

NEW CLIMBS

BRASSINGTON

Since the M.A.M. guide to Brassington Rocks was written in 1949, a few new routes have been added. Members possessing the guide may like to add this information to that contained in the Guide Book :

LOWER TIER, WEST HILL.

"THE TWOSTEP" (Severe) is obvious 5 feet left of PILLAR CHIMNEY, but how to ascend the first step is a problem that is not surpassed by anything else on these crags. The tiny holds on the bulge are also obvious. How to use them is up to you.

"PENLINGTON'S PROGRESS." (Hard Severe).

Lies up the steep "arete like corner" between Pillar Chimney and Pillar Face. Holds awkwardly spaced. A long reach is of great help.

"NETTLE WALL" (Very Difficult).

Left side of Nettle Chimney. The conspicuous little overhang can be climbed direct or on either side. Interesting route.

"ASH TREE CRACK" (Severe).

Up the left hand side of Ash tree Wall.

"ROWAN CRACK" (Severe).

On the right of Rowan Wall—should be finished direct.

For those with gardening and pioneering instincts it should be noted that "Face Climb No. 1" on East Hill upper Tier, merges into a scrub and grass clad wall, which if suitably cleaned would give at least two good routes.

One should also note that JUDO ROUTE and HAWTHORN FACE have now worn much easier, their present standards being perhaps Very Difficult.

TRYFAN.

COLUMBYNE TOWER—PIERROT. 300 feet. Very Difficult.

As one faces the final great tower of "Columbyne" it will be seen that the right hand corner throws down a long spur of narrow slabs into a prominent gully which bounds the Tower on the west. The climb goes up this slabby spur and then veers diagonally upwards across the face of the Tower to a finish at the top left hand corner. After Pitch 2, there are no easy ways off.

Start. At the base of the lowest slab in the bed of the gully.

1. **40 feet.** Up two slabs, first on the right edge, then delicate holds up the centre of the second.
2. A steep narrow Pillar cleft by a crack. Up the crack to a flake, step off the tip and pull up the face to belays in **70 feet.**
3. **40 feet.** Move left and up a staircase of sloping holds to an incut corner and large grass stance.
4. **35 feet.** The climber is now committed to ascent or retreat only. Move left into a short exposed, and awkward chimney, with a puzzling pull out onto a heathery slab and so up to a magnificent stance in a crevasse behind a huge tilted flake block.
5. **35 feet.** Stand on the tip of the block, pull across crevasse, up the wall by a crack, landing on sloping shelves (which are associated with the long traverse of Columbyne) and move left to the grassy platform under the cracked wall corner (that serves as a belaying point before the commencement of Columbyne Traverse).

6. **25 feet.** Up the inside corner of the cracked wall to a sloping groove and a belaying nook. (This corner had previously been ascended by P. Knapp, K. Clarke, and Trevor Baugh, of the M.A.M., who wished to escape from Columbyne without doing the exposed traverse).
7. **55 feet.** Move out left, low down on slabs, and so to a spike (running belay) then continue left onto a sloping foot shelf and climb directly up the final nose of the tower. An exhilarating and very exposed finish on magnificent holds.

Eric Byne, Charles Ashbury, Brian Jones, Brian Wood, Martin Allbutt, John Turner, Miss Margaret Thomas, Miss Iris Weighell. 6.8.53.

"THE CANNON RIDGE"—(West face).

1,175 feet. Just Very Difficult in Nails.

This is probably the longest continuous rock ridge on Tryfan, of which 400 feet is steep and gives pleasant rock climbing. The remainder always gives enjoyable and continuous scrambling, all the way to the North Ridge.

The climb is situated centrally on the mass of rock that lies between Castle Rocks and the V. Buttress—an area described unworthily in the present Tryfan guide as "giving excellent scrambling." Strange it is that such a fine section of steep ridge should not have previously been climbed!

The best approach is up the long tongue of bilberry and grass which leads up to the scree which comes down between the West Face and the Brag Rocks. A path takes one quite high and easily. The large "Cannon Rock" is situated on the lowest section of the ridge, about on a level with the base of Castle Rocks.

Below the "Cannon" lies a curving rock spur of 150 feet, quite continuous, and giving interesting scrambling.

Start. At the base of the curving spur below the "Cannon Rock."

1. **150 feet.** To the "Cannon," starting with a little chimney, then go as you please problems, some quite hard if you wish.
2. **100 feet.** Above the "Cannon" rises a very steep Tower. This is breached in the centre by a prominent chimney, quite steep, impressive, interesting, and exposed. This leads to a small ledge with belays at the foot of a fine vertical tower which is cleft by a fierce overleaning crack.
3. **60 feet.** The fierce crack might be possible, the present route however, avoids this by going up a short crack and bulge on the right hand side of the tower and then swinging round into a corner crack which leads nicely to a nook which in turn is left by a mantelshelf on to the top of the tower. Belays.
4. **30 feet.** Another steep rise, going out to a spike on the right corner, and then up a bulge on sketchy holds to a rock ledge and belays.
5. **60 feet.** Straight ahead is a variety of ways, the best of which is "The Vice," a chimney at the left—and so up to a large leaning block. Belays.
6. **80 feet.** Round the block to the right, passing the protruding flake and the Crevasse, to the base of a prominent chimney. The chimney forks at 10 feet. The left branch is strongly recommended. It proves most interesting.
7. **100 feet.** The rock now lies back at an easier angle. The best line is up the centre, trending right at 100 feet to an incut niche at the left side of a steeper block. Belays.
8. **25 feet.** The block. Pull up the corner on surprising holds and then easily up the face.
9. **210 feet.** The angle now deteriorates, but the rock is still continuous. At 90 feet a short rise is ascended by an awkward crack, then comes a terrace, and then a steep wall which is climbed by the steep but obvious chockstone crack.

10. 360 feet. Still a continuous line of rock, giving pleasant scrambling right up to the North Ridge, with an occasional steep rise for interest and steeper rocks in the final 100 feet or so.

First Ascent: Eric Byne, Ursula Milner White, Fred Tommey, Brian Thorneycroft. 9.8.56.

NEW CLIMBING GROUNDS IN THE PEAK DISTRICT

Since the "Gritstone Guide Book" period of 1949 to 1950, the climbers who were active during that time have followed on the tradition then established in the forcing of new routes. What has been surprising, and almost unbelievable, is the fact that unclimbed and unexplored crags and edges actually existed, and the majority of these have been discovered almost by accident. A few of these new climbing areas are worthy of mention, and the following brief notes may be of value to those of our members who like to visit new places.

1. "HARSTEN ROCKS," FROGHALL.

The nearest gritstone to Birmingham, being only 48 miles from Hall of Memory. Situated in the upper Churnet Valley about half a mile as the crow flies from Froghall Station. Best approached via Uttoxeter and Cheadle—or from the north the Cheadle road is taken from the main Leek-Ashbourne highway.

The crags lie secluded in a sort of "Lost" Valley, and they were discovered and explored by the "Oread" M.C. To date there are 35 climbs (and a unique pinnacle at Oldridge.)

2. "ALPORT CASTLES," BLEAKLOW.

A great craggy cirque at the bottom of Alport Clough, these rocks have for 50 years been neglected because of their unreliability. Explorations are now taking place and many sound climbs have been discovered.

3. "RAKE'S ROCKS" near LADDOW.

These have long been overlooked because of their near proximity to Laddow. "Oread" members have, however, dug many fine climbs out since 1951.

4. "HARECLIFFE ROCHER," AGDEN.

A terrific place overlooking the Agden Reservoir, some seven miles north west of Sheffield. Rocks very steep and high, holds square cut and small. 57 listed climbs so far, and many yet to follow. Average standard very high.

5. "YARNCLIFFE."

A quarried crag between Grindelford Station and the Fox House Inn. Map reference on 2½" Ordnance Survey sheet 43/27 is E255/N794.

A place for the expert only.

6. "LAURENCE FIELD."

Another quarried crag, steep, sound, and with terrific exposure in places. Situated 100 yards south of "The Surprise" on the Fox House to Hathersage road. Map Ref. O.S. 1 inch Sheet 111.—249/797.

ERIC BYNE.