

The Yorkshire Mountaineer



Issue 366

August 2015



In this issue ...

- **The meet reports for spring and summer 2015**

This issue includes meet reports since February, the meets to Skye and France will feature later. At last, since I became editor, the club returned to Ilkley and Almscliff, the crags popular when the club was formed 74 years ago, whose members had pioneered new climbs. They used to say 'if you can climb the routes at Almscliff you can climb anywhere'.

We welcome Graham and Kathryn Willis who became prospective members early this year and have been elected as full members. They are experienced and enthusiastic hill walkers though suffered some very poor weather conditions during the first meets. They must have enjoyed the walks as they came back for more!

The Tuesday lunch meets continue to be popular, with a number of members being regular attendees. The young relatives of Malcolm (Sol) Lomas occasionally join him for lunch. Recently they cycled up Crag Vale with Malcolm, to lunch at The White House at Blackstone Edge.

Photo By: Ginny Fox



A prompt to members who have completed the Pennine Way.

The Pennine Way celebrated its 50th Anniversary this year.

Its completion had been marked in April 24 1965 with a gathering on Malham Moor.

It was the first National Trail stretching for 256 miles along the Pennines, from Edale in the south to Kirk Yetholm in the north.

Has anyone in the YMC completed the Way in one visit or multiple visits? Have you walked it more than once? During which year? Did you walk north to south or south to north? Did you camp, B& B, YHA, barns, pubs/hotels, or bivouac? What time of year did you walk the Way? How long did it take? Did you walk the Way alone or in a group? How many were in the party? Have you cycled it or run the entire length? Were weather conditions good?

If the answer to the first question is yes, please let me know for an article in the next issue of The Yorkshire Mountaineer. If you have photos, aerial photos, sketches or maps they will be included. The deadline for submissions is 14th November 2015. To date I have a couple of contributions.

The YMC Committee

Left to right, Thom Clarke (YMC website developer and manager), Tony Crosby, John Lee, Ann Morse, Alan Swithenbank, Pete Stott, Laurie Morse, Martin Tetley.

Missing from the picture Peter Fenlon, Martin Girt, Claire Howarth, Tom Thompson, Roger Shaw.

Back Tor 18 February

interesting names. Hurkling Stones, Wheel Stones, White Tor, Salt Cellar. We eventually arrived at Dovestones Tor at the southern end of Derwent Edge. All the crags were shrouded in cold mist.



Photo By: Tony Crosby

Heading north we passed the interestingly named Cakes of Bread gritstone tors just to the east of the path, named from their shape. Ahead, Back Tor loomed out of the mist. We scrambled on to the summit rock for photos next to the trig point, then had lunch on a sheltered patch of grass at the foot of the tor.

After lunch we descended off the edge towards the north west, crossed a slight col then climbed up to Lost Lad at 518m where there is a cairn and a small stone monument showing nearby places inscribed on a compass rose. In the 16th century the body of a young shepherd boy was found one spring. He had been lost in a winter blizzard. It is said the words 'Lost Lad' were scratched on the rocks by the boy. The Derwent Reservoir was visible below with the hills of the High Peak and Kinder Scout in the distance.

We slipped down the snow covered path to where the valley steepens then headed south following contours at about 400m. Eventually we reached the valley floor at Wellhead on the bank of Ladybower Reservoir, by then I was well behind the group. I had planned the walk to allow a fine flat stroll back to the cars and a couple of seats to sit on to admire the view along the way.

We passed the site of Derwent Village where in 1946 it was submerged beneath the waters of the new reservoir. Occasionally in dry conditions the remains of the village emerge above the water level.



Photo By: Tony Crosby

Bibliography:

Great Walks, Peak District,
by John and Anne Nuttall.
Printwise Publications Ltd. 1992.

Feshie Bridge Winter Meet

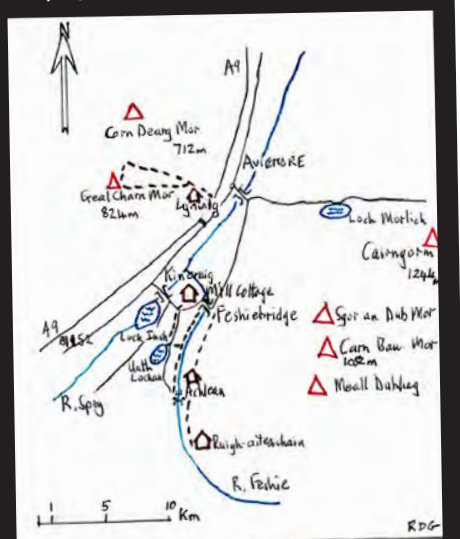
27 Feb - 2 March

by Dave Girt and Malcolm (Sol) Lomas

Present: Caroline(Cozi) Phillips, Jane Wainwright, Derek Field, Malcolm (Sol) Lomas, Martin Tetley, Dave Girt.

Location: Feshie Bridge is 10 km south west of Aviemore in a tributary valley of the River Spey.

Map by Dave Girt



Saturday

From Lynwilg the whole party ascended the Burma Road to the bealach and a quick snap stop, mainly in windy rain showers. Derek and Sol returned to the cars whilst the rest pressed on to Geal Charn Mor (824m) for further refreshment before descending under “combined” navigation across several snow fields and along the ridge to Creag Ghleannain.

Low cloud obscured the panoramic views of the Cairngorm massif, but at least the rain held off. With a little difficulty we crossed the Alt Dubh (why didn't we seek the footbridge marked on the map?) and retrieved the Burma Road, only to fork right instead of left and had to beg access through the grounds of Altnacriche to avoid a long uphill retreat. Together again at the cars there was time for a sortie into the fleshpots of Aviemore before darkness fell and tea and cake were served by Jane. After, Derek cooked us scrumptious chicken chasseur and spoiled us with red wine we relaxed in front of the excellent multi-fuel stove.

Friday

For a second year we returned to Mill Cottage, and most comfortable we were too! The small numbers and established friendships easily lead to a decision that we would prepare evening meals communally. All arrived by early evening and we enjoyed a reviving delicious beef stew with crispy dumplings accompanied by a dram or two, all provided by Cozi.

Feshie Bridge Winter Meet

Sunday

Cozi, Sol and Dave cycled the west bank of the river Feshie on footpaths/landrover tracks/tarmac beyond Stronetoper before crossing the ample footbridge to the east bank and picking up the recently gravelled paths almost all the way to the bothy at Rhuig aiteachian. Missing bridges made crossing several side burns a wet adventure! Cozi's waterproof socks came in to their own. We were greeted at the bothy by a knowledgeable voluntary warden with a warm stove, so it was no problem spinning out a long lunch hour whilst our kit dried. The warden described another 6 miles of readily cyclable track up the glen beyond the bothy, but we decided to leave that for a future expedition,

and with grateful legs we retraced our tracks back to Achlean, and after that on tarmac all the way back to the cottage for tea and cake.

Jane, Derek and Martin set off by car for Ben Rinnes (840m) in the Cromdale Hills. On the way the radio reported Cairngorm skiing abandoned because of 100m.p.h. winds, but undeterred they pushed on. Suitably swaddled in all available clothing they pressed their way across the icy terrain to the summit overlooking the Moray Firth, 'testing equipment and determination to the limit'. Safely back to the car they went the wrong way during the return journey, but managed to arrive at the cottage in time for a meal of pork steaks and fruit crumble prepared by Jane.



Photo By: Dave Girt

Feshie Bridge Winter Meet

Monday

Waking to falling snow and mindful of the previous days weather forecast, the whole party opted for a low level walk to the Uath Lochans via the riverside path to Bollintean then the road to the lochans. Although the snow had stopped we were surprised to find hardy souls practising their Canadian canoeing skills in such low temperatures. After lunching under an unusual drooping conifer we ascended the path up Creag-Far-Leatire for fine views of the lochans and surrounding hills, and some distant crossbills. Increasing snow showers accompanied our descent and return through Inshriach Forest direct to Mill Cottage, in good time for yet more tea and cake (thank you Jane). Later we dined on tagliattelli bolognese and fruit crumble cooked by Derek. The snow continued to fall, and alerted by a friend's phone call describing conditions in West Scotland, Cozi decided to head for home. The rest of us moved our cars nearer to the public road as a precaution.

Tuesday

During the night snow had fallen to a depth of 4 inches. After clearing snow from the cars, cleaning the cottage and man-hauling our kit up the track, Dave departed for home .To continue the visit for 4 more days the others made their way to the FRCC hut in Aviemore. Sol cycled there.

The meet had been enjoyable with a variety of activities, comfortable accommodation, excellent food and fine company.

Sol takes up the story

The evening before we were leaving for Aviemore it was snowing quite heavily. Cozi decided to leave early fearing more snow on her drive home to Roy Bridge. We moved our cars up to a higher car park fearing we might get stuck in the morning. We woke to more snow and we were all outside taking photos of the unspoiled snowy scenery.

We packed up, cleaned the place out, Dave left for home and the rest moved to Aviemore. I opted to ride my bike while the rest went by car. Frozen snow and ice on the road made it a bit tricky on the bike. There was hardly any traffic on the road, and its mainly a gentle downhill ride into Aviemore. When I arrived at the FRCC 'hut' Martin and Derek were just driving off. They had left something at Mill Cottage!

We sorted ourselves out, got a bed space and had some dinner. Jane and I decided to walk the Aviemore Circular Walk, and went to the local library housed in an ultra-modern high school block. With some difficulty we eventually found the Circular Walk

Feshie Bridge Winter Meet

route, taking in part of the Speyside Way. Later we met up with Martin and Derek and did a food shop.

Next day Martin and Derek decided to get a half-day ticket to go skiing.

Photo By: Derek Field



Jane and I decided to walk part of the Lairig Ghru. Parking at Coylumbidge we walked via the Cairngorm Bridge across the river and along its left bank. A sign at the bridge indicates 5 ½ miles to the summit of the Lairig Ghru. We found a sheltered spot overlooking the Lairig for our lunch. Proceeding on, we came across a solitary backpacker. We learned from him that he was from Sussex, had come up on the overnight train to Aviemore with the intention of walking the Lairig Ghru to Braemar and out to Aberdeen. He had never been to Scotland before! He had camped the night high up in the Lairig,

and decided because of the weather to turn back and retreat to civilisation. Further on we met a lone woman out walking. At first I didn't recognise her as a woman staying with us at the FRCC hut. I apologised saying "I didn't recognise you with your clothes on".

We got to the spot in the Lairig Ghru where the Sinclair hut used to be at the foot of the Sron na Lairige ridge leading on to Braeriach. The top of the pass was still some way ahead, so we called it a day and turned back. The intermittent sunshine gave us fine views up and down the Lairig and surrounding hills. At the hut we learned that Derek and Martin had found good skiing. The snow cover was limited but in good condition that day, but high winds closed the slopes on a couple of days while we were there. That evening we feasted on a massive beef stir fry.

The following day we opted to walk round Loch Garten. We came across some serious birdwatchers but I don't think there were many birds to be seen. That evening we went to the Cairngorm Hotel for a farewell meal before returning home the following day.

The secluded Mill Cottage is a cosy place to stay in a picturesque situation alongside the River Feshie. We mixed with good company at the FRCC hut on two and we had the hut to ourselves on the last night. It was a most enjoyable winter meet and I look forward to many more.

Addingham 8 March 2015

by Dave Girt

Present: Ann and Laurie Morse, Graham and Kath Willis, Jane Wainwright, Malcolm Lomas, Andy (guest) and Dave Girt.

A 10.00 a.m. start meant there was ample parking on Back Lane, and we were able to get away before the forecasted rain.

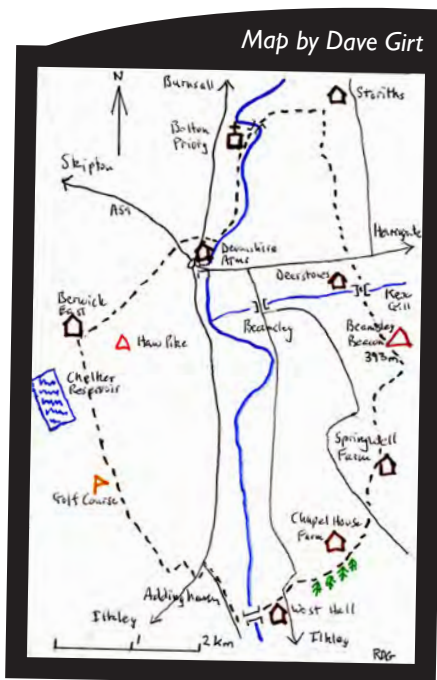
After swaying across the suspension bridge and passing West Hall we took the woodland path to Chapel House Farm, past two loose yapping dogs at Spring Well Farm and out on to the open moorland flanks of Beamsley Beacon. As we ascended, the cold wind picked up and a brief shower blessed our elevensies stop just below the summit.

Refreshed, we bushwacked steeply down the west face to Long Chapel Farm, then down again to cross Kex Beck to Deerstones hamlet. Once across the busy A59 a level footpath threaded us through the muddy fields to Storiths where we turned for the valley, lurching on a grassy ledge overlooking Bolton Priory, with hints of Spring in the trees but not in the wind. Thoughts of cold wet feet deterred us from the stepping stones in favour of the footbridge across the Wharfe and shunning the ice-cream van we followed the Dalesway downstream as far as the Devonshire Arms. Still full of sandwiches we resisted the siren aromas of roast Sunday lunch on the breeze, and continued on over Huffa

Bridge and back across the A59 to pick up the bridleway, then footpath to Berwick East.

A patch of blue sky encouraged optimistic comment about the improving day but it was not to last: as we traversed the heights of Chelker we were treated to another wintry downpour. But then it was a welcome long gradual descent through the golf course to Addingham and back to the cars. Most said they had not been that way before. About 9 miles/4 ½ hours.

Map by Dave Girt



Coniston 13-14 March 2015

by Ken Tilford

Memorial Service for Tony Sainsbury

an ex member of the YMC

Present: Judy Lodge

I arrived early on Friday, having first attended a memorial service for Tony Sainsbury at the Salutation Hotel in Ambleside. Tex and Steve Ashworth were there on behalf of the YMC, along with a contingency from the Lancashire Mountaineering club, also Jean, Tony's wife who had attended many YMC meets.

Tony had been a popular member for many years. He could always be relied upon to write a humorous meet report, a couple repeated in the YMC journal were typical of his writing style, and well worth reading again.

Coniston

Back to the Coniston hut, as I said I arrived early, and lit the fires, or at least attempted to. Is there a knack to lighting the new stove?

A little later, in time to witness my pathetic attempts at fire lighting, Judy Lodge a prospective member arrived for her first meet. I don't think my attempt at working the microwave impressed her, though eventually I had more success than with the fire!

However sometime in the evening, the smoke detector in the guests lounge went off, so, I proved the theory wrong that 'there is no smoke without fire'.

On Saturday, Judy went for a walk to the Walna Scar track, and over Dow before heading back home.

I did a wet weather walk, it wasn't actually raining, but it occurred to me that I had never been to the Three Shires when it hadn't been raining. It was a pleasant experience, with good views from Hole Rake of the Eastern Fells with a covering of snow.

On Sunday I had a short walk with a bit of scrambling on and around Mouldry Bank before returning home to the comfort of my gas fire.



Stanage Meet 29 March

by **Tony Crosby**

Present: Laurie Morse, Ann Morse, Jonathan Carter, Graham Willis, Kathryn Willis.

When I suggested this meet to the YMC programme planning meeting, I thought by the end of March the weather could be fine enough to consider it as a meet for climbers to explore Stanage. It turned out to be a very wet and windy day.

The approximate route is shown as a red broken line on the map.

We met at the Stanage Plantation car park in pouring rain. Instead of going to the crag we headed down into Hathersage for a coffee at the 'Outside' shop (www.outside.co.uk).

It was still raining when we dragged ourselves away from the shop down into the Derwent Valley, then to follow the Derwent Valley Heritage way, which closely follows the banks of the river in flood. We followed a slightly higher footpath clear of the very wet river bank. As the wind picked up weather conditions improved and there was a glimmer of sunshine.

At Upper Padley we turned north east to follow the valley of the Burbage Brook. We had lunch under dripping trees before we continued to climb through the valley. The brook flows through the spectacular Padley Gorge with massive boulders and rapids. It is best visited soon after a thaw of heavy winter snow.

Map adapted by Tony Crosby



Eventually we reached the A625 road to Hathersage where the brook flows through a culvert. To cross the road we had to scramble over a low wall, the only climbing we would do on this meet!

The map shows the planned route crossing Carl Work and Higger Tor, because of the wet windy conditions we revised the finish of the walk. We had been sheltered from the strong wind and most of the rain when in the valley, now we had to struggle to walk along a good track along the Burbage Valley. Leaving the valley we crossed the moor to Stanage and descended beneath the crag back to the cars. There was not a climber to be seen because of the conditions.

Easter Meet - Coniston Cottage

2nd - 5th April 2015

by Emily Thompson

Present: Tony Crosby, Emily Thompson, Jonathan Carter and Sharon Horsley

Sca Fell via Cam Crag and Foxes Tarn

It was a last minute decision to go the the Lake District over Easter, one I thought I was going to regret as I sat parked in traffic on the M6 watching it rain.

I'd arranged to meet Tony from the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club at their hut in Coniston to find out more about the club and make the most of the weekend and 4 long hours later I arrived.

The Club's huts are located near the Coppermines Youth Hostel, up a dirt track about two miles out of the centre of Coniston. As someone who camps regularly and is only an occasional user of Youth Hostels I thought the hut is a bargain for guests to stay (less costly than camping!) and is in a fantastic location.

Waking up at 6am to the sound of the dehumidifier in the drying room, it was clear that Tony is an early riser and was keen I was too. We decided the night before to head round to Eskdale to climb Sca Fell and so set off bright and early.

The path up the River Esk is a gentle start to the day, and a nice way to head up onto the fells. We took the path next to Cowcove Beck to reach Great Moss – a boggy plateau in spring but with perfect views across the back of Crinkle Crag, Bowfell and the Sca Fell range. In glorious Easter sunshine I was grateful Tony likes to stop for food regularly so that I could enjoy the view.

Photo By: Tony Crosby



We'd opted for Sca Fell rather than Scafell Pike as that was going to be notoriously busy on Easter weekend. En-route we passed two couples each navigating with only their phones and no maps, there was no way we were going to spend the whole day assisting the lost! Especially when one of the couples complained they couldn't understand why Scafell Pike wasn't

Easter Meet - Coniston Cottage

better waymarked. I'm not elitist in anyway, the mountains are for everyone – but within reason. I don't expect to have to teach map reading skills to hikers miles from the nearest road. Tony didn't mind – the endless stopping gave him chance to keep eating.

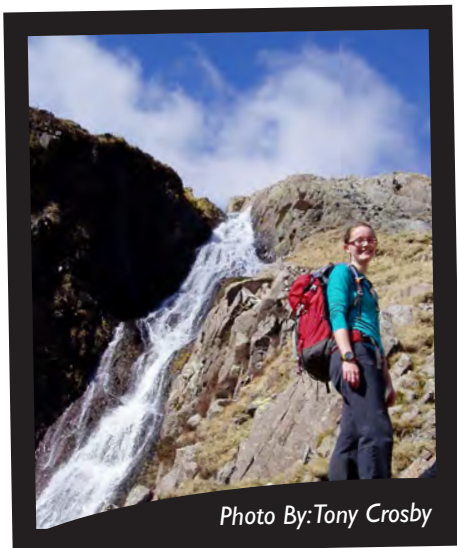


Photo By: Tony Crosby

We eventually scrambled up the rock face next to Cam Crag Spout waterfall. Being out with a seasoned mountaineer I had to admit that I was a bit wary that Tony would want a more challenging route and chance to get climbing up rocks, but it seemed the route up to Foxes Tarn was enough scrambling for both of us. To reach Foxes Tarn, a tiny tarn in the cwm at Sca Fell, we picked a route across the rocks and grass to wind around the crag to the south of Broad Stand. It was a fun scramble, though not entirely on rock.

I was more than a bit disappointed to see Foxes tarn - its certainly not worth the scramble, being nothing more than a puddle with a rock in the middle. Its location though is certainly impressive and this route up Sca Fell is better than the trudge from Wasdale.

There were some people on the summit of Sca Fell but nowhere near as many as could be seen on the summit of Scafell Pike. We headed across the top to descend down to Slight Side crag and back down across the bogs towards Eskdale - finishing with a well earned meal in the pub.

Photo By: Tony Crosby



Greater Fairfield Horseshoe

by Jonathan Carter

Present: Tony Crosby, Jonathan Carter and guest Sharon Horsley

The day dawned with clear skies and a temperature inversion in the Coppermines Valley. Prospects were high for spectacular views throughout the day.

Arriving in the Car Park at Rydal in a reasonable time we spent the next hour or so trying to work out how to pay for parking with a mobile phone. Hopefully Tony's credit card wasn't debited by a Somalian Pirate Group and he is now having to visit local food storage banks to survive! Then with a toilet break at the Rydal Hall tea room and Tony chatting to the local vicar, it was about lunchtime.

During the ascent of Nab Scar the weather was fine but with cloud in the valley visibility was poor. The path zig zags up the side of Nab Scar before eventually topping out on the edge of the crag, a perfect spot for a break and a brew. From Nab Scar there are impressive views across Rydal Water to Loughrigg Fell and the higher fells beyond but they were obscured by the inversion clouds filling the valleys.

From Nab Scar we continued ascending the path north. After just over a kilometre of ascent we reached the summit of Heron Pike. The summit of Heron Pike gave us the first panoramic views of the entire Fairfield Horseshoe. Heron Pike has two summits, we

continued north along the path for three hundred metres to reach the higher of the two for the best views.

From Heron Pike we headed north continuing along the ridge path. After a kilometre of easy level walking along the ridge, the path starts a steep but short ascent of Great Rigg. We ascended the path up Great Rigg to its summit. From Great Rigg looking north we could see the southern aspect of Fairfield's wide summit plateau directly in front of us. At this point the weather had improved and it became quite warm. Tony decided to take a break and what can only be described as chat with a pretty, Swiss, female tourist! What happened next will go down in YMC folklore because we didn't see Tony again till the end of the day! (or the Swiss female tourist!)

From Great Rigg we headed north and ascended Fairfield's south western ridge. When reaching the summit of Fairfield there are several stone cairns, a circular stone shelter and a purpose built stone cross shaped shelter. There is no trig point on the summit. Patches of snow were scattered around the plateau.

Fairfield is the thirteenth highest mountain in the Lake District at 873m.. The views from its summit are somewhat restricted by its wide

Greater Fairfield Horseshoe

summit plateau and the cloud. Some of the best views are the immediate views north to north west along the mighty Helvellyn ridge to Dollywagon Pike, Nethermost Pike and Helvellyn. For the best perspective of the Fairfield Horseshoe it is worth walking across to the south side of the mountain where there is a stunning panoramic view of the entire horseshoe with the two ridges leading off south to Ambleside and Windermere in the distance.

Having waited for almost an hour for “Romeo Crosby” to catch up, we decided to leave him behind. So descended from the summit of Fairfield and headed east for half a kilometre. The path then descends south east

to Link Hause then ascends to the boulder strewn summit of Hart Crag. The summit of Hart Crag is narrower and more exposed than its higher neighbour Fairfield, so it provides more expansive views and luckily the cloud finally cleared.

From the summit of Hart Crag we descended then ascended south east for a kilometre with a stone wall on our right to reach the summit of Dove Crag. The summit of Dove Crag has a small rocky outcrop with a stone cairn. From the summit of Dove Crag we descended south for a kilometre and a half to reach the summit of High Pike following the tall dry stone wall. It is difficult to know which side of the wall

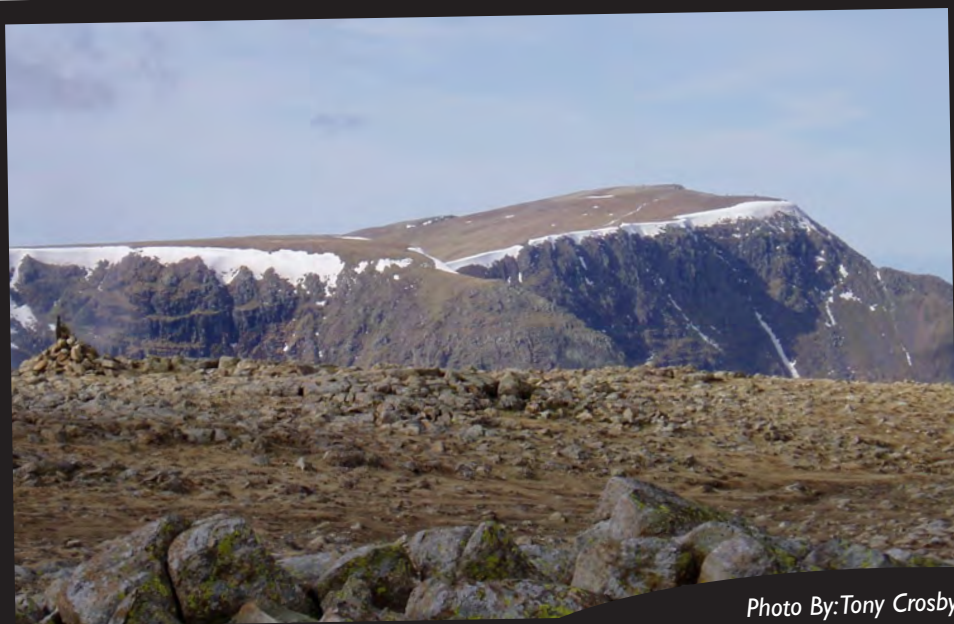


Photo By: Tony Crosby



Photo By: Tony Crosby

to walk along as the official right of way is on the right but the path is better in parts on the left. The wall has collapsed in places where walkers have changed from one side to the other.

From the summit of High Pike we continued descending south on fairly steep ground at first, still following the wall along the crest of the ridge on the right. After a kilometre we reached Low Pike. From Low Pike we continued descending south next to the wall until we eventually reached the road and then it was a very short walk back to the car park. We waited another hour for Tony to return with the car keys.

A great day out and except for the initial ascent up Nab Scar this is not a difficult walk, we met groups of families with young children completing the Horseshoe.

Footnote by the editor:

After a friendly 'guten morgen followed by auf weidersehen' the Swiss lady went south disappearing into the low cloud and I pressed on north to try and catch up with my younger companions. I assumed at the end of the day they would wait for me in the local pub. There was no charge for the use of my credit card to pay for parking.

Feizor Meet 19 April 2015

by Derek Field

Present: Martin Tetley, Martin Girt, Roger Goodall.

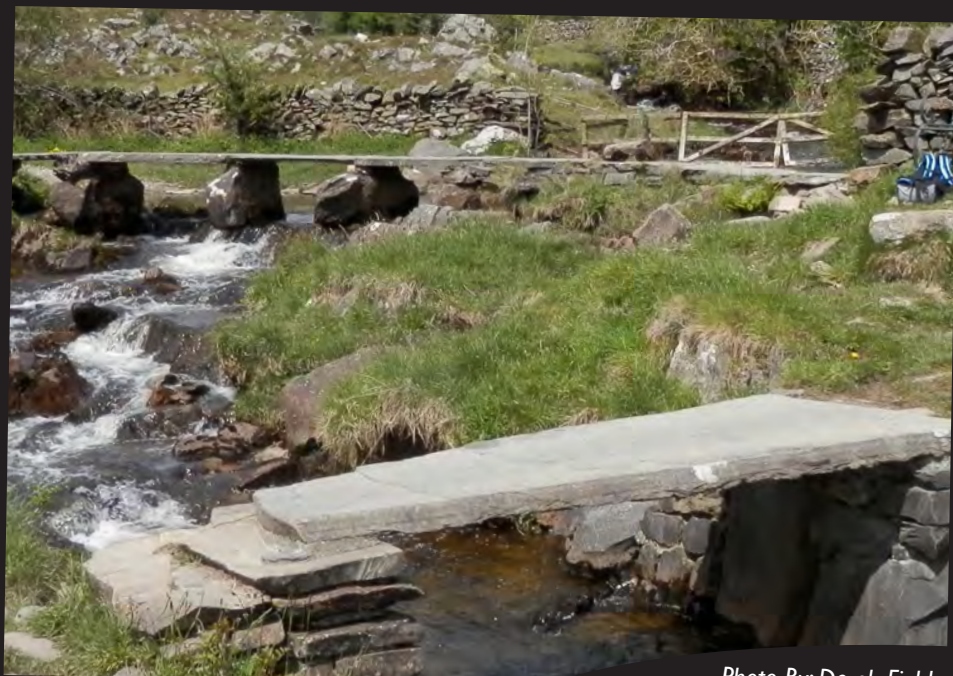


Photo By: Derek Field

At last this meet is getting more popular. A 33% increase compared to 2014 saw 4 members attending. Roger and Derek set off at 10am from the top of Buckhaw Brow towards Feizor where the aroma from Elaine's tea room proved irresistible. We had our first coffee break in comfort.

We then followed the Pennine Bridleway to Helwith Bridge Quarry. From there we climbed a very steep path alongside the massive quarry. Then we headed for Moughton Scar where

we met the full force of a freezing wind from the north. We found some shelter for lunch close to the trig point at 427m.

After lunch we descended into Crummack Dale and to get warm we had a break for coffee near to the clapper bridge. We returned to Feizor via Wharfe. On our way past Pot Scar, feeling warmer so we had a choc ice. We noticed there were no climbers at Pot Scar probably because of the freezing conditions.

Malham June 14 2015

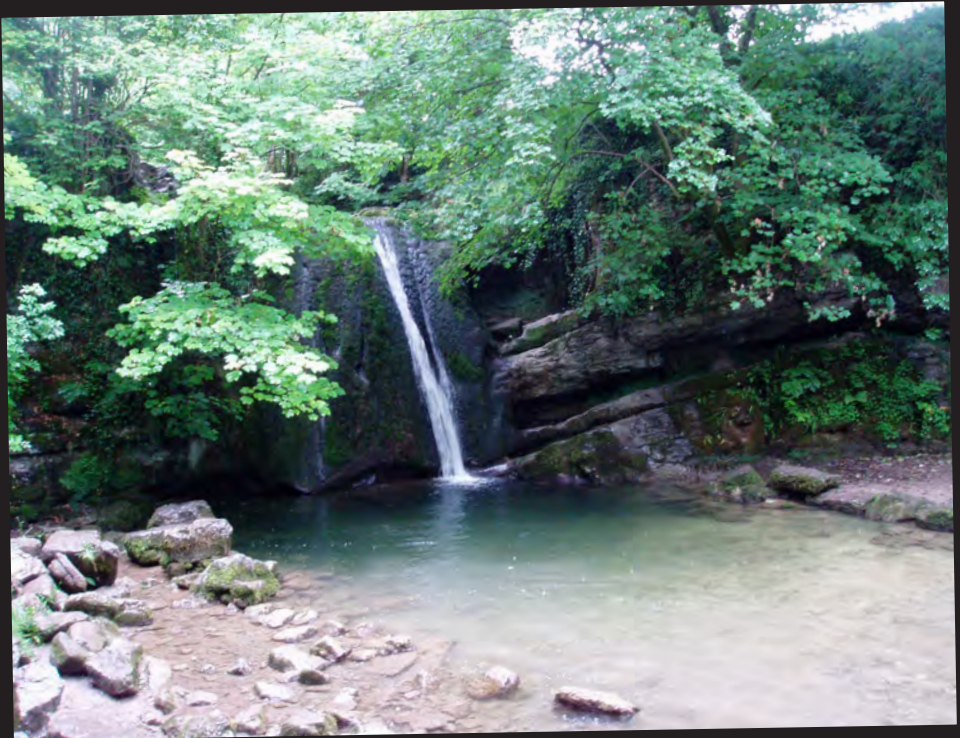
by Jane Wainwright

Present: Graham and Kathryn Willis

Many club members were away on holiday during this weekend in June. Only prospective members Graham and Kathryn Willis joined me for this classic walk through some of the most spectacular limestone scenery of the Yorkshire Dales.

We had an enjoyable walk to Janet's Foss where there is a small water fall. From there we headed to the impressive Gordale Scar.

We then followed dry valleys to Malham Tarn. Our route took us to Malham Cove with its limestone pavements on top, a massive cliff and views to the south. In June the wild flowers were at their best in this limestone area. After a poor forecast the weather turned out to be fine, dry and pleasant. It was an enjoyable walk.



Edale Meet 5 July 2015

by **Laurie Morse**

Photo By:Anthony Raithby



Photo By: Laurie Morse

The Rambler Inn just by the main car park at the south end of Edale brings back many memories for me, as this is the finish of the 24 mile Marsden to Edale fell race held every December. In years gone by, when this was a regular event for several YMC members. We were a bunch of weary tired runners giving their all in the final sprint for the line and relieved at being able to stop and rest.

This time we were here for a more leisurely sojourn into the surrounding hills above Edale. Always hoping for a reasonable turnout for a club meet, I was not too disappointed to find there were to be 9 of us on the walk. Martin Hirst appeared in the main car park from nowhere, only to tell us he had found a free parking spot; Pete Fenlon and Stell; Our new members Graham and Kath Willis; Tony Crosby; Prospective member Andrew Coleman; Ann and myself. The forecast was good but with the risk of heavy showers

later in the afternoon.

Since visibility was good it seemed a good plan to get up on to the skyline, blow a few cobwebs off and enjoy the views.

After a short walk along the road we headed up the footpath towards Hollins Cross. We were soon being passed by a party of mountain bikers. 'Hey, this is a footpath not a bridleway'. But they soon had to get off and push (whimps), so we were able to pass them again as they struggled to haul their machines up the ever steepening path. After a short breather, we were soon tramping our way up the large stone slabs and on to MamTor and watched several parapenters performing aerial manoeuvres as we went.

Edale Meet cont ...

The good weather had brought the crowds and there were several groups of people on this popular summit. We didn't linger and made our way down to the road then across and up on the ridge at the other side. It was dry underfoot as we made our way over Lords Seat and along the top of Rushup Edge. Then, as the path started to descend a bit, someone shouted 'bikes', so we had to move to the side to allow them to pass. This time however, they were on a bridleway. An obvious right turn led us onto the very peaty and sometimes boggy path up to Brown Knoll.

By this time there were rumblings about having lunch, particularly that we hadn't had the customary 'elevenses' coffee break. Tony decided he would expire if he didn't have something quickly and was soon devouring a chocolate bar to give him his sugar fix. We did eventually stop at a nice spot complete with conveniently positioned rocks to sit on, just before we hit the Pennine Way. It rises from Upper Booth via Jacobs Ladder to the col before turning north on its way to Kinder.

After some pleasant banter and even frivolity, we reluctantly packed up to move on. Apart from Tony that is, who suggested we leave him there so he could enjoy the experience a little longer and then continue at his own pace back to Edale. We were having none of that and nearly had to resort to physical persuasion, such was his reluctance to move.

We got to the col and picked up the Pennine way for a few hundred metres before veering off right to follow the well worn path that contours round the edge of Kinder and Edale Fell. The jumble of rocks that form several interesting silhouettes on the way made for some picturesque photo opportunities for those who wished.

The day was moving on and we had to decide how far to go before dropping back down to Edale. Clouds were starting to bubble up behind us indicating that the rain that had been forecast, was on its way. We decided on Grindsbrook Clough as our descent route and as the clouds loomed ever nearer made the rocky descent into the valley.



Photo By: Laurie Morse

As we approached Edale we felt the first few spots of rain. By the time we got back to the car park the heavens had opened and we all got a bit of a wetting.

In spite of the rain at the end, it had been an enjoyable day.

Almscliff Meet 19 July 2015

by Alan Swithenbank *(who in the 60s trained for climbing exploits by breaking 6 inch nails with his fingers)*

Present: Tony Crosby, David Girt, Alan Swithenbank, Jane Wainwright.

Guest: Dave Hemsley

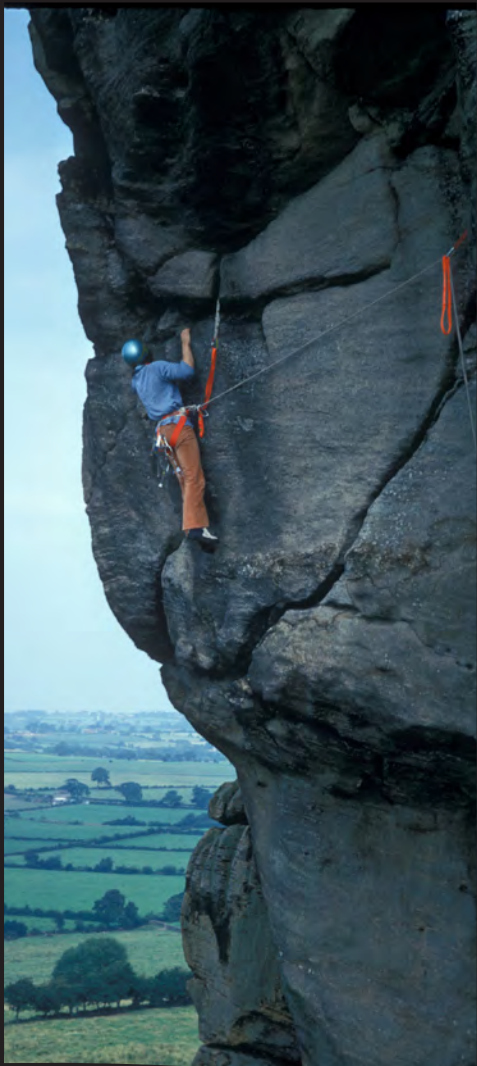


Photo: Alan Swithenbank Collection

Around 6am when I opened the curtains the prospects didn't look good. Heavy rain was pouring, followed by heavy showers which continued until 9.15am, at which time I was leaving home for Almscliff. The rest of the day remained fine but very windy. Tony was already parked when I arrived at the crag.

The strong wind and the crag's reputation for quick drying, in its exposed position, encouraged us to feel more optimistic about the possibility of being able to climb. We walked around the crags for one hour, re-acquainting ourselves with the routes and problems. The rock would soon hopefully be dry enough to climb.

Reminiscing could now pass as my regular activity, and looking up at the majestic 'Great Western' reminded me of the floodlit ascent we made in the seventies. The route has everything; laybacks, holds for bridging, hand traverses, cracks for hand jams and overhangs! It is now graded HVS 5a.

In those days we were so keen to climb, so when the light began to fail, we extended the season by climbing the boulder problems wearing head torches. It worked well if there was light from a group of climbers. I decided I could improve on this, so I built a strong wooden box with two rope carrying handles, made to measure to

Almscliff Meet cont ...

fit a heavy duty car battery and two mobile car spotlights. Setting the lights up below the crag enabled climbing late in the evenings.

The highlight was the ascent of Great Western. We had all done the climb numerous times so climbing the route in the dark raised the level of excitement. It was necessary to wear a head torch because the rock was shaded by the body, and to help see to arrange a belay in the darkness at the top.

All good fun!

Back to the meet

By now it was lunchtime so we returned to the cars parked nearby. While there, Jane and Dave arrived after walking from Pool. We returned to the crag and met Dave Hemsley, Tony's friend, a regular local climber in the sixties and seventies, someone I hadn't seen since those days. He's now a keen cyclist and wrote an interesting article about the Tour de France Yorkshire, Le Grand Depart which appeared in the November 2014 'Yorkshire Mountaineer' issue 363.

For the record, Tony, David and Dave climbed the classic Low Man Easy Way, D, which encouraged them to climb Bird's Nest Crack, HS 4b, on High Man. Both routes were fairly testing because of a ferocious westerly wind blowing over the crags.

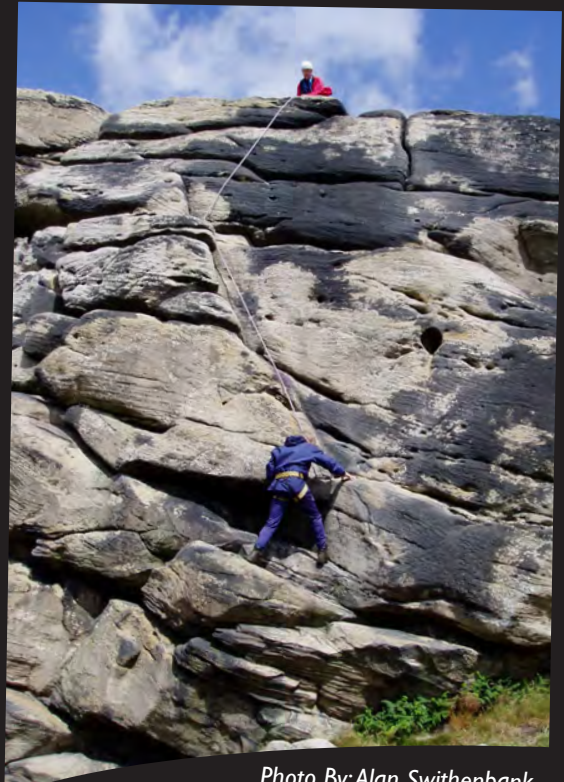


Photo By: Alan Swithenbank

Ilkley, Cow & Calf 9 August

by **Tony Crosby**

Present: Mike Bebbington, Tony Crosby, Kevin and Joan Garratt, Andy and Arifa McCue, Laurie Morse, Robin, Debbie and Ethan Nicholson, Alan Swithenbank, Jane Wainwright.

Guest: Sahil, Ned Redmore.

I expected that the Cow and Calf would be very busy on a summer Sunday, however there were not many climbers in the quarry, no doubt put off by the tourists who flock to take in the view and explore the rocks and moor.

We were briefly entertained by a young band from Manchester called 'Not Today' they were there making a pop video. Unfortunately their electric generator developed a fault so the guitars were not functioning and they were left miming to the drummer.

I planned to climb a few of the easier routes but as usual ended up being dragged up a harder climb, re-enforcing my view that I should lose about a stone in weight.

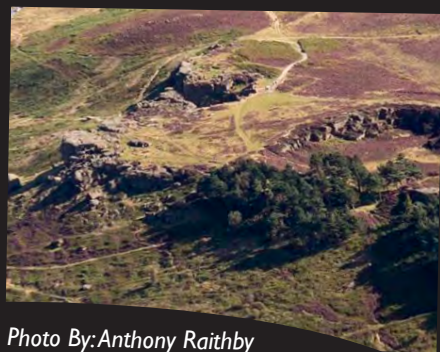


Photo By:Anthony Raithby

I was interested to watch the younger members lead the classic routes, 'Old Crack', 'S Crack', 'Josephine', 'Blucher', and Waleska. Ned, a newcomer to outdoor traditional rock climbing, but a regular climber on the indoor walls, appeared to have no difficulty with the routes.



Photo By:Tony Crosby

Ilkley, Cow & Calf cont ...

Photo By: Tony Crosby



More photos of the Ilkley climbs are on the front cover.



Photo By: Alan Swithenbank

I enjoyed finding out that the small holds on the route 'Fairy Steps' are even more polished and smaller than I remember. I struggled up 'Blucher', next time I will climb it with style!

Another attraction at Ilkley is the short walk to a cafe which serves excellent Italian coffee and cakes.

Climbs Completed

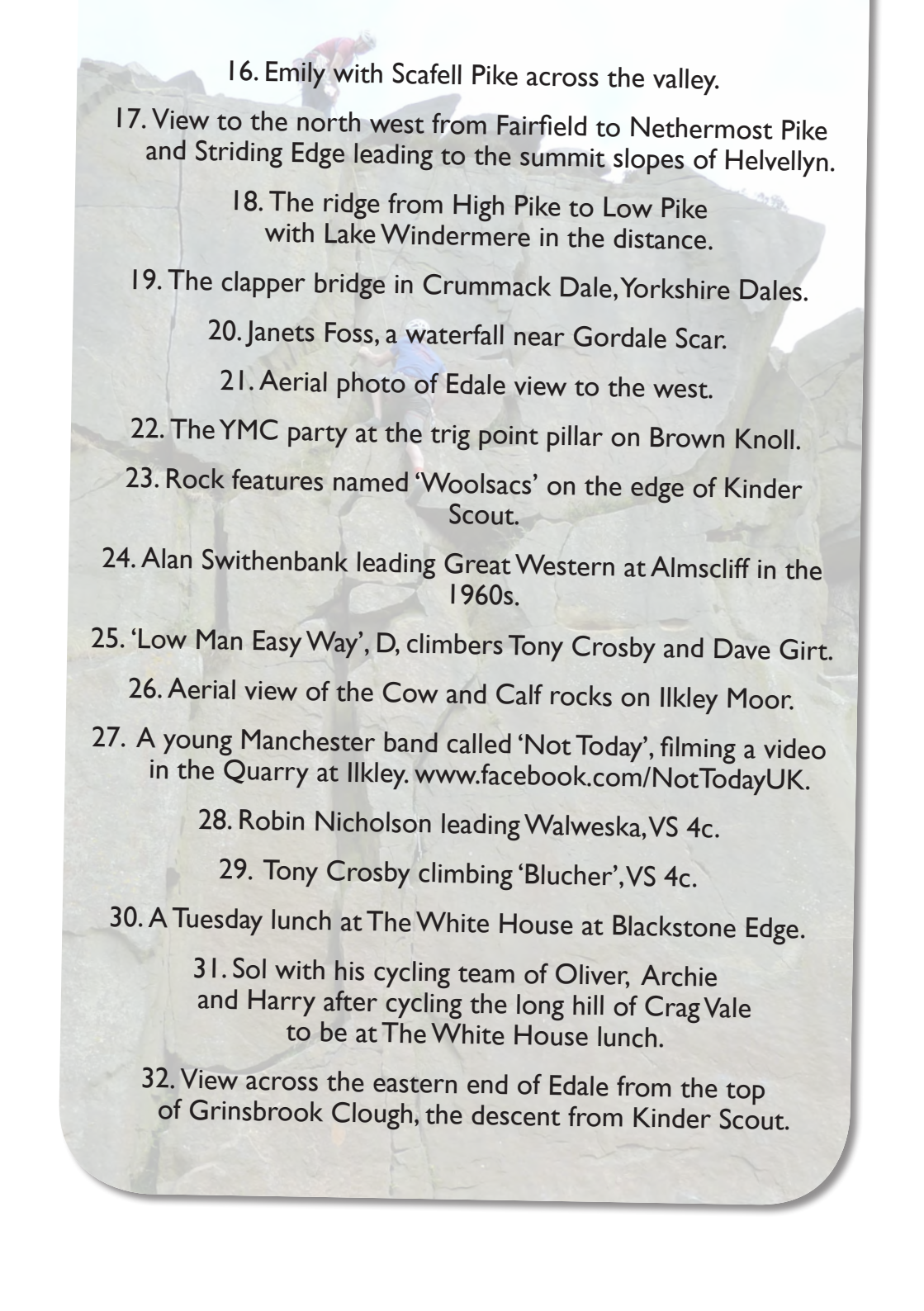
FAIRY STEPS	HVD 3c	TC
OLD CRACK	MVS 4b	NR
S CRACK	VS 4c	NR
JOSEPHINE	HS 4b	AM, S
BLUCHER	VS 4c	RN, NR, TC
WALEWSKA	VS 4c	RN, NR

Walkers: JW, LM, KG, JG

Photos and Maps in order of appearance

Cover photos at the Quarry, Cow and Calf Rocks, Ilkley Moor

1. Ned Redmore, a prospective YMC member climbing 'Old Crack', MVS 4b.
2. Andy McCue leading 'Josephine', HS 4b.
3. Robin Nicholson leading Waleska, VS 4c.
4. The 2015 YMC committee outside the Black Bull Inn, Birstall
5. Map of the Back Tor route adapted from OS Explorer OLI Dark Peak.
6. Back Tor in low cloud viewed from the south.
7. The party at the Back Tor trig point, 538m, located high on a massive rock.
8. The party at the Lost Lad Monument 518m.
9. Map of Glen Feshie.
10. Mill Cottage Glen Feshie.
11. The summit of Geal Charn, 824m, with the Cairngorm range in the distance.
12. Map of the Addingham route.
13. Map of the Stanage route, adapted from OS map, One inch Tourist edition, The Peak District.
14. Valley of the River Esk with Sca Fell and Scafell Pike in the distance viewed from the south east.
15. Emily next to Cam Spout waterfall.

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- A faint background image of a person in a red shirt and white helmet climbing a rock face, likely Scafell Pike.
16. Emily with Scafell Pike across the valley.
 17. View to the north west from Fairfield to Nethermost Pike and Striding Edge leading to the summit slopes of Helvellyn.
 18. The ridge from High Pike to Low Pike with Lake Windermere in the distance.
 19. The clapper bridge in Crummack Dale, Yorkshire Dales.
 20. Janets Foss, a waterfall near Gordale Scar.
 21. Aerial photo of Edale view to the west.
 22. The YMC party at the trig point pillar on Brown Knoll.
 23. Rock features named 'Woolsacs' on the edge of Kinder Scout.
 24. Alan Swithenbank leading Great Western at Almscliff in the 1960s.
 25. 'Low Man Easy Way', D, climbers Tony Crosby and Dave Girt.
 26. Aerial view of the Cow and Calf rocks on Ilkley Moor.
 27. A young Manchester band called 'Not Today', filming a video in the Quarry at Ilkley. www.facebook.com/NotTodayUK.
 28. Robin Nicholson leading Walweska, VS 4c.
 29. Tony Crosby climbing 'Blucher', VS 4c.
 30. A Tuesday lunch at The White House at Blackstone Edge.
 31. Sol with his cycling team of Oliver, Archie and Harry after cycling the long hill of Crag Vale to be at The White House lunch.
 32. View across the eastern end of Edale from the top of Grinsbrook Clough, the descent from Kinder Scout.

Club lunch at the Whitehouse

Photo By: Derek Field



Photo By: Derek Field





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