



Hi everyone. Here's all the latest news from the club – a bumper edition this time, with four past meet write ups and details of the first few meets of the new programme. Get those dates in your diary for the year ahead! We've had pretty relentless rain here in the south for ages, but on the plus side the days are getting longer, and spring surely can't be far away. I hope conditions improve for the long-awaited Scottish winter meet which starts this weekend.

Keep safe and have a great time, whatever you get up to. Best wishes, JP.

## Our new 2024 – 25 meets programme

Date	Venue	Leader
April 13/14	Peak	Ryan
April 24/25	N Wales Tremadog	Jakob
May 11/12	Llangollen	Dan
May 24–27 BH	Peak	Steve S
June 8/9	North Wales (hut)	Georgi
June 22/23	Lakes	Col
July 6/7	Peak BBQ	Jakob
July 20/21	Yorkshire	Phill N
Aug 10/11	White Peak	Georgi
Aug 24-26 BH	Anglesey	Celeste
Sep 14/15	Yorkshire	Al
Sep 24-Oct 1	Lundy	Lucy
Oct 12/13	Swanage	John
Oct 26/27	Northumberland	Nick
Nov 16/17 (TBC)	Peak AGM & Dinner	Jakob
Jan 10/11	N Wales Capel	Roger
Jan 24/25	Lakes Coppermines	Jakob
Feb 7/8	N Wales Nant Peris	Chris
Feb 21/22	Lakes Patterdale	Steve W
March 1-8	Scottish Winter meet	Col
March 22/23 or 29/30	Hut. Venue & date TBD	
April 12/13	Camping. Venue TBD	

The 24/25 meets programme runs from Easter to Easter as usual. We have decided to continue the recent trend of leaving the Easter weekend free for members to make local arrangements. **We need ideas and volunteers for the two meets after the 2025 SWM please...**



New Year party meet pics from the past few years 😊 see inside for this year's activities...



### **A note from our President**

Hi Fellow Polaroids! As I write this in late February, the signs of Spring are all round in my part of the woods. Despite a lack of frost and snow - replaced by a deluge of rain, wind and mud - the 2024 meets programme has started with three excellent outings. As always with PMC, attendees on these made the most of the prevailing conditions, with some of us exploring routes for inclusion in "Classic Grass" and others for a new guidebook, "Exploring Welsh Slate Quarries by Night" (see meet reports for details). Despite the mild conditions we live in hope that the upcoming Winter meet will be blessed with superb wintery conditions. However, whatever happens weather-wise, this is a high spot of the meets Calendar, and the club will have a fantastic week in a brilliant location. Col has already re-booked Roybridge for SWM25 (1-8 March 2025) and is taking names.

Following on from the last AGM, Ben has done an excellent job setting up the PMC WhatsApp community so that now we can keep meet-specific information and Admin matters separate from the general chat. Keep posting your activities to the general chat area – it's great to see the depth and breadth of things that you all are getting up to.

Steve

## *Forthcoming Meets*

Lakes, Ambleside (last winter hut meet)  
The Loft, Blea Tarn House  
22-24 March



The Ambleside hut is at Blea Tarn House, next to Blea Tarn between Little and Big Langdale. It's called "The Loft" because that is basically what it is, a loft! So, it's small - if I recall correctly - or 'compact' may be a better description. This is the grid reference [NY 295 048](#). Details can be found on the Lancashire Mountaineering Club website at <https://lancashiremountaineeringclub.online/the-loft-hut-details/>

Once parked, **there are only six spaces**, no need to move the car until you leave. Please be as quiet as you can during the stay as the neighbours in Blea Tarn House have been complaining. Let's be noisy on the hill! As climbers and mountaineers, we can all climb but I do recall that you do need to be able to climb to grade "diff" to go to bed. Well at least on the upper bunks!

This is a great location for walking and climbing, just 2.3 kilometres from the New Dungeon Ghyll pub, which is very close to some popular crags. This is a perfect location to have a go at the Langdale Horseshoe or cut it short after Bow Fell and come back via The Band. Mountain bikers will find some adventure by dropping down into Little Langdale. Langdale is beautiful valley and one of my favourites so come and join for what will be a great weekend.

Please contact me if you are coming, or need persuading to come... Bob

**For more information, please contact us using the links at the foot of P1**

Peak  
Hardhurst Farm  
12-14 April



I have provisionally booked the [Hardhurst Farm](#) campsite with approx 8 pitches for 12th and 13th April: Hardhurst Farm, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S33 6RB. Tel: 01433 620001

This is a well-known campsite to most folk and a great location for getting out on the gritstone crags with Bamford, Stanage and Froggatt being within good striking distance. Also useful for walks up to Derwent reservoir, Kinder or Mam tor. Food and beer available at the nearby Travellers Rest after a good day on the crags is walkable from campsite.

Would be great to see as many of you there as possible, let me know if you're planning to come and I will

confirm numbers with campsite prior. Any questions give me a shout.

Cheers, Ryan

**For more information, please contact us using the links at the foot of P1**

Tremadog

26-28 April



Details of this meet will be circulated nearer the time...

**For more information, please contact us using the links at the foot of P1**

North Wales, Llangollen  
<http://www.wernisaf.co.uk/>  
10 – 12 May 2024



Gollen gosh - yes folks, we're back at a favourite venue! It's time for another North(ish) Wales meet with a difference, as we return to the Dee valley area for more PMC fun and games.

But what are we gonna-go-go do? Well whatever your interest there is a plethora of activities - llet me see if I can tempt you ...

- For anyone wishing to walk nearby then there are many points of interest such as Castell Dinas Bran, Valle Crucis Abbey and the famous Pontcysyllte Aqueduct that could be incorporated into an outing, perhaps returning on the Llangollen Steam Railway; for those looking for a bigger day out then we aren't far from the Berwyns and Moel Famau
- Bikers of the mountain variety are well catered for by the network of local trails plus the nearby Llandegla trail centre, or perhaps the Wayfarers' route, and the llycra-and-skinny-tyres fraternity can explore the nearby network of quiet lanes or perhaps conquer the Horseshoe Pass just up t'road.
- For whitewater fans there are plenty of nearby kayaking options
- And for anyone wanting to climb, there is a whole range of limestone crags nearby including both trad and sport as detailed in the RockFax guidebook (<https://www.rockfax.com/climbing-guides/books/clwyd-limestone/>) and database ([https://www.rockfax.com/databases/results\\_area.html?id=1022](https://www.rockfax.com/databases/results_area.html?id=1022))

This is a camping meet, and the nominated campsite is Wern Isaf Farm (<http://www.wernisaf.co.uk/>). This is only a short distance from the town and within walking distance of some of the crags. And yes it does take vans, so members of the Polaris Motorhome Club are also welcome to join us. For those not possessing a van nor wishing to camp there are plenty of Airbnb's and regular BnB's listed in the area on Google. There is also a nearby hostel at <https://llangollenhostel.co.uk/> - I'm planning to bring the family and will be staying there.

As ever, I hope to see you there - please llet me know if you will be camping (as per contact details below) and I will try to book us some pitches together. Dan

**For more information, please contact us using the links at the foot of P1**



## *Past Activities...*

### **Matlock meet April 29<sup>th</sup>- 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023**

On the Saturday Ian and I set off to check out Highlight HVS 5a and Skylight VS 4c on High Tor, both 3\* routes, however, both wet so we doubled back to Pic Tor and set our sights on Cistron E1 5B and Silenus E2 5B two fabulous routes bagging three stars between them. In the afternoon we took a walk over to Lorry Park Quarry, (little did I know at that that I'd spend most 2023 climbing there ☺), where we climbed Shattered Air 6B after backing off Thunder Road 6c+. At that time, it was in an idyllic quite setting within woods which is sadly no longer the case – I think it's going to be an Aldi store ☹. Of course, we had to sample some good medicine before calling it a day at the local Farmacy ...mmm tasty neck oil!



Ian heading up Shattered Air

Sunday – Ryan, Col and I met at Bamford Edge. Samsons Delight VS4c, Neb Butress Direct HVS 5A, and Auricle E2 5C were climbed bagging yet another six stars. The Auricle had been a project of Col's for a few years, so it was cool to see him nail that. It has such a cool move stretching to your limit to get established above an overhang whilst pulling on two/ three fingers in a crack with a cross over! Neb Butress Direct was a sustained fabulous route and I thoroughly enjoyed being on the sharp end! Another great day finished off with more lovely neck oil...Mmm!



Col on Auricle

On the Monday Ryan and I had a cycle around the Matlock area checking out a few climbing spots and the open-air swimming pool too.

All in all it was a fabulous weekend, particularly great to see Ian out again, Ryan getting back on his ankle...and it's always good to climb with Col. I'm looking forward to the one next already! **Steve Shillito**

### **New Year party, Rhyd Ddu 12-14 Jan 2024**

Nick and I arrived Friday lunch time and headed for Ogwen valley the cloud was low and the frozen ground even lower so after walking in with no crampons we head from Gribin facet and did a bit of scrambling on there before heading to the hut. I got there first as Nick headed off for supplies (beer) people started arriving through the evening, Roger with his great pictures of his walk up Yr Aran. With a roaring fire and the usual chat people headed to their beds, Tom and Ian having still not arrived. We woke the next morning to learn they had had an adventure, arriving at the hut just after midnight.

Saturday arrived and looking out of the window we all noticed a totally different weather front than what had been predicted. Hugh, Jacob and Cele headed to Ogwen to climb on the slab (ordinary route) and then off up Seniors ridge. Myself Steve Nick and Phil headed straight from the hut to summit Snowdon (not politically correct but I can't spell the Welsh name!) coming back to the hut via the rangers' path and some very atmospheric quarries. Dan took the day to ride over on his bike, taking in Llyn Vyrnwy and lake Bala. Saturday night food was a plenty and we had a great lesson in climbing gear history from Tom and Ian, who had gone to pick up Ian's poles that they had left the day before on their epic.



Sunday came and everyone heading their separated ways, with weather turning again. Thanks to the eleven who came and made it an enjoyable weekend. **Chris**



Previous page:  
Hugh, Jake and  
Celeste above  
Llyn Ogwen.

Left: Phil Stewart  
with Steve, Roger,  
Shane & Chris.  
Jake with Celeste  
and Hugh heading  
back. The  
President sets a  
high bar for the  
fancy dress.

Dan describes his weekend...

I wasn't able to leave home for Wales until the Saturday morning, which meant I wouldn't have been there in time to join the rest of the group for their various outings. So to make the most what time I did have I packed a bike and some cold weather gear and stopped off at Bala on my way up. Starting from here I tackled the "Alpine Adventure" route from the excellent "Lost Lanes - Wales" guidebook, which makes it way up and over Cwm Hirnant (steep!) to Llyn Vrynwy on a very minor road; I can't have seen more than 5 cars and no other people on my journey to the lake.

Following the eastern shoreline of the lake I then crossed it at the head of the dam and returned on the opposite side, almost completing a full circuit before turning off at Pont Eunant to climb Bwlch y Groes (Pass of the Cross - even steeper!) on an even more deserted road - I didn't even see any cars this time!

Reaching the top of the pass, from here it is apparently a "long, joyful descent", says my book - in summer perhaps, not in sub-zero temperatures with ice across the road! Glad of the grip of the slightly knobby tyres and of stopping power of the disc brakes on my gravel bike, and proceeding with caution, I made it through the frozen bits unscathed - from whereon it was indeed a long and fast descent down to my second shoreline of the day, Llyn Tegid (or Lake Bala as most know it), which I followed back to the car park. 34 miles and nigh on 1000m of climbing were satisfying stats at the end of a really great ride and one that I will return to.



Sunday. I left the hut and headed to Pentrefoelas on the A5 intent on another Lost Lanes adventure, this time in the Conwy Valley. However the weather had other ideas and with 2deg C showing on my car dashboard and sleet on the windscreen, I decided against it and carried on my journey vaguely homewards. Other alternative routes at Denbigh, Llangollen, Chirk and further on at Telford all succumbed to the cold wetness, which didn't actually stop until I got back to Leamington! Ah well, at least I tried ... **Dan**

### **'Not in the guidebook'**

*Tom recounts what he and Ian got up to that weekend...*

That a clearly obvious route into the mountains in Snowdonia is not in any guidebook is a surprise. But the north-east ridge of Mynydd Perfedd plunging down to the Nant Francon has escaped the fate of guidebook climbs. Ian and Tom climbed it on the Friday in "half" winter conditions. If you were on the sunny side of the ridge the top quarter inch had melted, if on the shadowy side there was deep-frozen ground.

We ascended by the wall and crossed Cwm Graianog. Ahead was a daunting cockscomb of rock. However, it was easier than it looked with a little gully taking you above the steepest part. There were superb views across the Cwm to Atlantic Slabs. Gradually the clouds rolled in. But there was an inversion, just brilliant weather above a sea of white billows, with Tryfan, the Glyders and Pen Yr Ole Wen spiking up above the breakers.

We arrived at the top and then went along the ridge to Carnedd Y Filiast, intending to descend on the footpaths to the north. All went well until, in the gathering gloom, we hit a steep section of ice bosses and crags. It took us some time to sort this out by short sections of roped descent into the dark below. Then the paths gave out. Tracks on the OS map down through Penrhyn quarry failed to appear. We clambered through the heather for hours along the top of the quarry. Definitely not in the guidebook.



Eventually we found a reasonable track and wandered down and past the quarry buildings before shocking the night watchman in his little cabin. Then we had to tramp all the way up the A5 into the Nant Francon. It was an excellent day's outing. Back at the hut we were greeted by Celeste, beer, and a roaring fire. Most welcome.

But I just can't understand how Ian and I have gained this reputation for ending climbs in the wee small hours. We get down in the light quite often. And this time we were in time for breakfast. Easily.

**Tom**

### **Patterdale, 27-28 January 2024**

Until just over a week before this meet I was reasonably optimistic that we might be blessed with wintery conditions. However, the weather gods were not playing ball and dealt us the double whammy of Storms Isha and Jocelyn a few days before the meet. These left the Lakes Fells largely free of snow. Despite this, eight Polaroids duly arrived at the hut at various times looking forward to a weekend of fun.

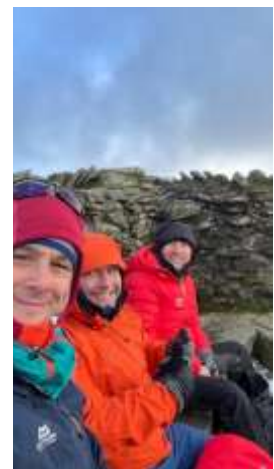


**Friday** The Burley three of Jonathan, Bob and I got to the hut at lunchtime, had a quick nibble and cuppa then boots on for an afternoon walk comprising a circumnavigation of Sheffield Pike via Glenridding, Greenside Lead Mines and Glencoyne. This was a nice ramble in breezy but dry conditions with nice views of Ullswater. Due to a sore shoulder Jonathan decided at the mines not continue. He went back to Patterdale via Lanty's tarn. Our parting words were "get the fire lit" so when me and Bob got back the stove was glowing and the hut warming up nicely. Soon after Chris, Shane and Nick rocked up. They had made most of the dry but breezy conditions to complete the Patterdale classic of Helvellyn via

Striding Edge (up) and Swirl Edge (down). They weren't too troubled by the remanent snow fields at the tops of these two edges. However strong winds made for a biting cold summit. Tom and Ian then arrived to complete the group. They had picked off Red Screes from the top of Kirkstone Pass. They descended to The Struggle making sure to avoid the quarries. Those who were at the Party Meet in Wales two weeks earlier will understand the significance of this avoidance of quarries thing. At about 6pm Ian declared it was "beer o'clock" and we all concurred. A little later we were joined by four members of the CMC. They made us most welcome, and we had a most convivial weekend with them.

**Saturday** The forecast was for high winds at height with rain arriving in the late afternoon, so plans were made accordingly.

Chris, Shane and Nick went off to Langdale with a plan to climb Middle Fell Buttress. This was thwarted by the route being clogged with traffic. Due to work commitments the following day Nick returned home. Chris and Shane put Plan B into action – a traverse of Lingmoor Fell from the ODG to Chapel Stile.



Above: Bob & Jonathan by the slate quarries. Right: on Striding Edge; Nick, Chris & Shane on the summit.



Cat sitting duties (!) meant that Jonathan had to return home Saturday morning. Bob and I went for the tour de Saint Sunday Crag option. This is a lovely route taking in wild, rugged Deepdale, Deepdale Hause and Grisedale Tarn, with a return along Grisedale. The rain came in earlier than forecast – at midday. This, combined with the high wind, made the decent from Deepdale Hause into Grisedale a bit interesting to say the least. However, despite the buffeting still a grand day out.

Bob on Le Tour



Tom and Ian went off-piste again. On a day of doubtful weather and gales on the ridges, they set off early up Grisedale for the east ridge of Dollywaggon Pike. But when they got to the bottom of the ridge they wimped out, and proceeded to Cock Cove, a tiny corrie high up under Dollywaggon's summit. They exited onto the ridge via a steep grass gully and battled 50mph winds on the final push to the summit. Back down to the safety of Grisedale Tarn and the long flog down Grisedale. Got back to the hut before dark.

**Sunday** With summit winds forecast to be 60-70mph the meet bailed out after breakfast. Chris and Shane for home, Tom and Ian went for a walk round Aira Force and Bob and I went to Keswick for a bit of retail therapy.

Thanks to everyone for an excellent weekend in a great venue. **Steve Wright**

## **Wales, Fronwydyr 10/11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024**

Immediately after the Rhyd Ddu meet in January, North Wales had a week of snow covered hills with blue skies - hopefully a foretaste of winter. However this did not last and the rain set in again. However there was a chance of something better, when on the Wednesday before the meet they forecast 10" of snow! Hopes of actually getting into mountains to enjoy this were dashed when we had heavy rain instead. At least five members still said they would be attending so I set off on Friday morning in low cloud, but with the promise of a dry day on Saturday.



As the cloud was fairly low I decided to have a look at Llyn Conwy and the river Conwy from the Migneint side. This area is quite barren, but good track leads to the lake from the B4407. The cloud was just touching the surrounding tops when I arrived and I had hopes of it lifting, but as I went along the track it started to drizzle. After about half a mile around a bend I was amazed to see a parked transit van. It turned out that this was the support vehicle for two mini diggers that were working on the moor excavating ponds in the peat - presumably a water retention scheme. As there were no passing places or solid ground on which to

turn I can only assume that they reversed back at the end of the days work. I continued for about a mile along the track to outflow from the lake where the river was flowing profusely. Plans to circumnavigate the lake were thwarted after following the shoreline path for half an hour when a footbridge over a tributary was discovered to be under a foot of water! leading to possibly a deep bog. I therefore turned up a grassy flank onto Brynian Duon and returned over Llechwedd Brynian Defiad as the fog and drizzle was starting to set in.

The drive to Capel Curig was uneventful, although quite a few kayakers were on the fast flowing brown water Conwy at Padog by the A5. The ascent from the Pen y Gwryd to Pen-y-Pass was in 10 metres visibility which suddenly cleared completely when starting the descent of the pass. Chris had arrived and opened up the hut. Steve and Bob joined us around 9p,m having been stuck in A55 roadworks for about two hours (**Note!** Roadworks are planned on the A55 including closures and single lane working throughout the year from Flint to Anglesey - check road reports before travelling. Connecting onto the A5 can be a better option.).

Saturday dawned still and clear. Tom joined us early with ambitions of an ascent of a rarely visited ridge behind Llanberis. Steve and Bob decided to join him on this. [See below]



Chris and I decided on an Elidir Fawr day, but out via Esgair Y Ceunant and Bwlch y Breacan. Both parties were away by 9 a.m on a glorious spring day (14 degrees). No snow was visible anywhere. This is a route that we've normally used in descent so it made a change to go up. Although quite steep initially it soon brings one onto a flattish ridge leading to a contour track across Foel-Goch and to the main Ogwen ridge. From here there were



superb views of all Snowdonia - just hints of snow on the Northern faces of the Carneddau. Having seen no one since we started there was now a steady flow of people on the ridge, mostly heading towards Y Garn.

By midday we had reached the summit (along with 22 others) and sat in the sun for lunch. A light cool breeze kept the wind chill temperature down to freezing level, but this didn't seem to have stopped a teenage girl who arrived in a bare midriff top and no other gear. The family she was with didn't have any rucksacks either.

We decided to travel back along the summit ridge and soon discovered that the north (shady) side boulders were covered in verglas, so sunny side we stayed. Following the crest is always intricate and we took 40 minutes to the grassy flanks above Dinorwic Quarries. As we had plenty of time we decided to return via the quarries and commenced our descent near the pumped storage scheme surge shaft.

There is a defined path down the inclines connecting the many levels and numerous people were exploring the quarries' old buildings at each level. Some inclines had steps alongside and one winding house still contained the drum, braking system and haulage ropes. The quarries closed in the early 1960's. Return to the hut was along the main quarry footpath, where there were signs of some blocks from the spoil heaps having slid onto the path since our visit last year - at least there is now a new footbridge near the farm at the road end.

In the evening I showed some slides showing how winters have changed since the 80's. Hills are no longer covered in snow during the winter, certainly not long enough to become névé.



Sunday had turned into another dank, drizzly dull day so the consensus was to pack up and go home, but all agreed it had been a fantastic weekend. **Roger**

*Tom describes his outing on Saturday...*

**The North East ridge of Moel Cynghorion.** When that daunting and long overdue guidebook, Classic Grass, is published, I hope that I might make a small contribution. The NE ridge of Moel Cynghorion should occupy a brief chapter. You know that when you can reach out your hand and touch the emerald sod in front of you that the towering ridge above might be a winner. You will all have your favourite entry into this catalogue of dire ascents, and descents too, often late at night.

Steve Wright, Bob Power and Tom Miller yomped up the Afon Arddu valley from Llanberis way beyond the old farmhouse at Helfa Fawr trying unsuccessfully to avoid the deep bogs full of mud. Beneath Moel Cynghorion, and at half height, is a tiny flat-bottomed cwm achieved by a long steep ribbon of grass above crags.

And on the left side of the cwm above another grassy scramble is a narrow crested, and steep ridge poised above the valley, the ideal place to view Clogwyn Dur Addu. We paused to take in the dramatic surroundings. Careful scrambling helped to avoid the worst of the slippery rock. There was a final flourish of really steep grass. Best done quickly in case the whole lot collapses.





We arrived at the top just as a sedate party of pedestrians were passing. They had some difficulty in believing anyone could be so mad as to try this impending route.

We lounged on the flat summit in the mild February sunshine. The previous days' rain had washed all the dust out of the atmosphere, and the form of every cwm and crag was displayed with exquisite detail. There was hardly a cloud in the sky. All the best summits are those gained by routes that are exhausting, and where the eventual outcome is in doubt right to the end.



**Tom**

Steve, Bob & Tom

## **The Gable Axe – who and why. Part 1.**

*Tom's long-awaited catalogue of recipients and what they did to deserve it...*

1980 John Parker. He's not sure why he got the Gable Axe, but probably for bringing new heights of enthusiasm, and irreverence, to the Club; for whistling all the time, and doing raspberries whilst he rock-climbed. Been cycling on thin ice ever since...



Dave Higgins on the hand traverse

1981 Dave Higgins. Award for climbing Traverse of the Gods around Swanage lighthouse. An adventurous and committing sea level expedition with John Parker, involving lots of complicated ropework (pendulums, Tyrolean traverses, etc...) and a swim across a zawn to finish!

1982 David Evans. Award for finally finding and climbing, with Dennis Beale, Arch Gully on Bidean nam Bian. The award meant he could stop going on about previous failed attempts.

1983 John Chapman. Award for spotting, coming back late from a day on the hill on the SWM, that the gritters were out, and there was a full moon on a starry night. He and John Parker did the Aonach Eagach ridge by moonlight in brilliant alpine conditions.

1984 No award.

1985 Roger Kingshott. Award for umpteen long service years as Secretary. His job as Secretary was hut meets arrangements, BMC, Meets Card, fighting the Club duplicator, the Newsletter, Meet reports, lack of Meet reports, new members, correspondence. (NB This job now split between four people)

1986 Rosemary Fox Made big efforts to be a mountaineer. God loves a trier. And she was often trying. But hold on. Wasn't she the one who, in July 1986, descended to the valley from the High-Level Meet from a camp at Blea Water to get cans of beer for the troops?

1987 Ernest Snow. Award for many years of faithful work as secretary, and especially the letter to Cupid (1956) complaining about the number of marriages in Polaris and begging him to stop interfering with the fun. Also, for his pyrotechnical ability, including the yearly monster bonfire meet.

1988 Dave Parker. He's not sure. But he was leader of that notorious Lundy meet, where guests Alg and Boo-Boo succeeded in their self-set challenge of drinking 100 pints of the local brew "John O's" in the week.

1989 Frank English. The most consistent meet attender this year (and don't we all need those?). Including a traverse of the Cullin ridge, leading Engineers Slab, the Sloth, 14 VSs on one meet, and a new route – A Day in the Garden.

1990 Jo Makin. Kept the Club going before the days of e mail and BACS. Got the Club duplicator working. Got people to pay subs, "cos the Club doesn't run on air". The Leader with the drive to go to really odd places, like the Irish meet in the



Lundy 1988. Dave and brothers plus Bev and Ros

Burren. (Erin go bragh!)

1991 John Makin. Award for a courageous and determined recovery after a terrible accident on Summit Gully, Stob Coire nam Beith. Mountaineering is still a dangerous sport.

1992 Dennis Beale. An amazing mountaineer, with a string of ascents among the 14,000 ft mountains of the Alps, the Rockies, the Sierra Nevada and the Tettons. All solos. Risk? What risk? And doing the 14 Threes at the age of 70. They don't make them like that any more.



Dennis Beale aged 71 on Win Hill

1993 John Merritt. In 1992, Elt and Jo Makin attempted the round of the Mullardoch mountains. Award to Elt for getting the party off Sgurr nan Ceathramhnan in a violent thunderstorm, and producing a dry packet of fags for Jo that evening in camp.

1994 Tim Healey. Not every Gable Axe award is for distinguished service. Tim was a very active member in the 1950's, but work and illness curtailed his meet attendances after 1960. But he still attended the AGM and Dinner, and in due course furnished the Club with his and Eileen's dramatic story. "They also serve who only stand and wait."

1995 Al and Bev Cuff. Al is not sure. Rumour has it that the award was for testing the springs of a camper van nearly to destruction. No, not like that 😊 On one occasion they hosted nine members. Is this a record?

1996 Rosemary Fox. Tried to drive over Hardknot Pass. Half way up she decided against it, and proceeded to reverse back down. But she reversed off the road and rolled her car over twice. And walked away unharmed. A normal sort of day in the mountains.

1997 Tony Thorley. He "bestowed on the Club one of the greatest favours ever given". A minor accident (staged?) eliminated endless talk at subsequent AGMs about the non-existent problem of smoking on Club meets. Further lurid details on application to TT.



Mr. Thorley, 1997

1998 Ralph Ford. Another golden oldie who, when not putting out fires in York Minster, delighted/appalled PMC members with his primitive gear. This was a guy who walked 60 miles to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary meet, and rock climbed on a minimal waist tie all the next day.

1999 Ian Johnson. Award for a full year of herding cats, aka the 1998 60<sup>th</sup> year anniversary meet. And, yes, it passed off without a hitch, to the enjoyment of all.

2000 Darren Vincent. Took a party of fit young squaddies to S America. None of them appear to have had any mountaineering experience. How very British. They climbed Urus, and Ishinca, failed on Huscaran, and Copa (all over 5000 metres), and did the Inca Trail.

Information correct at the time of writing, with a few flights of fancy to fill in the gaps.

**Tom Miller**

### *50 years of newsletters!*

Certain items from the club archive are gradually being made available online. I've just finished digitising the newsletters back to 1974, which can be viewed on our Google drive. There's some excellent stuff hidden in those past newsletters, for example, those going to Lundy this year might be interested to read about the hilarious September 2000 trip in newsletter 2001/1 😊 JP





*And finally... a few recent pics from social media*



Sip kayaks the flooded River Parrett; a very happy Tom Miller with cloud inversion on Mynydd Perfedd; Phil Stewart's Arran Fawddy summit; Georgi, Ryan and Steve, the spider crew at Alicante; Phil Stewart's picture of the Fairfield Horseshoe; JP's flooded Dorset trails; Bob on the Sheffield Pike round; Purkis and Parkers' neolithic cave painting 😊; Phill out in the snow on Barden Moor; Steve S in a dramatic position at Alicante; Chris Lunn totally wedged in on the traverse of Lingmoor Fell; Lucy and Snow White, ski touring in Switzerland; Col leads the bold slab of Downhill Racer E4 6a on Froggatt; Chris at the monument on Striding Edge, Helvellyn; Georgi on Highlight HVS, High Tor; Nick's picture of Roseberry Topping, North York Moors; TT/Wonder Woman mid-flight in the Spacehopper Steeplechase, party meet 2011.