

The Roaches Meet - August 2009

Well I went! Only me on the Friday night – the meet leader was clog dancing in Whitby (presumably with the rest of the LMC)!!

Ollie woke me up early on Saturday and stayed both days.

We had lots of day visitors on Saturday and Sunday!

All the old favourites were done – Valkyrie - knee tremblers for Ollie - Sarah hit the holly bush!

Via Dolorosa – wow, I'd forgotten how good this olde worlde VS is and Julie with Ollie and me made the most of it. Dave S had to watch from his crutch, if you see what I mean (biking accident in France, I understand).

A few nearly ascents – The Swan E3 (David T); and Smear Test E3 (Stuart) who just had to make one little cheat.

Flawless climbs by Martin on Hawkwing (E1) and David T on Elergy (E2). Kate did Pebbledash (HVS).

I did Souls Crack (HVS) for the umpteenth time – and still struggled!!

And there were lots more routes done by everyone.

The hut is superb – big, clean kitchen, lounge, showers, very comfy bunks. We must go again - or rather you should go!! Maybe the Club should try for a weekend away from the summer holiday period.

It's a fantastic hut and a fantastic crag. It is surrounded by climbing history – with plenty of original photos of Don Whillans on Sloth and Valkyrie, and Joe Brown with other early pioneers.



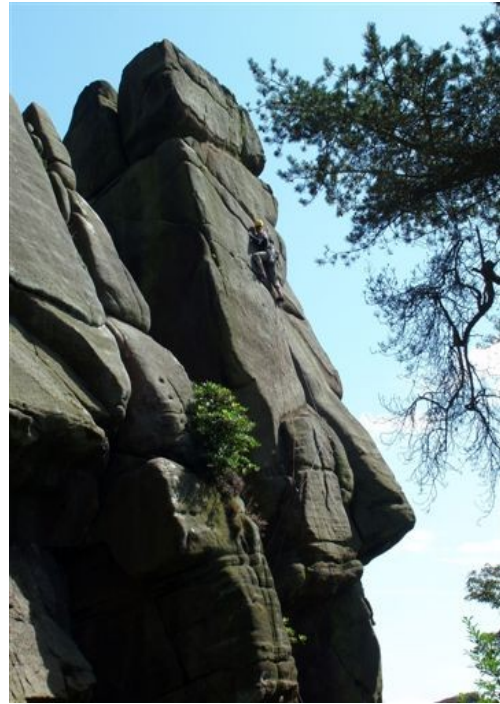
The BMC's Don Whillans memorial hut at the Roaches in Staffordshire



View from the door/trestle table



Saturday visitors Julie, Dave and Kate get ready: Sarah is belaying Martin on Valkyrie (VS) (and doesn't know what's in store!!)



Martin high on Hawkwing (E1)



David making The Swan (E3) safe(r?)

Richard Toon
September 2009