



## May 2013 NEXT CLUB EVENTS

16th May	Wodens Face / Quayfoot (John Holden)
23rd May	Shepherds Crag (Ian Armstrong)
24-26 May	Torver nr Coniston (Sue Greenwood)
30th May	Castle Rock (Sue Greenwood)
6th June	Crag Lough (Phil Wilkinson)
9th June	Pillar Rock (Tim Millen)
13th June	Steele Knotts/Goat Crag (Tony Morley)
<b>Note</b>	<b>See page 4 for details of Torver meet</b>

### OTHER EVENTS

Tues. nights	£1 discount at Eden Rock (with CMC card)
Thurs. nights	Penrith climbing wall 6.30pm (if it's wet)
<b>NOTE</b>	<b>See members handbook for tel no's</b>

This month has brought us the very sad news that we have lost one of our most loved members Jackie Jackson (see tribute on page 4).

Thanks to those members who have contributed articles. Please keep them and any feedback coming & send them to the new address: -

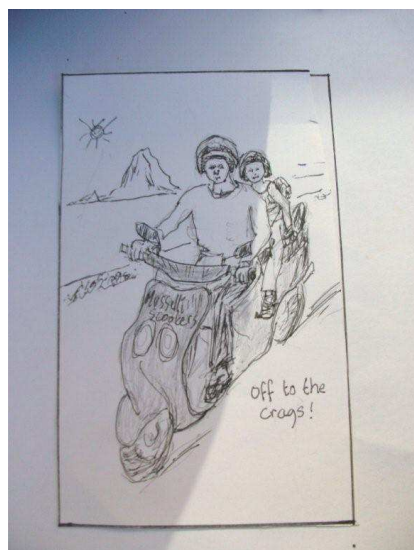
newsletter@carlislemc.co.uk

### KALYMNOS April 2013

**By Sue Greenwood & Phil Wilkinson**

Lovely climbing for 9 days of hot sun and occasional wind at first, with beautiful views of sea and islands and the Kalymnos mountains.

Difficult to get around without spending a long time walking on the road so Phil was keen to hire a scooter. What could be easier? Phil had a motor bike over 30 years ago and I was pillion about 52 years ago. Add to this, climbers wandering vaguely along the main streets of Massouri, a few goats, cats and chickens marauding around as well as sharp bends and a stiff, gusty breeze and you can see why it was not the rock climbing that nearly gave me a heart attack.



*Drawing by Phil Wilkinson*

By the 7<sup>th</sup> day, I was getting the hang of it, clutching the handles at the back and getting my feet on the tiny foot supports. I no longer had to chalk my hands to stop them sweating and

could keep my eyes open on the corners. We even took a trip for fun to have a coffee at Arginonta when

the heat defeated us but we had already done a very good multi pitch at "School" and 4 hot abseils that day.

Locals said that it was unseasonably hot so quickly but we did not complain as there are always crags in the shade for the afternoon after a quick relocation.

Climbers from many different nations around; we met Russians, Belgians, French, Italians, Dutch and heard unidentifiable languages and saw many slim, splendid looking bodies, sometimes upside down on the extreme grotto areas. Occasionally people asked us how old we were(are); I don't know why!

We certainly were not intentionally upside down! The most memorable climb was on the island of Telendos, about 15 mins boat trip from Kalymnos. No motor vehicles or roads so very unspoilt. Just a small harbour and a few restaurants and a tiny village. We spent one day finding the "Wings for Life" and returned early the next day before it got too hot or too many people got on the route. It has a well deserved good write up in the Guide book but proved more manageable than it sounded:

5a,5b,5b,4b,4c,5b,6a,5b,6a,5b,5a. I had a bit of help from the etrier on the smooth 6a chimney bit and a helpful sling on the steep section after the 6a traverse step but some pitches were not as hard as the single pitch stuff of the same grade. Fantastic views and feeling from the top of the island ( the route ends just below the summit) and a long but interesting walk back over the island back to beer and boat. Plenty of variety in Kalymnos, with a good Via Ferrata complementing a morning of 3 hard climbs at Gerakios.

Lots of new areas are opening up all the time and if you climb at 6b and over it is fine but we looked for more modest ones like "Julian", a scenic crag high up and away from anyone else, where I could lead some 4s and then there good 5b and 5c routes too.

If you have been to Kalymnos, you will remember other areas we went to such as Kasteli, by the sea; Arhi; Sea Breeze; Afternoon; Spartan Wall; Infrared Wall; Katharina, Fire wall; and Summertime. These all had amenable climbs which are definitely not as sharp as a few years ago. If you haven't been yet then there is a marvellous feast in store, with wonderful weather. We tried to do it economically with coach to Gatwick, Easy Jet flights to Kos for £162, studio accommodation at 25 Euros per day for 2, and only a few meals out. Ferries and taxis are not expensive. The disadvantage is that the travelling does take time but worth it. If the battery of my camera had not run out, you could have seen that I was not joking about the jaunty scooter!

### Sea Cliff Climbing from Carlisle – really?

By Dave Ferguson

Now as anyone born south of Bristol knows, sea cliff climbing is really where its at. Unfortunately living in Cumbria has its drawbacks when one wishes to partake in the mysterious art. St Bees of course has its advocates, BUT, and it's a big but, fails to deliver when it comes to abseil approaches, sea level traverses and a broad grade range to satisfy the middle grade climber. So what to do? A weekend at Gogarth is the obvious answer but when you've only got a day trip available a drive to Meikle Ross on the Galloway coast maybe the next best alternative. If you fancy sheltered, south facing, generally non tidal routes in a lovely setting it may well be worth a punt.



Dave on the Sea Level traverse into Crack and Corner

The crag is situated just south of Kirkcudbright 65 miles from Carlisle and is covered by the SMC Lowland

Outcrops Guide. A short walk across fields gives access to the coastline, which although confusing at first provides a great landmark in the Red Slab. The cliffs consist of Greywacke, a weird rock type consisting of metamorphosed sandstone set in a clay-fine matrix. This gives rise to all angles of rock from slabs to steep convoluted crack lines. At Meikle Ross there is a profusion of yellow lichen giving the cliffs a colourful appearance but causing a few Tour de France moments if your feet happen to sketch about on its slippery surface, this is only really a problem on the less popular routes.



Heather Deane & Gary Pledger on "Rez Route" (Hard Severe)

There are occasional loose top outs, but caution pays dividends, a helmet probably providing more security for your second than in most mountain situations. Stake belays abound, as do less secure rickety fence posts, a good selection of slings being a useful addition to your rack. The most southerly crag and probably the one worth approaching first is Fox Craig, this lies directly opposite Ross Island with its lighthouse and tide race.

A combination of an easy walk down to a large platform above the sea makes this the perfect start for a sea cliff novice. Routes from V Diff to HVS rise straight from the ledge providing good quality short pitches with generally good protection, Sharks Tooth (VD), Rez Route (HS) and Alligator Crawl (HVS) providing the pick of the bunch. Around the corner a short sea level traverse leads to the aptly named Crack and Corner (VS) and a very steep E3.





*Tony on Alligator Crawl (HVS) & Rachel on Sharks Tooth(VD)*

Walking west one can't fail to notice the large slab of Limehouse Blue's Cliff. Lack of traffic has meant most routes are exciting looking adventures with few ascents and more than their fair share of loose rock, probably a place to avoid without a proper sea cliff apprenticeship. The next cliff, Little Zawn lies just round the corner and is quite well hidden save for two chunky abseil stakes that give the game away. A scramble down is possible but it is probably easier to abseil down to a platform well above the sea with patches of slippery green moss to negotiate.

experiences and Mental Block (VS), Dolce Vita (HVS) and Scared to Dance (E1) will definitely leave an impression.



*Charlie, Tim and Ben on "Mental Block" (VS), Red Slab*

Deep Zawn runs westwards from here, presently unexplored by the author but then one always needs an excuse to return, a multipitch 2 star HVS traverse providing every reason to do so. Sea cliff climbing is seen by some as an acquired taste, but a bit like a couple of pints of Loweswater Gold it leaves you only wanting more – enjoy!



*Ben Wright on "Pinking Sheer" (HVS)*

Here lie probably the best offerings with a broad grade range and relatively solid rock. Green Wall (HS), Mellow Yellow (VS), Pinking Sheer (HVS) and Bloody Crack (E1) are all well worth doing with a plethora of stars and good protection.

The showcase of the crag is the impressive Red Slab, a steep scramble down grass, easily protected with an abseil rope, leads to a non-tidal platform from where the routes begin. The routes here are undoubtedly more serious propositions with protection sometimes difficult to arrange and with thought provokingly loose finishes. However as any sea cliff aficionado knows these ingredients provide the most memorable



*Tony Morley on "Scared to Dance" (E1)*

**Tribute to Jackie Jackson** who died in a tragic climbing accident on the descent from Black Crag, Borrowdale on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013.



As well as being an active club member Jackie has recently served as both Chair and Treasurer of the club, which she did to the very best of her abilities. Everyone has said how shocked and saddened they are. A typical comment being “how can something so awful happen to someone so nice”. Even new members who have only recently met her have commented on her kind and caring approach. She will be sorely missed.

**Life is a daring adventure.....or nothing at all**, the motto by which Jackie lived her life and she certainly lived it!

For those who knew her Jackie will always be remembered as the most helpful, friendly, positive and enthusiastic person you could ever wish to meet. She was interested in everyone she met, a genuine and selfless listener. Consequently the fact that she herself was such a great adventurer comes as a surprise to many.

The list of her many achievements includes; walking the Camino de Santiago, crossing the Sahara desert, Lands End to John O’Groats cycle ride, Pennine Way, travelling in Nepal & Africa, Wainwrights, Coast to Coast, the Munro’s including all the tops! and a traverse of the Cuillin Ridge. She was an all round mountaineer, climber and ace navigator. Having recently qualified as a Mountain Leader she was keen to extend her skills to women lacking the confidence to ‘go it alone’ in the hills. Indeed she has introduced so many to the pleasures of hill walking over the years setting up the Geltsdale Walkers and a NHS walking group.

No doubt having recently retired she had many trips planned, these cruelly cut short by her tragic accident.

Having just returned from the funeral it was no surprise to find the crematorium was full to overflowing and many had to listen to the service from the waiting room. With friends having travelled from across the UK and even flying in from Switzerland to say their last farewells.

See the following link to the news and star tribute by Jackie’s son Chris.

<http://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/son-s-tribute-to-mum-who-died-in-lake-district-plunge-1.1054959?referrerPath=home>

Hopefully the ‘spirit’ of Jackie Jackson will live on within CMC. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

*By Mike & Dorine Tinnion*

### **Torver, Conniston 24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – book now!**

Anyone up for a camping trip over the bank holiday weekend?

Sue Greenwood is organising this meet and has booked 4 tents so far at the Torver campsite near Coniston.

Please let Sue know asap if you would like to go.

**Sue Greenwood** 01228 596912

[sue.greenwood7@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.greenwood7@btinternet.com)

It’s a great location and very handy for Dow Crag.

### **Picos de Europa**

Received this link to accommodation & guiding in the Picos de Europa.

Send your requirements and preferences and we will forward you several non commitment proposals.

[info@fuentedesomave.com](mailto:info@fuentedesomave.com)

In the North of Spain we have fascinating high mountains to be discovered: Los Picos de Europa. We would be delighted to share our knowledge of the territory with you. As inhabitants of this wonderful place, we know every beautiful remote spot perfectly.

Take a look at the following link to get an idea of what you will enjoy and experience.

<http://youtu.be/fFy7Y1ayB-0>