

"Hey - hi Mar'in!! Long time no see!!".

We've arrived at Willersley Castle in the Peaks after a long drive, a long stop at the Pool cafe in Hathersage and an even longer perusal of the various guidebooks. The Indian summer was departing - by around 4pm that afternoon! We needed somewhere low, out of the wind and easy to get to. Preferably also with routes that mere mortals as well as wonder kids could cope with.

Martin used to be in the LMC when he worked in Wigan. I climbed with him a lot. We went on a superb trip to the Caucasus, doing several peaks. Except that Martin tripped on a moraine and dislocated a shoulder very badly. But there was a golden lining. Whilst recuperating, he fell for his Russian bride!

"Yelena is just doing some shopping. She'll be along later!!". And sure enough, after we'd coiled the ropes, we turned the corner as Martin, Yelena and other friends were packing up for their drive back to Ipswich.

Funnily enough, a few weeks earlier, I'd read Martin's long write-ups in the Manorbier Hotel log book on Lundy island. He'd been there a week or so before us!!

Yelena reckoned that it was 33 years ago since we last met. I think it was only 23!!

Oh, and we did do some climbing!! David Toon and Kate Hawkins warmed up on a 7A and then worked a 7C. Their E2 finale was a leisurely warm-down.

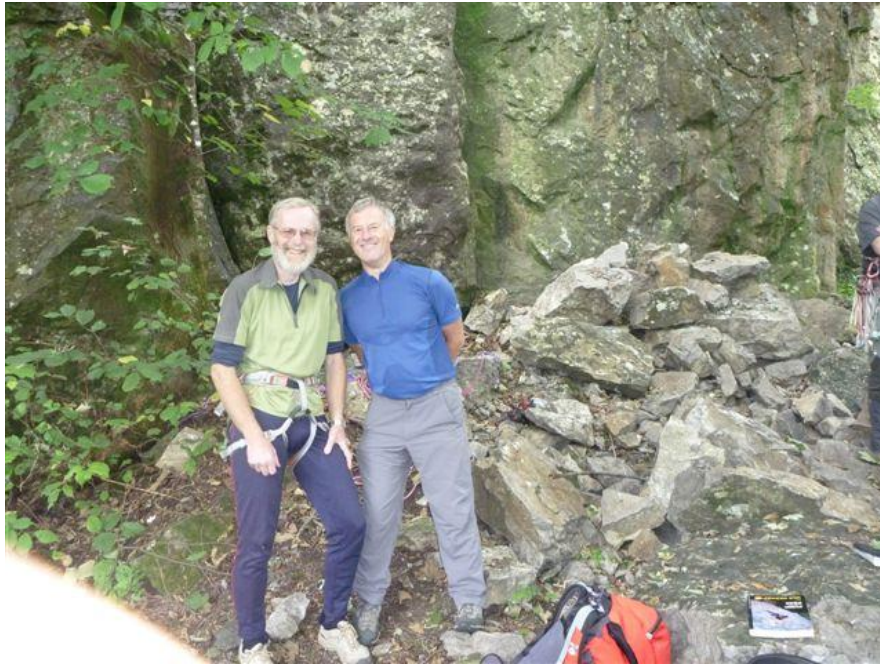
We mere mortals, Dave Sudell and myself, stuck to the classics. Nice long, steep, VS routes, with plenty of polished bits. Then it rained.

An excellent autumn day. Where have all the climbers gone? Whatever you were all doing, you missed a really good day out. Maybe next time...!

Richard



What, go climbing!! 1



Martin - after all these years!!



Hard, smooth and steep - only VS! Dave 1