



We had a lot of rain in January!!!

As WBMC members will know well, in normal conditions Hull Pot near Pen-y-Ghent is a dry 60ft-deep chasm, save for a waterfall, but at 5. 40pm on 10th January, hill runner Brian Stallwood shared an incredible video of England’s largest natural hole looking like a lake 300ft in length & 60ft wide on Twitter. He told the BBC he had only seen Hull Pot completely full on one previous occasion, even though he lives in nearby Horton in Ribblesdale. As the water usually recedes quickly, few people observe the phenomenon, which he guesses would take place every 2 or 3 years. The water that passes through the pothole then flows under Horton Moor into Brants Ghyll Beck & then into R. Ribble which carries it west to the Irish Sea, although that flowing eastwards over the summit of Pen-y-Ghent ultimately ends up in the Humber Estuary & North Sea. To have a look at the Twitter video click :-

https://twitter.com/stolly14/status/1612867113126957058?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwtterm%5E1612867113126957058%7Ctwgr%5E5260eb14deb9b6653b1fb3ef4ae110e3e213626%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fd-3316718259480355222.ampproject.net%2F2301041800000%2Fframe.html

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2	Noticeboard / Future Events	What a fantastic beginning to the year January saw four members in Antarctica while another two were ice climbing in Norway; Mitch’s Meet enjoyed a New Year walk across the Long Mynd followed by most welcoming pub stop and the first coach of the year attracted a great crowd to a wintery Ogwen Valley. The Club has certainly started the year with a Bang. A comprehensive Meet Card has been put together and no doubt extra meets will appear as the year progresses. There is absolutely no excuse. GET INVOLVED !! By the time you read this Newsletter the dreaded AGM will be almost upon us, <u>Thursday March 23rd at 7.30pm in The Red Lion.</u> Put the date in your diary. There will be no twisting of arms to get involved in the running of the Club but by turning out you are showing the committee that to you WBMC matters & that is what the committee want to hear (& we need 25 to be quorate!) Enjoy what remains of winter and stay safe. Mel	
3	March Coach Meet: Hawes		
4	April Coach Meet: Black Mtn		
5	May Coach: Malham		
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7	Membership & Items for Sale		
8	Chapel Stile & Patterdale w/e		
9	Rhum & Torridon camping		
10 - 11	Ogwen Coach Report		
11 - 12	Thirlmere Coach Report		
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17 & 18	Dog Sledging ? TicTokers ?		
19	Things You’ve Been Doing		
20	Minutes / AGM Calling Notice		
This Newsletter was produced by John Edwards. If you would like to write an article or spot something interesting about the mountains please get in touch with John via jaejed@hotmail.com			

NOTICEBOARD**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

A warm welcome to New Members who have joined in the last few months:-

Suzanne Byrne, Annette Cope, Gillian Seaton & Dan Bow plus Prospective Members Tim Wilkes & Adam Gayden.

Not forgetting our youngest New Member, 1 year old Henry Brindley !!

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE EVENTS:**COACH MEETS TO THE HILLS & MOUNTAINS:-**

Saturday 11th March – Hawes & Yorks Dales

Saturday 15th April – The Black Mountains

Sunday 14th May – Malham & S Pennines

Reserve your seat with Nigel (07703 345729) and be guaranteed a great day on the hills.

These leave W. Brom at 7am & usually return around 9 – 9.30 pm giving ~7 hrs on the hills with linear walks often possible. If you don't fancy a long walk why not come along for a social day out?

INDOOR MEETS :-

Thursday 9th March – Members' Night with an Illustrated Talk on at "The Manaslu Circuit" by Hilary Jones at the Red Lion All Saints Way, W Brom (B71 1RH) 7.30pm start

Thursday 16th March – Members' Social 8.30pm at The Red Lion (B71 1RH)

Thursday 23rd March – **AGM 2023 @ The Red Lion All Saints Way, W Brom (B71 1RH) 7.30pm start. PLEASE TRY TO ATTEND – WE NEED 25 MINIMUM TO MAKE THIS CRUCIAL MEETING QUORATE.** Also have a think about standing for one of the

Committee posts – several are becoming vacant including Chair, Membership Secretary & Treasurer and there are 5 places 'without portfolio' (ordinary committee members)

Tuesday 28th March – Indoor Climbing at "High Places" (Kidderminster Climbing Wall)

Thursday 11th April – Members' Night with an Illustrated Talk on "The Antarctic Peninsula & S. Shetland Is" by Geordie Hind at the Red Lion All Saints Way, W Brom 7.30pm start.

Thursday 20th April – Members' Social 8.30pm at The Red Lion

Tuesday 25th April – Indoor Climbing at "High Places" (Kidderminster Climbing Wall)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & SOCIAL NIGHTS AT THE RED LION (B71 1RH) :-

20th April & 18th May Committee meetings start at 7.30pm & observers are welcome. Otherwise come along at around 8.30 pm for a drink & a chat or meal.

WEEKENDS & OTHER MEETS :-**AWAY DINNER WEEKEND 2023 Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th March**

The Club Away Dinner 2023 is again being held at the Briary Wood Country Hotel, Windermere on Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th March. Nigel Tarr has made the booking & if you haven't yet booked, you're too late as he has said it is now FULL.

CHAPEL STILE WEEKEND (Friday 31st March – Sunday 2nd April) SADLY CANCELLED

The Toc H Weirside Climbing Hut in Langdale had been booked again by Rob Cox but sadly does not have water at the moment. More details on page 8 of the Newsletter.

CAMPING & PEAK-BAGGING IN SCOTLAND 27th – 30th April - 6th May Andy and Tony have made plans for some great trips See later page 9

PATTERDALE SCRAMBLING WEEKEND Friday 19th – Sunday 21st May

Mel Evans has booked The George Starkey Hut in the Lake District and new member Dan Bow is offering to take members out as he's working towards a mountain guide award. More details later in the Newsletter.

HUT CYCLING WEEKEND 9th - 10th June Vanessa is organising this. See later page 12

SATURDAY 11th MARCH: HAWES & THE N. YORKS PENNINES

Join us at Hawes and go to see the Highest Free Falling Waterfall in England (but see page 6!)

Depart: 07: 00 –West Bromwich. Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN) NB Charges apply on Saturdays !

07: 20 –Penkridge

Drop offs: Hawes (874898)

Possibly Ingleton & / or Garsdale Head?

Pick up: Hawes (874898)

Required map: OS 1:25000 Outdoor

Leisure Map No 30 Yorkshire Dales N & Central Areas & maybe No 2 Yorkshire Dales Western Area

OS 1:50000 Landranger 98

Right: Hardraw Force with its sheer 100ft drop

**Suggested Routes:**

Route 1. Great Shunner Fell & Lovely Seat (14 miles / 23 km & 2050 ft ascent) <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/41920954>

Follow Pennine Way out of Hawes on road to Hardraw and after crossing pastures call in to see Hardraw Force (Entry via Green Dragon Pub!!!) After leaving continue on Pennine Way to top of Great Shunner Fell (849974) Leave Pennine Way and drop down to Little Shunner Fell (858970) and then continue SE to Grimy Gutter Hags (869963) & then southerly to the road cattle grid. Cross the road here and climb up to Lovely Seat (878950), then head E to Coghill Beck and follow Beck down to track at (900942). Follow track S for 2 Km when track turns SW towards Smuker Hill (889923) where it turns S to join Shutt Lane (889916). Follow Shutt Lane into Sedbusk and then cross fields to join Hardraw Rd at (877905) and back to coach.

Route 2 Great Shunner Fell ((12 miles / 19.3 km & ~1500 ft ascent) As Route 1 to cattle grid and then follow road S to just below Sweet Hill where we leave road left (865936) and follow path in S Easterly direction via Pike Hill towards North Rakes Hill where we leave track and turn S (884924) on path and then SE to join Shutt Lane and then as Route 1. <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/41921391>

Route 3 Dodd Fell Hill & Drumaldrace (11 miles / 18 km & 1,600 ft ascent)

Follow Pennine Way to Gayle and onwards SW. After a couple of miles Cam Road come in from the right & around 837850 strike off left up over rough moor to the trig point (841846) of the flat, featureless top. Descend due SE to the head of Sleddale (845841) & on to Cam High Rd. At 862853 veer off right through a gate & up to Drumaldrace summit (874867). Return to the 'road' and at 882870 take the track which leads N down to Burtersett or Gayle, thence Hawes. <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/41921666>

Route 4 (Bad weather routes) (7 miles or 12.5 miles if PW followed to Cam High Rd) Follow Pennine Way in South Westerly direction out of Hawes towards Gayle. After leaving houses and road the PW takes a 90 degree right turn in field. (868890). Leave the PW here and head towards Gayle Beck which is followed to just above Aysgill Waterfall where you cross a footbridge & head up to road. Turn right up Beggernans Rd to meet Cam High Rd (862853) and turn left to Weather fell. From Weather Fell turn left on path (882870) to descend back into Gayle tuning left at (883879) on way down.

Route 4 Hardrow Force (3 or 5 miles / 5 or 8 km) Take a leisurely stroll over to Hardraw and after enjoying the pleasures of the Green Dragon pub wander up to see Hardraw Force and picnic in the natural amphitheatre before returning to coach (3 miles) If this is too short a walk, leave pub left and take footpath to West House and turn right to Sedbusk and then cross fields to coach.

THERE WILL BE A LED WALK DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS ON THE DAY.

Fares: Members £23, Non members £26, Under 18's & Full time students £10

To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

Should you cancel after the Wednesday prior to the coach date a £10.00 fee will be charged.

Failure to turn up without cancelling and the full coach fare will be expected.

SATURDAY 15th APRIL : THE BLACK MOUNTAIN / Y MYNYDD DU**(also known as CARMARTHEN FAN) NOT 'BLACK MOUNTAINS' AS ON THE MEET CARD)****Depart:** 07:00 – Penkridge

07:20 – West Bromwich, Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)

NB Charges apply on Saturday !

Drop offs: Pont Cnewr (SN 891220)

Gwyn Arms, Tawe Bridge (SN 846166)

Ynyswen Church (SN 831128)

Summit of A4069 (SN 733187) if requested

Pick up: Gwyn Arms, Tawe Bridge (SN 846166)**Required map:** OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure Map 12 : Brecon

Beacons West & Central area or OS 1:50000 Landranger 160 :

Bannau Brycheiniog / Brecon Beacons

*Photo Alan Hughes: Bannau Sir Gaer & steep slopes of the Carmarthen**Fans above Llyn y Fan Fach from the old red sandstone path that skirts it***Suggested Routes:**

Route 1: Eastern Fforest Fawr from Pont Gihirych Head back along road to SN 889216 & take minor road on right to track which starts at 896222. Head south on this rising up to Yr Allt (90522005) – a subHewitt! At 900196 you can drop down SE and up to the trig of Fan Nedd (913184). Retrace your steps and then head SW towards Fan Gyhirych, whose summit is just off to the right of the track at 881191. Then head due S to regain the track which enters a wood at 874171 and emerges at 862172. Continue W to hit fields, walls & paths leading to several bridges over the Nant Tywynni and along the main road to the pubs at Tafarn-y-Garreg (848171) or The Gwyn Arms. **Distance 16 km (10 miles)**

Route 2: Carmarthen Van Circular – 5 summits from The Gwyn Arms

Take path to right of wood on opposite side of road, which later crosses Cwm Haffes and rises. At SN 826174 strike off diagonally right to the summit of Fan Hir (831209). Then continue along the ridge with steep drops on your right to Fan Brycheiniog (825218), Twr y Fan Foel (812219), Picws Du (812219) and Waun Lefrith (798215). You can drop down to a track on your left anywhere you like but, if you've come this far, aim for it at 790202. Then take left fork to 812186 and you should know where you are when you get back to 826174. **Distance 19 km (12 miles) but can be shortened**

Route 3: Dan yr Ogof Caves from Tawe Bridge

If you don't fancy a long walk or the weather is foul it's just a short stroll SE to the National Showcaves Centre for Wales at Dan yr Ogof (840161). Tickets are expensive (around £13.50 for adults and £7.00 for under 16's) but this gives entry to 10 'attractions' :- Dan-yr-Ogof Showcaves, Cathedral Cave, Bone Cave, Museum, Mr Morgan's Farmyard, Dinosaur Park, Iron Age Village, Shire Horse Centre, Barney Owl's Play Area & The Millennium Stone Circle. Last ticket 3pm. Phone **016397 30284** for latest info. Afterwards you could cross the river to stroll around the Craig-y-nos Country Park or, if you've got the energy, tootle up Carreg Goch 1831 ft (819170). **Distance: Whatever you feel like doing!**

Route 4: Henrhyd Falls from Ynyswen Church (via Monkey Sanctuary at 835122 if you fancy meeting some ancestors!)

Cross R.Tawe by bridge at 834128 and over minor road, taking path on R which follows left bank of Nant Llech river to Henrhyd Falls (854119) - with a drop of 90 ft the tallest in S.Wales. There are a couple of paths on the NE side of a minor road which lead to a disused railway track which will take you to disused quarries at Penwyllt and the National Nature Reserve of Ogof-Ffynnon-Ddu Pant Mawr. When you've had as much nature as you can take, head west down minor road and path to Craig-y-nos Country Park (844154). Head upstream on The Beacons Way path which follows right bank of the R. Tawe to Pwllcrediog Farm. You can probably "see the pub/s from there" **Distance 10 km (6½ miles)**

Route 5: Traverse of The Black Mountain from the A 4069 – 10 Summits in 12 miles

(N.B. Parts of the massif are over 5km from the nearest public road making them some of the most remote areas of the country. If in doubt as to your capabilities please choose Route 2.)

Go through disused quarries to climb Garreg Lwyd [Moel Gornach] (740179), then on to Foel Fraith (75680 18310) (plus Cefn y Cylchau at 757197 if you must tick all the summits of Y Mynydd Du!). Then cross to tumuli on Garreg Las [Twyn Swnd] (777203) & trig point on Carreg yr Ogof (778215). Turn East to hit the top of the main ridge near the summit of Waun Lefrith (798215). Hopefully there'll be good views down to Llyn y Fan Fach on your left as you continue east to Bannau Sir Gaer - Picws Du (812219) and on to the summit of Twr y Fan Foel (812219) at the end of a superb promontory. Then it's a short distance SE to the highest point of the day Fan Brycheiniog (825218) at 2631ft (802m) and further south to the final summit of the day Fan Hir (831209). It's all downhill from then on to hit track at 826174 which takes you to road almost opposite the pub & pick-up point. **Distance 22 km (14 miles)**

THERE WILL BE A LED WALK DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS ON THE DAY.**Fares: Members £23, Non members £26, Under 18's & Full time students £10****To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729***Should you cancel after the Wednesday prior to the coach date a £10.00 fee will be charged.**Failure to turn up without cancelling and the full coach fare will be expected.*Route 1: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/41921784> NB There is a possibility this hits private land!Route 2: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/41921877> Route 5: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/41921939>

SUNDAY 14th MAY : MALHAM & SOUTHERN YORKSHIRE FELS**Join us for another great day out in Yorkshire****Depart:** 07: 00 –West Bromwich. Edward St Car Park

07: 20 –Penkridge

Toilet stop: Charnock Richard services**Drop offs:** Horton in Ribblesdale (SD 810721)

Skipton by request only

Malham (SD 901627)

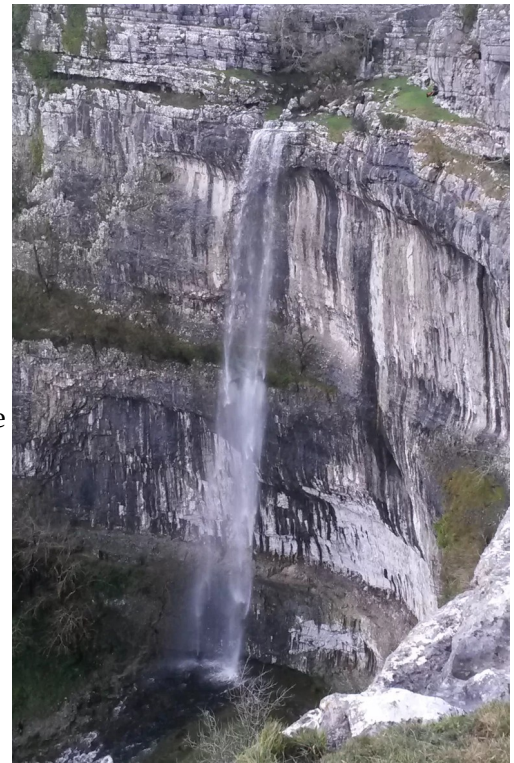
Pick up: Only at Malham (SD 901627)**Required map:** OS 1:25000 Outdoor

Leisure Map No 2 Yorkshire Dales Western Area or

OS 1:50000 Landranger 98 Wensleydale & Upper Wharfedale

& maybe 103 Blackburn & Burnley (for Skipton)

Right: Malham Cove in Dec 2015 after Storm Desmond brought a historic 260 ft drop waterfall back to life for the first time in living memory (photo: Christopher Scaife)

**Suggested Routes:****From Horton - in - Ribblesdale****Route 1. Pen-y-Gent & Fountains Fell (15.5 miles / 25 km)**

Take the PennineWay to the summit of Pen-y-Gent (838734) and descend south to Churn Milk Hole, then eastwards crossing the road and up to Fountains Fell (865715) +/- other top (868707). Then off left to re-join the Pennine Way south to Malham Tarn (890673), Malham Cove (897641), then a kilometre or so back to Malham and the coach.

<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/41922084>

From Malham**Route 2. Goredale Scar and Malham Tarn & Cove (~ 10 miles / 16 km)**

From Malham car park head to Mires Barn (902624) and follow Gordale Beck to Janet's Fosse and then climb up Gordale Scar (915640). Head northwards to GR 897664 next to Malham Tarn and then follow the Pennine Way south back to Malham Cove (897643), taking care on limestone pavements & paths as these can be slippery in places especially if the Becks are in spate.

<https://ridewithgps.com/routes/41922107>

Route 3. Janet's Fosse & Malham cove (4.75 miles / 7.5 km)

As route 2 to Janet's Fosse, climb the waterfall on left at 912634. Turn left on signed path to Malham Rakes Lane & after approx. 250m turn left on signed path to Malham Cove. Descend back to Malham as route2 – take care on descent if slippery!

Route 4. Rye Loaf Hill (~ 10 miles / 16 km)

North on the Pennine Way to Malham Cove but at top of steep ascent turn left to the road & footpath that leads S of Ewe Moor. Ascend Kirkby Fell (874636) & W to trig on Rye Loaf Hill (864633) Drop off south and take minor roads to Kirkby Malham & Pennine Way N to Malham.

From Skipton**Route 4. Get to Malham (?? miles / ?? km)**

Various Skipton to Malham routes can be taken dependant on participants whims & "bagging" requirements.

Fares: Members £23, Non members £26, Under 18's & Full time students £10

To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

Should you cancel after the Wednesday prior to the coach date a £10.00 fee will be charged.

Failure to turn up without cancelling and the full coach fare will be expected.

WEST BROMWICH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB : REMAINING MEET CARD 2023**March**

Fri - Sun	3 rd - 5 th	Away Dinner SORRY IT'S FULL!!	Nigel Tarr
Thursday	9th	Indoor Meet - Red Lion	
Saturday	11th	Coach Meet - Hawes	Nigel Tarr
Thursday	16th	Members Night - Red Lion	
Thursday	23rd	AGM	Mel Evans

April

Fri - Sun	31 st - 2 nd	Chapel Stile Weekend	Rob Cox
Thursday	13th	Indoor Meet - Red Lion	
Saturday	15th	Coach Meet - Black Mountain	Nigel Tarr
Thursday	20th	Members Night - Red Lion	
Thur-Tues	27 th - 2 nd	Scottish Weekend – Isle of Rùm	Andy Brown

May

Thursday	11th	Outdoor Meet	
Sunday	14th	Coach Meet - Malham	Nigel Tarr
Thursday	18th	Members Night - Red Lion	
Sat - Sun	20 th - 21 st	Scrambling Weekend @ Patterdale	Mel Evans

June

Thursday	8th	Outdoor Meet	
Sunday	11th	Coach Meet - Nantlle Ridge	Nigel Tarr
Thursday	15th	Members Night - Red Lion	
Fri - Sun	16 th - 18 th	Gower Weekend Camping	Pete Poultney

July

Sat - Sun	1 st - 2 nd	Chairman's Challenge Weekend	
Thursday	6th	Outdoor Meet	
Saturday	8th	Coach Meet - Keswick Long Meet	Nigel Tarr
Thursday	13th	Members Night - Red Lion	

August

Thursday	10th	Outdoor Meet	
Sunday	13th	Coach Meet - Swaledale	Nigel Tarr
Thursday	17th	Members Night - Red Lion	

September

Thursday	7th	Outdoor Meet	
Saturday	9th	Coach Meet - Moelwyns	Nigel Tarr
Thursday	14th	Members Night - Red Lion	
Fri - Sun	15 th - 17 th	Womens Weekend @ the Hut	Vanessa Biddulph
Sat - Sun	23 rd - 24 th	Trail Running Weekend	Pete Poultney
Sat - Sun	30 th - 1 st	Scrambling Weekend @ Coppermines	Mel Evans

October

Thursday	5th	Indoor Meet - Red Lion	
Sunday	8th	Coach Meet - Ambleside/Grasmere	Nigel Tarr
Thursday	12th	Members Night - Red Lion	
Sat - Sun	21 st - 22 nd	Biking Weekend	
Sat - Sun	28 th - 29 th	Runners Weekend	

November

Thursday	9th	Indoor Meet - Red Lion	
Saturday	11th	Coach Meet - Llanberis	Nigel Tarr
Thursday	16th	Members Night - Red Lion	
Sat - Sun	18 th - 19 th	Skills Weekend @ the Hut	Dave Hind
Friday	24th	Curry Night in West Brom	Nigel Tarr

December

Thursday	7th	Indoor Meet - Red Lion	
Sunday	10th	Coach Meet - Hayfield	Nigel Tarr
Thursday	14th	Members Xmas Night - Red Lion	

+ Climbers night held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6.30pm at Wyre Forest Leisure Centre, Kidderminster DY11 2DT

For more details, click on 'news' then 'newsletters' links on www.wbmc.org

**** FINAL REMEMBER: MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2023 ARE NOW OVERDUE ****

Membership fees were due by the end of January. For 2023 these are:-

Adult £37, this includes your BMC fee of £22.25

Students to pay BMC fee £18.35

11 to 18 to pay BMC fee £16.45

Under 11 are Free **THERE ARE STILL ~ 65 PEOPLE WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED!!!**

You can still pay by cheque (payable to WBMC) and send to Wendy Morris at 32 Essex Drive, Rugeley, Staffordshire. WS15 1JX.

Should you wish to pay by Bank Transfer the details changed last year to the following:

[CO-OP Bank A/C 65487846 Sort Code 08-92-99](#)

FOR SALE

Anthenia Dimitriou is selling her Salomon boots (women's UK size 8) and North face waterproof jacket (women's size Medium)

They are 'used' condition with plenty of life left, especially if re waterproof treated.

Both for £50 or each for £30. If you are interested contact her 07449138283 or

anthenia91@hotmail.com



WEIRSIDE, CHAPEL STILE WEEKEND (31st March - 2nd April) IS CANCELLED

From Rob Cox:- It has been decided to cancel the Lake District weekend at the TOC-H hut / old chapel at Chapel Stile on the 31st – 2nd April. At present the hut has no water supply following a problem back at Christmas. I was originally told that this would be fixed by mid-February, but this has proved not to be the case and it will be at least another 2 weeks until we can get another update from TOC-H, when their chief exec visits the centre. There did not appear to be any urgency from them towards getting the problem resolved. This leaves us very close to our planned weekend.



Rather than ask people to commit to going and pay, then have to cancel, I feel it is best to make the decision now, so that everyone understands and can plan accordingly.

Sadly, this may also have been our last weekend at TOC-H Weirside anyway. Major rebuilding work is currently going through the planning permission stage and the longer-term plan is to re-purpose the centre more towards a "Retreat". It is not clear at the moment whether the centre will be available for the type of use that we require. Fingers crossed – I will stay in touch with TOC-H contacts and, if possible, we will be able to book it again in the future as it is central to the Lake District and has very easy access to some of the best walking, scrambling, climbing and mountain biking on offer (& is within walking distance of two great pubs that do food).

MAY SCRAMBLING WEEKEND BASED IN PATTERDALE 20-21 May

Mel Evans has booked the George Starkey Hut in the Lake District (CA11 0NL) for the weekend 20th -21st May so folk can get some scrambling on crags and ridges other than near our own hut. This one is located 1 mile south of Glenridding and is run jointly by The Alpine Club & the Assoc'n of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club (ABMSAC) and for this May w/e BMC has access to 22 bunk beds in 2 dormitories (14 + 8) at £16 / bed / night. For details of full facilities simply Google 'The George Starkey



Hut'. The weekend is self catering so the cost will be just £32 plus spending money.

Dan Bow, who is in charge of the climbing wall at Kiddminster, is now a WBMC member and as he is working towards a mountain guide award, he's offering to take members out with no charge!! To register an interest and / or book, contact Mel by phoning or texting him on [07845 060043](tel:07845060043).

NB. Although primarily booked for anyone interested in scrambling this weekend is open to ALL.

MAKE A NOTE: A 2nd scrambling weekend, Sept 29th – Oct 1, is booked based at "The Coppermines Cottage" run by Barrow Mountaineering & Ski Club in Coniston, where WBMC has the use of 14 beds at £15 / bed. There will be more details nearer the date BUT Mel is ACCEPTING BOOKINGS AS FROM NOW ON A 1st COME 1st SERVED BASIS.

ISLE OF RÙM LONG WEEKEND Friday 28th April – Wednesday 3rd May

Andy Brown is co-ordinating a camping trip for folks who want to climb the peaks on Rùm, the island owned & managed by Scottish Natural Heritage (since 1957), on the above dates.

The ferry leaves Mallaig at 12.45 pm on Friday afternoon and arrives at Rùm 14.10 pm.

No vehicles are allowed on Rùm so people usually leave their cars at Mallaig.

A short 10 minute walk from the ferry gets you to Rùm campsite (*right*) and the plan is to camp there for 5 nights. What folk do is up to individuals but the Rùm Cuillin provides top quality mountaineering with plenty of options to suit all abilities. The island measures about 8.5 by 8 miles (14 by 13 km) and contains 4 peaks over 2,000 feet the highest being Askival (2,659 feet [810 metres]). There is also the option to spend a night in one of 2 bothies on Rùm. There is one shop on Rùm which sells all essentials (Food and Beer and Rum) as well as a café that does food. The campsite has showers and toilets available. The island's permanent population is just 22, made up entirely of SNH employees & their families, a schoolteacher & a few researchers.



The return ferry leaves Rùm at 16.30 pm on Wednesday and arrives in Mallaig at 17.55 pm.

Hopefully we can organise car share to get to Mallaig so transport costs should not be very expensive. Return fare on the ferry is only £9.40 and camping is about £12- £18 a night depending on whether you share a tent. Going this time of year means we should be to early for the midgies!

Anybody interested in coming, or for more information, please speak to Andy Brown ([07870 145026](tel:07870145026)).

**FOR A POSSIBLE FOLLOW ON THERE'S KNOYDART OR
FANCY A WEEK IN TORRIDON?****30th April – 6th May**

Tony Emms has booked 8 places on the campsite at Shieldaig from 30th April until 6th May for anyone who might be interested spending a week climbing the Torridon giants - Liathach, Beinn Alligin, Beinn Eighe, An Teallach, Slioch. It could also be a follow-on for anyone on the trip to Rùm. Torridon is a fabulous area so if you are interested contact Tony asap via 07793 008582, 0121 556 8005 or toniemms@aol.com

Liathach at sunset (photo Bart Machaj / Visit Scotland)



"ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC DAY!" Dave Kirk

"IT'S BEEN A LOVELY DAY: I'VE ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT" Annette Cope

ONE OF THE BEST WALKS I'VE DONE WITH THE CLUB: FANTASTIC SCENERY"

Stuart Fellows

"GREAT WALK: PUSHED MY OWN LIMITS TO SOMETHING I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS CAPABLE OF (MOEL SIABOD)" Mark Andar

"ALWAYS WORTH COMING. YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT YOU MIGHT GET! IT WAS FANTASTIC TODAY, WITH GREAT CONDITIONS" Oliver Stephenson

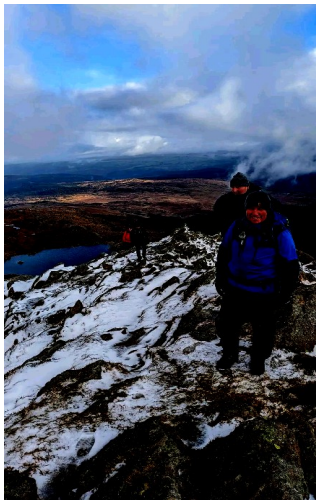
"GREAT DAY. SUPER SNOW – IDEAL FOR SNOWBALLS!" Mike Smith

"GREAT WINTER CONDITIONS & WONDERFUL VIEWS" Phil Williams

"DON'T BE PUT OFF BY THE WEATHER. FORECAST WAS FOR 60mph BUT IT WAS FAIRLY CALM. GLAD I CAME – CREAKING DAY" Fred Hammonds

"MY THIGHS ARE STILL ACHING 3 DAYS LATER!!" John Edwards

All the comments above (bar one) were made on the coach home from January's Ogwen meet by some of the 31 aboard. They tell you all you need to know really but here's a bit more detail in case you haven't seen the wonderful array of photos on various Facebook pages. The BBC Weather suggested morning rain over Eryri would pass by ~10 am & that temperatures would drop to below freezing that night, so that suggested snow & subzero conditions on the tops! It was a little disappointing therefore for the 14 who alighted at Pont Cyfyng & the 14 who got off at Idwal to find it was still raining quite heavily from the low cloudbase of a completely grey sky. So it was waterproofs on early but gradually as we got higher the squelchy mud turned to 'slush on the rocks' and, at around 1500 ft, we started to



Left David Kirk's shot of the ridge climb & above Fred's summit photo

hit decent powder snow. The rain abated, conditions became more Arctic with rime-crusting rocks & limited visibility but crampons & ice axes were not needed, not even on Daiar Ddu – the east ridge of Moel Siabod. Most agreed with John & Anne Nuttall's description

of this as "a delightful ascent, an easy scramble up a narrow rocky arete, with a good path all the way". They were down by 4pm and were able to enjoy drinks at Plas y Brenin & Tyn-y-Coed. The Glyders party which included 4 septuagenarians enjoyed scrambling up the summit rocks on Fawr & Fach although none ventured up onto The Cantilever - indeed some never found it in the clouds! They then had a tough 4 mile slog across 2 more Nuttalls over increasingly boggy & slippery ground, although they did start to enjoy some fine views. Alas, cramp set in on a couple a couple of miles from safety & although most made it down just after 5pm, with only a few minutes use of headtorches, one cramped-up party



Right Sturt Fellow's shot of the climb beside Devil's Kitchen



Left: On top of Glyder Fawr (Stuart Fellows) and



Right: On the way to Glyder Fach (John Edwards)

took 30 minutes longer. Nigel got us all back onto the coach by 6.15 after a great but knacker day out in winter conditions.



Left: On the way to Y Foel Goch (John Edwards) &



Right: Rainy start at Llyn Idwal (John Edwards)

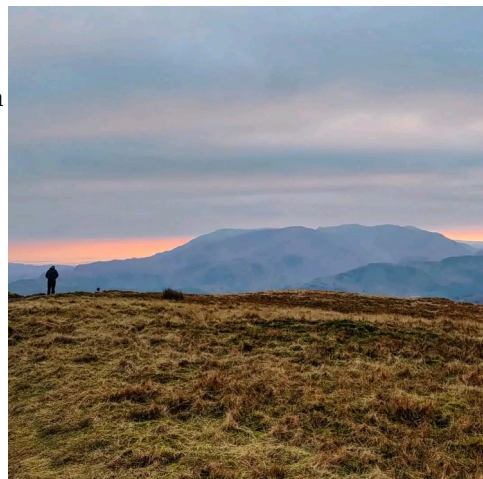
THRILLER COACH - THAT'S WHAT AUTOCORRECT HAS COME UP WITH FOR THE THIRLMERE COACH!!

Not sure about thrilling but it turned out to be a cold, precipitation-free Sunday which gave enjoyable walking which was a complete contrast to January's meet. With only shrinking relics of cornice hanging on to a few leeward slopes and generally better visibility the walking was easier than Ogwen but with the short daylength at this time of year nobody attempted the traverse of the whole Helvellyn range from Clough Head.

Instead most alighted at the reservoir car park at Thirlspot at 11.20 to climb the White Stones route over Brown Cove Crags. We got to 700m without so much as a stop in the first hour's sweaty uphill plod. After another 15 minutes at 900m it was time for me to put on a sweater, hat, gloves & jacket as the 20 mph breeze from the south was really biting. As the others went straight on to Helvellyn I veered off left to Nethermost Pike to see if I could find a geocache but, after lunch in the summit shelter we all headed off across Nethermost & Dollywagon Pikes. Rumours that fine dining on an Antarctic cruise ship had increased Georgie's meridional circumference were confirmed when his belt snapped during the ascent of the last!



Members on Helyjellyn summit After reaching the south end of the plateau at around 2.15 pm, the steep descent to the stepping stones at the outflow of Grisedale Tarn was completed without incident and we assembled at the Hause to decide what to do next. The majority decided to head on down by Tongue Gill to Grasmere but as there was still around 2 hours left before we were due back at the coach Fred, Claire, Sophie, Matt Baker & Tim Wilkes decided to head up Fairfield and descend the Great Rigg ridge to Heron Pike & Grasmere. After a pause to refuel calories by eating a Titan bar I followed but took a slightly different route up a steep curving ridge and spotted them just leaving the summit and heading for Great Rigg. At 4.45pm they were just reaching the summit of Heron Pike, but I was around 10 minutes behind them so with only 45 minutes to get back to the coach I peeled off steeply right down to Greenhead Gill & the lane to The Swan pub, eventually making it back to the coach about 1 minute late. Because the others found a path or two that had been closed off they had to retrace their steps a bit but ended up safely arriving back about 20 minutes later in the dark. We then set off to pick up Julie, Hannes & Dave Coats at Ambleside



Sunset behind the Coniston Fells

as they had decided to do something completely different and save themselves some climbing by getting off at Dunmail Raise summit to take a very undulating route up Fairfield and then south eastwards to Hart Crag, Dove Crag, Scandale Pass & Red Screes, then descending the SSW ridge. Seat Sandal was climbed by Dave Hellyar & Andy Brown visited Easdale to bag Belles Knot and some others. A good day was had by all and we were back at Penkridge by 9pm and West Brom just before 9.30pm. With around 4,000 ft of ascent, I was still stiff 4 days later 😊😊 !!

WBMC CYCLE CHALLENGE TO THE HUT (& BACK?) 9th & 10th June

Vanessa Biddulph is organising a challenge cycle ride to the Club Hut in June and would like to hear from people who are up for it. She'd also like to hear from "supporters" who might be able to support the riders and maybe bring them (& their bikes) back to the West Midlands. More in the next Newsletter but please contact Vanessa (07709 514180) if you are interested, even if it's only to cycle around the hut and see a bit of Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri.

CHARLOTTE TAYLOR IS RUNNING THE LONDON MARATHON IN MEMORY OF HER FATHER, PETE GODDARD & FUNDRAISING FOR CARDIOMYOPATHY UK

Charlotte writes:-

“My very long road to London 2023...

I committed to this run a very long time ago... April 2001 aged 16. As a spectator there to support my Dad, I lapped up the atmosphere. The runners were inspirational, it was something I knew one day I wanted to be part of. No one at the time ever believed I'd have a go & with my non-existent enthusiasm for any form of exercise back then I can completely understand why!

Fast forward to 2011 and my “why”... July 18th the worst day of my life. The day I was woken up with the news that my Dad had died. For those who didn't know him he was a very fit & active 51 year old (runner, cyclist, mountain climber, skier...). We were aware he had a heart issue but hadn't had a diagnosis of cardiomyopathy. He was due to have an ICD (defibrillator) fitted imminently. He had prepared for not being able to drive for 6 months by buying panniers to add to his bike! Mum had awoken on the night hearing his last breath, had called 999 and had tried unsuccessfully to revive him.

The post-mortem gave the cause of death from cardiac arrest due to Left Ventricular Dilated Cardiomyopathy; something that we have since learnt is genetic, with a further close relative being diagnosed. Myself and close family are now routinely screened for the condition and we came across Cardiomyopathy UK who provide assistance to those diagnosed & their families. They also have a wider role in Cardiomyopathy education & research. I have benefited from their information, guidance & contact a clinician services, & know my family has too. In the years that have followed my Dad's death I've seen greater awareness of this condition due to high profile cardiac arrests. I sat feeling sick watching the rolling coverage of the footballer Fabrice Muamba. He benefitted hugely from the knowledge in the stadium that day along with quick access to a defibrillator.

Now back to me & running. It wasn't until after my youngest, Harry, was born that I took up running (or any form of consistent exercise). I found running gave me a link to Dad, a shared interest, albeit one he never knew, nor would believe, I had. It helped me to cope with grief, something that I still struggle with today. My boys, Charlie and Harry, are a large part of my “why” too. Charlie was 6 months old when Dad died. I feel the loss of his presence and influence in their lives is a huge part of my grief. I made a promise when he died to ensure I'd bring my children up knowing him through their lifestyle. Running was a huge part of his life and through mine and my husband Joe's influence it is now a big part of their's too.

Pete with Charlie in 2011

My first challenge was to run a 10k aged 30, since then I've done 3 official half marathons (London Landmarks, plus a virtual one thanks to Covid!) and am about to complete my 4th (Warwick Half). The biggest challenge has always been there in the background waiting for the right time.....26.2 miles The London Marathon. THIS IS THE YEAR!



Charlotte on the London Landmarks Half Marathon





I knew that cause needed to be right and so have been waiting to be accepted by Cardiomyopathy UK. Having undergone further recent screening and getting the go ahead from the family cardiologist, I've now been confirmed as running for Team Cardio.

I will be following in my Dad's footsteps, quite literally, on April 23rd this year. This will be the hardest physical challenge I've been on, and probably quite an emotional one too. This is not only for you Dad, but for Mum, Sam, the boys, Joe and the rest of my family as we navigate our life without you. Please support me on journey, by donating online via *'Just Giving'* if you can, reading about the condition & the charity, and spreading knowledge.

Sam & Pete contemplating 'possibly the best beer in the Midlands' Hopefully fundraising efforts will increase knowledge of these sorts of conditions and what to do about them so sudden deaths like my Dad's can be avoided.

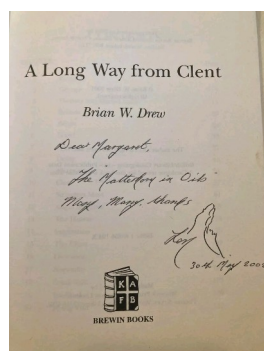
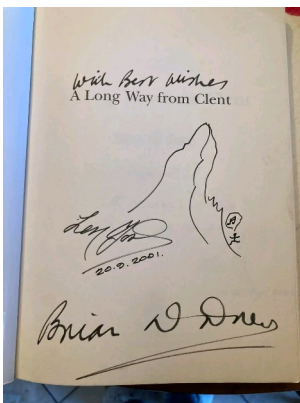
PS Do you think I can consider myself 'a runner' once I've crossed that finish line?"

Charlotte has set herself a target to raise £2,000 for the charity (see more on www.cardiomyopathy.org) and is well on the way to 50% of this amount. Many WBMC members will remember Pete Goddard – he served a year as club Chairman (1992/3), is the club's longest-ever serving Vice-chairman (11 years from 1994 to 2005) & was awarded the Malcolm Collins Trophy (jointly with Paul Cleary) in 1999 for completing the traverse of the Cuillin Ridge in a single day. Maybe with WBMC help we can help get Charlotte past her target?! If you want to help go to https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charlotte-taylor115?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=charlotte-taylor115&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=a6dca2993d1a46be8967b09995eccc9ee

LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM DEBRA RAWCLIFFE

(Well not really – it was a Facebook message! What do you expect 😊 ?)

"After reading the recent newsletter I was drawn to the bit about Len York. I remember the older members of the club recounting the terrible tragedy and even remember Len being at the hut in the 1970's and sitting outside on the bench with his two sticks, talking to us kids and his kind smiling face. I was interested to see he had a biography and decided to see if I could purchase it. One search revealed the book on Amazon retailing at £14.95! Mmm quite pricey, among the other options were two second hand books at £4.99 and £1.99. I decided to plump for the £1.99 one and when it arrived, I was blown away to find that on opening it not only was it signed by the author & Len himself, but it had also been given by Len to a friend of his as a present! Absolutely love the drawings that Len did especially



of him falling off! Obviously his sense of humour was still intact. Literally the best £1.99 I have ever spent!!" It seems a lady called Margaret sent him an oil painting of the Matterhorn. Debra ends up asking "Anyone know who Margaret is?" Did Margaret George dabble in painting? She's the only WBMC Margaret I can think of, but of course it could have been another 'admirer'. Anyone out there have an idea??

Incidentally Debra is one of WBMC's devoted far-flung members, having lived in Fife for the last 33 years. Her parents, Ted & Marjorie Statham obviously gave her a love of the mountains as she says *"I never moved back to Midlands as the endless lure of the Scottish mountains proved too much. Hoping to get these Munros finished by next year but seem to have mistakenly left the remotest till last!"* Well we look forward to hearing of your success in the not too distant future Debra - and perhaps an account of the final trip / best / most memorable Munros etc

BLACK GIRLS HIKE (precis'd from "i" Newspaper 6 Jan 2023)

Rhiane Fatinikum grew up in Blackburn and did lots of sports like cross country, rounders & netball when young but *"never went out into the countryside. For my working class family that just wasn't something we did."* When her mother was growing up she never went into 'the great outdoors' & Rhiane felt this is something that is too often passed down & get embedded in cultures. So in 2019 she started "Black Girls Hike" – a network that encourages black women to connect with nature. As she says *"I wanted to create a safe space for people who haven't had much exposure to nature. For a lot of non-white people, the countryside can feel like an unwelcoming place, as we do not often see ourselves represented in the outdoors, making the countryside seem somewhat unfriendly."*

And the stats bear this out: ethnic minorities in the UK have on average 11 times less access to green spaces & only 15% spend time in the countryside, compared to 38% of white people. Even for children is still 20% as opposed to 40% (2019 National Survey)

Pleasingly, since setting up Black Girls Hike, Rhiane said

she's had generally positive experiences in the countryside, although the stereotype of a white-dominated countryside is certainly not an illusion, it is a more welcoming place than most (black) people might expect. She hits the nail of the head when she says *"the countryside experience is someways similar to that in a concert: when you are in the moment & enjoying the music, you might catch eyes with someone else who is also enjoying themselves. In that moment you just feel pure joy at the fact you are both experiencing this great thing"*

The first group was set up in Manchester, then in 2020 a first London group was started and the website www.bghuk.com states there is also one in Birmingham and that they do not arrange transport – folk need to make their own arrangements.

I've therefore, emailed them via [info@](mailto:info@bghuk.com) saying how much we at WBMC – a fellow Community Organisation – would be happy to support their efforts and that their West Midlands members would be welcome to join us on a coach meet if they wanted. I'm sure all our members would make them welcome and help give them a safe and memorable day out on the fells.



Rhiane Fatinikum did not visit the countryside as a child BLACK GIRLS HIKE

CYRIL BAKER (1936 – 2022) R.I.P. (thanks to Mike Thompson & Baz Farmer for info)

Cyril, or “Ciggy” as he was known because he never seemed to stop smoking, joined WBMC in the mid 1960’s. He was a talkative individual and other members recall how difficult it often was to get a word in. He worked for a firm that repaired fork-lift trucks and on one occasion when he was illicitly using the company van to drive up to N. Wales a cow jumped over a hedge and landed on its bonnet causing a lot of damage, much to his (& presumably his bosses) annoyance. A year or so after joining the Club he joined John Gordon, Baz Farmer & Graham Thackery (from left on photo with Cyril far right) on one of their



regular “overseas adventures”. In ‘64 it had been the Pyrenees, in ‘66 Morocco & Mt Toubkal & in 1968 they decided to experience Turkey & hopefully climb Mt Ararat (5137 m / 16,854 ft). Baz recalls that because there had been a major outbreak of Foot & Mouth disease in 1967 they had to train on the snowy Malvern Hills instead of Snowdon! Also those were the days when you were only allowed to take £50 out of the country so they booked return train tickets to Istanbul and then local trains to Erezum & bus to Dogubayazit, just S of the peak, where they hired 2 mules. You can read about their experiences camping with Kurdish goat herders on pp 174/5 of the Club’s “First Fifty Years” book!! Their intention was to camp at the snow line and complete the climb to the summit steadily in 2 or 3 days but this changed when they developed food poisoning / the trots and found that 2 German & 3 Swiss climbers were already there & planning an alpine-style rapid push to the top. In the end only Cyril & Graham set off with the Germans & later Graham had to turn back because of his weakened condition. The other 3 made it to the top where Cyril raised a green WBMC flag (that had been sewn by Carol Franklin, Janice & a



Left: Mt Ararat with little Ararat on Right and Right: Cyril on summit with WBMC flag in his left hand, with the 2 Germans in lower left corner.



couple of other young female Club members. He left it there so, who knows, tattered remnants may still adorn the Turkish summit!

They ended by getting the bus to Trabzon on the Black Sea where they caught a coast-hopping boat back to Istanbul, sleeping on deck opposite 3 goats in preference to the stinking hold where the locals had parked their mattresses. Then it was a 3 – 4 day train journey home which Cyril, ever a character, completed mostly wearing swimming trunks, a trilby hat & a pair of goggles! Even though he had paid fees for Life membership, Cyril stopped being an active Club member not long after the Ararat trip & relinquished his membership to save the Club money in Feb 2022 8 months before he died, aged ~ 86. Baz recalls that Cyril would make a good job of anything he turned his hand to, be it gardening, competing against the Turks in arm wrestling, whatever. And I remember being impressed by the Hi-fi system he had assembled at 101 Corisande Road in Selly Oak when, in my early days, I visited his home to buy the Gaston Rebuffat down sleeping bag that he’d used on the Ararat trip (& it’s still keeping me warm if I bivvi or camp!)

DOES ANYONE FANCY DOG-SLEDGING IN THE DARK NEXT JANUARY?

Well not 100% blackness of course! What I'm thinking of is a "2-Day Polar night Safari" above the Arctic circle in Finland, where in January the daytime hours will be 'gloaming' and, depending on the state of the moon, you might or might not require a headtorch.

Having done a 5-day Wilderness Safari with Hetta Huskies in 2019 I know what an excellent organisation they are and how well they treat their dogs. This is what their excellent website says about this particular trip :-

"Your 2-day dog-mushing experience will normally start at 11am on the first day. We will issue you with arctic-suitable kit and clothing and then introduce you to the farm and dogs before giving you detailed instructions in how to drive a sleigh.

Once you are ready, we will teach you how to set up your own dog team. You will learn about the size of harness each dog needs, why your particular group of dogs has been selected for you, their individual characters, and where they each need to be positioned in the running line. You will also be shown where to put your personal equipment within the sleighs - and then we are off.

You will transition seamlessly from open marshland to lake, river and forest glen during your 2-day journey through Europe's most remote landscape. And, you will not only discover many hidden gems in the terrain but will also experience the changing light of the Arctic days. The soft light of mid-morning gives way to the mystical twilight colours and spectacular sunsets of the afternoons and then, for those who are lucky, you will run with the dogs under a star-filled Arctic sky guided by Northern Lights in the heavens above."

What I think is the most interesting option, & the one the dogs love the best, is to spend the sledging overnight at their wilderness location at Palojöki where they have a cluster of cabins (a client cabin, a sauna etc) on the edge of the remote Tarvantovaara Wilderness Area. There they will always ask clients to help with sorting the dogs out & feeding them prior to sitting down to their own evening meal. At night we would probably be joined in the cabin by a couple of the dogs who would like a cuddle for the night. On the morning of the 2nd day, everyone would be involved in getting the dogs ready before exploring a new landscape and getting back to the farm around 4pm, where clients are welcome to stay and help with the evening farm feed, although apparently few still seem to have energy enough to take us up on this offer!

At some time on the trip you should be greeted by a 'morning howl' and experience a night of luxury in the farm's traditional kota (a circular round-wood cabin with a central fireplace). This gives guests a unique chance to participate in the evening routines around the farm and to have a true 'glimpse behind the scenes' of life on a working husky farm. You can obviously opt out of doing anything and just relax in the kota, but most guests enjoy feeding, brushing dogs or walking old retired dogs and pups.

Hetta Huskies have a couple of route options for this two day safari and will choose which ones we take based on factors like weather, temperature, how our schedule best fits into the rest of their bookings (eg, to avoid dog teams crossing too much on trails) and how fit we tell them we are / what our onward journey requirements are etc. All of the more detailed tour information available is available online at <https://www.hettahuskies.com/en/activities/multi-day-husky-safaris/2-day-polar-night>

Likely scenario:- Day 1 Fly to Kittila airport (via Oslo) and maybe overnight there in the town.

Day 2 Take the bus from Kittila to Enontekio & stay overnight in the farm kota.

Day 3 Sledge out into the Tarvantovaara Wilderness Area and overnight in cabin.

Day 4 Sledge back to Enontekio & overnight at farm or in village.

Day 5 Bus back to Kittila airport and fly back to UK.

Price for 2 days mushing (60-80 km driving your own solo dog sledge), overnights at the farm & some meals is currently 650 euros (€820 for 4 days at the farm) Flights extra. If interested please contact John Edwards (07837198355)

ARE THERE ANY ACTIVE TICTOKERS OUT THERE??

This may seem like an odd piece to include in a mountaineering club newsletter but read on and see why I think we really need to have a presence on the platform to try & make contact with young people who might not otherwise hear about having a great day out in the hills.

TikTok Takeover

If you haven't heard of TikTok you've probably been living with the Amish for the past few years.

TikTok is the social media platform which allows users to create short-form videos up to three minutes long. Users, known as TikTokers, share everything from original music, to lip-synching videos to funny moments and pranks.

The TikTok App Has Been Downloaded 3 billion Times and there are 900 million active users worldwide. During the pandemic when people were quarantining at home, TikTok was a major beneficiary of increased social media use. It was the most downloaded app of 2021, beating Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat.

TikTok was created by Chinese tech giant ByteDance and released in September 2016 under the name 'Douyin'. Instagram and Facebook are banned in China, so there was an opening for a video-sharing social networking service. When ByteDance acquired Musical.ly - which allowed its users to create and share 15-second lip-sync videos - it merged a lot of the features, and in August 2018 TikTok was born.

TikTok is best known for dance and lip-sync videos, made possible by TikTok's extensive music library, called 'Sounds'. The music is licensed from labels like Sony, Warner and Universal. Recording a video involves selecting the music, which plays through your smartphone's speaker in real-time while you're filming. TikTok's algorithm works out users' tastes and preferences based on how they engage with the app, and whenever a new video is uploaded, the algorithm displays it to a small group of users. If it gets a lot of likes and shares, it will be shown to



more users with similar interests. If it continues to be popular the process repeats and the video might go viral. This can happen whether the creator has hundreds of thousands of followers or just a handful.

Democracy is one of the features that makes TikTok so attractive.

TikTok is now a global platform available in 155 countries. 90% of users access the platform daily and spend just under an hour on the app. Almost half of users are in the 16-24 age bracket and cite the online community as the

best feature. 'Duet' is the main community-building feature. It allows users to record themselves alongside existing TikTok videos in a split-screen format, or they can choose to use just the audio from the original video, which is credited at the bottom of the video as the "Original sound". Tapping on the 'Original sound' icon links you to the original TikTok video, as well as all other TikTok videos using the same 'Original sound'. Users can then respond to, parody or perform alongside other TikTokers, and the videos (which include the TikTok logo and the TikToker's username), can be downloaded and shared to other platforms. It's easy to see why memes and challenges can go viral very quickly on TikTok. The platform also allows users to include links to Instagram pages, YouTube channels and any other social media presence, which makes it straightforward for users to build their brand.

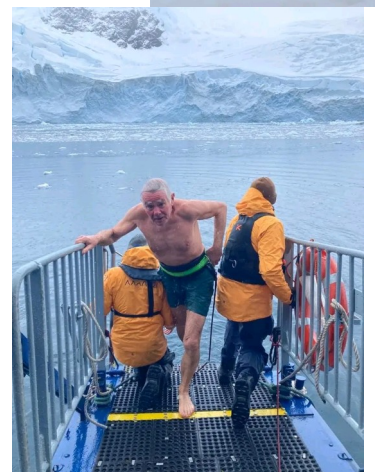
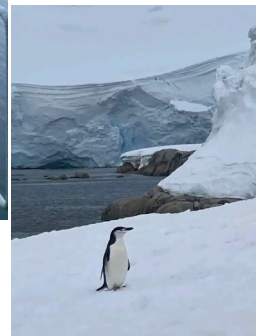
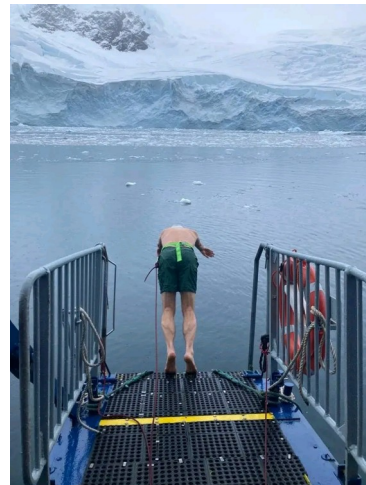
TikTok is hugely popular but social media is a fickle industry and it's difficult to project too far into the future. The popularity of any social media platform depends on whether it can keep users on board and whether corporate controversy gets in the way...just think about Twitter!

Phil

Base of B123 Walks posts videos quite regularly on Facebook and it shouldn't be beyond our means to record & post the odd video of scrambling, jumping from Adam to Eve or even boogieing down the Miner's Track or on the top of Helvellyn on TikTok, rather than just on Facebook. Or is it?!

SOME PHOTOS OF THINGS YOU'VE BEEN DOING RECENTLY

Our members have been travelling far and wide: - Graeme & Ken to Norway for some water-ice climbing, Liz Perks to Seefeld in Tirol for the many different snowsports available there and Geordie, Bill & Jan off on a week's Antarctic Peninsula cruise (including a 'polar plunges') followed by a fortnight in Patagonia. From their El Chalten lodge they were able to hike around the Southern Patagonian Ice Fields with their spectacular peaks. One of the photos shows Vice Chairman Geordie contemplating Fitzroy in the mist and as recently as 2nd Feb Bill was at the base of the Towers of Paine (*below right*)



MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 19th January 2023 @The Red Lion 7.30 pm start

Present: Mel Evans (chair), Andy Brown, Rob Allen, Wendy Morris, Nigel Tarr, Dave Hellyar (Minutes), Mike Smith, Liz Reynolds, Pete Poultney, Mike Thompson, Chris Dean, John Edwards

1. **Apologies for Absence:**, Jan Cox, Geordie Hind,

2. **Acceptance of December Minutes:** Acceptance of the minutes of the Dec 2022 meeting was proposed by Andy Brown and seconded by Liz Reynolds, subject to the note to follow in item 3

3. **Matters Arising:** John Edwards had noted that the matters arising in the Dec 2022 minutes was verbatim those of the Nov 2022 minutes.

4. **Officer updates: Treasurer:** Hut fund balance is £30,000 & Genera fund balance is £17,433.70 which includes monies received for the Away Dinner and Scottish Week.

Membership Secretary: Currently 208 members of whom only 32 are now Life Members or Veterans. 69 membership fees for 2023 have been received, with an income of £2541.90. There have been 2 new membership enquirers.

Newsletter: The AGM Calling Notice must be published between 14 and 40 days in advance of the meeting. A number of events from the March – May Meet Card were gone through to clarify details for next Newsletter due out end Feb.

Website/Publicity: Coach meets are now publicised on one of the Facebook sites. Mel has met with Joe Priest, who has agreed to provide guidance on accessing the Club's website by officers, who are still unable to amend the information displayed on it. Chris Dean will try and meet Joe to become fully briefed in working the website.

Hut Secretary: Internet installation is imminent. It now costs £100 each for a Calor Gas bottle but each one lasts ~18 months

Coach Secretary: There were 31 on the January coach which had a £95 deficit. Robinsons have said they will retain the 2022/3 fees into 2023/4 providing their invoice is paid within 24 hours of the Club receiving it. A meet cancellation by us that they receive later than one week prior to the meet date will carry a payment penalty of 40% of the fee for that meet. So far there are 17 booked for the February meet. There was a brief discussion on the introduction of a "Meets Co-ordinator", who would promote indoor and outdoor meets within the Club and ensure that their organisers carried them through to successful outcomes. Current proposals include scrambling weekends in May & September, evening meets in May (Mikes Smith & Thompson) and June (Andy Brown).

5. **BMC:** No report

6. **AOB:** All 19 rooms are booked for the Away Dinner. Suggestions are required for the Malcolm Collins Award. Tim Thursfield from the Express & Star has said he will come to a committee meeting to talk about getting publicity in the paper.

Meeting finished 8.40 pm **Date of next meeting** 16/2/2023 The Red Lion.

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 16th February 2023 @The Red Lion 7.30 pm start

Present: Mel Evans (chair), Andy Brown, Rob Allen, Wendy Morris, Nigel Tarr, Dave Hellyar Mike Smith, Liz Reynolds, Pete Poultney, Mike Thompson,

1. **Apologies for Absence:**, Chris Dean, John Edwards, Geordie Hind, Jonathan Howells

Rest of Minutes not yet available

WBMC 2023 AGM CALLING NOTICE Thursday 23rd March at The Red Lion 7.30pm start

The business of the AGM is as follows:-

1. The consideration of the Accounts & Balance Sheets for 2022
2. The consideration of the Reports of the Officers
3. The election of the 9 Officers and 5 other members of the Management Committee
4. The fixing of the annual membership subscriptions for 2024 //996+dcvfb nfg
5. The discussion of questions relating to mountaineering
6. Presentation of Awards if any.

This can only happen iif there are at least 25 people present. To encourage attendance the committee are organising FREE SNACKS at the end of the meeting. A full agenda will be sent out on 16th April.

Officers of the Club are elected annually and nominations should be with the Secretary at least 7 days before the AGM (by 16th March 2023). Nominations should be proposed and seconded by a full club member and sent to secretary@wbmc.org

The positions are:-

- Chair • Vice Chair • Honorary Treasurer • Honorary Secretary • Coach Secretary
- Hut Secretary • Membership Secretary • Newsletter Editor • Publicity & Social Media Secretary

Nominations for 5 Ordinary Members of the Management Committee may also be proposed in the same way or may be nominated from the floor at the AGM. In the latter case the nominee must be present in person and express their willingness to serve, if elected. Alternatively, a written expression of such willingness may be produced to the Chair prior to the AGM. All positions are open to any Full Member. The Malcolm Collins Award may be awarded each year for "outstanding endeavour in mountaineering or service to the Club". Nominations for the Award should be in writing, proposed & seconded, and forwarded to the Secretary 7 days before to the AGM (by 16th March 2023). **Be there B71 1RH 7.30pm start prompt!!**