

NEW CLIMBS

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THE PEAK DISTRICT

At the moment, all climbing guides to Peak District gritstone and the M.A.M. guide to Brassington are out of print, and so a complete new series of guide books, "Rock Climbs in the Peak District", is now in course of preparation. These will be issued under the authority of the Peak Committee of the British Mountaineering Council and at the moment I am general editor and organiser. Other M.A.M. members engaged on this voluntary task are Cyril Machin and Ray Handley, and the royalties will, as before, be going to the Mountain Rescue Organisation.

The following climbs may be of interest to our members:

LIMESTONE

BEESTON TOR, MANIFOLD VALLEY

The present guide to climbs on mountain limestone in Derbyshire records two routes, called Ivy Gash and The Thorn. The following route is the latest addition:

NOCTURNE. 240 feet. Hard Severe+A3.

Start as for The Thorn.

1. 60 FEET. As for The Thorn.
2. 80 FEET. Ascend towards a crack to the right which can be followed for 15 feet, then up diagonally left until it is possible to climb vertically into a great ivy stance with a hidden belay. This is a magnificent pitch on good rock but with poor protection.
3. 100 FEET. Surmount the overhang above by means of a thin diagonal crack and continue upwards on doubtful rock until forced first left and then right again, and finish up the final section of The Thorn.

First ascent: M. Downey, C. Mathews, March 24, 1963. Alternate leads.

GRITSTONE

BIRCHENS EDGE

HANGOVER. Very Severe.

Starts up the left side wall of the inverted gully from which springs Admiral's Progress. Climb this wall to a point where it is possible to attain the main face up which runs the "Powder Monkey Parade" climb. Reverse the traverse of that climb to immediately below the centre of the overhang. Pull strenuously over this and continue direct to the top.

THE CRAZY PINNACLE QUARRY, LONGSHAW

This is situated at the southern end of the Longshaw Estate, facing across the valley the extreme north end of Froggatt Edge. A stile and footpath are available on the main road about a hundred yards up from where the Froggatt Edge drive enters the main road. The footpath leads across the clough and climbs the hillside, finally traversing below the quarry.

The conspicuous feature of the place is the Crazy Pinnacle which guards the entrance. This was first climbed by J. W. Puttrell during the closing years of the last century. E. A. Baker's "Moors, Crags and Caves of the High Peak" issued in 1903 gives an account of a climbing visit and includes a photograph of the obelisk. Since then it has been visited on numerous occasions, and climbs have been made on the quarry itself. Other climbs have been pioneered as recently as this year by members of the Parnassus Mountaineering Club of Sheffield. This guide is therefore based on these recent developments. The Crazy Pinnacle give three routes which are here described in a clockwise direction.

1. **THE ORIGINAL ROUTE.** 30 FEET. Difficult.

This is the obvious step-like arete which is climbed direct on good holds.

It used to be the custom in the 1930's to stand on one's head on the small summit.

First ascent: J. W. Puttrell. c. 1890.

2. PIZA. 30 FEET. Hard Severe.

To the left on the outer face of the pinnacle. Ascend a hard crack to a diagonal ledge. Follow this to its extremity and finish up a short crack.

First ascent: B. Shirley, 1963.

3. THIN CRACK. 30 FEET. Very Severe.

Moving left round the pinnacle to its inner face which is split by a thin crack, start with an awkward mantleshelf to a horizontal ledge. Now using the right hand arete and the crack, ascend until able to stand on a piton which is permanently *in situ*. An awkward move now enables the finishing mantleshelf to be attained.

First ascent: B. Millsom, 1963.

The main face of the quarry is described from left to right as one faces the rock, the first climb being

4. FOUR CRACKS. 30 FEET. V. Difficult.

On the buttress to the left of the pinnacle. These cracks, very close together, are climbed direct.

5. GOLIATH. 30 FEET. Mild Severe.

The wide overhanging crack directly behind the pinnacle is climbed using elbow and knee jams until it is possible to mantleshelf on to a broad ledge. From here take the wide chockstone crack to finish.

6. DIAMOND CRACK. 30 FEET. Mild Severe.

Climb on small horizontal holds to the diamond shaped jammed block. Up over this, and a hard mantleshelf to the left, brings one to a good ledge. It then becomes easier to the top.

7. CORNER CRACK. 30 FEET. Hard Severe.

Up the corner crack to its finish, and a very hard move to attain a groove. Bridging methods lead to the top.

8. FINGERS. 30 FEET. Very Severe.

To the right of Corner Crack will be seen two thin cracks. Climb the left one on straightforward holds to a slight overhang which is the crux. This is overcome on painful finger jams and tiny footholds, followed by finishing gingerly with a mantleshelf over poor rock. This is the hardest climb on the quarry and requires a determined and skilful leader.

9. ACE. 30 FEET. Hard Severe.

To the right of Fingers a diagonal crack is climbed using a layback move to the overhanging corner crack. Ascend this on jams and bridging moves to finish on poor rock.

10. JOKER. 30 FEET. Hard Severe.

Climb the right diagonal crack to the overhanging corner and finish as for Ace.

THE ROCHES

The overhanging frontal face of the large square buttress lying between Heather Slab and Maud's Garden on the upper tier of the Roches has for long presented a challenge to climbers. This buttress has on its left corner the Capitol Climb and is also bounded on its right end by the routes "Late Night Final" and "Beckermet Slab".

The challenge of this imposing wall of the buttress has now been met, with the result of several fine routes.

THE WOMBAT. 75 FEET. Very Severe.

Climb the short corner a few feet right of Capitol Climb and traverse to the right under the roof. Cross this on flakes, then good holds on the lip lead to a crack which is climbed to a heather ledge. Finish up the slabs above.

WALLEROO. 75 FEET. Hard Very Severe.

Start at the centre of the base of the face and climb almost direct for 25 feet to the obvious large block, behind which it is possible to squirm. From the top of the block move left over the bulge and into a shallow groove. Up this to a heather ledge and final slabs.

WEST'S WALLABY. 90 FEET. Very Severe.

Start as for Walleroo, to the block. Traverse the sloping ledge on the right into Late Night Final. Up this for a short way and then break out on to the wall on the left, and up this.

WALLABY DIRECT. 85 FEET. Hard Very Severe.

Start as for Walleroo, to the block. Traverse the sloping ledge to a point midway between the block and Late Night Final. At this point the bulging wall above is overcome by a high flake hold.

NORTH WALES

It will be remembered that in a previous issue of the *M.A.M. Journal* mention was made of the mysterious quarry south of Rhyd Ddu wherein lies the most fantastic pinnacle ridge in Wales—as yet unclimbed. This is the Dorothea quarry, situated just outside the village of Nantlle, and is well worth a visit. For the description of the following climb we are indebted to the Rimmon Mountaineering Club from whose journal it comes.

“THE DOROTHEA RIDGE. LENGTH UNKNOWN. Very Severe, as yet.

The ridge is gained where it is at its loosest, and runs easily down from a large platform 200 feet down in the quarry to the foot of a small pinnacle, where it is best to rope up. An old hawser aids the ascent of this pinnacle to a spike used for a forty foot abseil down its hanging side to the narrow crest of the ridge below. Some further scrambling leads to an impossible wall of 70 feet. Here the sides of the ridge drop sheer for about three hundred feet, and it was found necessary to move up and out across a long, exposed and delicate traverse of the left wall, and then up a groove to the summit of the ridge again. This was a V.S. pitch of 120 feet on which three peg runners were used.

Ahead towered the great pinnacles, but time was short and an abseil was made off a peg to the bottom of a boulder filled chimney (60 feet), and then another down the hanging lower wall to the screes.

The boulder filled chimney and the towers behind would provide a continuation to this most unusual and interesting ridge.”

A. Howard, P. Seddon, Easter 1962.