



## May. 2015 NEXT CLUB EVENTS

21 <sup>st</sup> May	Shepherds – Sue Greenwood
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Crag Lough – Phil Wilkinson
4 <sup>th</sup> June	Reecastle, Watendlath – Dave Ferguson
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Dow Crag – Dorine Tinnion
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Raven Crag Walthwaite – Mike Tinnion
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Black Crag, Borrowdale – Tony Morley
Sun 21 June	Pillar – Ian Armstrong
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Goucher Crag, Swindale – Dorine Tinnion

### OTHER EVENTS

Eden Rock	10% discount on entry fee with CMC card
King Kong	£5.50 with CMC card
<b>NOTE</b>	<b>Meet leaders details on page 4</b>

### Chairman's notes [chair@carlislemc.co.uk](mailto:chair@carlislemc.co.uk)

Lots of meets coinciding with dry rock lately (especially Thursday evenings) – long may that continue. Shame about the newcomers meet being washed out but hopefully the new members are getting to know people anyway.

**Newsletter** A good selection of articles (try to include pictures) including one from down under – thanks all. Keep sending your articles to: -

[newsletter@carlislemc.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@carlislemc.co.uk)

### **Meets**

A list of meets for this year has been sent out. If anyone does not have this please let me know.

### **ROY BRIDGE MEET - March 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> 2015**

*By Phil Wilkinson*

By the time Sue and I arrived at the Little Houses on Friday evening, Dan, Steve and John Wilson had already had a good days skiing in Glen Coe. It was not long before the other “house” filled up and with the arrival of Martin Smith and friend, Chris, there was a total of 12 members and 3 associates. The refurbished houses are now splendid.

With an improving forecast for Saturday, most were keen to get an early start, 6 o'clock being the average. The Ben was the target for everyone and for good reason. Low temperature, little wind and a clear sky greeted us on the walk in. Arriving at the hut we bumped into Ray who was feeling a bit unwell, but luckily recovered and teamed up with John Wilson, Steve and Dan to do Ledge Route. They had a thoroughly enjoyable day out, soloing most of the route then heading off to the summit before descending into Coire Leis, where John did a few metres rather faster than intended!

We were heading for Indicator Wall and rounding the corner into Observatory Gully, we spied Tim, Jenny and Ian on the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch of Minus Two Gully (V,5). Apparently the start was mixed climbing before

the ice improved further up. Finishing up N.E. Buttress, the man trap with its problems was outflanked by easier snow slopes ( don't tell Peter Sowerby!).

Further up the gully, Hadrian's Direct and Point 5 were getting busy. Charlie and John Holden had their hearts set on the latter, but a slot appeared on Hadrian's (V.5) and they grabbed it. They had to contend with slow and eager parties so a long day ensued, but did not detract from a grand day out on a classic ice climb. (Wow!! Fabulous!!!)

A couple of ice screws skittered down our gully ( one fielded by Sue came in very useful later) presumably from the team on Psychedelic Wall. We were glad to get out of the firing line and traverse to our route on Indicator Wall (V.4).

Two lads were just moving off the 2<sup>nd</sup> stance, so we were lucky to have no-one in front. Martin and Chris arrived unexpectedly so we had good company, Martin tracing his own original line to our right, leaving us to enjoy ours without pressure. The main pitch was glassy in places and nicely sustained with good ice. I had the distinction of making the highest belay in the UK, with a sling round the trig point. Andy and Roger, two friends of Ian's, staying with us appeared lower down on the route, making it feel like a real meet.

From the summit, viewing the “little” munroes down below was an amazing experience; equally unusual was enjoying a leisurely lunch in the sun by the observatory.

Facebook has shown what a wonderful day it was because words are not enough.

On Sunday, folk were either too worn out for more, had already had 2 days or needed to return early. Sue and I arranged an extra night in the house in order to do Ledge Route, and not to have to drive back. The weather was still reasonable, with the tops clear, not much wind and staying dry.

There is only one word to describe Ledge Route-magnificent! I would grade it more like an Alpine PD, instead of Grade II as the technical difficulty is low, but the exposure is mega all the way to the top. That final snow is stunning.

So ended a very successful meet. A day like Saturday makes up for all the times spent walking in the rain and battling the wind to no avail.

Phil Wilkinson

### **Hadrians Wall but not as most people know it!**

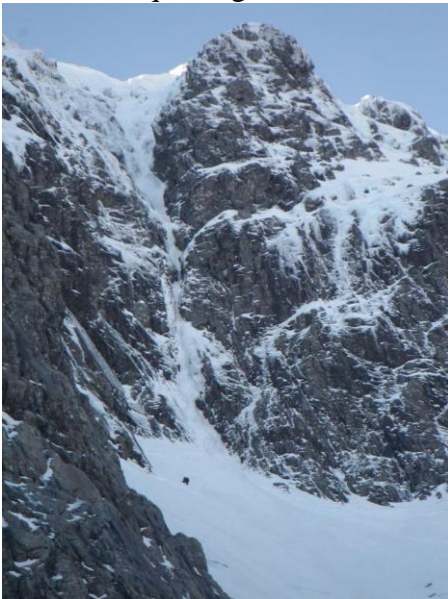
*By John Holden*

Three days a week living in Stoke, very little climbing for the last year, one day out on Brown Cove Crag and a week of "sports ice" in Norway, perfect training for a big mountain day out on The Ben?

Saturday morning, 4.30 O'clock and the alarms are ringing all around the chalet, bleary eyed we eat breakfast, pack lunch and snacks into prepacked sacs and head off for the North Face Car park.

6 O'clock, boots on and set off up the improved path through the forest, old route to the level terrace then the new, but easier upper route. About 40 minutes to the deer fence and up crossing the snow bridge by the CIC at 8.

Refuelled we set off up into Observatory gully, which today had a look of the plaza on the entrance to Wembley Stadium, on cup-final day, with people streaming in from all directions to ascend the clean sweep of neve, which could be seen rising all the way to the plateau. This is where the "training regime" really kicked in as yours truly began to slow down a bit, so by the time we were getting close to our target (Point 5) there were two ropes already on route, with three more queuing at the bottom.



However, all was not lost, whilst a couple of parties

were roping up for a fine sweep of ice to the left, on the flank of Observatory Ridge, it was clear that the ice was wide enough in most places for two, even three ropes to climb side by side.

So, with me firmly tied to an in situ Abalakov Charlie set off in pursuit of the last in the party of three ahead of us, passing them at the very restricted belay, soon after which a call came over the Radio to climb with him, so he could reach a suitable belay. A long pitch which took us to a belay below an ice chimney, the crux of the route.

We found here that there is no substitute for being first on the route as the party of three then two more ropes of two passed us up and through the chimney. The chimney, with good pro and great bridging was reasonably easy to climb, but was now the focus for all the snow, ice, gloves and other gear falling from the parties above and consequently took a long time to exit as first Charlie then I had to bury our heads in the ice to avoid the crap from above....a scenario that continued until the final pitch, again with us climbing together, finally arriving at the top at about 5 O'clock.

The route had been in superb condition, magic snow ice and plenty of bosses of water ice for bomber screws, every axe placement was perfect. I even managed to lead a couple of linking pitches, easy but making me very aware of the monster exposure.

The scenery was magnificent, watching many parties on the backdrop of Tower Ridge and enjoying the fabulous views of range after range of snow capped hills, with even Skye and Rhum appearing out of the distant haze later in the day.

Now followed a long long descent down Coire Leis, starting with an abseil from a superb bollard at the CMD col and then snow every inch of the way back to the CIC.

Eventually getting back to the car at about 10, after a painfully long tramp down the Allt and through the forest I was too knackered even to take my boots off so Charlie drove us back to Roy bridge and take away Haggis, Tatties and Neeps from the Stronlossit, courtesy of Tim and Jenny, thanks folks.

Well! Sixteen hours on the hill, bleeding and battered from debris from above, totally knackered at the end of the day.....was it worth it?

You bet it was worth it, Hadrians wall Direct V.5 300m, my hardest ever winter route and a superb day out. Many, many thanks to Charlie who looked after me every inch of the way and never complained, even

on the interminable decent in the dark...Charlie, you are a star.

Now! About that training regime? Roll on retirement.

## Winter Mileage Dec 2014- March 2015

*By Phil Wilkinson & Sue Greenwood*

Now into rock climbing outside again hopefully but here is how we spent the winter. We had hoped to do something fantastic on the Ben eventually this winter so we began exploring the snow as soon as it arrived to get the feel of the axes etc. The first chance was a gully near to Moffat on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, only 2 weeks after the sunny Hangover climbing at Clifton. A fortnight later, an attempt at Red Screes proved too optimistic but we got accustomed to scrunching down some frozen snowy slopes on a beautiful clear day. New Year in Scotland found us firstly viewing some crags on a very windy walk from Corie Cas, back by the side of Binach in blizzards. Some kind people gave us a lift back to the car, thinking that one of us was limping (a good ploy!) The wind lessened on Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> to enable us to find excellent snow ice on "The Runnel" at Corie an Sneachda. I wore more warm clothes the next day and we found 30m of really good "proper" ice on "Aladin's Couloir" where I wished I was wearing my best crampons. Amazingly calm on the plateau, a lovely day, with no fierce wind to blow us off. Back in the Lakes, we struggled to keep up the momentum, with an inventive route up Blencathra, followed by a very damp viewing of Great End (not a soul about!) However, Phil ever eagle eyed for a bit of ice, spotted a good stretch on Window Gully (III). Too good to be missed, 6 days later we were back and Window Gully was exciting with excellent ice towards the top. We were really on our way to the Meet at Newtonmore but the forecast for Scotland was grim so we needed one success first. Only 6 stalwarts at the bunkhouse! A very gusty walk from the hostel along Glen Bancher was all we could manage on Saturday but Sunday saw John Wilson, Pete and us on the lovely Ben-y-Vrakie, near Pitlochry; we could leave the track and feel that we had a snow climb after all...in the sun too...with fantastic views. Feb 8<sup>th</sup> and Bleawater Ghyll (III) provided 3 really good pitches, avoiding the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch of thin, dodgy ice. Sun shining again, no wind, 2 other climbers only. I then sneaked in an extra day with Dorine on Cust Gully, Great End where we were marvellously above the clouds. Phil equalled that by soloing Routes 1 and 2 on Helvellyn when I was away.

By going to Coran Ferry a day early, we managed the "Curtain's"(IV.5) 3 pitches. A bit tenuous on the last pitch so not surprising to see that by March 21<sup>st</sup>, the Curtain was just a streak of water. In fact, it was somewhat heart stopping for the lead climber, as the ice was hardly there for about 2 metres. At the final belay, a large Hungarian said "Sue, you should abseil off!" Not possible.....we managed....and that was after at least 9 people before me had knocked off a bit more of the white stuff. Plenty of spin drift accompanied us on the way down over the avalanche debris. I think it was an 11 hour day but worth it even tho` I was heard to say "I'll only come back in perfect conditions". The next 2 days were spent clambering about in the Lost Valley and half a munro near Loch Lomond on the wind free side. One last gully near Dove Crag, ending on Grasmoor on March 15<sup>th</sup> still required crampons and a walking axe. The thin ice on the very scenic rocks round there was like cobwebs with tiny icicles attached. Then, finally, Roy Bridge, "perfect conditions" and our amazing 2 climbs which Phil has described, well worth waiting and practising for. Not an exceptionally good winter with so much wind but still some memorable, enjoyable expeditions.

## Charlie Wilson and the Carlisle Mountaineering Club

*By Pete McDonald now in NZ*

Charlie R Wilson was a well-known Lake District climber of the 1930s. The book *Cumbrian Rock* (1988) contains some of his 'comprehensive set of hundreds of climbing photographs' from that decade. He took part in the first ascent of May Day Climb (1938) and of Overhanging Bastion (1939).

On 1 January 1939, Wilson, Jim Birkett and Len Muscroft formed themselves into the Cumberland and Westmorland Guides. The standard daily charge for a route such as Central Buttress was £1.50 with a maximum of three in the party.<sup>1</sup> Eight years and one war later, in September 1947, Wilson was one of the first five people recognised as a climbing guide by the British Mountaineering Council.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Trevor Jones and Geoff Milburn, *Cumbrian Rock: 100 Years of Climbing in the Lake District* (Glossop, UK: Pic Publications, 1988), pp. 4, 106–109, 111.

<sup>2</sup> *The First Fifty Years of the British Mountaineering Council*, ed. by Geoff Milburn, Derek Walker and Ken Wilson (Manchester: British Mountaineering Council, 1997), p. 224.



According to Ken Ogilvie, in the late 1940s, Wilson 'started the Carlisle Mountaineering Club'.<sup>3</sup> An early mention of the club occurred in a newspaper article on 1 March 1948. The story described a climbing accident involving Harold Stephenson (25), a member of Carlisle Mountaineering Club. Also mentioned was 'the leader of the party, Mr C Wilson'.<sup>4</sup>

In February 1948 the director of education for Cumberland had reported that the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health had approved the appropriation of the Keswick Casual Wards premises for educational purposes. On 16 April 1948 the Cumberland education committee approved a scale of charges for this residential facility. It is likely that the building opened as a day and residential youth centre about this time. Some records call it the County Youth Centre, others call it Keswick Youth Centre; much later it would become known as Denton House.

At some point in the late 1940s or early 1950s, Charlie Wilson became the assistant county youth officer for Cumberland. His connections with the Carlisle Mountaineering Club gave him ready access to a potential pool of voluntary instructors for courses in outdoor pursuits.<sup>5</sup> Some of these courses were based at Keswick Youth Centre. An early account of one of these courses described a climbing weekend run by Wilson at Keswick Youth Centre on 11–12 March 1950.<sup>6</sup> 'Twenty-two Lancashire and Cumberland youths attended the first [of a] series of three week-end schools in rock climbing, organised by Cumberland Education Committee in conjunction with the Central Council for Physical Training and Recreation ... They had lectures on equipment and the theory of rock climbing and mountain rescue work by leaders of the Carlisle Mountaineering Club'.

Charlie Wilson, with the help of members of Carlisle Mountaineering Club, contributed greatly to the development of outdoor pursuits in Cumberland schools and youth organisations. Ken Ogilvie has described Wilson's work as

nationally significant: 'As a Youth Service Officer for Cumberland after World War II, he was one of the foremost pioneers in the country developing outdoor pursuits within an education authority.'<sup>7</sup>

Keswick Youth Centre was later renamed Denton House, probably in the 1960s. It is now a private residential outdoor pursuits centre.

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Author's note: research into the first few years (1948–52) of Keswick Youth Centre is continuing. Please contact me if you have any additional information about this period.

Pete McDonald, January 2015.

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'Hull Man Injured on Lakeland Climb', *Daily Mail*, 1 Mar 1948, p. 1.

Jones, Trevor and Geoff Milburn, *Cumbrian Rock: 100 Years of Climbing in the Lake District* (Glossop, UK: Pic Publications, 1988).

Knowlson, Frederick P, 'Climbing in Lakeland', *Yorkshire Post*, 13 Mar 1950, p. 1.

Milburn, Geoff, Derek Walker and Ken Wilson, eds, *The First Fifty Years of the British Mountaineering Council* (Manchester: British Mountaineering Council, 1997).

Ogilvie, Ken C, *Roots and Wings: A History of Outdoor Education and Outdoor Learning in the UK* (Lyme Regis, UK: Russell House Publishing, 2013).

#### **Keswick Mountain Festival 14th – 17th May**

Outdoor activities, world class speakers, sporting events, camping and live music in the evening- there is something for every adventurer. Browse the website and discover all the Festival has to offer to create your ultimate outdoors weekend.

<http://www.keswickmountainfestival.co.uk/>

#### **Meets contacts**

Removed for web version.

See members handbook or meets list for contacts.

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<sup>3</sup> Ken C Ogilvie, *Roots and Wings: A History of Outdoor Education and Outdoor Learning in the UK* (Lyme Regis, UK: Russell House Publishing, 2013), p. 285.

<sup>4</sup> 'Hull Man Injured on Lakeland Climb', *Daily Mail*, 1 Mar 1948, p. 1.

<sup>5</sup> Ken C Ogilvie, *Roots and Wings: A History of Outdoor Education and Outdoor Learning in the UK* (Lyme Regis, UK: Russell House Publishing, 2013), p. 285.

<sup>6</sup> Frederick P Knowlson, 'Climbing in Lakeland', *Yorkshire Post*, 13 Mar 1950, p. 1.

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<sup>7</sup> Ken C Ogilvie, *Roots and Wings: A History of Outdoor Education and Outdoor Learning in the UK* (Lyme Regis, UK: Russell House Publishing, 2013), pp. 222–223.