



Wish You Were Here

*The Newsletter of the Chew Valley Cragmen
Number 1*

It's a great place to be

The resurgent Chew Valley Cragmen are the guardians of the valley. The place has looked after itself for the last several million years, but things change rather quickly these days. We will be getting stuck into a few issues that concern climbers. We'll be restoring the crags to the mythically clean state that they used to be in. Beyond that we will interfere with fixed gear (in a good way), thump in stakes and safeguard access where it is threatened. We will also have regular Cosy Nights In™ throughout the dark months, with a return to evening cragging during the lighter times. Mainly, you just have to turn up and everything else will follow. This newsletter is basic, but it does what it needs to; in a curtsy to the 21st century, we are using "colours". The test of whether the Cragmen have been a success will be our Christmas dinner in 2010. If we have one, it is. Simple!

News

The first meeting this century was held in November. It was advertised almost entirely by word of mouth so it was gratifying to see 50 people crammed into the cosy embrace of The Church Inn, Uppermill. We had a really good time, old friendships were rekindled, pies were eaten & some highly unlikely tales were told. What came of it, though? Firstly, there is an anthropologist at Manchester Uni who's interested in recording the history of the original CVC through interviews. He usually deals with Inuit & Amazonian tribes and let's face it, the oldest members of our little family are the Eskimos of the Chew, so there's hardly any difference, is there? I'm seeing him this week. The second thing to report is a series of crag restorations over the winter months. Mainly, it was an enjoyable & sociable evening and that was the important thing.



Events

Upperwood Restoration, Sunday 17th Jan, 10am

There is a huge amount of work to be done here, so we have a plan. Stage 1 involves unearthing the ledges that bar access to most of the routes. Stage 2 is cleaning the routes that need some TLC. Bring old clothes, any gardening tools you have (gloves, spades, forks, trowels, and brushes are ideal) We'll be there whatever

the weather. We will also have on site catering featuring bacon butties, brews and cake. Nice.

West Nab Fun Day, Saturday 6th Feb

The clue's in the title. Bring a pad, some butties and get your mum to bake you a cake to bring. Meet at the Cock Crowing Stone between 10 and 1030 for a good time.

Cosy Night In, Tuesday 16th Feb, 7.30pm

Another winter gathering involving things that we haven't even thought of yet. It'll be fun, and there'll be supper laid on. You might be forced to hand over a voluntary donation of a quid or so to cover the cost of the food, but the beer's cheap, the company friendly and the entertainment half decent. Probably at The Cross Keys.

The RSPB and Dovestones

As was said at our gathering, the RSPB has acquired the lease for Dovestones from United Utilities. There were some worried looks when this was mentioned, but all seems well. Rick Gibbon & Cath Flitcroft went along to a public meeting and, in between large mouthfuls of sandwiches and cake, they found that the RSPB is committed to maintaining access and climbers are welcomed with open arms. Their land isn't as extensive as first thought: it only includes Ravenstones, Rob's Rocks, Charnel Stones and Doveys Edge...and relax!

Over The Moors

This is the guidebook project covering the moorland climbing, from Edale in the south to Marsden in the north. It really will be the best guide ever produced. We operate out of a few venues & you're welcome to join us at any one of them. The morning venues are: **Greenfield Bakery, Crimbles** (Marsden) and **Barista** (Glossop). Evening ranting is usually at **The Crown** (Glossop), **The Church/Cross Keys** (Uppermill) or **The Brewery Tap** (Marsden). There are rumours of a basic webpage to keep you up to date with cragging days, but in the meantime, contact me, the editor, on cragmen@googlemail.com or leave a message on 01663 750106. If you want a postal delivery of this newsletter, tell me your address.



Bob Hope