

SECTION 16:

Appendix I Former Members Of The Club



Here are some vignettes of former members mentioned in this work, either in the main text or appendices. I hope I have captured everyone as I've gone along! The list is alphabetical by surname.

Daive Avison Afonso now lives and works in Portugal. He is the Anglo-Portuguese son of Helen Bartlam and was a member of the Club in the 2011s for a number of years when he lived in Wirral studying at university in Liverpool. He is a hill walker and also an artist.

David Barley is the son of Mark and Laura and now lives and works in London, having studied at Cambridge university. He was a junior member of the Club when he was growing up and now keeps in touch with us.

Gill Beamer was married to John Beamer and was a force in the Club over most of its history. She was a generous friend and was always up for activity and challenge. She lived with John in Torricon and used to drive the Postbus there. Gill died in 2009 and is commemorated with a seat donated by John located outside the Hut.

Helen Beddows was a fine hill walker, climber, cyclist and horsewoman in her time with the Club. She also travelled the world, crossing the Sahara on top of a truck and then south, getting as far as but thankfully not into Kinshasha overland. Famously she conversed with head hunters – about Liverpool FC – in a traditional male longhouse in the wilds of Borneo.

Brian Bernard was a kindly and gentle man, and was the first husband of Joyce McEneaney. He was retired from the building industry, and served on the Committee as Hut Warden. He was a walker and birdwatcher, and also practiced Tai Chi. Brian died in 2006.

Anne Borland was Anne Crane before she married Mike Borland. She was a member in the 1990s and a keen hill-walker. She served as Club Secretary for two years. My best Ann and Mike moment was when they stopped us for a pub break on the Yorkshire 3 peaks, just one peak in...we had a good day but didn't finish.

Mike Borland husband of Anne above. A solid guy who walked and did a fair bit of climbing too if I remember right. He also served a year as Secretary, and a year as Committee Member in the mid – 90s.

Tom Brodie now lives and works in Norway. A strong influence on the climbing scene when he was with the Club. He has lived and worked overseas for many years as a teacher, and as an outdoor instructor.

Pete Butler now lives with his wife Heather (formerly Jones) in North Wales. Pete is a climber and walker, and was very active in the Club; he also was on the Committee as both House and Membership Secretary. He is a roofer and has done much work for us at Tan y Garth. My best Pete moment was watching Hale Bopp comet against thousands of stars in the Cairngorms on a wintry backpack trip.

Steve Byrne was an active walker with the Club who also climbed on occasion. We enjoyed his lively sense of humour. Steve drove a bus and subsequently did full time trade union work in that industry.

Bob Chamberlain was one of Reg Cromer's closest friends and became our friend too. A former ship's carpenter, he was not only highly skilled but also had a great fund of humour, invention and anecdote. Bob loved fishing and was also a walker. He died in 2018.

Peter Chreseson was a larger than life character. He started out with us unfit and became very fit, winning the Welsh 3000's on several occasions in very fast times. He was a strong walker and fell runner and was also into remote country and long distance backpacks. Quite the worst driver I have ever encountered, he was a good husband and father. He died aged only 42 in 2004.

Keith Colwell was a strong walker in his time with us organising a number of innovative meets. He also climbed and served too as a Committee Member and Membership Secretary. I ran into him a few weeks ago and he is going strong.

Chris Costello both walked and climbed with us, and was Hut Secretary on the Committee for a couple of years early on in this period. He left the Club when he moved to the East Coast to work.

Phil Cryer joined the Club in 1968 per John's book. Evidently a strong walker.

Mike Dagley now lives in Manchester. A strong all round walker and scrambler who also climbs, cycles and canoes. One of my best trips was with Mike and Tara O'Reilly, a mini backpack to Suilven and Canisp. At one stage Mike worked for the Mountaineering Council of Ireland, and also for Sustrans over here. Mike created the big map in the Chapel sitting room.

Mike Davies It was with Mike I did my first Hut weekend walk. Over a long Club career he was a hill walker in both the UK and overseas: on his 60th birthday he was with me in a hailstorm on Clisham on Harris, looking out in awe across the seas to the stacks St Kilda as the skies cleared.

Phil Earl was a strong and dedicated climber when he was in the Club, he did a lot of climbing with Allan McDonald. He still lives locally and works as a Director in a social housing organisation. He is still a keen walker and cyclist.

June Ewing has a long standing with our Club, being a member in the early days and again when she and husband Maurice returned to the Wirral from living in Scotland.

Janet Ford lives in Torridon. She was a long standing member of the Club in the early days, and a very tough walker indeed.

Les Fowles was a founding member of the Club, which he and John Huxley initiated. A tough walker in his younger days, Les served the Club too on the Committee for almost the entire length of his membership, particularly as House Secretary, and brought great skills of order and organisation into his work. In his retirement, Les also volunteered as a driver for Age UK; and took up arms against a sea of troubles, working as an advisor for Citizens Advice. Les died in 2020.

John Hall was one of my first friends in the Club. He now lives in Dorset, and was a very active member pre 2000 before moving south. A climber and walker he served on the Committee as President, Chair, Secretary and Committee Member.

Pete Halling was a very early member who joined in 1970. A rock climber and evidently a fast and strong hill walker.

Anne Harnden was a strong hill walker, who left the Club just before my time to live in Glasgow.

Chris Harvey is the husband of Ronnie Harvey. A fine climber and walker he is an outdoor pursuits instructor who was a member of the Club before they moved north.

Bethan Hines is now Bethan McDonald and lives with Allan in North Wales. In her time with the Club she was active as a hill walker and climber, and was a driver too of the social scene. She did a great deal to help progress Chapel improvements and also served on the Committee.

"Bunty" Hughes aka Roger Hughes Jnr was a member of Club in the early days, joining in 1974. He was a leading rock climber.

John Huxley was a founding member of the Club which he and Les Fowles initiated. A very sociable and positive man, John had a long hill career, started as a youngster, moving through walking and camping to climbing and then back to walking again. He served the Club for many years in Committee roles, especially as Chair and a long term Treasurer. He was Heather Bliss' first husband. I'll always envy him – and Heather and Mike McEneaney - for having camped on the summit of Ben Hope. John died in 2010 and that year a huge group of us scattered his ashes on his favourite hill, Moel Sych, "a grave which kings would envy".

Alan Jemmett is married to Boo Jemmett-Stone. Mainly a climber in his time with the Club, Alan's background is in Oceanography: he works running Merseyside's Environmental Advisory Service and is an accomplished diver, having pursued this interest as far afield as the Galapagos Islands.

Heather Jones is now Heather Butler and lives with Pete in North Wales. A walker who did some climbing, she served several years as House Secretary on the Committee too. Heather is also an archaeologist and lecturer.

Tom Jones was an accomplished rock climber of the early days; he joined the Club in 1974.

Bill Kelly now lives on the Isle of Man. Both a walker and climber Bill was one of our most active members, I had a lot of good trips with him back in the day. Bill served on the Committee and was Chair of the Club. In his time with us Bill was a joiner and then moved into youth work.

Dave Kelly was a walker in his time with the club and also climbed, and was very keen on wilderness trips. Dave always had a good fund of stories from his experience as a marine and then motor engineer. He served on the Committee as House Secretary and Chair. He now lives in Lancashire.

Richard Kinsman is a strong climber and is the husband of Melinda. A stalwart of the climbing scene in the early part of our period, Richard has climbed widely across the world. He was Treasurer and Chair of the Club and also developed and ran our first website. Richard works in finance for the NHS.

Mal Lamb was best summarised by my late mother who met him in West Kirby... "Who is that Viking God!?". Mal was an all round hillman, walker, climber and mountaineer, and he and I had good times together. The iconic Mal moment was me driving his Ford Capri, sans power steering but avec power bulge back to France from Italy through a number of Italian Driver Incidents and then the Mont Blanc tunnel. We all cheered when the sign "France" came up half way through! Mal served as Hut Warden.

Tony Lamberton focused on climbing in his time with us. A secondary school head, and a very sociable man he was always fun to be around and had a flow of good ideas and conversation. Tony also has an interest in cars, always smart ones which seemed to change with the seasons!

Greg Leasor was a strong climber and walker when he was in the Club, I did some great trips with him, including some hairy backpacks. We still enjoy a walk together from time to time. Greg and Julie now live in West Kirby. He served on the Committee as Hut Warden.

Charlotte McCoy did some good walks in her time with us, not least on our most recent Alpine trip.

Allan McDonald Allan was a stalwart of the Club in the early 2000s, he now lives with his wife Bethan in North Wales. Allan is a strong walker and climber and in the GMC took particular pleasure in introducing novices and young people to rock climbing. Allan has a deep interest in the history and culture of mountaineering. He served for many years on the Committee first as Membership Secretary and then as Chair.

Marilyn McEneaney Marilyn (nee Eccles) was a very active walker in the 1990s and early 2000s in the UK and overseas. She was the driving force behind the first organised mid-week walks, the "Tuesday Trekkers", and served as a Committee Member. She was Mike's first wife and died in 2007. Marilyn organised an unforgettable party to see in the Millennium in 2000.

Leigh McGinley was a member in the early days of the Club, joining in 1975. An outstanding climber, I met him just the once in the Tyn u Coed.

Tony McGowan was an early member joining in 1972. He was a friend of Alan Rouse when they lived and taught in Ellesmere Port.

Ross McGraw was a very strong and fast walker built on very slim lines. I well remember walking with Ray Baines and Ross arm in arm on a very windy day on Grasmoor, we were afraid he'd blow away... He and my friend Bob Gwynne did Beinn Sgrìol in vile conditions during my munros campaign. Ross was also a great traveller across Europe in his campervan (into which we often squeezed on wet campsites!). He died in 2020.

John Malley was mainly a walker in the Club, keen on wild camping too. He also did some rock climbing and served on the Committee in the early years of our period.

Peter Mann is a highly experienced climber and walker, who always inspires confidence in me when the going gets tough. He is now retired from a university academic career and is living in Broughty Ferry near Dundee. Very active in the Club from 1995 when he lived in Wirral and in Birmingham, we still welcome Pete on meets from time to time as a guest. Pete Chaired the Club for a number of years in the mid 2010's.

Jim Metcalfe was a very tough walker over many years with the Club. A lean and wiry figure, he worked in HR and then in his own consultancy business.

Joy Mills is the wife of Simon and they live in Halifax. A long standing member Joy did loads of walking with the Club, and has a wide range of interests including Tang Soo Do (she broke a brick) and choral singing. Joy was a lawyer and now works for a charity.

Simon Mills is the husband of Joy and they live in Halifax. Simon was a walker (and drinker) in his time with the Club, organising 'Last of the summer ales' meet in Holmfirth. He is a Master 5th Dan black belt in Tang Soo Do. (Simon can break bricks too). He is an engineer.

Mark Mitchell, a gentle giant of a man, and his wife Wendy were members in the 1980s and 1990s and were very active then. Mark was both a walker and rock climber. Mark worked in the oil refinery industry and he and Wendy moved to Scotland in 1997.

Hugh Nettleton was a long term friend of the Club who eventually joined. A modest and humorous man, both a strong walker and a tough Alpinist. Resident in London, he was a reserve military policeman who had personally and inadvertently invaded East Germany. He also went on epic weekend backpacks with his mates in South East England, camping wild and undiscovered in some pretty unpromising territory...

Andy Odger ensured we always had a fun time on trips and were never long without a laugh. The only GMC member to have served in an (armoured) tank, Andy was both a walker and climber in his time with us, and worked in the supply chain management industry.

Nick Parry was a very early member and a leading climber, partnering Al Rouse. His chapter "Early Climbing" in the book "Alan Rouse, a Mountaineers Life" throws interesting sidelights on early GMC days.

Rob Payne was another early bird in the Club, who moved to New Zealand. I met him the once and can concur with John Huxley's description "A really very nice guy...[with] this brilliant Worcester accent and a head of short dark curly hair".

Hilary Pinches joined the Club in 1968 and was evidently a very tough walker, active in the late '60s. She served as Committee Member.

Rob Platt is a climber with a permanent suntan and an earring. A kind, benign pirate of a man with a ready smile and laugh. I enjoyed his company a lot.

Bryn Roberts (The Elder) Bryn moved away from the Wirral to County Durham where he was a good host to members. He has now returned to Wales. One of the Club's strongest ever rock climbers, he has climbed as far afield as Jordan and Australia. Not to be confused with our present member Bryn Roberts.

Carol Roberts was both a walker and climber in her time with us, a very sociable lady with a great sense of humour and always fun to be with.

Alan Rouse was one of Britain's foremost mountaineers in the 20th century. He was born in Wallasey and was a member of the Club in his young days. A friend of many of our older members, I met him just the once when he opened the old climbing wall at Ellesmere Port. First Briton to summit K2, Alan died during the descent, in 1986. He is commemorated with a blue plaque at the Breck in Wallasey.

Chris Schiller was a member of the Club before moving to Wiltshire. A leading climber, he was the climbing partner of Bryn Roberts (the Elder). He was on the first British ascent of the SW ridge of Mount Hunter, 10th highest peak in Alaska. Nevertheless, after a day out with me in he characterised it as "*extreme* lane walking in Wales"! A great guy and very good company.

Nick Steen was a very early member joining in 1974. A rock climber and a fast hill walker.

Bill Sutherland was a fine mountain walker and fell runner, and a modest, kindly and gentle man. His achievements included winning many GMC Welsh 3000's events and completing the punishing Bob Graham round in the Lake district. He also ascended two of the seven summits – Elbrus and Aconcagua. Bill died on the hill of a heart attack in the Picos de Europa in 2004.

Ann Swift A kind, quiet and gentle lady, Ann cared for many years for her elderly mother. She was a hill walker and a great friend of Mal Bonner's. Ann has now sadly passed away.

Debbie Taverner was a walker in the her time with us and also strong on the social scene, she worked in the building materials retail trade. She is also a horsewoman and shows dogs. She and Keith are based in Neston.

Keith Taverner was a walker with us, and additionally his skills as a builder supported the Club on numerous occasions, particularly in the Hut. He is based in Neston with his wife Debbie.

Steve Thomas was a member for a couple of years in the middle part of our period. As well as doing the Offa's Dyke he made a strong showing in the Welsh 3000s. Steve worked in the electricity supply industry.

Peter Vaughan worked as teacher when he was a Club member. He was a walker who took to climbing too.

Steve Walker lives in Cheshire. He was a regular on Club walking meets especially day trips. He organised a number of meets for us and he and his wife Marion gave us a lot of hospitality over the years.

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