several bottles of wine and a gin and tonic. A good time was had by all catching up with all our old friends.

### **Christmas Buffet, Sunday 14th December 2014**

It was another damp windy day so just 15 members turned out to Embsay Reservoir for the next stage of the Christmas celebrations. Splitting into two groups we found separate ways up to Embsay Crag, uniting at Rolling Gate we then followed the Bridleway to the shooting hut. It was good to see Swiv back on the hills in the party after a couple of years absence, his new hips working really well. We tried but failed to eat all the food on the table even with the help of Shirley and Rob's excellent gluhwein

(mulled wine). T'was 'chuckin it dahn' (Yorkshire dialect term for pouring with rain), after lunch for our return walk but dried up as we approached Embsay. A frisky horse investigated us crossing a path. It had to be fought off by Dave Girt using his walking poles, performing like one of the three Musketeers.

### **Boxing Day 26th December 2014**

It was a cold and windy morning as 10 members set off from the Cow and Calf rocks at Ilkley to head for the moor. We followed paths passed the Haystack Rock, the Idle Stone, Lanshaw Lad Stone, to arrive at the summit Trig Point and the Puddle Stone. We then pushed on to the Thimble Stones for lunch. Tony Crosby, the editor of The Yorkshire Mountaineer, arrived late at

**Map by Derek Field  
(Courtesy of the  
Ordnance Survey)**



## Mid Winter Meets

the Cow and Calf. He left Nottingham early for a hike near Castleton, at the last minute his friends decided not to go for a hike. He then decided to change his plan for the day, and join the club meet on Ilkley Moor. Arriving late and after mobile phone chats with Derek, from the Cow and Calf he followed a bearing in a south westerly direction to meet the club soon after lunch. It proved to be a very pleasant mild day followed by heavy snow later that evening. There were many walkers out enjoying the area round the tarn. A coffee break was taken at White Wells. We then followed the track past the Tarn. There were many walkers out enjoying the moorland around the tarn. We arrived back at the Cow and Calf in time for an excellent coffee at the cafe.

Postscript. During the Boxing Day meet, Tony lost his two Leki sticks near the car park at the Cow and Calf Rocks. A month later he returned to the Cow and Calf Hotel for a family celebration, and while there enquired at the car park cafe if two Leki sticks had been handed in. Pleasantly surprised, kind Yorkshire folk had found the sticks and handed them to the cafe owner. If you are at the Cow and Calf at any time, pop along to the cafe, they serve excellent Italian coffee and the 'the rest room' is very smart and clean. The Italian barista who works there comes from south of Venice and his family own the oldest olive tree plantation in Italy.

### ***Hebden Bridge Sunday 11th January 2015***

For the first YMC meet of 2015 members met at Hebden Bridge Square outside the Rohan Shop. The party included six members and two prospective members, Graham and Kathryn Willis. A decision was made to go somewhere new, so we made an ascent of Jumble Hole Clough and had a coffee break at the footbridge. Leaving the shelter of the woods we followed the Calderdale Way past Great Rock to Blackshaw Head. There we had lunch on two sheltered benches outside the chapel. We then hiked the Pennine Way to Slack and descended into the Hardcastle Crags Valley. We crossed the stepping stones to return to Hebden Bridge.

### ***Map by Derek Field (Courtesy of the Ordnance Survey)***



## Summer camping meet

**Southern France - 24th July – 9th Aug 2015**

**By Sean Kelly [sean@phukawi.com](mailto:sean@phukawi.com), 01223 512409**

The plan is to spend a week at each of two bases surrounded by the great outdoors, food, wine and outrageous French accents.

**Week 1:** The Allier valley in the Massif Central. Besides the impressive volcanic geology the main attractions here are Gorges de l'Allier, over 100km of kayakable river, scenic cycling and sight-seeing. This is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



*Photo By: Sean Kelly*

**Week 2:** Moving across to Thones, close to Lake Annecy. Here, in the foot hills of the Alps, it is a Mecca

*Photo By: Sean Kelly*



for mountain activities. Attractions include downhill mountain biking, caving and via-ferrata, as well as the simple pleasures of walking, eating and drinking.

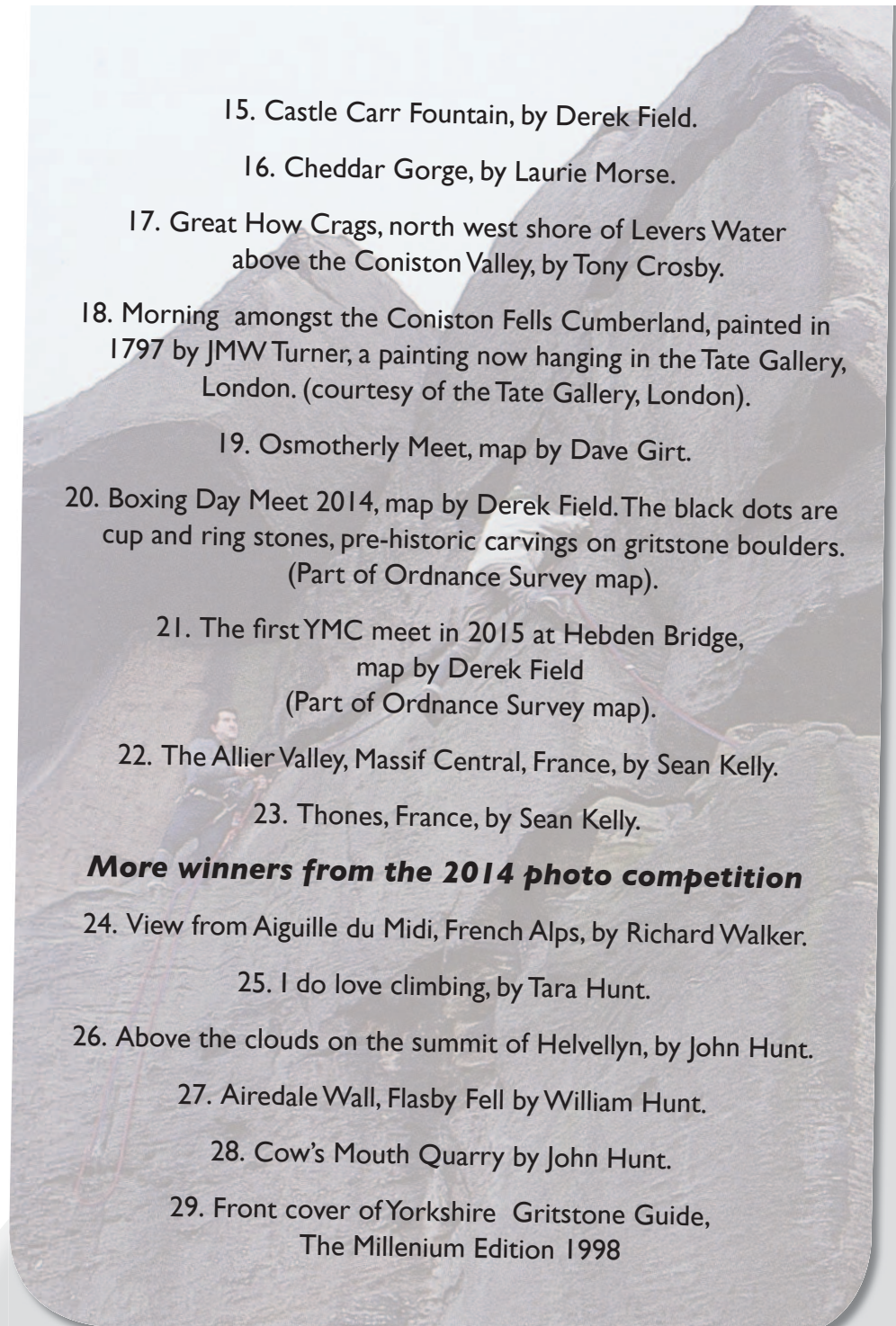
There's lots to interest kids aged from one to one hundred and the campsites also accommodate caravans for those of you who prefer shed dragging to tenting.

So far we have commitments from the Lomas & Kelly families, and expressions of interest from half a dozen other YMC members. It has potential to turn into an entertaining fortnight. We plan to reserve pitches at the campsites in early March. Please get in touch if you are tempted.

## ***Photos and Maps in order of appearance***

### ***Cover photos are a selection from the winners of the 2014 photo competition***

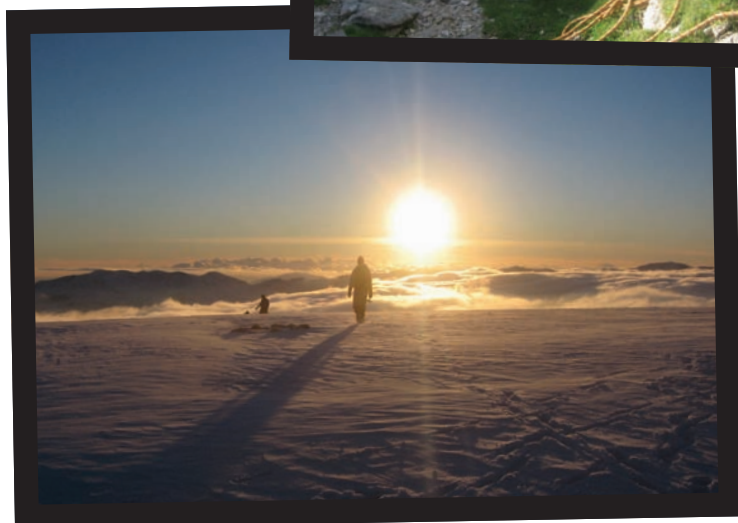
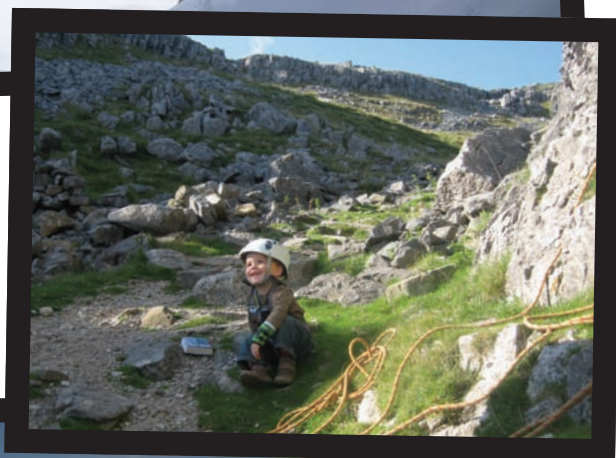
1. Breithorn, Jungfrau and JungFraujoch from below Eggishorn, by Jane Wainwright.
2. Descending past seracs on Cotopaxi, by Laurie Morse.
3. Forster's Leap, at Wycoller, Lancashire, climber John Hunt, by William Hunt.
4. A young Alan Swithenbank on Pebble Grove, Ilkley, from the Yorkshire Gritstone Guide Volume 2, 2014.
5. Front cover of the Yorkshire Gritstone Guide, Volume 1, 2012.
6. Front cover of the Yorkshire Gritstone Guide, Volume 2, 2014.
7. Isle of Skye sketch map showing the location of the Loch Coruisk Memorial Hut, Map by Tony Crosby.
8. Sue Wales and Dave Girt carry baggage to the Memorial Hut, by Jane Wainwright.
9. Dining in the Memorial Hut, by Jane Wainwright.
10. The summit of Sgurr Stri, by Jane Wainwright.
11. Loch Coruisk and the Cuillin from Sgurr Stri, by Jane Wainwright.
12. Coastal path to Loch Coruisk, by Malcolm Lomas.
13. Malcolm Lomas on the 'Bad Step', by Dave Girt,
14. Bryan Church and Bill Todd on 'A' Climb, Ilkley, by Patricia Todd in the Yorkshire Gritstone Guide 1998 Millenium Edition.

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15. Castle Carr Fountain, by Derek Field.
16. Cheddar Gorge, by Laurie Morse.
17. Great How Crag, north west shore of Levers Water above the Coniston Valley, by Tony Crosby.
18. Morning amongst the Coniston Fells Cumberland, painted in 1797 by JMW Turner, a painting now hanging in the Tate Gallery, London. (courtesy of the Tate Gallery, London).
19. Osmotherly Meet, map by Dave Girt.
20. Boxing Day Meet 2014, map by Derek Field. The black dots are cup and ring stones, pre-historic carvings on gritstone boulders. (Part of Ordnance Survey map).
21. The first YMC meet in 2015 at Hebden Bridge, map by Derek Field (Part of Ordnance Survey map).
22. The Allier Valley, Massif Central, France, by Sean Kelly.
23. Thones, France, by Sean Kelly.

***More winners from the 2014 photo competition***

24. View from Aiguille du Midi, French Alps, by Richard Walker.
25. I do love climbing, by Tara Hunt.
26. Above the clouds on the summit of Helvellyn, by John Hunt.
27. Airedale Wall, Flasby Fell by William Hunt.
28. Cow's Mouth Quarry by John Hunt.
29. Front cover of Yorkshire Gritstone Guide, The Millenium Edition 1998

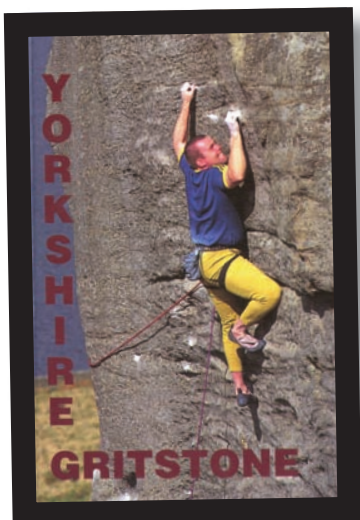
## Competition winners





***What is the message carved on the rock face?  
Does anyone know, who did the carving?***

I hope it's a worthwhile Memorial inscription not graffiti.  
Pre-historic man and the 19th century visitors to Ilkley Moor  
did carvings on the rocks, but didn't use a powered chisel and stencil!  
Those carvings have mellowed with time.



***If you would like a free  
copy of the above guide  
attend the YMC AGM  
2015 at The Black Bull,  
Birstall 8.15pm on the  
12th March***

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