

Autumn 2011

"THE CEUNANT"



IT'S NOT ALL ABOUT WALES! FOUR OF OUR MEMBERS HEADED TO FINLAND FOR SOMETHING A BIT DIFFERENT...VAL BEDDARD TELL'S US ABOUT IT



This year Bill and I were very fortunate to have a second holiday in Finland, at the invitation of Sanna-Maija and Mike, fellow club members.

It was suggested we do a five day canoe trip across lake Saimaa. Maps provided by the canoe hiring business. My first experience on a lake, very different to the river Severn!

On a sunny Thursday we met up with the man who hired the canoes, a great guy that spoke several languages and ran a good camp site by the lake.



We had aluminium Canadian canoes - more space to store our blue barrels holding all our gear. Off we paddled across a large lake, first obstacle was a beaver dam, only made this year. The beavers are incredible builders, teeth like saws. Then through a very narrow muddy section, into a concrete tunnel under the road. the film African Queen will always remind me of this. Another lake then opened up before us. First night we spent camped on an island.

Friday we packed our gear, paddled away again, stopping for lunch on some convenient rocks. About 5.30pm we had almost arrived at the Lavu, our stopping place for the night. I noticed some bad weather coming in behind us. The lake became increasingly choppy where two lakes meet, so it was *heads down and paddle like crazy*. Bill was afraid I would lean over to miss the waves and flip the canoe. *I rose to the challenge*, thinking 'these canoes are built for this rough water'. We soon had our camp fire going, hot drinks and food for supper.

The Lavu is a log structure to sleep in, with a good supply of logs, axe, saw. An earth toilet (all supplied by the council & No charges!) Saturday we started off with a long paddle across a choppy lake, then paddling became a little easier, in the shelter of land. Mikes navigation would have won him 1st prize, as water and trees look much of the same. No signpost or landmarks to follow. Another excellent Lavu to sleep in that evening. The only people we saw were two Russian cyclist walking the eight k walk past our camp.



Sunday. A lovely sunny day, we had paddled through a narrow channel, with quite high cliffs on the side. It appeared we had done the route quicker than we thought, so our trip came to an end.

This was certainly a different experience to walking the mountains.

DON'T FORGET THE CLUB WORK MEET

19th NOVEMBER

Please join us to keep the hut in top condition so everyone can enjoy it all year around.



THE CEUNANT GREAT ADVENTURES

Agag's Groove, on Buchaille

Etive Mor, by Stewart Moody

I was pretty green to say the least. I'd climbed indoors, but had little outdoor experience, other than a few single pitch climbs on road side crags. Today would be my first multi-pitch and I remember it well. The day was Monday, May the 3rd, 2010, and "the Ceunant descended on Glen Coe" for the bank holiday weekend.

It was 9:00am, the sun was shining. We sat around the Red Squirrel for breakfast. Over a cup of tea I read our objective for the day. Agag's Groove, on Buchaille Etive Mor. The route was trumped-up as being "a classic Scottish VDiff - steep with plenty of expose". To my novice ears none of these words inspired confidence, least of all "difficult", "steep" and "exposed". I quietly wondered if it was going to be out of my league, but I was keen to bag my first multi-pitch, and what better way to start than with a classic mountain route under clear blue skies.



We set off for the bottom of the route on tired legs from the previous day on the Aonach Eagach Ridge. The walk in got progressively steeper; bog gave

way to grass, which turned into to boulders and scree, leading to some easy scrambling on Curved Ridge to get us warmed up. After a couple of hours we reached the bottom of Agags Groove where we geared up and paired off; John and Emma, Paul and myself, and Dan with James. Being in the middle pair gave me a much needed feeling of safety – I'd have fought like a bear had anyone suggested I be the last one up.

John and Emma set off first and quickly vanished from view. Paul moved off next, and after securing himself at the top of the first pitch I followed. Apprehensively, I pressed on up the easy first pitch, greeted each step of the way by positive holds.

I reached the top of the pitch; Paul secured me and then moved off again up the second pitch. A few moments later Dan joined me on my tiny perch. Shortly after that James arrived, but had to satisfy himself with a wait just below us as three would most definitely have



been a crowd. "Climb when ready" shouted Paul from above, so I maneuvered around Dan and pressed on. With each move up, and with each glance back down, I became more nervous. The ground immediately below had passed out of view and all I could see below me was the vast expanse of Rannoch Moor over 800 metres below. I started to wonder why on Earth I had put myself in this position. I was cold, though it wasn't a cold day. I was scared, though I had no logical reason to be. I started to feel very shaky.

By the time I reached the top of the second pitch I wanted to be anywhere but here. Dan popped up next to me again, and gave a few encouraging words. I smiled and mumbled something about it being "quite exciting", but more than anything I just wanted to get off the mountain. My goal now was to just grit my teeth and get through it whilst maintaining a degree of composure.

And then it came to a head on pitch three, with a highly exposed move left onto a vertical open face. My heart was beating out of my chest as I stepped out onto into an ocean of sky. Words rushed through my mind that I dare not repeat. My hands shook as I searched for solid holds to drag myself up on. "Have you got me! Are you sure" I blurted out. Paul took the slack, and after some far from attractive climbing I reached the top.

"Having calmed down with a well earned pork pie I smiled a smile that would last for days." I couldn't wait for my next multi-pitch.

2011 NAVIGATION COURSE...

The 2 day Navigation Course, an annual staple of the Ceunant calendar took place in October. Under the expert tutelage of Stu Stanley and Andy Newton, outdoor meetings secretary Emma Bastock provides the details:



7 Ceunant 'ladies' and Paul Clarke give Stu a run for his money!

DAY 1; run by Stu, kicked off with navigation exercises, including the **'dodge the dog sh*t' challenge**, on the field down the road from Tyn Lon. Interrupted by an exciting run around the field to pull the poles up after we were warned that a rescue was underway and thought the chopper was about to land, luckily it went straight up to Crib Goch.

After checking the soles of our boots it was then back to the cottage to look at different types of maps, reading contours, etc, which descended into a severe bout of girlie hilarity as Stu tried to explain...

“ring contours look like boobies and re-entrants are always moist.”

We headed off into the hills opposite the Pen Y Gwryd pub to practice walking on a bearing, pacing and some micro navigation. At one point Stu fell backwards off a dilapidated cairn and ended up on his bum, much to our amusement! This is also the day of the infamous bog trot that was so well publicised on Facebook.

The day ended with a river crossing which Jo fell in. Lots of us fell down holes on the walk off and I came out of one with mud and sh*t up to my elbow - a look James Heriot would be proud of!

DAY 2: Andy took us through a classroom session on maps, grid references, calling for rescue, etc, followed by an afternoon in the Conwy Mountains putting everything we'd learnt into practice. A thoroughly good time was had by all and we have vowed to go out and practise our new found skills together in the very near future.

“Great weekend, fantastic company, brilliant course! Even Dog-Shit-Challenge was pootastic! Thank you Ceunant!” Prospective member, Kim Bunn

THE CEUNANT GREAT ADVENTURES

YOUR GENEROSITY RAISED £465 FOR LLANBERIS MRT

Proceeds from the AGM raffle and second hand gear sales were delivered to those wonderful people at the Llanberis MRT by Ceunant committee member Holly Becket and our Climber of the Year, Tony Millichope.

Huge thanks to our raffle contributors - V12, Pete's Eats, Crib Goch Outdoor Shop, Creation Climbing Wall, Redpoint Climbing Wall, Kopparberg, and Becketts Farm.



Lucy Ring;
Tying the grown-ups in knots!

Please send us your stories and pics of your great adventures.
We'd also like to share any tips or advice.
Send to Heather Eyre for the next issue.

Ice
climbing on ice screws
going to scotland in a car
freezing freezing in the car
at the bottom of the climb
silver axes left behind
soling it with no partner
call the mountain rescue to get you down
go back to the cottage
having a hangover

By Ellie Bastock

The Moseley Marathon, a great success!

Members attending a 'fluid' 12. Highs and lows (grade as you see fit!); losing Joe, getting barred out of The Junction doorman said we were drunk, I suspect we were just too old, the band in O'Neil's, the cocktails in the beach bar at the Prince. (Pictures not provided, what goes on tour stays on tour!)

CLUB FAVOURITES

CAMPSITES & PUBS

Campsite

The Old Post Office

Santon Bridge, at the bottom of Wasdale. It's just a much nicer place to stay rather than the Wasdale Head which is very bleak, I'd stay at the Old Post office every time.

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



Pub

The Bridge Inn – a 2 minute walk from the Old Post office camp site, lots of good real ales (Jennings Cumberland), incredibly fast service, excellent food, and huge portions.

Local walks – we got stuck into Tophet Wall, HS 4a on Great Gable, one of the best HS's in the Lakes and had an amazing scree descent.

Campsite & Pub!

The Three Stags, Foolow, Derbyshire.

£3 ppn

Basic but comfortable site next to the pub, great for a couple of nights.

Cafe over the road is fab for breakfast and the pub is superb for food and beer.

CRAGS, BIMBLES & TREKS

CRAGS

Cumbria

The Napes, Great Gable, Cumbria – the birthplace of British rock climbing, a long walk in at 700m, Tophet Wall (HS***) is trumped up as being the best of it's grade in the Lakes. Camp at the Old Post Office. An amazing scree descent is available if you are in a rush to get back home at the end of the day.

Cornwall

Lands End, Cornwall, – the most bizarre walk in I've done for ages, discount parking for climbers, then gear up in the car park and walk through the theme park (full of gawping foreigners), and aim for the Land's End Long Climb (VD**), a real giggle of a climb, and prepare to be photographed on the upper pitches.

A new slate guide has just been released, perfect for a quick jaunt up the road from Tyn Lon

DATES & REMINDERS

GOOGLE CALENDAR
has all the latest info on
bookings and meets. Go to
www.ceunant.org

MONTH	DATE	WHERE
Nov	5th & 6th 19th & 20th	Peak District Work Meet, Tyn Lon
Dec	3rd & 4th 14th 17th & 18th 26th to 1st	Family & Mountain Bike Meet Christmas Curry, The Spotted Dog, Digbeth. 3rd Weekend, Tyn Lon Cairngorms Trip – NEW YEAR!
Jan	21st & 22nd	REC Level 2 First Aid Course, Tyn Lon. (See Facebook or website for more details)

Check out the website www.ceunant.org and Facebook for updates and additions to our activities for the year.

INTERESTED IN GAINING ML AND/OR SPA QUALIFICATIONS IN 2012?

We are hoping to arrange courses in 2012 at a discounted price to members of the club.

The **Mountain Leader** training is a 5 day course and the **Single Pitch Award** is a 2 day course.

Contact Emma Bastock if you're interested.

AGM and Dinner

Ceunant Mountaineering Club Annual General Meeting, followed by evening meal and merriment.

Evening will be £25 per person

Baskerville Hall, Nr, Ross on Wye

24th March 2012

Email: Holly@beckettsfarm.co.uk

To raise a matter for discussion at the meeting, please send your item to Fiona Devine, Club Secretary, by the 6th January 2011.

Email: Secretary@ceunant.org

Post: 52 Shelsley Way, Hillfield, Solihull B91 3UZ

HUT AND MEMBERSHIP FEES

A polite reminder to please ensure you've settled Hut Fees.

YOU CAN PAY ONLINE...

It's easy peasy, just contact Maggie and she'll be able to give you all the bank info.

Don't forget to tell us...

...if you've moved house or changed any contact details?

Please send your update to the Club Secretary.

CEUNANT NEWSLETTER

Send us your news , stories and pics...

Contact Heather Eyre via Facebook or email heth24@gmail.com

AND FINALLY, FROM THE COMMITTEE...

New & Prospective Members

We are pleased to welcome new members Paul Clarke, Richard King, Erja Nikander and Karina Bogucka, all becoming full members since June 2011.

COMMENTS FROM THE COMMITTEE...

This summer saw a great range of memorable meetings, with those in North Devon, Kinver, and The Lake District being particularly well attended. We are pleased that we, once again, secured BMC funding for the climbing and navigation courses that were held in July and August. Feedback on both of the courses was really positive, and it's great to see so many of our newer members now getting to grips with lead climbing, and pushing their grades. A few years ago it felt like The Ceunant didn't have enough leaders for the burgeoning group of willing seconds, now it seems the reverse is true.

Now our thoughts turn to the winter season, and many of us have our fingers crossed that this persistent Indian summer is going to come to an end any day now to make way for winter fun. Ice axes at the ready...

Have fun, enjoy the adrenalin and be safe!

MEET THE COMMITTEE...



Jim Brady
Chairman



Natalie Davies
Vice
Chairmanlady



Maggie
McAndrew
Treasurer



Fiona Devine
Club
Secretary



Helena Holmes
Hut Secretary



Holly Beckett
Other meets &
Activities



Emma Bastock
Outdoor Meets
Organiser



John Beddard
Hut Warden



Stuart Haycock
Ordinary
Member



Stewart Moody
Ordinary
Member



Heather Eyre
Magazine
Editor