



A great new 'alternative' view of the WBMC Hut taken by prospective member Andy Crosby and posted on the Club Members Facebook page.

	Contents	<u>Editorial</u>
2	Noticeboard / Future Events	<p>Hopefully by the time you receive this Newsletter the new WBMC website, designed to be easier for the committee members to edit and update, will have gone “live”. We are grateful to Joe Priest and the committee “testers/trainees” for their time and effort put in to this. The committee would be very interested to receive any feedback you might have for suggested improvements etc.</p> <p>However, any website will only look really up-to-date if members are prepared to help! Many members post a few photos & maybe half a dozen lines, usually less, on Facebook or Instagram after a meet but the Website, like the Newsletter, will need short articles and reports on events such as coach meets, stays at the Hut, scrambling & skills weekends & the like, if it is to look attractive to readers and potential new members. So please think of writing a little longer report than usual and send this together with a photo or two to a committee member - as well as posting it on social media. That way some of the articles on the website will be recent and more relevant to page visitors and potential participants in our events, who may eventually end up joining the club.</p>
3	Mitch’s Meet: Llangollen	
4	Jan Coach: Back to Llanberis	
5	Feb Coach: Patterdale	
6	March Coach: The Arans	
7	2024 Membership Details	
7 - 8	Benefits of WBMC Membership	
8	2024 Meet Card	
9 - 10	Nov Coach Meet Report	
10 - 11	“Becoming a Fuji-san” synopsis	
12	The Challenge of BIG Peaks	
13 - 14	Top 10 Most Climbed Peaks	
15	Inspirational Wandering Women	
16	Recent Hut Weekends	
17	Wolves Tribute to WBMC John H	
18	Fundraising & Donations	
19	For Sale Items & Away Dinner	
20	Nov Committee Meet’g Minutes	
<p>This Newsletter was produced by John Edwards. Thanks to those members who contributed information or articles.</p> <p>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</p>		

A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM CHAIRMAN DAVE HELLYAR

It is said that time flies when you are having fun. Well, as I sit at my laptop to put these few words together the prospect of the December coach meet to Glossop is only a few days away. Somehow these thoughts inevitably take me back to the 2022 December coach meet, especially memories of the great fun had on the return journey, singing along to recordings of songs of the 60's, 70's & 80's so thoughtfully provided by Darren Groutage.

Was that a year ago? It seems to be much more recent. Time has flown so there must have been lots more fun to be had, much of it courtesy of WBMC. Our Coach meets have survived Covid & are now prospering, the Hut is enjoyed by many & serves as a base for training weekends & in addition weekends have been arranged at other hut venues. Indoor & Outdoor evening meets have been well supported & enjoyed, including the climbing wall at Kidderminster.

I hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas & New Year celebrations, have at least some recollections of them and, like myself, are eagerly anticipating another year of fun, courtesy of the WBMC.

Best wishes to you all for 2024 and beyond David

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

Sunday 7th Jan '24 – Mitch's CAR Meet: Llangollen

Sunday 14th January 2024 – Llanberis

Sunday 4th February – Patterdale / Glenridding

Sunday 10th March – The Arans / Dinas Mawddwy

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 or a stroll through some beautiful villages?

INDOOR MEETS WITH MOUNTAINEERING PRESENTATIONS :-

Thursday 4th January '24 - **"Introduction to Winter Skills (Theory)"** by Geordie Hind at "The Red Lion" All Saints Way, W Brom (B71 1RH) 8.00 pm start. To support Practical Session during the Scottish Winter Week.

Thursday 11th January '24 – **Members' Night with an Illustrated Talk on "The Torridon Giants"** by Tony Emms at the Red Lion All Saints Way, W Brom (B71 1RH) 8.00 pm start.

Thursdays 8th February & 7th March – **Members' Nights with an Illustrated Talks (TBA)**

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

18th January, 15th February & 14th March Committee meetings start at 7.30pm & observers are welcome. Otherwise come along at ~ 8.30 pm for a drink & a chat or meal.

ADVANCE NOTICE: 2024 AGM 21st March @ The Red Lion All Saints Way, B71 1RH 7.30pm start. Please note in your diaries and help make this crucial meeting quorate.

INDOOR CLIMBING AT "HIGH PLACES" (KIDDERMINSTER CLIMBING WALL)

Tuesdays 30th January, 27th February & 26th March from 6pm onwards

WEEKENDS & OTHER MEETS :-**SCOTTISH WINTER WEEK 2024 : SATURDAYS 10th - 17th FEB**

Jonathan Howells has been in touch with Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William and reserved some rooms for WBMC. In line with most things they've gone up a bit - but still excellent value at £42 per night BB & Evening meal (incl. use of gym, jacuzzi, pool & sauna) + £16 single room supplement if desired. The long range weather forecast is for lots of snow so to secure your place contact Jon on 07859 932389. One night's fee guarantees you a place.

**AWAY DINNER WEEKEND: Nights of Fri 15th (B&B) & Sat 16th (Dinner B&B) MARCH**

At Briery Wood Country House Hotel, Windermere. Contact Nigel Tarr (07703 345729) for more details & to book single, double or triple room.

MITCH'S MEET : SUNDAY 7th JANUARY 2024 – LLANGOLLEN

Walks around Llangollen take you into sublime Welsh countryside. Nestled in the picturesque Dee Valley and surrounded by gorgeous hills, impressive escarpments and sites of historical wonder, Llangollen is a hillwalker's dream come true. **As in recent years this will be a car meet, with people aiming to arrive at the start walking by 10am.**

A waterside pub «The Corn Mill», (*top LHS in photo*) which has excellent reviews on Trip Advisor, will be doing Sunday roasts among other dishes & has agreed members can go back there after the walk for drinks & food. but would like to know numbers so if you are intending to come on the meet please let co-ordinator John Edwards know by 27th December via jaejed@hotmail.com or 07837 198355

For details of the venue, see

<https://www.brunningandprice.co.uk/cornmill/>

Meeting place : Llangollen East Street Car Park

(213420) - £3.50 for all day parking **LL20 8RD** Other car parks available but may be double the price.

Suggested maps: OS 1:50 000 Landranger sheets 116 & 117 or 1:25 000 Explorer sheet 255

Suggested Routes:

Route 1. Castell Dinas Bran Circular Leave the main car park and cross Llangollen Bridge (early 12thC). Then zigzag steeply up to Castell Dinas Bran with its ruins from the 13th C, ringed with iron age defences. Fantastic views. Descend WNW to Pentrefelin Wharf, where barges carrying slate left for England. Head back to Llangollen along the canal. (7 km / 4 ½ miles 800ft ascent)

Route 2. Llangollen History Trail & Panoramic Escarpment (Led Walk below) Cross the River Dee and head west along the Llangollen Canal to the Chain Bridge & Horseshoe Falls. At Llantysillio church head east to Eliseg's Pillar and the ruins of Valle Crucis Abbey before ascending up through the cliffs of Eglwyseg Mountain to head SE across the Panoramic escarpment to Trevor Rocks. Descend and then there's just a short ascent over Castell Dinas Bran back to the town. (13 km / 8 miles 2,050 ft ascent)
(This is a combination of Komoot routes 1 & 3. For more ideas or details of longer walks that take you to the summit of Eglwyseg Mountain see <https://www.komoot.com/guide/1763090/hiking-around-llangollen>)



COACH MEET SUNDAY 14th JANUARY 2024: RETURN TO LLANBERIS – but this time with more snow (hopefully)

Depart: 07:00 – West Bromwich

Edward St Car Park B70 8NL

07:20 – M54 Junction 2

Toilet stop: Corwen

Drop offs: Capel Curig (721582)

Pen-y-Pass (647556)

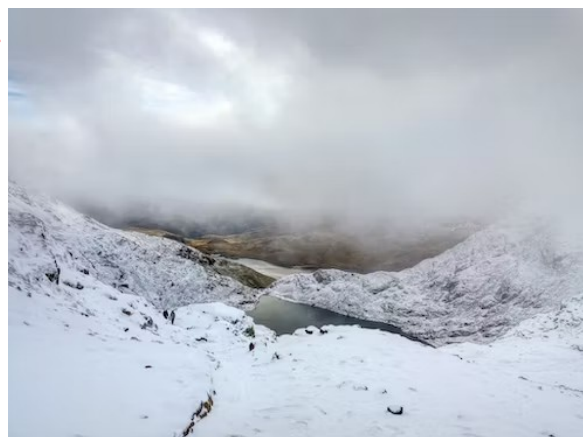
Llanberis (583598)

Pick ups: Llanberis Coach Park, near

Electric Mountain (583598)

Pen Y Gwryd (660558)

Required map: OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure 17: Snowdon / Y Wydffa



Looking down into Nant Peris

SUGGESTED ROUTES : (But be prepared to cut short as daylength is quite short)

FROM CAPEL CURIG Route 1 The Glyders and their Eastern Ridge (~ 15km - 10 miles)

From Capel head west and follow the ridge to Gallt Yr Ogof (685586) and continue over Foel Goch (678582) and past Llyn Caseg-Fraith (670584). You should get a classic view of Tryfan's east face from here (made famous by Poucher). You can then ascend Glyder Fach (656583) followed by Glyder Fawr (642580). Descend south to Pen-y-Pass and walk down the road to the Pen Y Gwryd Hotel.

FROM PEN-Y-PASS Route 2 The classic « Snowdon Horseshoe » or « Just » Snowdon (~ 14km - 9 miles)

If you're ambitious ascend Snowdon (610544) via Y Lliwedd (624533 & 622533) and come back down over Crib Goch (624552). Or do Crib Goch first if you prefer scrambling uphill rather than downhill. However, the grade 1 scramble across the top had the same exposure whichever way you tackle it! This could be a hard day in the time available and should not be attempted in high winds. **A descent to Llanberis following the railway track is an alternative finish if you want to climb Snowdon and do half the Horseshoe.**

Route 3 Snowdon & Moel Cynghorion (~ 17km - 11 miles)

Ascend Snowdon via the P-Y-G or Miner's track. Then leave in a north west direction and descend the Snowdon Ranger path as far as Bwlch Cwm Brwynog (591558). A steep grassy climb then leads to the summit of Moel Cynghorion (587564) which (hopefully) gives fine views over the Menai Straights. Descend to Bwlch Maesgwm (573559) and then follow an easy path northwards to Llanberis coach park

Route 4 The Glyders and their Western Ridge (~ 17km - 11 miles)

From Pen-y-Pass climb Glyder Fawr (642580) and then drop down north west to climb shapely Y Garn (631596). Continue along the grassy plateau to Foel Goch (629612), Mynydd Perfedd (623619), Carnedd y Filiast (620628) and the rough summit of Elidir Fawr (612613) before dropping down to Llanberis and the coach park.

FROM LLANBERIS Route 5 The Nuttalls North West of Snowdon (~ 16km - 10 miles)

Climb to summit of Moel Eilio (556577), possibly visiting the Ceunant Mawr waterfall en route. Descend 400 ft and then ascend Foel Gron (560569) which has 2 tops the lower of which has the larger cairn. Follow the ridge south to Bwlch Maesgwm and then east to Moel Cynghorion. You could head north back to Llanberis or head south, then south east to pass right of Llyn D'ur Arddu and on to Llechog summit (606568). Then follow railway path north back to Llanberis.

N.B. Winter gear should be worn & carried. Depending on the snow conditions, and ice axe & crampons may be required for these walks. Alternatively stay on lower slopes and off the tops 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

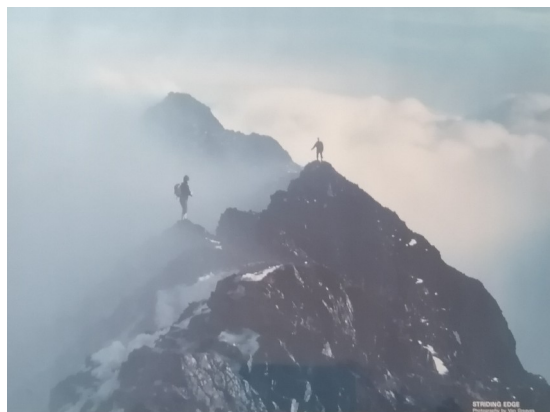
Should you cancel after the Wednesday prior to the coach date a £5.00 fee will be charged.

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

SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2024:**PATTERDALE & GLENRIDDING****Depart:** 07: 00 – West Bromwich

Edward St Car Park B70 8NL

07: 20 – Penkridge

Toilet stop: Charnock Richard Services *Opposite: *Van***Drop offs:** Kirkstone Inn (401081) *Greaves's classic shot of*
Patterdale (391181) *Striding Edge in the clouds with 2*
Glenridding (386169) *members of West Birmingham YHA***Pick ups:** Glenridding (386169) *Group silhouetted, taken in 1976*
Kirkstone Inn (401081)**Required map:** OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure 5: The Lakes North East (& 7: South East, for start of routes 1-3)**SUGGESTED ROUTES :****FROM KIRKSTONE INN Route 1 Red Screes, Dove Crag, Fairfield & St Sunday Crag** (~ 14km - 9 miles)

Climb NW up the steep Slope to summit of Red Screes (396087). Then continue NW, first descending into Scandale Pass, then climb again following a wall apast Little Hart Crag and up onto Dove Crag (375104).

From here follow the ridge over Hart Crag and onto Fairfield (359117). Leave the summit heading north and descend via the sharp peak of Cofa Pike (358121) and on over St Sunday Crag (369135) & Birks (382144) before heading down into Patterdale and a short road walk to the coach in Glenridding.

Route 2 Stony Cove Pike, Thornthwaite Crag, High Street & Knott (~ 15km - 9.5 miles)

Stay on the East side of the road and follow St Ravens Edge to Stony Cove Pike (417100). Descend to Threshthwaite Mouth (taking care over finding direction if visibility is poor) and ascend Thornthwaite Crag with its fine summit cairn (432101). Then head along to the broad summit of High Street (441111) and follow the ridge north to the Knott (437127). The descent down into Patterdale is past the picturesque Angle Tarn (417145) (+/- Angletarn Pikes just N of it) and then on to Boredale Hause before dropping down to Patterdale village from which it is a short road walk to Glenridding.

Route 3 Stony Cove Pike +/- Thornthwaite Crag (~ 13km - 8 miles)

As Route 2 but with less ascent & distance. From Treshthwaite Mouth head NW along Pasture Bottom to Hartsop; or climb Thornthwaite Crag and then descend along the ridge to Grey Crag and down to Hartsop. From there lots of paths on the east side of Goldrill Beck lead to Patterdale & a short road walk to Glenridding.

FROM PATTERDALE Route 4 Striding Edge & Helvellyn (~ 14km - 9 miles)

Follow a track to where it turns right over Grisedale Beck (383157) and then climb steeply up to the Hole in the Wall (359155) which is the start of Striding Edge – a grade 1 ridge nowhere near as tricky as Crib Goch. A short descent to a col at the end is followed by a final climb to the summit 'shelter' and trig point (342152). Continue N to Lower Man (337155) and Whiteside (338166) and then take the lower path down to Glenridding Common (352166). A good track leads you past the Youth Hostel (366174) from where you head down Greenside Road or paths off on the right bank of the Beck to the coach in Glenridding.

N.B. Winter gear should be worn & carried. Depending on the snow conditions, and ice axe & crampons may be required for these walks. Alternatively stay on lower slopes and off the tops 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 £5.00 fee will be charged.**Failure to turn up without cancelling and the full coach fare will be expected from you.*

(*Van Greaves received £20 from Arthur Dixon, who then sold it as a best selling postcard until around 2005!

Van had to get 5,000 prints made at his own expense to make any money. One sits on my dining room wall & if you want one of the few remaining I suggest you contact him on vangreaves@hotmail.com pronto!!)

COACH MEET SUNDAY 10th MARCH 2024: THE ARANS – last visited by WBMC 8 years ago and only 7 times since June 1993 !

Depart: 07: 00 – West Bromwich

Edward St Car Park B70 8NL

07: 20 – M54 Junction 2

Toilet stop: Corwen

Drop offs: Llanuwchllyn (880299)

Car Park on A470 - Bwlch Oerddrws (803170)

Dinas Mawddwy (Layby) (858147)

Check with Nigel if you want a different drop off between Bala & Dinas Mawddwy

Pick ups: Dinas Mawddwy (Layby) (858147)

Required map: OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure 23 Snowdonia – Cader Idris area



Aran Benllyn seen from Aran Fawddwy on a good day

SUGGESTED ROUTES :

FROM LLANUWCHLLWYN Route 1 The Arans Traverse North to South (~ 21 km - 13 miles)

A long but great day out on the hills! ALMOST CERTAINLY THE LED WALK

Head south of town towards and where the road turns sharply NE near the river turn south along a track and after a couple of cattle grids take a bridleway on the right. After a few stiles the bridleway veers right but you should take a grassy path left alongside a wire fence, over Garth-Fawr (875284). The path climbs steeply over grassy moorland up the western slopes of Moel Ddu & Moel Ffenigl, then gets rockier as height is gained, passing Llyn Pen Aran to the summit of Aran Benllyn (867243). This is a fine summit perched on the edge of a cliff where there will hopefully be views of Bala Lake / Llyn Tegid to the N and Aran Fawddwy to the S. Take the path that leads due south to Aran Fawddwy, where a trig point marks the summit (863 224). Continue S before descending SE to a cairn, with a log book to sign ((863213). The path narrows & descends eastwards to the col at Drws Bach before ascending to the flat top of Drysgol (870213). Then descend by good paths SW to Cywarch (853187) & follow lanes some distance to Dinas Mawddwy and the Y Llew Coch – a very Welsh pub.

Route 2 The Arans Traverse North to South Plus Glasgwm (& maybe Foel Benddin) (24 km - 15 miles)

As Route 1 but instead of veering eastwards after Aran Fawddwy summit, descend SW for a considerable distance before the steepish ascent of Glasgwm (836194). From here one could retrace one's steps to a path which descends north of the Craig Cywarch cliffs steeply down into Cwm Cywarch where it's road walking down to Dinas Mawddwy. Or you could stay high going south then east round the S end of Craig Cywarch to go over Y Gribin (844176) and then on to Foel Benddin (854166) followed by a steep pathless descent directly to the caravan / camp site just N of the pub in Dinas.

FROM BWLCH OERDDRWS CAR PARK AT TOP OF A470 Route 2 Eastern Part of the Mid Wales

Mountain Marathon (devised & run by our late Chairman Nev Tandy for many years) (15.5km – 9.5 miles)

Head South, climbing steeply to a ridge following a wall to a 659m spot height (795153). From here continue West to a col, then up over the north part of Cribin Fawr to the summit trig on Waun-oer (786148). Retrace your steps to the col you have just come up from and where the wall kinks (793151), leave it and head to Cribin Fawr summit (795153), then go round the top of the cwm to the top of Craig Portas (802141). Turn left at the wall T junction, descending to a narrow col with exposed cliffs to the left and follow the fence line all the way to the summit of Maesglase (817150) and its eastern top at 822151. Continue south on paths through heather moorland with cliffs on your left to the top of Craig Maesglase (827139) and then on round to the east at the side of a forest to drop down to some disused tips (837139). Follow the track north down into the valley and then head NE to the A470 main road (848159) from where a short road walk takes you to the coach at Dinas Mawddwy.

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 £5.00 fee will be charged.

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

MEMBERSHIP FEES FOR 2024 (WITH CORRECTED INSURANCE DETAILS)

Membership fees for 2024 become due on the 1st Jan and should be paid by end of January if possible if you want to retain all the benefits. It was agreed at the 2023 AGM that our Club subscriptions for 2024 should increase by the same increment as the BMC fees. These have been increased by 7.5%, which the BMC say is below inflation.

Accordingly the 2024 WBMC fees will become:-

Adult £39 (this includes BMC membership worth £23.90 - but if you were not a member of the Club it would cost you £47.20 to enjoy BMC benefits as an individual)

Students pay their discounted BMC fee £19.75 (would be £28.35 if not a Club member)

11 to 18 year old Club members to just pay their discounted BMC fee £17.70

Under 11's membership of WBMC is Free

As WBMC is an affiliated BMC Club, every member is covered by Howden's Combined Liability Insurance which provides protection of up to £15 million from the consequences of claims against the Club, Club member, committee member, trustee or volunteer for injury, financial loss or damage to property, where negligence occurs.

If you upgrade to Full BMC individual membership you also get £10,000 of personal accident cover (aged 3 – 80) when climbing, hill walking and mountaineering, plus discount on purchases at many outlets and access to the biggest outdoor magazine in the UK, "Summit" which is packed full of climbing, hill walking and mountaineering inspiration & skills.

The easiest way for many to pay these fees will be by Bank Transfer to the Club's CO-OP Bank account Acc No: 65487846 Sort Code: 08-92-99 Be sure to quote Reference "AM24UrName" (where UrName is your real name, abbreviated if necessary!)

You can also pay by cheque made payable to "WBMC" and send this to Mr Tony Emms, 28 Farmer Way, Tipton, DY4 0BE.

The Club recently received over £1,000 from HMRC thanks to the efforts made by Claire Hammonds & John Edwards to secure gift aid on the kind donations made by many members during 2022. Obviously, if you are in a position to be able to add a small amount as a donation on top of the 'official' membership fee this would be very helpful in a claim for gift aid that will be made in 2025. But that's looking ahead – in the meantime we hope you have a memorable Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

THE MANY BENEFITS OF WBMC MEMBERSHIP

- Opportunity to use the Club's hut in Snowdonia at a greatly reduced rate of over 50% of what non-member guests are expected to pay – just a few ££ a night.
- Reduced priced seat on the monthly coach meet.
- Opportunity to participate in a wide range of outdoor & indoor social events, including camping, climbing and peak-bagging trips in the UK & abroad, Thursday night illustrated talks with mountaineering themes as well as Home & Away Dinner weekends / evenings.
- The chance to learn new skills from others without having to attend expensive courses eg winter mountaineering skills, including use of crampons & ice axe on the Scottish Winter Week or navigation &/or scrambling skills at special weekends at the Hut.
- Periodical cycling, running, canoeing & surfing weekends.
- Regular indoor climbing at Midlands venues.
- Monthly mid-week 'Boots & Beers' walks at various Midlands venues.
- You get a 15% discount off gear you buy at Cotswold Outdoor.

- As a member of WBMC you immediately become an associate member of the British Mountaineering Council and, as such, you have valuable insurance cover should you unintentionally do something which injures, disables or kills a third party on the crags or hills – very important!
- You have access to the BMC's personal worldwide travel insurance, which covers adventurous activities and trips at high altitudes.
- You receive the Spring copy of "Summit", the British Mountaineering Council's full colour magazine, packed with interesting articles on climbing, scrambling & hill walking, plus the opportunity to receive Summer, Autumn & Winter editions if you pay a small upgrade fee to full BMC membership.
- Opportunity to stay at the huts of certain other BMC-affiliated clubs in the Pennines, Wales or Scotland.
- Opportunity to make new friends with similar interests.

If you want to know a bit more about the history of the Club check out our entry in Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bromwich_Mountaineering_Club

Please feel free to contact a member of the committee or the editor if you think there are omissions to the above list or if there are other things that make WBMC attractive to you.

2024 MEET CARD - INDIVIDUAL COPIES SHOULD BE AVAILABLE IN JANUARY

January 7th Mitch's Meet (cars) to **Llangollen** 11th Indoor Meet Talk (Red Lion)
14th **Llanberis** Coach Meet 18th Committee Meeting & Social after (Red Lion)

February 4th **Patterdale** Coach Meet 8th Indoor Meet Talk (Red Lion)
10th - 16th Scottish Winter Week at **Fort William** 15th Committee Meeting & Social after

March 7th Indoor Meet Talk 10th **Arans** Coach Meet 14th Committee Meeting & Social after 16th & 17th Away Dinner in **Lake District**

21st March Annual General Meeting at The Red Lion

April 11th Indoor Meet Talk 14th **Horton in Ribblesdale** Coach Meet
18th Committee Meeting & Social after (Red Lion)

May 9th Outdoor Evening Meet Walk 11th (Sat) **Seatoller** Long Coach Meet
16th Committee Meeting & Social after 18th - 24th **Torrifon** Trip

June 6th Outdoor Evening Meet Walk 9th **Rhinogs** Coach Meet
13th Committee Meeting & Social after 14th - 16th Scrambling w/e George Starkey Hut
21st - 23rd **Gower** Multi-activity weekend

July 6th - 13th **Slovenia** Trip 18th Committee Meeting & Social after
21st **Braithwaite** Coach Meet

August 8th Outdoor Evening Meet Walk 11th **Cadair Idris & Barmouth** Coach Meet
15th Committee Meeting & Social after

September 5th Outdoor Evening Meet Walk 8th **Coniston** Coach Meet
12th Committee Meeting & Social after 13th - 15th Women's Weekend at the Hut
28th & 29th Corbett w/e in **Scotland** & Trailfest w/e in **Snowdonia**

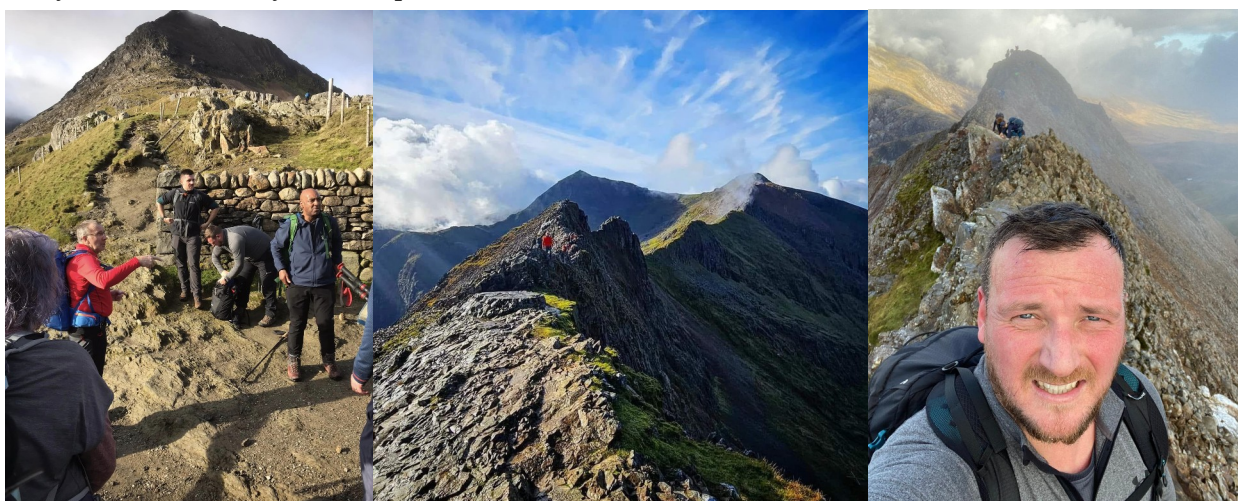
October 10th Indoor Meet Talk 13th **Ogwen** Coach Meet 17th Committee Meeting & Social after 19th & 20th Cycling w/e 25th Curry Night

November 7th Indoor Meet Talk 10th **Brecon Beacons** Coach Meet 14th Committee Meeting & Social after 15th - 17th Skills Weekend at the Hut

December 5th Indoor Meet Talk 8th **Castleton** Coach Meet 12th Committee Meeting & Social after 19th Special Christmas Social at The Red Lion

NOVEMBER COACH TO LLANBERIS Editor's report

38 members and guests enjoyed an excellent day in Eryri / Snowdonia on the November Coach with a beautiful morning with low clouds in the valleys and beautiful sunshine when we reached the mountains. We were joined by Bill D & Tony E, who had been stopping at the Hut, at Pen y Gwryd and started dropping people off. Most folk headed on up Snowdon by the PYG route or Crib Goch but some did Glyder Fawr & Y Garn, hoping to descend to Llanberis via Elidr Fawr. Some routes proved too much in the time available and so a few had to be picked up at Pen-y-Pass when everyone had put Llanberis in the coach book.



(L to R) Decision Time: PYG or Crib Goch; What Weather!!; Richard Smart & the ridge just done

Sadly the Crib Goch party encountered a distraught group - about 20 mins after one of their number had fallen from the ridge down the "wrong" side. Some said he had been flying a drone and had gone to pick it up from where it landed, when he slipped or something gave way. They were held up for quite a while rescuers tried to calm the party and get them down, while a helicopter & stretcher party attended the scene in the cwm below. The PYG route was far less eventful but even more crowded, especially after the junction with the Miners' Track, but sadly at around 1pm the clouds rolled in and few got any views at all from the summit. Claire H managed to return over Moel Cynghorion and get back in time but most headed down the Llanberis Path with interesting cloud effects over Moel Elio and, annoyingly, a cloud-free Snowdon summit re-appeared around 4pm. Most folks reached the Royal Victoria Hotel in time to enjoy a pint or two and a good catch up on the day's events.



(L to R) PYG & Miners' path junction; Coach first timers Donna, Norris & Dani make the summit; Queue on the right for your summit photo (or nip up LHS for a "quickie")

For several days afterwards I scoured the internet to try and find any news about the tragedy but came up with nothing, which gave hope that the fall had miraculously not been a fatal one but then 11 days later a friend sent me a link to "North Wales Live" which on 21st November reported "Former soldier slipped and fell to his death in Crib Goch Armistice Day tragedy". It

continued:- “William Dennis Onion, 33 & a former soldier in Afghanistan, slipped and fell on Crib Goch on Armistice Day, an inquest heard today. He lost his footing and fell from the notorious Crib Goch in Eryri (Snowdonia) on November 11 while he was walking with friends. At Caernafon Sarah Riley, assistant coroner for NW Wales, today opened the inquest into the death of Mr Onion, who was born in Ballymena in County Antrim, She was informed that Mr Onion, a personal trainer & mountain leader, had been in a group of 6 walkers on Saturday, November 11 who were completing the Crib Goch trail in Eryri.

During the walk Mr Onion lost his footing, causing the rocks beneath his feet to give way. He then fell around 200 metres down the mountain. A mountain rescue team was alerted and the Helimed helicopter deployed. Paramedic Daniel Evans confirmed at 11.20am that day that Mr Onion was dead & a pathologist later gave the provisional cause of death as multiple injuries. He and his partner had been living in Bournemouth from where he ran his own firm under the name ‘Coach Pickles’ which brought people together “through social group hikes, bootcamp fitness classes and personal training”.

His father, Alastair Onion, said his son had a “real lust for life & a bright personality” and went on to say “I have no words to convey how devastated we are. William fell today from Snowdon mountain. He was doing what he loved & he was with friends; that much we are thankful for. He passed at 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, a soldier through and through, a son that no man could have been prouder of. He was happy, loved and someone that whomever met him, thought the world of him.” Other reports on the internet said he had climbed Mt Everest and was well known for charity fundraising.

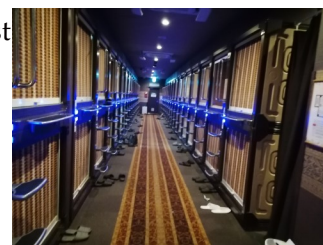


“BECOMING A FUJI-SAN”: Synopsis of the Editor’s November Indoor Meet Talk

Konnichiwa everyone! On 9th Nov John Edwards donned his yukata & obi to explain how a proposed Hurtigruten cruise along Norway’s coast to the North Cape in the middle of winter turned into a fortnight on an ‘Exodus’ sight-seeing tour of Japan, with the week before tagged on to climb Mt Fuji - the 35th highest peak in the world by prominence. Although it last erupted in 1707 on 16 December killing 20,000 people, it is still classed as “dormant”, not extinct, indeed fumaroles still smoked in the 1950’s. Flying out from Birmingham via Dubai on 10th Sept, John soon morphed into his alter-ego



Captain Cag by getting his timings wrong and ending up being the richest rough-sleeper (£500 of yen in his pockets) on the streets of Tokyo, within sight of the cheap but excellent Capsule Hotel (right) he had booked for 4 of the following nights!



After climbing up a mini-Fuji Shrine on the 12th, he met up with Fuji Mountain Guides the next morning at Tochomae underground where Joe (originally from Bourneville!) checked him in & gave him a piece of pink plastic ribbon to tie to his boot so as to identify him as one of their 32 ‘clients’ that day. Fuji Guides organise 2 day trips to Fuji including transport + meals & a bed in a mountain hut during the climbing season (June 25 – Sept 10) and “off season” (Sept 11 – Oct 15) when all bar 2 of the huts & all mountain rescue teams have closed down. With around 400,000 people climbing Fuji, mostly in July & August, everyone could see why an off-season trip was preferable to avoid the hoards, even though a summit sunrise & crater rim walk might not be possible. All the classic views show Fuji with a snow-capped summit, so most on the trip were surprised when their first

view of the mountain from a motorway service station showed no trace of snow. John felt the audience might be disappointed and so the first dozen images he showed were from postcards! After a meal at the Subashiri 5th Station @ 1980m the 5 guides & 32 clients set off at 1pm, mostly arriving at the 7th Station (4th Hut) @ 3090m around 3 ¾ hrs later. It was warm work with uneven rocky tracks through forest at first becoming a rock & ash trail that zig-zagged ever upwards & John felt a little dizzy at times, something he put down to jet-lag rather than altitude.

After another meal the guides announced *"Change of plan. Forecast is so good we'll leave at ~2am so as to see the sunrise from the summit, not the Hut, & you can carry your breakfasts to eat up there."* So everyone immediately hit their beds ready for a 1.30am wake-up call. Headtorches on, we set off and after an hour or so, as the sky started to lighten, we were told that only those who reached the summit with guide Dan (from Hartlepool) would have the chance to do the 90 min. crater-rim walk – something I was desperate to do as the highest of the 8 peaks around the 240 m deep crater was Kengamine Peak (3776m/12,388 ft) on the far side. Amazingly, of the 30 who reached the Kusushijinja Shrine (3,700m) at the top of the Subashiri Trail only 6 of us lined up to walk the 700m diameter rim and I must have looked by far the oldest as I was the only one asked how my knees were doing! I was pleasantly surprised that it was not as undulating as I thought it would be and we contoured around most of the peaks except the highest one.

After summit photos at 0620 we were back at the shrine by 7am, where just a few slow stragglers remained, and immediately started to descend. The route down mostly follows the wide ash trails that are used by tracked vehicles to supply the Huts with water, food & souvenirs (& remove human waste from the toilets etc) and from the 7th to 5th stations you can descend 2m in a single step as it goes straight downhill for 3 km! At 1035 I was enjoying a beer back where we started, and was soaking an onsen bath in the Capsule hotel at 3pm.

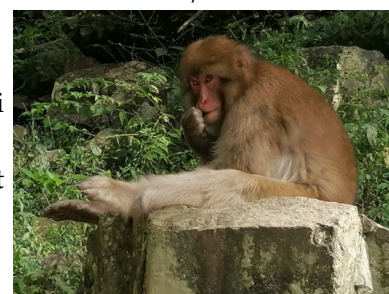
The remainder of the presentation skipped briefly through the places John visited after the Fuji climb:- a day at the Sumo tournament, a day with Hisayo (his Las Vegas room-mate) visiting "Soya", the old Japanese Antarctic Research vessel, now a museum, Golden & Silver Temples in Kyoto, the Fushimi Inari Shrine made famous in 'Memoirs of a Geisha' film (N.B Shrines are built to serve the Shinto religious tradition and are characterized by a tori π gate at the entrance.



Temples are built to serve the Buddhist & Zen religious traditions and are characterized by a massive 2 floor/ roof sanmon gate at the entrance, with fierce 'niozo' guardians). A day in Nara with super-tame deer & Todaiji Temple – the largest wooden building in the world; Bamboo forest walk, Hiroshima memorial park,

Miyajima shrine, Takayama & nearby Folk Village, a bit of the Nakasendo Way, Snow Monkeys, Tokyo's Skytree Tower & Pepper Parlour robot restaurant, Kamakura to see the huge Buddha & have a swim,

A great holiday experience awaits anyone who goes to Japan. Indeed I have heard rumours that someone might be planning a winter visit to the country to climb Fuji in the snow, something the Japanese authorities discourage but do not prohibit & which should be possible by WBMC members familiar with Scottish winter walking, providing they have decent camping gear & are confident in their ice-axe arrest skills – it could be a long painful - or worse – slide otherwise!



THE CHALLENGE OF THE REALLY BIG PEAKS

When someone you haven't seen on the coach for ages suddenly turn up it's good to have a catch up and on the November Llanberis coach I was amazed to learn what member Wesley Marks has been up to since our paths last crossed. I hadn't realised but in 2008 he went to South America with Explore to make an attempt on Aconcagua. At 6961 metres (22,837 feet) this is the highest mountain in the Americas and the highest in both the Western & Southern Hemispheres and he & several others on the trip donned their crampons and successfully made it to the summit. So he is already in a small band of WBMC members who have been above 6,500m on foot!

A few years later he decided to have a crack at Pik Lenin (right) (7134 m / 23,405) on the border of Tajikistan & Kyrgyzstan, this time with Adventure Peaks, who advertise it as *"one of the most accessible of the world's 7000m peaks. The climb is non technical and truly Himalayan by proportion"*. This time the weather was against them and nobody was able to make it to the summit. Undeterred he got fit again and had a second attempt, this time back with Explore in 2018. They were going well and made it to the top camp at 6,400 m when the weather turned so they sadly didn't get



to the summit or even cross the iconic 7,000 m level. Then last year he was back in the Himalaya with Adventure Peaks, having got the necessary 'Certificate of Fitness' from his doctor that is now needed to be accepted to attempt a major peak. He had decided to take a Fitness Instructing (Gym) Level 2 course to help achieve this and the target was Annapurna 4 (7,525m / 24,688 ft). It requires considerable work to fix the mountain, so is not often frequented by commercial teams and is climbed much less often than Everest. Their party got to the main Base camp at 4,800m but after 3 days & nights of continuous snow their tents were completely covered. It went on to snow for a total of 14 days! Eventually they had to give up and retreat down the mountain and what took 4 hours to go up took 12 hours to descend because of the bad weather. The weather continued to be poor and around 2 weeks later a team of 12 Russians managed to get higher up the NW face but only 2 of them managed to summit & one of those ended up with frostbite/nip. It all goes to show just how lucky you have to be with the weather windows for, even if you have trained, and acclimatised, and got into a position to make that dreamt of summit attempt it can all easily go pear-shaped at the last moment if the pressure drops and the winds rise.

But Wesley is nothing but determined. He's now taking the Personal Training (Level 3)

qualification to get himself into the best possible fitness level, as in August next year hopes to be able to join an Adventure Peaks supported expedition to attempt Manaslu, at 8,163 m (26,781 ft) the 8th highest mountain in the world, advertised as *"a good first 8,000m peak to climb. On the summit days the climb passes a false summit and finishes on an exposed ridge that leads 150 m to the true summit with a mere 50m height gain"*. To my knowledge, no WBMC member has made an attempt on an 8,000m peak, let alone climbed one so if Wesley succeeds, or even gets far above 7,000m, he will go into our history books (& into our Wikipedia entry). I'm sure we all wish him



every success in this and look forward to hearing about the trip on his return. Whatever happens it is a very spectacular peak as you can see from the Adventure Peak image.

THE TOP 10 MOST CLIMBED MOUNTAINS IN THE WORLD

Mt Everest might be the highest mountain in the world, but according to the Sydney Morning Herald in terms of climber numbers there are many peaks that stand far taller.

1) Mt Fuji (Japan) 3,776 m / 12,388 ft

As the perfectly conical backdrop to Tokyo, a city of 13 million people, it's little wonder that Mt Fuji regularly gets a mention as the most climbed mountain in the world. Figures show that around 300,000 – 400,000 people a year climb Japan's highest mountain (but probably a large proportion do not visit the very top on the SW side of the crater?) Consider that the official climbing season only runs for two months - July and August - and you get a sense of how swarm-like it can be. The continuing crowds suggest that maybe not everybody heeds the old Japanese saying that "a wise person climbs Fuji once, but only a fool does it twice". According to Peak List Fuji San is the 35th tallest mountain in the world, when these are ranked by prominence, just behind Mt. Elbrus in 34th place and 2 ahead of Jebel Toubkal in 37th place.

<http://www.peaklist.org/WWlists/WorldTop50.html>

[Fuchi (or Huchi) was the Ainu 'fire-goddess' and was first climbed by a Buddhist monk Enno Shokaku in A.D.700 but since she would be jealous of any woman on her slopes, females were not allowed to climb her until the 1860's. Such was Japan's isolation that the first foreigner to climb Fuji was Sir Rutherford Alcock (the first diplomatic representative to live in Japan) in 1860 and an Englishwoman Lady Parkes defied the prohibition & ascended the peak 8 years later, after which the ban was lifted.]

2=) Mt Monadnock (USA) 965 m / 3,166 ft This otherwise unprepossessing mountain is often touted as the second most climbed mountain on Earth. This is probably because it's just a 2 hour drive from Boston & less than 5 hours from New York. Trails ascend to the summit from almost every direction and best-guess figures suggest around 125,000 hikers climb Monadnock each year.

2=) Mt Hood (USA) 3,429 m / 11,250 ft

This Oregon volcano also claims bragging rights as the 2nd most climbed mountain in the world, though this boast is difficult to uphold. Estimates suggest up to 20,000 people a year stand on its summit, so it's more likely to be true (as some claim) that it's the 2nd most climbed mountain in the world above 3000 metres, or even that it's the 2nd most climbed technical mountain. Unlike many of the other peaks in this list, the ascent of Mt Hood typically requires crampons & an ice axe, but its reputation for yielding more easily than similar mountains has made it a drawcard for inexperienced climbers & more than 40 people have died on the mountain since 2000.

4) Croagh Patrick (Ireland) 764 m / 2,506 ft

Turn a mountain into a pilgrimage and they will come! In Ireland's far west, this low-lying peak has earned fame as the spot where St Patrick - he of the banished snakes and the green beer - supposedly spent 40 days and nights fasting & praying. For centuries, pilgrims have come on the last weekend in July, known as "Reek Sunday", to commemorate the saint. On that weekend alone, up to 30,000 people ascend the 764-metre peak, sometimes barefoot. In 2015 Reek Sunday was cancelled due to treacherous weather conditions, but hundreds still made the climb.

5) Adam's Peak (Sri Lanka) 2,243 m / 7,359 ft

On a January dawn, Adam's Peak has the ability to make Reek Sunday look like a small family picnic. The pilgrimage to this "holy mountain with a sacred footprint on the summit" has a special significance to most religious types:- Buddhists hold it to be Buddha's footprint; Muslims & Christians claim it as the spot where Adam first stepped on Earth; and Hindus suggest the print belongs to Shiva! The pilgrimage season on the conical mountain runs from around December to May, and there's an almost constant stream of pilgrims throughout this time. To do it 'right' you should climb through the night to be on the summit for dawn & the sunrise. No problem - the route up is well – lit.

6) Mt Tai (China) 1,545 m / 5,069 ft

If there's any one peak that might genuinely take the title as the most climbed on the planet, it's probably this Chinese peak near the Shandong city of Tai'an. Mt Tai is the most famous & revered of China's holy Taoist mountains, with some estimates suggesting that up to two million people ascend to its summit every year. Its lure isn't just the famed sunrises - in ancient times it was believed the sun began its daily journey here - it's also the dictum that if you climb Mt Tai you'll live to be 100. Like Mt Fuji there's a collection of temples around the summit as it was part of an imperial cult for hundreds of years.

7) Hallasan (South Korea) 1,950 m / 6398 ft

Two things suggest the possibility of South Korea's highest mountain being among the busiest peaks in the world. First, the flight from Seoul to Jeju Island, where the peak is the unavoidable centrepiece, is amongst the 3 busiest air-traffic routes in the world. Second, the massive crowds that seem to gather perpetually on the wooden decks at its summit. Another dormant volcano, this one has a lava plug that still stands tall as the rocky summit. Seven hiking trails ascend its slopes, though only two reach the summit and, this being Korea, the trails can be as much catwalks as boardwalks.

8) Mt Kilimanjaro (Tanzania) 5,895 m / 19,340 ft

Probably the most climbed of all the Seven Summits (the highest mountains on each continent) and probably the most climbed peak above 5000 metres. It is thought that around 25,000 people attempt to climb Africa's highest mountain each year, though success rates tend to get obfuscated by trekking companies claiming absurdly high summit outcomes! Kili's glaciated summit almost straddles the equator, but much of its popularity comes from the fact that it's a rare non-technical climb, accessible to hikers, for such a high mountain. There are 7 trails to the summit, with the Marangu route having become so popular it's more commonly known as the 'Coca-Cola Route'.

9) Table Mountain (South Africa) 1,086 m / 3,563 ft

The figures on Table Mountain 'ascents' are pumped up massively by the fact that a cable car glides all the way to the summit from Cape Town. Operating since 1929, the cable car now carries more than 800,000 people to the famously flat mountaintop each year, but those who prefer their mountains to play a bit more hard-to-get can always hike to the summit. There are plenty of walking trails, with the Platteklip Gorge route, cutting steeply through a gorge eroded into the mountain face, being the most popular and direct. It should take about 2 hours to hike to the top, or about 5 minutes in the cable car.

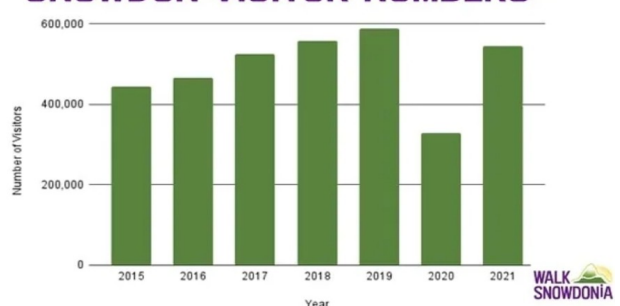
10) Mt Snowdon / Yr Wyddfa (Wales) 1,085 m / 3,558 ft

Around 125,000 people a year climb Ben Nevis, the highest UK mountain, but almost 3 times that number ascend Snowdon, the highest peak in Wales. The mountain has a storied history, being the training ground for the 1953 British Mount Everest expedition. There are at least 6 paths to the summit of the rugged mountain, or you can simply buy a train ticket and ride to the cafe-covered summit on the Snowdon Mountain Railway.

SNOWDON MONTHLY VISITORS

Editors Note: I'm tempted to disagree with the newspaper article and declare Snowdon as the most climbed peak

in the world having seen the histograms above.

SNOWDON VISITOR NUMBERS

INSPIRATIONAL WANDERING WOMEN

Continuing to highlight some of the female trailblazers featured in Issue 78 of "Walk" – the Ramblers magazine.

Harpreet Chandi, aka "Polar Preet" www.polarpreet.com is a British Army captain who became the first woman of colour to trek unaccompanied to the South Pole in 2021. In 2023 she made the longest-ever solo polar expedition by a woman covering 1,397 km (868 miles) in 75 days.

Sarah Williams gave up her job in finance to set up the Tough Girl Challenges website, podcast & blog. She's a hiker, cyclist & ultra-marathon runner and has made it her mission to boost the representation of female role models in the media, especially when adventure, physical challenge and exploration is involved.

See www.toughgirlchallenges.com/sarah-williams

Belinda Kirk has spent 26 years leading groups into the wilderness and is a fellow of both the Royal Geographical Society & British Exploring Society. She has written "Adventure Revolution" and hosts the "Adventure Mind" conference series (www.belindakirk.com)

Sophie Brown is a member of Bristol Ramblers, having fallen in love with countryside walks as an adolescent. She enjoyed connecting with nature and the benefits walking gave to her physical & mental health so in 2021 she founded "Steppin Sistas" and trained as a walk leader so she could organise supportive walks for women of colour (@BrisStepSista on X)

Lisa Wells (@[lisawells00](https://www.instagram.com/lisawells00) on Instagram) is a Ramblers ambassador & mountain leader who runs women-only walks in Snowdonia. Her passion is getting everyone, including her grandchildren, out into nature. **Steph Wetherell** is a size-20 hiker who loves solo & long-distance walking – and hates not being able to find outdoor clothing that fits! So she co-founded "Everybody Outdoors" to demand better gear and to champion the representation of plus-sized people throughout the outdoor sector. www.everybodyoutdoors.co.uk

Valerie Clark is the sighted partner of a blind husband and the joint Walks Organizer for London Blind Ramblers. She has connected with nearby Ramblers groups to provide safe yet stimulating walks for visually impaired walkers for 23 years and was awarded a British Empire Medal in 2020 (see www.londonblindramblers.org.uk) **Kate Appleby**, also known as 'The Adaptive Adventurer', is a climber, hiker & wild swimmer who doesn't let Lupus, Hashimoto's disease or PTSD get in the way of her adventures (@[kate.s.appleby](https://www.instagram.com/kate.s.appleby) on Instagram) ...2Bcontinued

HUT NEWS

The new dryer is very efficient as it senses when the clothes are dry and turns off automatically. Fred would like to thank all who have been using the hut for the good work everyone has been doing to keep the Hut in good nick. Visitors have appreciated this eg a recent email:- *"Just a line to congratulate everyone on the state of the Hut. Over the last 12 months I've stayed in 5 different Club Huts and nothing comes anywhere close to matching ours. I arrived late last Tuesday evening after a very very long hard day in the hills utterly shattered to what, from the outside, looked a cold, dark, rather uninviting building only to open up, switch on the lights and be confronted by a most welcoming sight. The place positively oozed warmth and that was before a fire was lit. Everything was in place, spotless and ready to go. It looked great."* So thanks to everyone and keep up the good work



RECENT HUT WEEKENDS

The **Womens' Weekend** on 16th/17th September coincided with some lovely weather as you can see from the photo of a group of them climbing up Snowdon. The men were not so lucky on the "**Old Timers' Weekend**" (1st-3rd Dec) as cold wet snow and low cloud proved a disincentive to most, although Stumpymade it up Snowdon and found the summit pretty deserted. As usual much whisky, beer & food were consumed and dominoes & cribbage played. Who are the current "Old Timers"? Well Bob Duncan, Mal Vaughan, Don Simpson, Geoff Brown, Geoff Hill, John Edwards, Andy Brown, Mark Stevens, Jonathan Howells, Fred Hammonds, Oliver Stephenson & Darren Groutage attended, with head chef Fred Hammonds & sous chefs Oliver Stephenson & Darren Groutage preparing some excellent vittals. Sadly Mike Thompson, Nigel Tarr & John Eadon were not able to make it this time but John Ed popped through Leintwardine en route to the Hut and the 2 John's & son Jim were able to have a pint at the local extended "parlour pub" - The Sun.

In mid November, Geordie Hind's well-attended (members & non members were welcome) **Skills Weekend** also had more than its fair share of rain so it's just as well that a good proportion of the participants' learning of the 'basics' took place in the warmth of the Hut before they headed out into the rain.





JOHN ALFRED HOWELLS 1949–2023

Wolves were saddened by the passing of lifetime supporter and club steward John Alfred Howells over the summer.

Born to Hilda and Thomas on 18th April 1949, John was a true family man, who had been raised by his grandma Charlotte. In 1966, aged 17, he met Linda Shore, who became his wife in 1970. They had three sons, Jonathan, Craig and Michael, three daughters-in-law, Pamela, Vanessa and Angela, five grandchildren, Lee, Lenina, Claire, Daniel and Isabel, and one great-grandson, Jack.

John was always known to be a chatty and sociable man, who easily made new friends in his

local area, whilst travelling, or with his walking group. John's love for football began at a very early age. He played football for his schools and continued until the age of 40, when he began coaching. John was too young to go to the FA Cup Final in 1960. Sadly, the closest he got was the 2019 semi-final. He did however get to see Wolves beat Burnley at the 1988 Sherpa Van Trophy final.

At 55, John took early retirement and began working part-time jobs – a groundsman for his village memorial hall, an exam invigilator for the University of Wolverhampton and a steward at Molineux for approximately 20 years. He would quite happily talk to anyone and everyone about Wolves and raised his sons to be Wolves fans, which is now being passed down through the generations.

Sadly, on 13th July, John passed away. He will forever be watching over his beloved family and Wolves. Until we meet again. Rest in Peace.



JOHN HOWELLS REMEMBERED AT MOLINEUX

On Saturday 30th September Linda, Craig & Jonathan Howells got to lay a wreath before the match against Manchester City in memory of John, next to the stand where he was a marshal. 31,415 spectators were able to read the Club's tribute to him that featured in the matchday programme & the Wolves team made an extra special occasion even better by putting an end to City's winning streak 2-1 😊



EASYFUNDRAISING

The Club now has 20 supporters buying online when they can through EasyFundraising and the Treasurer has received the first payment from them, proving that it works. In time these payments will hopefully become larger as more people become involved.

If you have not already signed up to support WBMC through occasional purchases, please go on line and register through the following link:-<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wbmc/>

If you have already signed up it is most important not to forget to enter the website of the store / supplier / business via www.easyfundraising.co.uk to ensure the Club receives a percentage of the cost of your purchase for free. It only takes you an extra couple of seconds!!

ADVERTISING EVENTS : REQUEST FROM SOCIAL MEDIA SECS TO ORGANISERS

In order to maximize attendance at events would all organisers please message (use the speech bubble icon with the wavy line in it) our "West Bromwich Mountaineering Club" page on Facebook (the one with the Club badge as the logo <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064679917542>) with full details of their event, together with a photograph or map if possible. It can then be advertised fully on Social Media (Facebook & Instagram) and in the Newsletter. Also please think about starting the advertising around 3 months before your event so that people can note the dates in their diaries and the advertising repeated at intervals closer to the date.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

Our grateful thanks to the 9 Veteran & Life Members who paid in membership fees or gifts totalling £357.25 during 2023 when they were under no obligation to do so.

As almost all have completed Gift Aid forms, most of this will help us when we submit our Gift Aid claim to HMRC next April, by enabling us to also use the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme (GADS) to claim on Hut overnight donations without the individual Hut users having to sign Gift Aid forms.

COMPLETE YOUR WALKING CHECKLIST LIST WITH GEAR WITH OUR LOGO!!

Remember you can spend your Xmas gift money online and get kit with the WBMC logo on it by going on-line to Coventry firm's www.tshirtuk.com website



WALKING CHECKLIST

WHAT TO WEAR

- WATERPROOF OUTER LAYER**
Fleece, Softshell Jackets, Down Jackets depending on weather
- BREATHABLE BASELAYER**
Look for technical materials, avoid cotton
- WALKING TROUSERS**
Quick drying trousers with good range of movement
- WATERPROOF OVERTROUSERS**
Keep them in your rucksack for when needed
- HAT & GLOVES**
- RUCKSACK/DAYPACK**
Well fitted, correctly adjusted and comfortable
- A WATCH**

ON YOUR FEET

- BREATHABLE WALKING SOCKS**
Wool works better than cotton
- WALKING BOOTS**
Suitable for the terrain with good tread

IN YOUR RUCKSACK

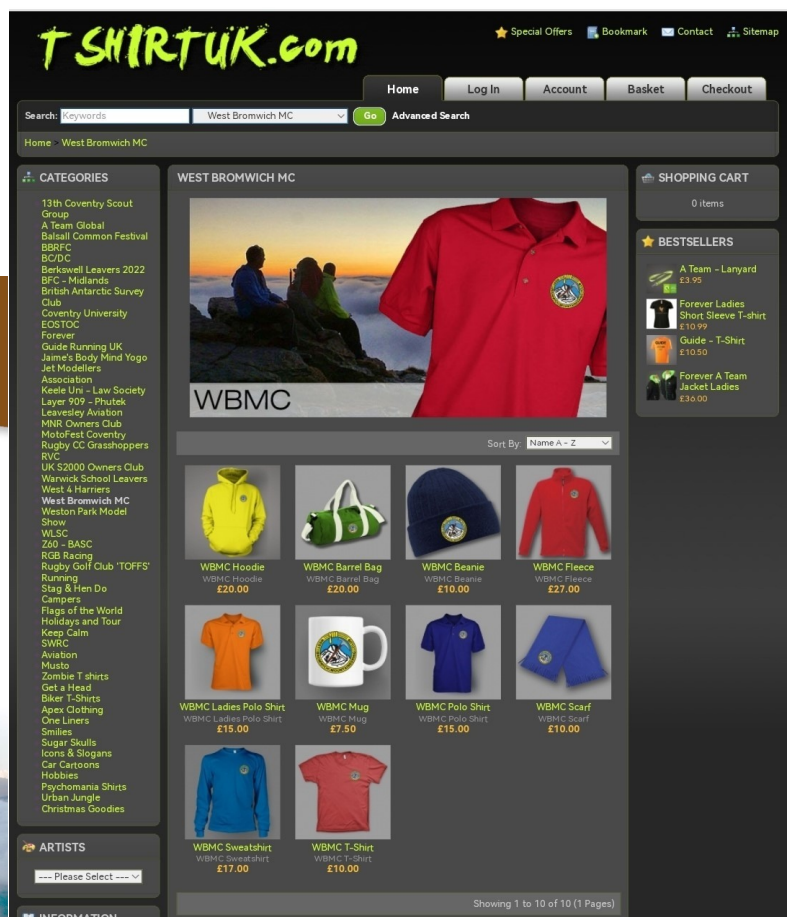
- FIRST AID KIT**
- MOBILE PHONE**
- EMERGENCY WHISTLE**
- MAP & COMPASS**
Even if you use GPS
- TORCH OR HEAD TORCH**
- SUNCREAM**
- SUNGLASSES**
- BLISTER RELIEF**
- SPARE LACES**
- BOTTLED WATER**
Always make sure you are hydrated
- FLASK OF HOT DRINK**
- HIGH ENERGY SNACKS**
Flapjack and Marmite Mini Cakes offer an energy boost
- ANY NECESSARY MEDICATION**
(with spares)
- SPARE WARM CLOTHING**
- SPARE SOCKS**
- SURVIVAL BAG**
- EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS**

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

- WALKING POLES**
- GAITERS**
- CAMERA**
- SIT MAT**

ADDITIONAL TIPS:

- CAN BE PACKED INTO RUCKSACK UNTIL NEEDED** (Waterproof Outer Layer)
- EVEN IN WINTER, SNOW CAN BE VERY BRIGHT** (Sunglasses)
- OR ANY METHOD OF BEING ABLE TO TELL THE TIME** (Watch)
- JUST IN CASE** (Spare Warm Clothing)
- CAN HELP TAKE SOME OF THE PRESSURE OFF YOUR KNEES** (Walking Poles)



TSHIRTUK.com

Special Offers | Bookmark | Contact | Sitemap

Home | Log In | Account | Basket | Checkout

Search: Keywords | West Bromwich MC | Go | Advanced Search

Home - West Bromwich MC

CATEGORIES

- 13th Coventry Scout Group
- A Team Global
- Balilall Common Festival
- BBRFC
- BC/DC
- Belwell Leavers 2022
- BFC - Midlands
- British Antarctic Survey Club
- Coventry University
- EOSTOC
- Forever
- Guide Running UK
- Jaime's Body Mind Yoga
- Jet Modellers
- Association
- Keelie Uni - Law Society
- Layer 909 - Phutek
- Leavesley Aviation
- MNR Owners Club
- MotoFest Coventry
- Rugby CC Grasshoppers
- RVC
- UK S2000 Owners Club
- Warwick School Leavers
- West 4 Harriers
- West Bromwich MC
- Weston Park Model
- Show
- WLSG
- Z60 - BACC
- RGB Racing
- Rugby Golf Club 'TOFFS'
- Running
- Slag & Hen Do
- Campers
- Flags of the World
- Holidays and Tour
- Keep Calm
- SWRC
- Aviation
- Musio
- Zombie T-Shirts
- Get a Head
- Biker T-Shirts
- Apex Clothing
- One Liners
- Smiles
- Sugar Skulls
- Icons & Slogans
- Car Cartoons
- Hobbies
- Psychomania Shirts
- Urban Jungle
- Christmas Goodies

WEST BROMWICH MC

WBMC

Sort By: Name A - Z

Item	Price
WBMC Hoodie	£20.00
WBMC Barrel Bag	£20.00
WBMC Beanie	£10.00
WBMC Fleece	£27.00
WBMC Ladies Polo Shirt	£15.00
WBMC Mug	£7.50
WBMC Polo Shirt	£15.00
WBMC Scarf	£10.00
WBMC Sweatshirt	£17.00
WBMC T-Shirt	£10.00

Showing 1 to 10 of 10 (1 Pages)

FOR SALE ITEMS

Ken Priest is selling two excellent jackets, both Large size: a Paramo Enduro (right) for £220 and a top of the range Alpkit Filoment duvet (left) for £90

The former is currently being sold by ProAdventure.co.uk for £499.95 and the Alpkit hooded down jacket is on offer from the company at £159.99 (normally £229.99) Ideal for if you are going on the Scottish Winter Week!

If you are interested in either please contact Ken on 07779 908708



And John Edwards has finally decided to part with the size 7 Asolo High Altitude / Winter Climbing boots that he used in the Tibetan Himalaya in 2006. Made in Italy these boots are in excellent condition and consist of AFS 101 CarbonFiber insulated inner boots & light grey plastic outer boots with extremely rigid Asoframe / Vibram sole. B3 rigidity so would take C1, 2 or 3 crampons.



With the stiffest all-round construction, B3 rated boots are designed with technical mountaineering & mixed/ice climbing in mind.

Although previously worn there is still loads of tread on the soles

These Plastic Winter Boots, specially designed for climbing enthusiasts seeking a reliable and comfortable pair of boots to conquer the toughest terrains, offer unparalleled support and protection. They're a must have addition to your climbing gear. Selling at just £50.

REMINDER: AWAY DINNER WEEKEND Fri 15th / Sat 16th March 2024

This will again be at the Briery Wood Country House Hotel, Windermere, LA23 1ES where members have had such good service in the past.

Prices below are PER ROOM :-

Friday Night (15th March) B&B Double/twin £149 Single £139 Triple £159

Saturday Night (16th) B&B incl Sat Dinner Double/twin £229 Single £189 Triple £269 **Extra Nights** B&B £129

As per usual tea/coffee and scones will be available on the Saturday afternoon. To reserve your place contact Nigel Tarr (07703 345729)



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

Present: Rob Allen, Andy Brown, Tony Emms, John Edwards, Claire Hammonds, Nigel Tarr, Dave Hellyar (Chair), Geordie Hind, Jonathan Howells, Mike Smith, Fred Hammonds, Darren Groutage, Mike Thompson,

1. Apologies for Absence: Jan Cox

2. Acceptance of August Minutes proposed by Andy and seconded by Geordie.

3. Matters Arising The chair opens and starts with a request for the new website update. (see separate heading)

Then John was asked to summarize the working party's recommendations, Darren, Fred, John & Geordie were unanimous that people should be able to become members for free with a 3-month trial to try various activities. If they then wanted to join, they would have to have 2 full members to sign their application and pay the appropriate membership fee. The number and types of meets they attended do NOT have to have any specific criteria. By majority the general committee came to a different conclusion & voted that they should have to pay a provisional membership fee and not try out for free. There was more debate no conclusion was unanimously reached. A consensus was that it should be made as easy as possible to join WBMC but folk must still meet certain criteria. It was also agreed that we have the right to say no to people who we think do not align with club values. Dave H said we still need two members as sponsors/mentors to approve membership (not agreed by some). It was noted that certain members do not want to join the club but just want to use the Coach as a stand-alone option. The working party was asked to continue their deliberations.

4. Officer updates Treasurer Club balance is £44,255 as of 15/11/2023 Savings Account balance is £30,105.14. There was £14,120 in the general account after paying for the coach as well. We received our first payment from Easy fundraising of £16.00. A new Tumble dryer, new kitchen light and new shelf for the windowsill in the Hut came to £474

Membership Secretary Tony said there was still confusion where some memberships had not been paid, some had paid but there were no membership forms. Tony said he can access One Drive the membership spreadsheet but has no access to the new website. It was Suggested he contact Joe priest. There are two new prospective members mentioned. Andrew (Bill) Darling and Matt Carol. Tony confirmed that a lot of the issues he has had are now some ways to being resolved due to him now having been in contact with old ex members who want to rejoin and various other efforts.

A list of names was passed around of prospective and new members between Fred and Tony.

Newsletter John said the last newsletter had gone out on time and he'd had a complimentary email & a card so 2 members enjoyed it! However, he thought it was also clear that some didn't bother to look beyond the coach meet pages.

Website/Publicity There was a lot of talk about the website and mainly due to its very slow lack of progress with Joe Priest altering items in a timely manner. It was agreed that without a decent website the club would struggle going forward. John read out a message from Joe Priest which said he was working to a mid-December deadline for the new website to go live. After much discussion Dave Hellyar and John Edwards were asked to contact Joe to let him know the committee had voted that if it wasn't live by the next committee meeting on 14 December 2023, we would start negotiations with a commercial firm. The various costs of using an alternative Website Host and Builder were discussed at length. For GoDaddy these would be £150+vat per year to host, which includes any alterations that are made throughout the year and a booking system could also be added were included in this price

Hut Secretary Fred said 75 beds had been booked in the hut between the 13th Oct to the 6th of November, resulting in a donation of £562. This equates to £7.49/bed.

The tumble dryer had been fitted and was now operational for a cost of £349. Andy brown had procured a new light for the kitchen which had also been fitted. A new windowsill had also been installed.

The Chairman called for these costs to be Ratified by the committee and Andy Brown proposed this and John Edwards seconded it as all committee members agreed.

Coach Secretary Nigel said there were 38no. people on the October coach meet to Pen y pass/Llanberis. The coach made an £11 profit and he had forward bookings of 33no. for the Xmas Dec meet to Glossop.

With regard to the Akash curry night at present, only 6-8 people were confirmed but it would go ahead.

Meet Card 2024 After discussion the February coach meet was changed to Patterdale, January is Llanberis, September is Coniston, July is Braithewaite, and the long meet in June is Seatoller. All coach meetings were changed to a Sunday except the Long meet in June which is Saturday. A cycling meet and other events were also added/alterd on the Final list before Printing by Tony Emm's of the new meet card.

5. BMC Ian Wyatt is the BMC organizer of the Midlands BMC Clubs Network. Darren Groutage went to the BMC West Midlands area AGM and spoke directly to Ian & other people with regards to helping the Club attract new members and how they can find out about us. (See notes in AOB about insurance)

6. AOB Mike Smith suggested the last Newsletter suggested BMC insurance only covered people aged 3-80 yo. Thus, prompting the question why anyone over 80yo should bother paying. John Edwards contacted the BMC after the meeting and confirmed the following:

1. Every affiliated member is covered by a £15m combined Liability policy with Howdens whatever their age.
2. Those affiliated members who take out Their Own BMC full membership insurance also benefit from a £10,000 personal accident cover but only if they are 3-80yo.

Darren Groutage asked about a training course run by the BMC called "How to train Novice members of your club in Winter Skills" which he would be interested in doing. Andy Brown said there was a club policy of spending so much per year on Training and that the club could subsidize some of the cost. Fred said he was also interested in doing this Training course after Darren had sorted out the costs and dates with BMC. **Meeting finished 21.20 Dec Minutes in next issue**