

Sternians' Mountain Camp 2016

2016 is the 70th Anniversary of Sandy Henderson's first Mountain Camp at Loch Morvich, Kintail in 1946. The Sternians Mountaineering Club seeks to maintain the tradition: our first Meet was also at Loch Morvich, in 1971: in 2016 we are 45 years young! All Sternians are warmly invited to join us at one of our 2017 Meets: details below.

The current SMC officers are Hugh Podger (President), Gordon Pitt (Chairman), Peter Everall (Secretary), David Minnikin (Treasurer) and Charles Lawrence (Meet Secretary). Please contact the latter for details of meets:
e: cp.lawrence@btinternet.com t: 01572-722777.

Spring Meet – Alice Howe, Windermere, Cumbria 18-22 April, 2016

From the left: Edward Armour; Gordon Pitt; Fary Afshar; Liz Everall; Charles Lawrence; John Holloway; Peter Everall; Marion Beckley; Mike Beckley; John Hall; Gill Lawrence; Marion Turner and David Minnikin.

We had intended to meet in Newlands Valley, Cumbria but, owing to a fire, the house was unavailable. Alice Howe, a Pugin-designed residence close to Windermere Station, proved an excellent replacement. With well-proportioned rooms and the bus station close by we were comfortable and very well served for transport to the hills. The first evening saw a group up Orrest Head with splendid views of the central fells. The first full day found us on the Fairfield Horseshoe in fine sunshine. One team – the three fittest! – did the whole horseshoe comprising Nab Scar; Heron Pike; Great Rigg; Fairfield; Dove Crag; High and Low Peak. Other parties did parts of this. We were rewarded with a convivial dinner, delightful as always.

The second day saw us all on Helm Crag above Grasmere. After lunch on the summit various routes were followed. One party returned to Grasmere and then walked round the splendid Loughrigg terrace behind Grasmere, much loved by Dorothy and William Wordsworth (see the photograph) and on to Rydal Water where the two caves which supplied much of the building stone for Ambleside were sourced. The other party completed the Easedale circuit. A fine day's walking.

Grasmere from Loughrigg Terrace

Thursday, 21st April, H.M. The Queen's 90th Birthday, saw the main party on Wansfell Pike above Ambleside with excellent views of Windermere; Conistone; Grasmere and Rydal Water as well as Scafell Pike; Scafell; Bowfell; and the Langdale Pikes. The day concluded with a Loyal Toast and another excellent dinner.

Autumn Meet – Belmont House, Edale, Derbs. 3-7 October, 2016

From the left: Peter Everall; Gill Lawrence; Marian Turner; Mike and Marion Beckley; David Minnikin; Liz and Tony Barry; Liz Everall and Charles Lawrence.

Situated on the border of the Light Peak with Lower Carboniferous Limestone and the Dark Peak with Upper Carboniferous Millstone Grit, Edale proved to be a good choice for a variety of fell walks. The first day saw one party up Kinder Scout via Jacob's Ladder, with lunch at Pym's Chair. The weather was fine though the strong Easterly proved trying on the top. Some of the weathered gritstone features were memorable, as the photograph shows.



A second party carried out an extended tour of the Edale valley. Happily John Hall joined us for dinner, bringing with him a memorable chocolate gateau to celebrate his birthday the previous day.

The second day saw us all on Mam Tor using a variety of routes in the very strong Easterly wind. Fine views of Kinder Scout and Edale, Hollins Cross along the ridge and Rushup Edge to the West were enjoyed.

Our final day found one group on the North side of Edale climbing The Nab and the summit ridge of Ringing Roger. They returned by Crookstone Moor and Jagger's Clough. A second group climbed Winhill Pike via Wooler Knoll affording splendid views over the Ladybower Reservoir and Mam Tor. Thence to Castleton and the fine 'Limestone Way' in Cave Dale.

2017 Meets:

The Brecon Beacons: 20-24 March at Ty Cerrig Granary, Llanfrynach, Brecon.

The Lake District: Newlands Valley, Cumbria: 2 – 6 October at Newlands Fell House.

For details of the 2017 meets, please contact the Meet Secretary, Charles Lawrence (e: cp.lawrence@btinternet.com; p: 01572-722777).

Charles Lawrence.