

ROCKCLIMBING *OTMC Bulletin, March 1987, (Page 5)*

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Smashing your head against a rock wall; hanging over a precipice (head down) with a rope round your ankle; gripping by your fingertips to a sheer cliff, while the sea pounds at your feet - these are the sort of thoughts that can go through our minds, as we crawled up the hill to Long Beach for the first time. Much to our disappointment we were proved wrong.

Rockclimbing with the Club takes place during the Summer, using the advantages of daylight saving. A group of mad enthusiasts meet at the Wilderness Shop at 5.30 on Wednesday evenings; jump into one of the available cars, and speed off to Long Beach for a spot of good light hearted climbing.

After a quick jog across the sandy and very seaweedy (?!?) beach (which of course caused some particularly nasty scenes), we arrived at "The Rock", picked the seaweed out of our socks, shoes, hair, packs, pockets; in general, everywhere (thanks Susan), and prepared to climb.

And rockclimbing is fun, as well as a great way of exhausting yourself beyond the level of reasonable endurance. As for falling; well, that's a breeze; once you've hung off one rope, you can hang off them all. As well as Wednesdays, we had a few weekend picnics; which were also very enjoyable (despite throwing the sausages in the sand, and getting thrown in the sea!)

All in all, rockclimbing was really great and we can't wait to get back there next year. Heaps and heaps of thanks are due to our esteemed "instructors" who we couldn't have survived without i.e. Garry Nixon, John Robinson, John Pohl and Andy Beecroft.

See you all next year!