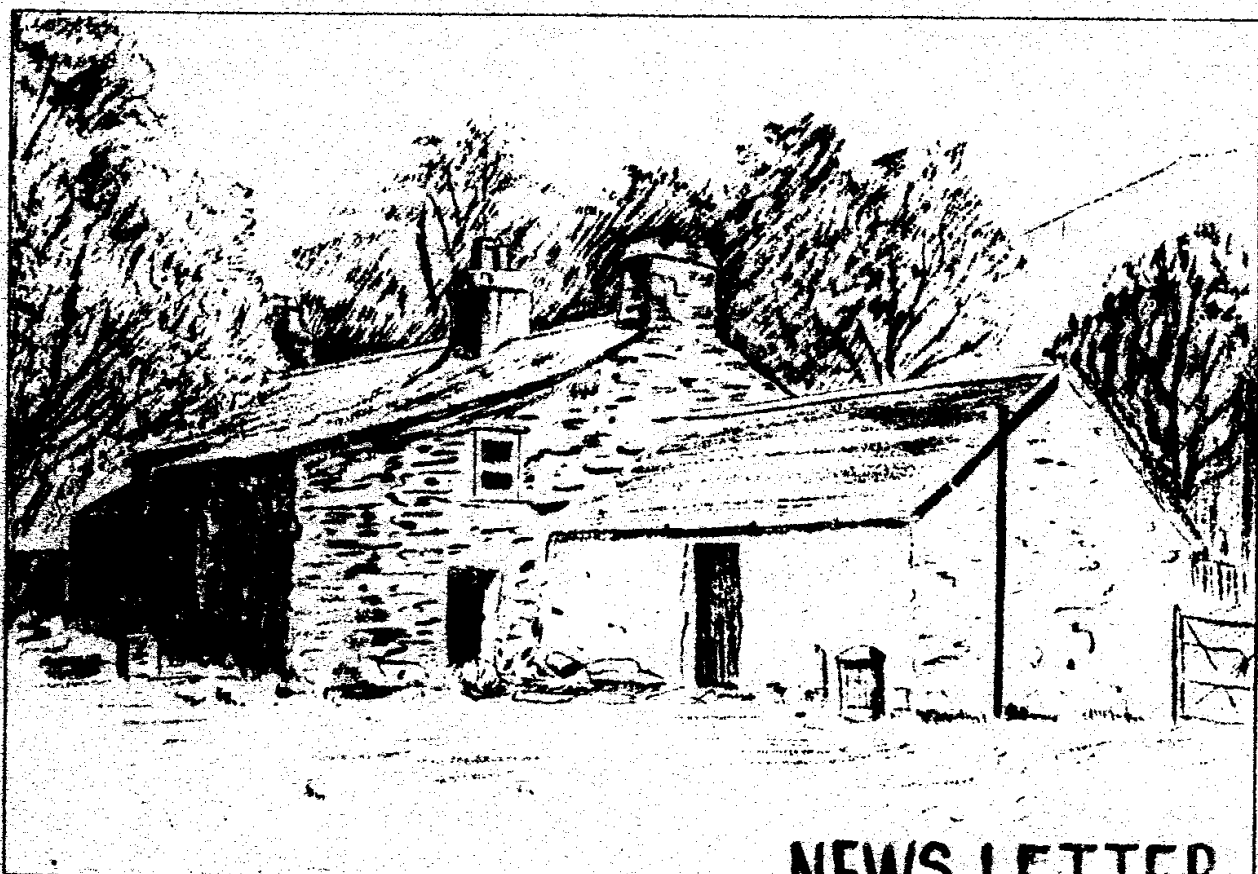


The **Courant** Mountaineering ULUB



NEWS LETTER

JUNE, 1963

EDITORIAL

One of the points for comment at the Annual General Meeting was the drop in attendances at outdoor meets during 1962/3. There have been disturbing signs during recent months that this trend is continuing. Two meets have been cancelled already this session, due to lack of support, and the others, particularly day meets, have been poorly attended.

We know that there are specific reasons why certain members do not patronise particular meets. Lots of members, for instance, do not care for camping, particularly in a summer such as we had last year, and the tendency to increase the purely camping meets, with no provision for hut accommodation, is bound to keep these people away. Others seem to dislike travelling to the more distant venues. A few of our quite active members seem to make a point of never going on an official meet anywhere at any time. These types, however, have always been with us, and are no more numerous now than in past years. Perhaps it was a combination of these factors which sank the Wasdale meet, plus the fact that it was planned for a bank holiday week-end, when most people make private arrangements anyway. It was significant that, although the official meet was cancelled, forty-four people were staying in or around Tyn-Lon over Whitsun!

It may well be that Tyn-Lon is at the root of the trouble. It was realised long ago that the acquisition of an extremely comfortable hut in Nant Peris would cause members to become "Pass-bound" if we were not careful. To try to counter this, and to widen members' experience of climbing and walking areas outside Snowdonia, successive meets secretaries have put great efforts into working out new venues, fresh fields to conquer. It is a worthy idea, but it has not had the support it deserves. Our members, it seems, are conservative in their week-end habits. All too frequently at the Cambridge, the leader of the meet to the lakes, Cader, Stanage, or anywhere else outside the Pass is fighting a losing battle. While he is trying to get support for his meet, there are usually several other people

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running round with the familiar cry "Is anyone going to the cottage?" The "Pass or nothing" attitude that we feared years ago seems to be creeping up on us.

Is there any particular cause for this increase in individual activities of members at the expense of the collective activity of the Ceunant Club? One interesting suggestion which has been put forward concerns the large number of members now owing their own cars. In the old days, one of the advantages of joining the Ceunant was that the club provided transport, in the shape of a hired coach, to get members into the mountains. Wherever the meet was, there the coach went; the alternative was staying at home or hitching, and as a result, meet week-ends were eagerly looked forward to. The club spirit used to wax rich on those coach trips. Maybe the songs we sang got a little unprintable, which didn't suit everybody, but we were all together for a common purpose, and this, after all, is the main reason for which anyone joins a club. But with the increase in the amount of private transport in recent years, the coach meets first became joint affairs with another club, and were finally abandoned altogether. Nowadays everyone makes his own way to the meet (or away from it) and there is nothing like the same sense of common purpose. It has been suggested that we start coach meets again, but there would have to be some guarantee of a reasonable turn out, otherwise the financial loss to the club could be considerable. Would members like to comment on this idea?

The Outdoor meets programme should be the highlight of the Club Calender, giving opportunities for communal activities and achievements.

It will be a great pity if members fail to follow the club lead.

So the Americans have climbed Everest! With the help of nine hundred porters, fork lift trucks, helicopters, and the kitchen sink (collapsible), the stars and stripes has been placed on the summit of the earth. Of course, it would not be the Yanks if they did not come up with a record

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for something - even if it is only spending a night in the open at 28,000 feet without tents or sleeping bags.

We, who are unlikely to get nearer to a Himalayan summit than looking at it on film, can only reflect in awe on this vast array of manpower and equipment. It seems somehow, slightly disrespectful to have hundreds of people stamping a route to the summit, with the successful team being shuttled to the top over a blazed trail.

Admittedly the history of Everest is on the side of the large scale organiser. All the smaller parties have failed. At 28,000 feet on the roof of the world the climber is a long way from help; and the presence of all these other people on the mountain means less danger to those in the lead, and someone else to carry on if the first lead fails.

Nevertheless, the romantic soul likes to think that one day the big mountain will be climbed by a small private party, aided only by a few porters to make up for the lack of tourist facilities at the foot of the Khumbu glacier.

They could really say 'WE climbed Everest'.

Except where otherwise stated, the opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of the Editor, and are not necessarily endorsed by the Committee.

Publications Editor: I.D. Corbett,
420 Shirley Road,
Acocks Green,
Birmingham, 27.

CLUB NEWS

Tyn Lon

The Committee are greatly concerned by the situation arising out of a recent private letting of Tyn-Lon.

The facts are as follows:

1. Space in Tyn-Lon was officially let to a private party, led by a member of this club
2. Some other club members and prospective members were also in residence
3. During the week-end, the cottage was gate-crashed by a number of members of another Birmingham climbing group on the pretext that they were invited by the original party. This apparently happened after the leader of the official party had to leave owing to an accident to a member of his group
4. There was a great deal of rowdy behaviour, particularly inappropriate in the circumstances, resulting in a complaint being made to the Committee
5. Two members visiting the cottage on the Wednesday following, found it in a filthy condition. Bread, sausage and other food-stuffs had been left lying around, cigarette ends and rubbish covered the floor, the gas burners and table tops were covered with grease, the waste bins had not been emptied and the back door was not fastened.
6. Not one of the gatecrashing party was in any hurry to pay hut fees. We had great difficulty in tracing who the individuals were, and not all the money has been collected even now.

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This is the most blatant, but by no means the only, instance of unauthorised people drifting in to Tyn-Lon on the flimsiest pretext, lured by the attraction of a cheap, comfortable week-end.

The club concerned have been informed that their members will not be allowed to use Tyn-Lon in future; and the Committee take this opportunity to point out to anyone else who may think that the cottage is a free house that the only people with an automatic right to stay there are members of the Ceunant Club

Other clubs or individuals, and prospective members, are allowed to book space with the advance consent and at the absolute discretion of the Hut Warden.

Members (but not prospective members) are allowed to bring guests. No maximum number has been laid down, but it is felt that no member should bring more than two guests without prior arrangement with the Hut Warden.

Any unauthorised persons found in the hut will be asked to leave.

Almost every outside club which has used the hut has been appreciative of its tidiness and cleanliness, and in return for our hospitality they took care, until this last lamentable episode, to leave it in the same condition. We do not intend to have our reputation in this respect spoilt by trespassers.

We must remind our own members that they have responsibilities in these matters. As has been mentioned, several members and prospective members were present in Tyn-Lon on this occasion, but no one seems to have done much towards keeping out unauthorised people, ensuring law and order, or getting the place cleaned up.

There have been instances of clubs being virtually taken over by non-members; hangers on, who seek the benefits which the club has to offer, without giving anything at all in return. Having a very good cottage in the heart of one of the finest mountain areas of Britain,

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we are rather liable to this sort of thing.

We must guard against it.

Prospective Members

From the Club records it is apparent that several people have been regarded as prospective members (i.e., after submitting a first application for membership) for over two years, without getting any further in the matter.

Obviously prospective membership cannot be indefinite, and the Committee have therefore decided that where a person has not been accepted as a full member within 12 months of his first application, his prospective membership will be deemed to have ceased.

After applying the new rule, the following are the prospective members of the club, showing the dates on which their prospective membership expires:-

R. Bagley	June 1963	J.A. Lee	Feb. 1964
M.G. Bradley	Aug. 1963	Miss G.C. Lewis	June 1963
Miss S. Cheshire	Sept. 1963	Miss R.J. Mason	Feb. 1964
W.V. Cheverst	Aug. 1963	J.R. Nobel	April 1964
J.R. Costello	Dec. 1963	S.R. Oldfield	June 1963
R. Ellis	June 1963	J.D. Parker	June 1963
Miss N. Hanley	Dec. 1963	R.J. Pugh	Dec. 1963
G.M.R. Laddell	April 1964	D.C. Rouse	Oct. 1963
R. Lavill	April 1964	R. Russell	Sept. 1963

3000'ers meet

The traditional three-thousanders meet will be held on the weekend of 12th - 14th July, at Llanberis, and it is hoped once again to have a strong Ceunant party attempting the long walk.

Although we want as many people as possible taking part in the principal activity, we also need some volunteers from the less energetically minded members to

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serve on the support party. These will be required to station themselves at various points on the route, providing refreshments for those walkers who are capable of continuing and rescue for those who are not!

Will any members willing to help in this noble work please contact the meet leader, Bill Yale.

NEW MEMBER

H. Foster was elected to membership on 12th June.

The meet to Ffestiniog, arranged for 6th - 7th April, was cancelled through lack of a suitable leader. Club members visited Ogwen instead.

The meet to Wasdale, scheduled for Whitsun, was cancelled due to lack of support.

LIONEL TERRAY LECTURE

The Midland Association of Mountaineers has arranged a lecture by LIONEL TERRAY, showing films of THE ANDES, PERU, and MONT BLANC.

This will be held at The Birmingham and Midland Institute, (large theatre), Paradise Street, on Monday, 30th. September 1963, commencing at 7.45 p.m.

Tickets, price 3/-, may be obtained from M.E. Connelly, 22 Ashbourne Road, Birmingham, 16.

Early application is advisable, as the supply of tickets is limited.

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ANNUAL DINNER MEET - 8th-10th March. By M.E. Connelly

The Annual Dinner has become something of a tradition at the Dolbadarn Hotel, and this year saw our fourth successive visit.

Driving rain lashed the crags in the Pass on Saturday morning, so a small party set off for Ryd Ddu - one of 'the most repaying areas to visit when the weather is bad in central Snowdonia'. On this visit we were repaid with a soaking as we trailed behind Colin Spedding's energetic strides up Y-Garn. Chilled by the wind along the top of the ridge we were thankful to the mathematician in our midst who calculated that by descending without further ado we might just get back to Ryd Ddu and its hostelry before 2.30 p.m. Here the biceps received more willing exercise in rehearsal for the evening's festivities.

With the serious business of eating and drinking soon upon us, members and guests converged on the Dolbadarn from Tyn Lon, Pen Ceunant and Chateau Daffern. The family members had arrived in force to reside in luxury at the Hotel - in fact they had just about taken the place over. Old and new faces bobbed together in re-acquaintance in the beery fug.

Full and affable, Mike Kerby was helped to his feet to address the gathering and introduce the guests. This he did in amiable style, and we were very pleased to welcome Chris Hooke, of the University of Birmingham Mountaineering Club; John Neill, of the Climbers Club; and Colin Spedding, of the Wolverhampton Mountaineering Club. Tony Fowler rounded off the formalities with a couple of funnies which brought the house down.

With tables removed and carpets rolled back, the energetic folk who had festered all day were able to discharge pent-up stamina dancing and twisting to canned music delivered by the loudspeaker. One barefoot blade made a notable impression as he 'godivered' solo throughout the twist.

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A courteous silence was observed when the Manser Madrigal Group took the floor to sing 'The chastity belt'. This might have met with more appreciation had it not been for the efforts of the Secretary Elect, who insisted on adding his own doubtful harmonies.

All too suddenly, it seemed, the final pint had been pulled, and we were cloistered back at the hut. Fortunately the heavens promised a good excuse for a lie in on the morrow!

CARNEDDS MEET, 26th - 28th April by John Pettet

Despite the usual "grouses" about wrecked Minis and a camping site five miles from the nearest pub, six vehicles containing seventeen members and guests arrived late Friday night at the appointed spot beneath the dam at Cwm Eigiau. Surprisingly, we found two other parties already there.

Saturday morning was fine, and after a healthy Ceunant-type breakfast (one member was seen eating six eggs!), our party was heading for Craig-yr-Isfa with the determination that came from having been unable to climb in decent weather for almost five months. Although we left the camp-site in four separate parties at about ten minute intervals, it was amazing that we all arrived at the foot of Ampitheatre Buttress at the same time. Six other people were already there. Etiquette went to the wind, and with a mad surge 75% of the party all attempted to start together, the result being chaos. However things sorted themselves out eventually and this classic route was once again ground a little bit smoother. Later on some members tackled Pinnacle Wall and Figure of Eight (both fine climbs), but the weather then turned very blustery so everyone finished the day walking.

Two vehicles containing a dozen members braved the (censored) track down to the village in search of a convivial evening.

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On Sunday morning, the scene recalled the Plains of Spain. In spite of this, a dozen amphibious-type stalwarts waded up to the crag for further punishment, still muttering under their breaths something about getting their standards back. At five o'clock they all arrived back suitably soaked, spent and satisfied.

Considering the location, the meet was very successful, and well attended, but as the weather is even more unsettled this time of the year, it would probably be better to hold the next meet in midsummer.

ROACHES MEET - 5th May by I.D. Corbett

The early arrivals at the site were met with a vicious snow shower, which sent everyone scurrying back to the van they had recently left, to put on extra sweaters. From then onwards, however, the day gradually improved, and although heavy clouds and distant showers blocked out the horizon from time to time, the edge remained dry. Conditions could not be called ideal, however, as a high wind kept a constant stream of dust and grit in the air, to get in ones eyes, mouth, and (later) sandwiches.

Arriving at the upper tier, the party seemed to be afflicted with unusual lethargy. People stood around, gazed at the climbs, told each other how cold the rock was, and sat down waiting for somebody else to start. Eventually someone did, and a fixed rope was installed on chicken run, up which the whole congregation eventually scrambled. The usual mob of local youth, aged from 10 upwards were present, wandering around the rock face solo, liable to pop out from anywhere at any minute, putting their feet on the holds you were just about to grab.

While the party moved across to the climbs next door, two members decided to examine Hen Cloud. The fearsome looking cliffs of the cloud were deserted, save for two gentlemen who appeared to have become fixtures on one of the lesser faces. The gap between here and The Roaches lived up to its name of Windygates, and the splinter party

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were glad to get back into the wind shadow of The Roaches again.

The Meet Leader put in an appearance early in the afternoon (he emphatically denied that he had spent the morning in 'The Rock' pub), and was soon heard muttering obscene threats towards the local youths after they had stepped across his rope for the umpteenth time while he was half-way up a pitch.

The group had now reached Maud's Garden, which for some reason proved extremely popular. One member spent most of his afternoon plodding up and down it. A convenient climb for photographers, this, with its ledge half-way up the easy left-hand crack from which pictures can be obtained of people spreadeagled on the lower slab. Unfortunately this artist's haven was rendered less comfortable than it might have been by Fred Price who, manoeuvring his way up and down the crack several times, dislodged large quantities of grit on to the head of the sitting tenant. Later Fred tried to get up the right hand crack, got stuck amidst the vegetation, and had to be rescued.

Conversation over sandwiches turned to the famous Brown acrobatics on "Sloth". The Ceunant hopefuls gathered below the mighty overhang, gazing in wonder at the lichen covered crack, hoping to see somebody attempt it. Nobody did.

A very pleasant day ended with a boulder problem amongst the trees. One after another, Club members failed to get past the first step, until Pete Holden, hoisting himself past the crux with a classic double-handed pressure hold, romped over the top.

In spite of rumours that the edge is prowled by a warden demanding cash tribute for the right to climb (a threat which did not materialise on this occasion) this is a most pleasant region for climbing and walking, and it is a pity that only 15 members could find the time to go and enjoy it.

INDOOR MEETS PROGRAMME

The following are the indoor meets dates for the current session. Meetings take place at the Cambridge Public House, Cambridge Street, and commence at 7.30 p.m.

August 7th. To be arranged

October 2nd. Film Show.

'Tant Que Nous L'aimerons', and
'A l'assaut de la Tour Eiffel'.

November 6th. Debate, led by Tony Daffern.

December 4th. Members Slides.

January 1st 1964 To be arranged.

In addition to the above, the following outdoor activities have been arranged for Wednesday evenings:

July 3rd. Visit to Habberley Valley
Leader, J. Pettet.

Aug. 28th. 'Treasure Hunt',
Organised by R. Bagley.

FORTHCOMING OUTDOOR MEETS

June 28th-30th.	FFESTINI OG	Camping Leader, P. Hay.
July 12th-14th.	LLANBERIS	3000'ers meet. Leader, W. Yale.
July 21st.	AVON GORGE	Day meet. Leader, B. Pearce.
August 16th-18th.	RYD DDU	Oread Club hut. Leader, I. Corbett.
August 30th - September 1st.	GOWER PENINSULA	Leader, M. Kerby.
September 8th.	FROGGATTS EDGE	Day meet. Leader, I. Corbett.
September 20th - 22nd.	BORROWDALE	Camping or YHA. Leader, A. Fowler.

B.M.C. NEWS

Tremadoc

It has been reported that the top block of Hounds Head Pinnacle had been displaced during the winter. It is uncertain how sound the Pinnacle is for climbing, and the greatest care should be taken in the vicinity until this is known.

Stanage Edge and White Path Moss

The Peak Park Planning Board announce that an agreement has now come into operation giving the public a right of access to part of Stanage Edge and most of White Path Moss. The area involved is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ square miles and brings the total open moorland available for public access in the Peak National Park to about $43\frac{1}{2}$ square miles.

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Negotiations are in hand for other access agreements to adjoining moorlands.

Part of White Path Moss has been designated an area of special scientific interest. The Nature Conservancy say that the area to the east of the escarpment of Friars Ridge is one of the few high level peat areas in England which has escaped extensive erosion of drainage.

MYNYDD MAWR
by R. Costello

South and West of Snowdon are the more beautiful and less frequented parts of Snowdonia; spacious hills, green valleys and many crags. Little is heard of the climbing here because there is little to say: there are many routes but with the exceptions of Cwm Silyn and Tremadoc there is not much climbing in the "modern manner" (i.e. Short, Steep and Shattering). Occasionally people write impassioned articles imploring climbers to desert Llanberis and flock to the area. This is strange, as if they did it would quickly lose its value. It provides solitude, orange-peel-less hill tops with magnificent views, remote cwms and little-visited crags, many having long and interesting, though quite easy, routes. So mountaineers who like these things visit it, not too frequently, but as an occasional and well worthwhile change. Here are some notes on the sort of pleasures to be found as one drifts pleasantly from crag to crag.

On an autumn morning three of us left Snowdon Ranger and walked by Llyn Quellyn to Castell Cidwn, a fine little crag looking inviting in the morning sunshine. We were armed with the local guidebook "The Quellyn Area" to locate climbs, but hereabouts it isn't necessary to memorise typewritten descriptions. One's worries, together with slings, crabs and cruxes are best left behind in Llanberis. No fear that if you make too wide a step you'll do the wrong climb!

We admired some overhangy things which Joe Brown has climbed, and also the main face of the crag where there is

quite a good Hard Severe and room for more wanderings. We sidled round the corner and climbed Finals Wall, V.Diff., a pleasant, clean little climb. At the top there was dissertation whether to reach Cwm Du by contouring (Roger's vote), or descending first (mine). We tossed a coin, Roger won - the party lost. The next half-hour was purgatorial.

Eventually we were gazing admiringly at Cwm Du. The Cwm is ringed impressively by tall black cliffs, steep but broken, and tucked away in such an unexpected place that few climbers have ever seen it. There are many routes giving good climbs in the "old-style" (i.e. Loose, Lichenous and leading somewhere). We chose Adam Rib, Severe, since it is the best climb here. It gave us a really fine climb by any standards, ancient or modern.

Later, a short walk took us to the summit of Mynydd Mawr. I think this hill top is the finest viewpoint in Snowdonia. From its modest elevation, the higher hills, lit by the evening sunshine, grew in stature so that on three sides mountains stretched away to the horizon, whilst to the North-West the sun set over a shimmering golden sea. A quarter hour passed in silent contemplation; words are superfluous in the face of such things.

Another short walk South and the hillside dropped away - we were above Craig Yr Bere with its shattered ridges. These give best sport on a dark winter's day: Skating gingerly on the slippery loose rock, while the mist plays hide and seek round the extravagant pinnacles, provides a stimulating expedition.

We selected a scree-filled gully and clattered down. Should you approach from the road, be warned: a "Wales for the Welsh" farmer lives here. If - as once happened to us - you are standing near one of his rickety walls when the wretched thing chooses to collapse, you will find the approach rather trying.

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The best climb here is Angel Pavement, Mild Severe, and again a pleasant climb even by Atomic-Age standards. But it was getting dark, so we decided to play at being Big Alpine Men and dashed up Pinnacle Ridge, roped but moving together. Twenty minutes to the top. If we were panting a bit it was, of course, due to the altitude.

Dark now, but a gentle trot down a grassy slope and we were back at Llyn Quellyn. It had been a good day.

LIST OF MEMBERS

The following additions and amendments have been notified since the publication of the list of addresses in October 1962.

MR. & MRS. M. BANNISTER

[REDACTED]
Lawley,
Salop.

J. BUCKMASTER

[REDACTED]
Coundon,
Coventry.

R. CADWALLADER

[REDACTED]
Blackheath,
Nr. Birmingham.

C.R. COLEMAN

[REDACTED]
Gerrards Cross,
Bucks.

MR. & MRS. A.M. DAFFERN

[REDACTED]
Ipsley,
Redditch.

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H. FOSTER

[REDACTED]
Ladywood,
Birmingham, 16.

B. JONES

[REDACTED]
West Bromwich.

I.Y. MASON

[REDACTED]
Worcester.

MR. & MRS. J. URWIN

[REDACTED]
Northfield,
Birmingham, 30.

A. WESTWOOD

[REDACTED]
Small Heath,
Birmingham, 9.

MR. & MRS. P. WILLAN

[REDACTED]
Sheldon,
Solihull.

P. RATCLIFFE and MISS V.P. YARDLEY have resigned
their membership.

NEW ROUTE

Grimmer Crag, Deeperdale. (This deservedly little known crag is situated behind the Briggswater Inn in Deeperdale).

Kripling Groove 150 ft. Rather Severe

Start: The main feature of the crag is a steep, vegetated water-drain. This is the quickest way down. The climb tries to avoid it.

1. 15ft. From the car-park step delicately round the obvious purple-coloured farmer. Mantleshelf onto the car bonnet. Running belay on a shotgun. Step gingerly onto the car roof (crux for some). A bold leap leads to a stance on the lower rocks.

2. Either:
(a) 50 ft. Go right up the wall to a peg-belay
or (b) 15 ft. Recognise a friend who owes you a drink. Probably better.

3. 30 ft. There is a line of overhangs above. However, at 10ft a big reach is made for a good jug.

From your new position 12ft below your second, a very thin finger-tip traverse (nails useful) leads to the water-drain mentioned above.

Either (a) Climb it
or (b) Fail to climb it

(b) gives some fine situations

4. 15ft. Traverse easily back above the overhangs to a sloping ledge. This is the one that looked like a jug from below.

5. 20ft. Below and to the left is a cracked wall with several prominent features: a small ledge 15ft below the stance, and some

rusty iron spikes out left beyond it. By leaning out, two discolourations can be seen running down the crag from the spikes. Further left still is a smooth, pock-marked arete ending at a light-coloured stone.

Climb easily up straight above the stance to finish on the chimney.

First ascent:

April 8th-9th, 1963 (moonlight).
R. Costello.
The rest of the party were too incapable to follow.

MEMORIAL HUT APPEAL

Three years ago the B.M.C. launched an appeal for money to build a war-memorial hut in Glen Brittle. The fund was built up to £4,000, which was thought to be sufficient for the project, but in spite of all efforts, no tender could be obtained at anything like this figure. Prices on Skye have meanwhile soared as a result of road-building programmes etc., and are further increased because of the cost of transporting materials into Glen Brittle.

The Council have decided they cannot afford to let prices rise any further, and have accordingly placed a contract with a local builder who had put in a reasonable tender.

It is now anticipated that the total cost will be in the region of £8,000 and there is now £5,000 in the fund. The B.M.C. are appealing for the extra £3,000 to start the hut off free of debt.

The hut will be a solid affair built to the design of a distinguished architect, and worthy to be a memorial. It will be available to all members of member clubs of the B.M.C. and the A.S.C.C.

The Honorary Treasurer to the Hut Fund is:
A.S. Piggott, Hill House, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, Ches.
who will welcome any contribution, large or small.