

GEORGE BARROW 1942 - 2009

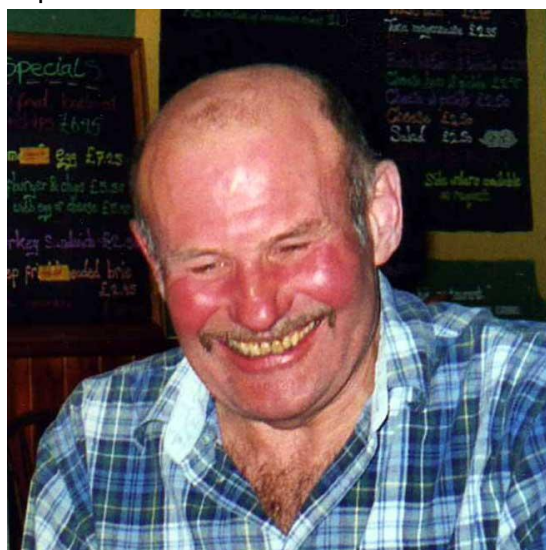
I first met George forty years ago in appropriately the Owd Betts Pub up on the moors above Rochdale, just a chance remark about Scotland led to a lifelong association with many ups and downs (for me, anyway) George had just got divorced and was selling the family home, that's how he came to live with Pat and me at Edenfield-we needed the rent money!

It was many months later when he met Julia and went on to marry her and raise Calum and Emma. Julia soon put an end to Georges propensity for "The Drink", although we rapidly learned to circumvent this clamp down. Trips to the The Smoo Hotel at Durness, brief sorties to The Rhiconick Hotel and the Seamans Mission at Kinlochbervie in the north west corner of Scotland led to a few relapses of temperance on our part. Never the less we survived.

My most cherished memory of Scotland involved George and me, walking into Knoydart to Barrisdale Bothy in glorious sunshine, and then spending the next eighteen hours traversing Luinne Bheinn, Meall Buidhe and Ladhar Bheinn arriving back at the bothy at nearly midnight, still light, but too exhausted to open our stash of Glenmorangie! We walked out by Loch Hourne then went on to knock off The Five Sisters Of Kintail (figuratively speaking) and ran up and down Ben Lomond a bit later in one hour forty mins from the road--heady days!!

Georges love of the mountains was deeply embedded in his soul long before I first met him. He was a member of Preston Harriers in the sixties and seventies excelling both on the track and latterly in some of the early lakeland mountain trials, running with such notables as Ted Dance and Gerry Charnley with much success. A winner of the Fells Man Axe and a second place at Ben Nevis on the old longer course were just two prestige events of many that George took part in and was very reticent to recall. Bill Smith's "Stud Marks On The Summit" chronical most of Georges running prowess. A naturally modest man, he would again resist attempts to glean his achievements as an accomplished rock climber.

When he was at Manchester University as a student he shared his "digs" with Pete Crew, this friendship led to some serious first accents of the big Lakeland Craggs in the sixties. He became a lifelong member of the FRCC and The Rucksack Club, probably the two most prestigious and senior climbing clubs in the country George was the Senior Lecture in Mechanical Engineering at U.M.I.S.T. and spent much of his working life lecturing Phd Students in his speciality of machine cutting tools. He wrote many technical papers on cutting tool mathematics and design and had many of his world wide acknowledged theories published. His expertise in this field led him to work all over the world, China, Korea, Hong Kong, Russia, Israel, Mexico,



Argentina, USA, Canada and most of Europe. He was employed by multinational engineering companies as "the world expert witness" in Patent and Copyright Law with regard to cutting tools in many word wide Law suits and to my knowledge he never lost one!

George was responsible for making me see sense and take up fell running in the early eighties rather than pursue the road running path I was following. I am eternally grateful!!!

George was a very modest, highly intelligent, talented human being and it was my privilege to have known him for many years. My wonderful memories of him will stay with me until I join him, which I surely will.

Ranter

