



Andy's Last Corbett
Beinn Chuirn (880m)
 to the north of Ben Lui
 28 September 2024
 Well done to Mr Andrew Brown, who has now completed all the Munros and Corbetts, and to all those who headed to Tyndrum to help make it an extra special occasion. More inside.



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This Newsletter was produced by John Edwards. A grateful THANK YOU to those members who got in touch and contributed information & articles. These are ALWAYS welcome so please feel free to write an account of your recent adventures or trips, especially if they involve other Club members. Equally if you spot something interesting about the mountains please get in touch with John via jaejed@hotmail.com

Apology: I was hoping to include more about things our members had done, including their photos, & a piece on "Highlining" but sadly ran out of space in the allotted 20 pages.

Remember to check out our Wikipedia entry
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bromwich_Mountaineering_Club

FESTIVE GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS & BEST WISHES FOR 2025

The Chairman & all committee members would like to wish every West Brom MC member the compliments of the season and hope that they have a very enjoyable Christmas wherever they are and whoever they are sharing it with. Of course we all hope 2025 will be a great year for everyone with good health & happiness, some memorable ascents & the type of glorious weather you desire – depending on the season. May your feet never blister, your clothing always keep you dry, your navigation be perfect and all your hand & footholds be solid and secure. And anything else you'd wish yourself!

CHILD PROTECTION

The BMC website seems fairly clear on this issue, saying "Any BMC Club with children as members must have a named safeguarding officer who has BMC-recognised DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) and up-to-date safeguarding training." Is there anyone out there who would fancy taking on this role? Of course if children come on meets or go to the Hut with a parent or relative, it is the latter who is the responsible adult and not the safeguarding officer.

CONGRATULATIONS AND COMMISERATIONS

Well done to David Coats & Bill Douglas who backpacked and completed the GR20 down the spine of Corsica in 14 days on 2nd October and hard luck to Wesley Marks who was unable to complete his ambition to climb the 8,000 m peak, Manaslu, with 8K Expeditions. Hopefully all will have returned to the UK with some great memories (& photos - anyone up for giving a Thursday night presentation 😊 ?!)

Also well done to Julie Atkinson for getting a photo of the Triglav summiters featured in Trail magazine!

NOTICEBOARD: PROGRAMME OF FUTURE EVENTS:

COACH MEETS TO THE HILLS

Saturday 9th November – Brecon Beacons

Sunday 8th December – Castleton & Xmas Meal

Sunday 5th January Mitch's Meet (in cars)

Sunday 12th January – Ogwen / Llanberis

Reserve your seat with Nigel Tarr (07703 345729) and be guaranteed a great day on the hills or an amble through beautiful villages.

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?

EVENING INDOOR MEETS / TALKS AT THE RED LION (190 All Saints Way, B71 1RH)

Thursday 7th November “Capel to Cogne” by Ken Priest. Find out why some Club members started going abroad instead of Wales or Scotland & the differences needed in kit and approach (see photo right)

Thursday 5th December “In The Footsteps of Vikings (the quick way)” Join David ‘Geordie’ Hind to hear how he fulfilled his teenage dream to visit Greenland – the land of Mystery.

Thursday 9th January “WBMC Eight In Putin's Russia” Mt Elbrus revisited by John Edwards who'll look back at the trip in 2005 to Moscow & the Caucasus.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & MEMBERS' SOCIAL NIGHTS AT THE RED LION

Thursdays 14th Nov, 12th Dec, 16th Jan, 13th Feb Committee meetings start at 7.30pm & observers are welcome. Otherwise come along at ~ 8.30 pm for a drink & a chat or meal. Note **Thursday 12th Dec** (not 19th) will be “**A Christmas Social**” at The Red Lion, where members can enjoy a free buffet while swapping cards & greetings for the Festive Season.

INDOOR CLIMBING AT “HIGH PLACES” (KIDDERMINSTER CLIMBING WALL)

A group of WBMC members have been indoor climbing at High Places, Wyre Forest Leisure Centre, Siverwoods Way, Kidderminster DY11 7DT on the **last Tuesday of every month from 6 to 9.30pm** They have a WhatsApp group that enables them to keep in touch and if you want to be added to this group or have more information about who goes, cost etc please feel free to get in touch with Pete Poultny 07779 366905 or peterpoultny@hotmail.co.uk

Also see <https://www.placesleisure.org/centres/wyre-forest-leisure-centre/centre-activities/climbing/> for more details of how folk can use the Centre.

INDOOR CLIMBING AT “REDPOINT” (BIRMINGHAM CLIMBING CENTRE)

A group of WBMC members has started indoor climbing every week at Redpoint Climbing & Bouldering Centre, 77 Cecil Street, Newtown, Birmingham B19 3ST at **12 noon on Wednesdays & Saturdays**. They also have a WhatsApp group that enables them to keep in touch and if you want to be added to this group or have more information about who goes, cost, standards etc please feel free to get in touch with Darren Groutage via 07973 405348 or dgroutage10@outlook.com Also see <http://www.redpointbirmingham.co.uk/> for details of how folk can use the Centre / registration and the various courses they offer.

OTHER MEETS:

CURRY NIGHT FRIDAY 22nd NOVEMBER 7.15 for 7.30 pm start

It is proposed to hold the Annual WBMC Curry Night at “The Red Lion” as a change from the Akash Balti. Nigel Tarr (07703 345729) is taking the bookings.

SKILLS WEEKEND AT THE HUT FRI 15th – 17th NOVEMBER

Geordie Hind will again be hosting our annual skills weekend from Friday 15th to Sunday 17th November. Venue - WBMC Nant Gwynant Hut in Snowdonia

Aim - To equip Club members and potential members with the skills, confidence and competence to walk in the British hills and mountains.

Course content - Clothing and equipment; Navigation skills using a map and compass; Route planning; Mountain weather; Mountain hazards and avoidance; Dealing with emergencies & rescue teams.

So, if you would like to participate on the weekend, learn more and be independent on the mountains or just want further information, please contact David (Geordie) Hind on either 07505364318 or geordiehind@gmail.com before Sunday 11th November.



"NEV'S" SCOTTISH WINTER WEEK 15TH – 22ND FEBRUARY 2025

Thanks to Jonathan Howells' organisation we're heading back to the Cairngorms after a gap of several years; this time stopping at the Coylumbridge Hotel, not far from Aviemore. The hotel has a pool and accepts dogs and is fantastic value. See full advert on page 8.

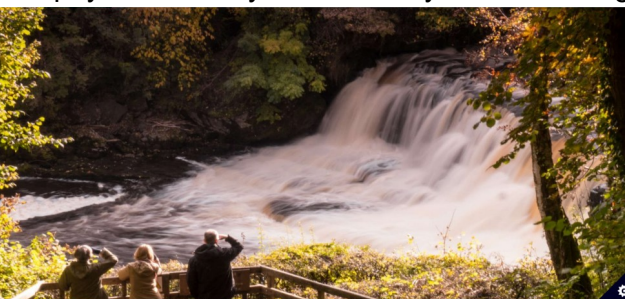
AWAY DINNER 14th & 15th MARCH 2025 AT AYSGARTH FALLS HOTEL

We have a fantastic opportunity to try something a little different next year and to book out the Aysgarth Falls Hotel in the Yorkshire Dales National Park for our annual Away Dinner in March. The hotel is right on the doorstep of the beautiful Aysgarth waterfalls, where some of the filming of "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves" was filmed/ There are various routes in the neighbourhood to explore, including a 4-mile walk to Bolton Castle and around Wensleydale. For the more adventurous there are the Yorkshire 3 Peaks not far away.

As always, this is a social event, meeting in the bar on Friday evening for drinks, and enjoying an à la carte Dinner on Saturday evening – the menu to be confirmed nearer the time, but the food on the website looks amazing - almost Michelin star standard ★ so get booking, especially as there are just 15 rooms available!! There are 2 Superior and 2 Cottage rooms

accepting dogs and we hope WBMC will fill the hotel, especially as they have discounted the rooms for us as a group. Rates range from £139 B&B for a cottage double to the most expensive suite at £209. (N.B. These rates are for a total of two nights stay, with breakfast, based on two sharing and to this will need to be added ~ £19 per room to cover the DJ cost and £35 per head for the Saturday Dinner) The hotel are holding all the rooms for us until the end of the month so please book as early as you can if you want to attend.

To secure a room, a deposit of £50 per person is required as soon as possible please, with full payment due by 31st January. Please using the code AD03 + initials if paying by bank



transfer. This is a first come : first served event as we expect places to be taken up quickly. If you require dinner at the hotel on the evening you arrive at the hotel (Friday 14th) on please let Sarah know. Bookings, queries or expressions of interest to Sarah Wheatcroft please via s.e.wheatcroft@googlemail.com or on 07398365990. As this is a small hotel, we

thought a disco would be impossible but the hotel is prepared to close the restaurant off for our party and allow us to book a DJ for the evening of the 15th. Whatever happens won't hold folk back from having a good time, knowing the WBMC lot ! To see the venue check out <https://www.aysgarthfallshotel.com/?ga=2.33277501.246540043.1724162581-1366268487.1724162580>

WEST BROM MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (WBMC) PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

To be read, understood and accepted by all WBMC members and guests:-

Climbing, hill walking and mountaineering can provide life-long physical, social and mental health benefits through exercise and adventure in amazing environments. WBMC recognises these activities involve a risk of personal injury or death. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement. WBMC stresses the need for personal responsibility & self reliance in all mountaineering activities. It makes sense to prepare contingency plans in the event of an emergency, to carry first aid and emergency equipment and to invest in some good first aid training. Accidents and mishaps can occur to anyone, however, because experienced climbers & hill walkers strive very hard to know their own limitations, the sport enjoys remarkably low accident rates.

SATURDAY 9th NOVEMBER : BRECON BEACONS COACH

Depart M54 Junction 2: 07:00

Depart West Bromwich : 07:20 from

Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN) **NOT**

Albert St as in email of 24th Oct

Plus pick-up @ 7.35 ish Lydiate Ash M5
Jn 4 if required



**PLEASE NOTE THE FIRST PICK UP IS
M54 JUNCTION 2. WEST BROM IS 2nd
PICK UP.**

Drop offs : Neuadd (SO 003 149)

Storey Arms (SN 982 203)

Brecon Coach Park (SO 045 282)

Pick ups : Brecon Coach Park (SO 045 282)

Ta'ir Bull, Libanus (SN 995 259)

Required map : OS 1:25000 Outdoor No 12

Brecon Beacons West & Central Areas or No 13 Brecon Beacons

SUGGESTED ROUTES:

From Neuadd Route 1 – Corn Du & Pen y Fan (9 miles / 15km & 654m ascent)

From the lay-by, go north for 50 metres before turning right and follow the track on the north side of the Nant Ddu stream. After a mile bear left and climb up the open access land to gain the broad ridge of Gwaun Nant Ddu. Staying on the right side of the ridge might prove to be drier. Climb the ridge to reach Corn Du and swing north east to Pen y Fan. Retrace your steps back to Corn Du and head north west to the Obelisk and then descend north down Cwm Llwh to reach the minor road at SO 002 249. Follow the road and/or footpaths back to Libanus.

From Storey Arms Route 2 – Pen y Fan (8 miles / 13km & 500m ascent)

Follow the well marked path east to the summit of Pen Y Fan. Descend North down Cefn Cwm Llwh and continue to the coach pick up in Brecon. The coach park is at the start of the canal.

Route 3 – The Taff Trail to Libanus (4.5 miles / 7km & only 50m ascent)

The Taff Trail goes north from the Storey Arms and follows to the east of the A470 until a minor road at SN 984 240. Follow the road and footpaths back to Libanus.

Route 4 – The Taff Trail back to Brecon (7.5 miles / 12km & 67m ascent)

If Route 3 is too short you can follow the Taff Trail all the way back to Brecon.

STILL REDUCED PRICES !!

Fares: Members £19, Non members £20, 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.

**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN NOW BOOK AND PAY FOR OUR COACH
MEETS ONLINE VIA THE WCMC WEBSITE? www.wbmc.org**

SUNDAY 8th DECEMBER : PEAK DISTRICT COACH MEET & CHRISTMAS MEAL

We continue the tradition of a 3-course meal at the end of the December walk and have arranged for the "Old Hall Hotel" in Hope to cater for us (meal booked for 4.45 pm). The cost of the meal (3 courses) and coach is just £45 per person (£46 for non-members). The hotel has good selection of beers and the meal options are shown below. To book your meal please mail or text Andy Bown (andrewbrown6419@gmail.com or 07870145026) with your choices and pay £26 to the Club account - West Bromwich Mountaineering Club 08-92-99 Acc no. 65487846 and mark your payment as XMAS and your surname. It is also possible to pay the full amount to include the coach fare too. Andy will confirm your food choices by email or text. If you have not heard from him within 3 days of booking please contact him again.



N.B. Meals MUST be booked and paid for by Friday 29th November. **So.....**

- 1. contact Andy with your choices**
- 2. pay the Club**
- 3. book the coach with Nigel (07703345729)**

Depart: 07:00 – Penkridge, Main Road (ST19 5AS) 07:20 West Bromwich Edward Street Car Park (B70 8NL) **NB PENKRIDGE FIRST, THEN WEST BROM**

Drop Off: Castleton **Pick Up:** Hope (SK 172834 or postcode S33 6RH)

Required maps: OS 1:25000 Explorer Leisure OL1 Peak District The Dark Peak

OS 1:50000 Landranger 110 Sheffield & Huddersfield, Glossop & Holmfirth

Suggested Routes (All from Castleton) :-

1) Cave Dale, Oxlow Rake, Mam Tor & Lose Hill Follow the Limestone Way south through Cave Dale and over Old Moor. Turn right through a gate at **SK 133807** through Oxlow Rake and turn right along Old Dam Road **SK120796**. Turn left up the cycleway **SK116798** to SweetKnoll, over Wyatts Plantation to meet a track at **SK123814**. Turn right and go left at the next intersection towards Oxlow House, cross a minor road **SK127827** and over Windy Knoll, over the next minor road and up the track/road to the path **SK125834** up to Mam Tor and Hollins Cross. Take this path and follow the ridge over Lose Hill and descend via LoseHill Farm. Keep right at **SK159847** to avoid as much road as possible. Once on Edale Road keep right into Hope and the The Old Hall Hotel is at the next junction. (11 miles with lots of stiles and some slippery rocks).

2) Cave Dale, Mam Tor & Lose Hill (7 miles & fewer slippery rocks) Follow the Limestone way as route above but before Old Moor at **SK135813** turn right. Turn right again at **SK134812** and follow the track to the minor road at **SK127827**. From here follow the route above over Mam Tor, Hollins Cross and Lose Hill back to Hope.

3) Losehill Hall Loop (A 2.3 miles amble north of the Castleton / Hope road) Go north up Hollowford Road, turn right past the cemetery at **SK 147834** towards Losehill Hall. Continue along this track, past Spring House Farm and at the next fork keep right into Hope.

The Old Hall Hotel Christmas Party Menu

<u>To Start</u>	<u>Main Course</u>	<u>Desserts</u>
Chef's homemade soup of the day with fresh crusty bread	Roast free range turkey & roast goose fat potatoes with pigs in blankets, chestnut stuffing & winter vegetables	Traditional Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
Ham hock and chorizo terrene with and toasted sourdough	Rich beef bourguignon with creamy mash potato & a Yorkshire pudding	Lemon and mascarpone cheesecake with fresh pouring cream & a raspberry compote
Atlantic Prawn cocktail with wholegrain bloomer and Cornish butter	Pan fried loch fyne salmon with crushed baby potatoes kale & creamy fish sauce	Chocolate mousse with winter berry salad
Creamy mushroom risotto with rocket and Modena balsamic	Butternut, beetroot & kale wellington with winter vegetables & a tomato & red pepper sauce	Cheese & biscuits – a selection of local cheeses with home-made winter chutney.
		Supplement £2.50

**SUNDAY 5th JAN 2025: MITCH'S MEET USING CARS - ROUND
(AND OVER) THE WREKIN**

Meet: 10:00 –Ercall Lane Car Park
Wellington, Telford (TF1 2DY)
Grid Ref SJ 646 103 Free I think
~ 40 miles from Birmingham.
Exit M54 at Jn 6 for Telford West.

Route: ~ 7 miles SW through Limekiln Wood then N over Little Hill (761ft) before squeezing through The Needle's Eye to The Wrekin trig (1335 ft). Then down through Heaven & Hell Gates. and take the easy way back to the cars along Ercall Lane or finish off with a bang by visiting the summits of Lawrence's Hill (758ft) and The Ercall (869ft)



After the Walk Meeting Place: The Wickets Inn, 240 Holyhead Road (TF1 2EB) Probably from about 3.00pm This is a family & dog-friendly pub & restaurant run by Debbie & Lance. Cask Marque accredited, they offer an excellent variety of drinks & great quality home-cooked food. See <https://wicketsinn.com/our-menu> for details of their Winter Menu. However, their Sunday Menu can change from week to week so we will not know the actual choices available until a week before. This will be circulated to members at the start of the New Year.

Required maps: OS 1:25000 Explorer 242 Telford, Ironbridge & the Wrekin or OS 1:50000 Landranger 127 Stafford & Telford (but map in next newsletter)

- COME ALONG TO BLOW AWAY THE CHRISTMAS COBWEBS AND RAISE A GLASS TO JOHN MITCHELL & OTHER DEPARTED WBMC STALWARTS -

COOKSEY FAMILY UPDATE :-**Ray Cooksey is Now in A Care Home and Happy to Receive WBMC Visitors.**

Unfortunately club member since 1980s, Ray Cooksey, who had been diagnosed with Dementia a few years ago, has now gone into a care home. Ray really enjoyed going to the WBMC Away Dinner with his children but came down with a chest infection a few days after the last one and was hospitalised. Unfortunately the rehab wasn't brilliant, and he didn't always respond brilliantly to it, and he was left unable to walk. Over time he had started to require help with feeding etc. and so the safest option for his care was to go into a care home. We found a lovely modern home which has a lot of activities including regular musicians coming in, a therapy dog and even a Christmas show trip planned (he'll be out for a lot of 28th November).

We don't have any other family and friends who can visit on a regular basis (my sister lives on Jersey) and he would be happy to receive visitors from the WBMC - as he's probably bored of seeing me and remembers a lot about the WBMC and happy to talk about walks etc. he's done, Wolves and Cricket and anything else including news. He's in Room 51 Second Floor (if not there he'll be in the lounge on 2nd floor and staff can make you a drink too) at Willow Rose, Stroud Avenue, Willenhall, WV12 4ET Tel: 01922 270920 – you can visit between 11am and 7pm every day and you can even book a private room to eat with him (lunch at 1pm – phone them a few days before to get the menu and book and room- the food was nice and the only charged visitors £5 a meal. If you are planning on do this phone me (Richard Cooksey) on 07950 097911 to make me aware and also happy to try be there if visiting for the 1st time.

Richard Cooksey

SUNDAY 12th JANUARY 2025: OGWEN & LLANBERIS

Depart : 07: 00 –West Bromwich.
Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)
07: 20 –Service Road M54 Junction 2
~07.45 Dobbies (SY3 0DA) if required

Drop offs: Pont Cyfyng (735572)
Capel Curig (721582)
Ogwen (656603)
Llanberis (583598)

Pick up:
Llanberis ((583598)
Nant Peris (606584)
Pen y Pass (647556)
Capel Curig (721582)

Required map : OS 1:25000 Outdoor
Leisure Map No 17 Snowdon (or Yr Wyddfa
as it is officially now called)

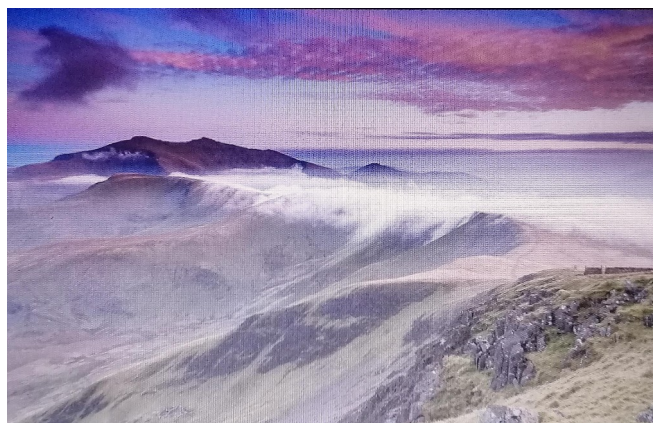


Photo: Misty Ridge & Yr Wyddfa from the summit of Moel Eilio

Suggested Routes :

FROM PONT CYFYNG

Route 1: Moel Siabod (9.5km / 6 miles) Follow the track to a disused quarry (717555) then continue to Lyn y Foel (713547) from where you can climb the SE ridge of Moel Siabod (Grade1 scramble of Dear Ddu) . From the summit (705546) descend via the NE ridge to GR 713565. Then continue through the forest to Plas y Brenin & Capel Curig where there might / might not be a cafe open before pick-up,
<https://www.osola.org.uk/rides/OSHubMap.php?f=moel-siabod-via-daer-ddu.gpx&t=moel-siabod-via-daer-ddu.gpx>

FROM CAPEL CURIG

Route 2: 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 pick-up or if you sort it with Nigel walk down the road to the Pen Y Gwryd Hotel (but check it's open first!)

FROM A5 NEAR LLYN OGWEN / IDWAL COTTAGE

Route3: Tryfan & the Glyders (12km / 9 miles) A tough route in winter with 2 grade 1 scrambles possibly. Climb to Tryfan summit (664594) by N. ridge or Heather Terrace. Then climb to the summit of Glyder Fach (656583), possibly by the Bristly Ridge scramble. Continue along the plateau to Glyder Fawr (642579) and descend as in route 2

Route 4: Y Garn, Foel Goch, Mynydd Perfedd ± Elidir Fawr (11 km / 8 miles) For the longer route go into Cwm Idwal and follow west side of the lake to climb Y Garn's east ridge to summit (631596) Then north to Foel-goch (629612). Or you can miss out Y Garn and make the route shorter by taking the old A5 road on the west side of Nant Ffrancon and climb Foel-goch by « the mushroom garden » & its east ridge, Y Llymlwyd. Then north to Mynydd Perfedd (623619) and descend SW to the narrow Bwlch y Marchlyn which leads to the rocky summit of Elidir Fawr. Descend SSW to Nant Peris if you want to avoid the Penrhyn slate quarries & inclines.

FROM LLANBERIS

Route 5: Up & down Snowdon by the Llanberis Path (12km / 9 miles) A straightforward walk close to the railway track. Just follow the crowds that will likely be doing it.

Route 6: Llechog, Moel Cynghorion, Foel Gron & Moel Eilio (15km / 10 miles) Go up Victoria Terrace to hit the Llanberis Path & divert to the left to summit Llechog (606568) Descend & cross railway to rejoin main path and turn off right before Clogwyn Station along the line of an old tramway. After 1/4 mile descend to Llyn Du'r Arddu & pass to left of lake before climbing to Bwlch Cwm Brwynog (590557) & up S ridge of M. Cynghorion to the grassy top (587564). Follow the ridge W, then SW & a wall up to Foel Goch (570564) & Foel Gron (560569). An easy descent NW & 400 ft ascent gets you to Moel Eilio (556577), then N & NE back to Llanberis. Or if you want to avoid a total of 3,700 ft of ascent go an anticlockwise shorter route and just do Moel Eilio & Foel Gron, then descend to Llanberis on the path that goes N from the col at 573559.

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

Fares: Members £19, Non members £20, 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

SCOTTISH WINTER WEEK 2025 is 15th - 22nd FEBRUARY & NEW VENUE !

Jonathan Howells has found a new home for the 2025 Scottish week, made popular when Nev Tandy started using hotels in Newtonmore. Since then we've had many years going to Fort William but several people on this year's event suggested it was time for another change and the Coylumbridge Hotel, roughly 1.4 miles from Aviemore on the road leading to the Cairngorm ski centre, seems to fit the bill. Formerly a Hilton hotel, this is set in a 65-acre woodland estate & features a full list of amenities, including multiple dining options, indoor pool, adventure park, and soft play centre, offering endless options for fun and recreation.



They are offering us £45 per person per night in a twin / double room (with a £20 single room supplement) for Bed, Breakfast & Evening meal. Kids under 15 are half price if accompanying a full-paying adult. And they have agreed to start breakfasts earlier for us at 7am, but don't mind if stragglers come down later. Evening meals to start at 7:30pm.

And good news for some members dogs are allowed !! Maximum 2 per room at a cost of £25 for the week and they are allowed in all public areas except the main restaurant. They have rooms / areas that are predominantly used for guests travelling with their dog(s) and although they cannot fully guarantee that a pet / dog has never been in a room, they can check back for a couple of weeks whether any pets were allocated in that time period, if that helps people who might be allergic. Free Wi-Fi is available in public areas and bedrooms but smoking and vaping is prohibited in all public areas and bedrooms. There are 2 pools, a sauna & a gym, although Jonathan believes the pool I closes for a couple of days a week during low season.

If you want to book transfer one night's stay as a deposit into the Club's account with the payment code SWW25 and contact Jhowells42@gmail.com (or via 078599 32389) to give your name and details of those in your party. If you want to see more about the hotel visit their website:- https://www.britanniahotels.com/hotels/coylumbridge-hotel-aviemore?gad_source=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwnK60BhA9EiwAmPHZwxWc0F17slvRy1Jd9pKHZpv-C3RygSXaYXytNtx_ouzl5He71gLmbhoCdy0QAvD_BwE

Note there is also a "Nev's Scottish Winter Week" WhatsApp group which has Jonathan Howells as Admin so feel free to contact him if you want to be added to this so as to receive more news and updates from fellow travellers to the Cairngorms.

WELSH 3000's OPPORTUNITY IN 2025**Date still to be confirmed but probably 31/05 - 02/06 weekend 2025**

The plan is to use the hut as a base so this will put a limit on numbers unless folks want to bed down elsewhere. Event, therefore initially open to full Club members only.

Fully supported – that is breakfast at Nant Peris car park; lunch at Ogwen and well earned snack at the nearest car park to Foel Fras; plus transport back to the hut for a two-course meal.

Transport would also be available for any person that needs to bail out at Nant Peris or Ogwen.

The cost of the support (food and drink at 3 stops and meal at the end, transport back to the hut and parking for the volunteers at Nant Peris and Ogwen) will be about £20 in addition to hut donations. The support cost will need to be paid in full 6 weeks before the event to demonstrate commitment and enable further planning and food purchase. If you have not contacted me, Jan Cox, before and are interested (no commitment) please mail me at secretary@wbmc.org

Please note that this is initially open to Full WBMC members only. This is a “toughie” so obviously, first look at the route and be confident with your fitness and map skills. The Aim is to do it within 24 hours but you will still get food and transport if you complete a bit late or only partially complete the route.

Jan Cox

A WINTER MOUNTAINEERING TRAINING OFFER FROM 'OPEN ASCENTS'

Hi Guys

I hope you're doing well. I'm John from Open Ascents (based in Cumbria, CA15 7SG) and with winter just around the corner, I wanted to reach out with a special offer for your mountaineering club. At Open Ascents, we truly believe in the power of clubs to bring people together. The sense of community and shared passion within clubs is something we deeply value, which is why we've designed our Winter Skills, Winter Mountaineering, and Climbing courses specifically to support clubs like yours. Held in the breathtaking Scottish Highlands, our courses cater to all experience levels, helping your members build essential skills and take on new challenges.

To show our commitment to the club system, we're offering an exclusive 50% discount, along with 100% free gear rental. We want to make it easy for your club to enjoy an unforgettable winter adventure without worrying about the logistics of equipment. With over a decade of experience, we provide full support—from choosing the best locations in the Highlands to managing transport and accommodation—so you and your members can focus on what really matters: the experience.

If your club is planning winter activities this season, I'd love to help secure your dates or answer any questions. Please check out our brochure at <https://www.flipsnack.com/F6B78BB9E8C/winter-club-meets-2025/full-view.html> and feel free to reach out anytime.

Looking forward to working with you and supporting your club.
John Brooks MCI, WML (077434 59630) info@openascents.com

HUT NEWS

The Hut continues to be well used - between 13/9 and 20/10 it was occupied on 20 nights by 31 adults, resulting in £549 of donations. Thanks to Chris Dean and Ken Priest for putting the 2 cubic meters of wood that Fred had delivered away into the dry storage and also getting the fire extinguishers out for service for another year. This was a great help to Hut Sec Fred, who is still having medical treatment, and he posted online «They've done a really good job: much appreciated » A new thermostat has been purchased too.



IF YOU WANT TO BE KEPT REALLY UP-TO-DATE WITH FUTURE EVENTS THEN PLEASE JOIN THE “West Bromwich Mountaineering Club” COMMUNITY on WhatsApp. FOR PHOTOS OF WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING CHECK OUT @westbrom.mountaineeringclub on Instagram & West Bromwich Mountaineering Club on Facebook

THE LATEST FROM BMC : WHERE DOES MY BMC MEMBERSHIP FEE GO TO?

The BMC welcomed members to its 4th Open Forum on 11th September at which there was a varied agenda, including a Q&A with Olympian Erin McNeice; the announcement of the BMC Volunteer Award Winners; and an open discussion around proposed Membership Fees for 2025. Those that weren't able to attend can view the summary slides online at

<https://media-cdn.incrowdsports.com/b24392e5-c9c8-44e5-9d4c-0fcce970dbb2.pdf>

Paul Ratcliffe, the BMC CEO wrote in an email to members the following day saying: *"Regarding membership fee adjustments for 2025, I am writing to members of the British Mountaineering Council for feedback ahead of the Board meeting on the 18th September '24. Over the past 2 years, the BMC has faced significant financial challenges, resulting in a substantial deficit of £625,000 in 2023. Since then, we have stabilised our organisation and are on track to achieve a small surplus by the end of this financial year."*

Increasing costs of BMC Combined Liability Insurance: This Insurance has been a central part of our membership for over 35 years, providing assurance to clubs & individuals that cover is in place in the event of major accidents or claims against members and clubs. The fact that all BMC members have liability insurance gives peace of mind to landowners, and this has underpinned many access agreements across England and Wales over the years; access to some sites is specifically dependant on this insurance.

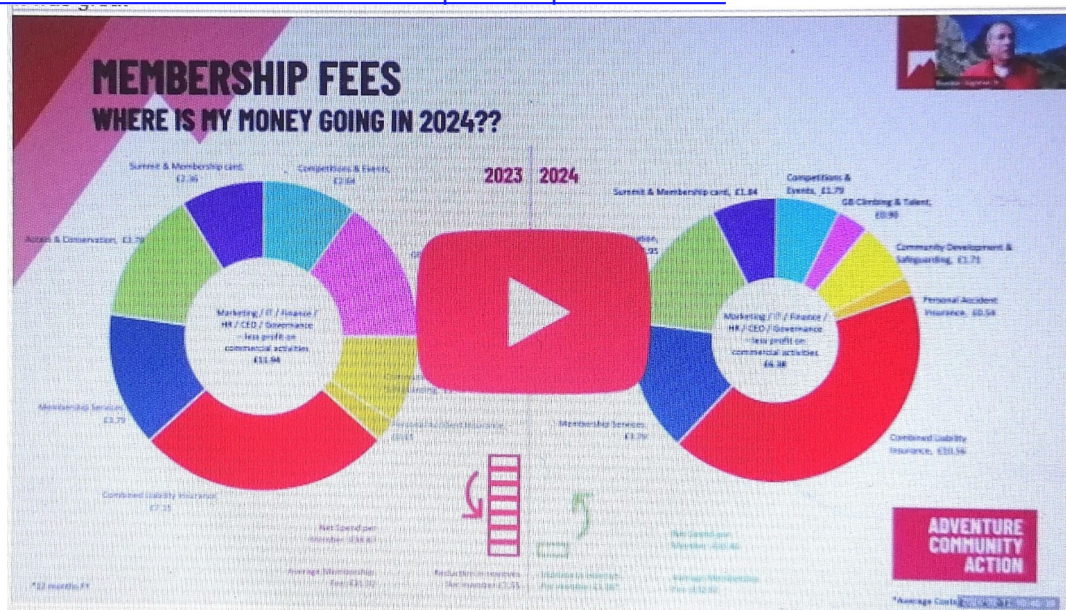
As we plan for 2025 and beyond, the BMC face rising premium costs for our Combined Liability Insurance cover (from Howdens) due to a second catastrophic claim in recent years (November 2023). While we managed to absorb most of these costs in 2024, continuing to do so is not sustainable without making significant changes to member services. To meet this rise in insurance premiums, we propose the following Membership fee adjustments for 2025:-

RPI Increase: A 3.60% increase based on the RPI (Retail Price Index) as of July 2024 for non-insurance related elements.

Combined Liability Insurance Cost Increase: An increase of £4.57 per member (£9.14 for families) to cover the rising cost of Combined Liability Insurance not covered by the RPI increase.

These proposed changes aim to distribute the insurance cost increase fairly across all members ensuring that we are able to operate sustainably while continuing to deliver our important services on behalf of the community. More details into our service delivery, increasing costs and our proposed adjustments are explained in a **17 minute video** at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WcOsy0tv9PI> and on the BMC website at <https://thebmc.co.uk/en/bmc-members-update-september-2024>



Paul went on to say: *"I welcome your thoughts on this proposal and invite you to submit feedback to office@thebmc.co.uk before 2pm on Wednesday 18th September & the Board Meeting. A*

final decision on 2025 fees will be communicated to members by Monday 30th September 2024.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. Warm regards, Paul Ratcliffe"

WBMC members often ask "What are we getting for our BMC Affiliation / Membership?"

and if you are one of them I strongly suggest you look at the video mentioned above, even though the deadline for making comments to the BMC is past. John Edwards

R. I. P. MICK "CLAUDE" BAMFORD (July 1942 – 21 May 2024)

The recent passing of long-time Club member Mick Bamford was mentioned at the July committee but otherwise went unmentioned in the last Newsletter as nobody I asked knew much about him. However, Barbara Challinor heard about his death from Carol Franklin and got in touch, setting in motion a chain of events that eventually resulted in me speaking to his brother Trevor, also a WBMC member in the 1960's & 70's. Carol & Bob recall that Mick & Trevor joined WBMC in about 1963/4 and John Henk records that both served stints as Club Chairman, Mick in 1972/73 and Trevor from 1978-80. They said *"Mick was a very good rock climber but only one of his friends, Graham Parkes, became a club member, and together they had a very successful rock climbing career, at a consistently high standard"*. Indeed Mick is pictured on page 156 of the Club's "50 Years" book climbing Lavaredo Wall in 1977. It mentions that he did a year as Hut Sec (Feb 69-70) and on pages 137-9 Geoff Brown states that he was one of the "hard core" of fanatical climbers that made up "The School" (Mick + Graham 'Parky' Parkes, Lawrence 'Bomber' Horton, Phil 'Harold' Robins, Mick 'Gel' Thompson, Bob Bradley & Geoff Brown, who all liked a drink or three when they weren't on a rock wall!) Mick, nicknamed 'Claude' by his climbing mates, led to Hard VS standard and often climbed with 'Lawrence', who unexpectedly committed suicide ~1980.



Mick (front) at Idwal Slabs with
Mick 'Gel' Thompson at rear

Gel & Mick in familiar pose
outside the Hut

Lawrence, Mick & Barbara in
Wales

Trevor remembered they organised the first trip to climb at Sennen Cove in July 1967 and that they both later enjoyed an Austrian Alpine Club Climbing Course in the Alps when, along with 3 or 4 others, they did 8 or 9 routes in ~12 days, including a day with Peter Habler, of Everest without-oxygen fame. The weather wasn't the best on that occasion and he spent the afternoon practising crevasse rescue on a glacier.

Mick eventually married a girl called Anne and they later moved to the Isle of Wight, where they lived at Totland Bay. This was partly because he had loved boats, diving & sailing. He owned a boat and liked to sail it across the Channel and later in life he & Anne enjoyed several holidays on cruise liners. Barbara remembers this "desire to be near boats" and recalled he liked to dive & search for old boat wrecks, on one occasion searching in Llynau Mymbyr at Capel Curig. She will always be indebted to Mick as she spent a lot of her WBMC social life with him and his mates in the mid 1970's, writing *"Mick originally came to 'The Globe' one night with his brother, Trevor, and he later encouraged his mates to join him at that pub and, as a result, I went with them & a guy nicknamed "GEL" (not knowing them very well at that time) to Cornwall to do some climbing & diving at Sennen Cove. They found me my own little bedroom, behind the kitchen, in a caravan they had hired for 5 of them, for an Easter Bank Holiday. They were quite a gregarious, strong minded group, and I was quite happy to be a part of their adventures, during those years. I'm not sure how many of the*

group were actual members, possibly just Mick and one other, but we would meet up at Away Dinners; walked in Derbyshire, and of course, used the Hut, until we all went our separate ways because of marriage etc. We met up again in the mid 80's, when we regrouped and called ourselves the 'West Brom Mountaineering Divorced & Singles Club'!! I wonder why!! 🤔🤔 I always enjoyed spending time with them or sitting with them on Thursday evenings at The Globe. Well do I remember his Haslet sandwiches tasting so delicious and his Crepe Suzettes at the hut, which I'd never had before!! 🍷🍷😞😞 There was sadness amongst them though, as one member did commit suicide during that time and one, Jim, suffered a fatal fall at Tremadog. Geoff Brown & his wife, Lesley, were also a part of the scene during those early years. Quite a few of them decided to relocate to Sheffield for the climbing etc in that area as it was, I think, the place to be then."

Mick worked for British Telecom and on one occasion took a mate & Barbara to the very top of the Post Office tower on Cannock Chase. She thought that was quite exciting and still remembers it every time she passes by the Chase!! Bob Franklin doesn't remember Mick ever going on a WBMC coach, but he was a keen Hut user. He & Anne didn't have any children but Trevor lived not far away from Mike Thompson until he & his wife Maureen moved to the Gower, but they are still in touch & Mike's son forwards on the WBMC Newsletters.. Having spent a lot of time with Mick's group of climbers, Barbara lost touch with them all when they dispersed & went separate ways but has thought about him & Ann over the years and, from time to time, tried to find him on Facebook without success. She never really knew how old he was as he would never tell her, but it transpires he almost made it to see his 82nd birthday.

Trevor (85) told me that his younger brother was taken ill in November last year, and it was discovered he had a stomach cancer which had progressed. He lost a lot of weight and spent all of February in hospital. As it seemed to be incurable, Mick decided not to have any operations or chemo/radio therapy and was able to return home. In March he told Trevor not to make the journey down to see him but then a couple of months later Anne phoned to say that Mick had died relatively suddenly. Fittingly the last piece of music chosen to be played at his funeral was that used by the BBC as the final item before close-down of their Radio 4 programmes for the day - and then to wake up mariners the next morning to hear the Met Office's shipping forecast - Ronald Binge's "Sailing By". Mick's ashes may possibly be drifting gently in the Channel as I type this.

(Ed: My grateful thanks to Carol & Bob Franklin, Trevor Bamford, Mike Thompson & Barbara Challinor for their help in compiling this obituary and especially Barbara for the initial 'prod' & for going through her collection of photos to enable me to illustrate it)

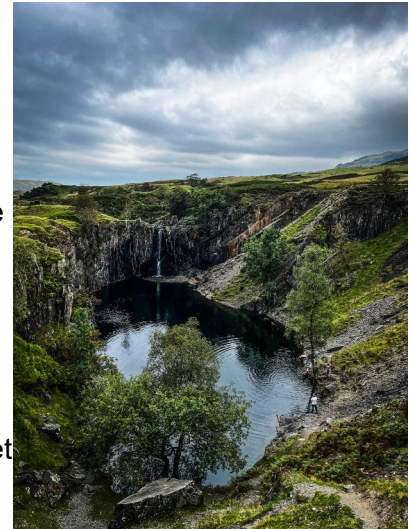
ANDY'S LAST CORBETT WEEKEND

Around a dozen or so made it to the Tyndrum w/e & enjoyed the climb & celebrations, incl Fred's Sloe Port 'D-Day Edition'. Judging by Stewart Shaw's photos the weather improved as the day went on.



**CONISTON COACH MEET REPORT, including a Casual, Careless Cock-Up
by one who helped contribute to the cock-up**

The forecast for Sunday 8th Sept was pretty dire – 30 to 40% chance of rain & ~ 15% chance of cloud-free summits – and it was pouring down as we left West Brom. However, things had brightened a little at Charnock Richards and by the time we reached Torver at 11.15am, half of the 28 on board alighted to pleasantly warm conditions with all the peaks clearly visible. The Old Man of Coniston was the target for virtually everyone but Sarah Wheatcroft & John Banner headed for Tarn Hows while John Dale went for Hawkshead Hill not far away from them. Ken Priest & Graeme Stanford were the only ones who decided to go for Wetherlam, and then do an anticlockwise route to the Old Man. The Torver starters passed the lovely water-filled old quarry, after which the majority opted to go over Brown Pike to get to Dow Crag but Martin C, John E, Dani & Norris enjoyed a scramble up Easy Gully to the summit, before heading round to the Old Man, while Ian Merther & Darren Beards missed out Dow Crag and ascended via



Goats Hause. Those heading up the Walna Scar Road from Coniston arrived at the trig point within minutes of most of these groups and lunch was had by all admiring the 360 degree (most of the time) views. It started to spit with rain and the majority of walkers left the summit around 3pm to zig-zag down to Levers Water and get back in time to shop or have a few drinks in The Black Bull before the 5.30pm pick-up.

So what was the careless cock-up? Martin C & John E together with Norris & Dani were not especially bothered about getting down to Coniston in time to have several pints, so decided to head N over Brim Fell to Swirl How and then drop down the Prison Band to Swirl Hause then S to Levers Water and the Coppermines Valley. This was pushing it a bit but conditions were still clear (photo left) & no real rain and their thinking was that 1 hr would be enough to reach their 4th & final summit of the day, Swirl How, leaving 1½ hrs to get off down and back to Coniston on decent paths. With hindsight, dropping off E at Levers Hause (no

path) & being content with 3 summits would have been a more sensible idea, because the rain started; cloud descended and navigation suddenly became trickier. They overshot Swirl How and were heading towards Great Carrs before they realised their mistake and retraced their steps. To save time they cut the corner to the ridge they thought was the Prison Band and ended up in the Greenburn Beck valley where, when the mist cleared, they discovered they'd made an even worse navigational mistake than their first and were way off course. Fortunately they had phone reception and were able to let Andy & Nigel know so that everyone could have more time in the pub and even more fortunately they hit the road in Little Langdale near the farm at Fell Foot, just as a red Land Rover arrived - the occupier returning from a shopping trip with his collies. It turned out that David was the 35 yr old tenant farmer on the NT farm so they asked if he might be able to give them a lift back to Coniston if they made a contribution to the fuel used. When he heard of their predicament & realised that a long walk back was not really feasible with a coach waiting, he kindly agreed

and hopefully he is looking at this article (& the rest of our Newsletter if the GPO got it to the right address) and can read in print how VERY GRATEFUL WE (and the other passengers) WERE for his generosity & the time he gave to 'save our bacon' (& blushes). We hope he has a very successful farming career (& manages to get a holiday sometime, someday!)

As usual there are **lessons to be learned** & remembered so that the same mistakes are not repeated on future occasions :-

- 1) Give yourself plenty of time to get back to the coach on time even if you go slightly wrong. By continuing along the Coniston plateau to the end, this put us under too great a time pressure, which contributed to shoddy navigation.
- 2) Where it is crucial to leave ridges at certain points make a note of the grid references (NY 273 006 & 278 007 in this case) and preferably put them in your gps before you leave the coach. Don't assume that because you have done the route before you will remember / spot these points, as places can look very different in thick mist. If you don't have a GPS make sure you have the "OS Locate" app on your smart phone so you can know for certain when you reach this point or know where you are if you have gone wrong.
- 3) Keep your map and compass out handy so you can keep checking for features and especially your direction of travel. We were heading NE when we should have been heading S /SE !! After so many years in the hills I still can't believe this, but other experienced WBMC walkers have made similar mistakes over the years: it just goes to show how strong 'confirmation bias' can be – you come out of the mist; things look something like you expected; and you're in too much of a rush to stop for a moment to set the map properly.
- 4) Don't beat yourself up too much about mistakes – the really important thing is to get down safely and in one piece. If we had been in our own car, all the careless errors we made would not have been too crucial and would 'only' have meant an extra 2 hours or so road-bashing or hitching to get back to where it was parked. Being part of a coach-load of passengers, on a coach without a relief driver possibility, they become much more crucial.

CHRISTMAS PRESENT TIME? THINK T-SHIRT UK !!

Stuck for ideas as to what to get your beloved for Christmas? Then why not go on-line and get some high-quality gear with the West Brom MC logo on it !! You don't have to wait for someone to collate a bulk order – just click on www.tshirtuk.com and scroll down the Categories column on the left hand side until you hit West Bromwich MC. There you'll find a range of

attractively-priced gear with our logo on:- fleeces, T-shirts, polo shirts, hoodies, beanies, barrel bags (ideal for taking your food & spare gear on coach meets), sweatshirts, scarves & mugs. Each is available in a range of



colours & sizes (Small to 4XL) and for a couple of extra ££ you can have them personalised with your initials or name - in case you ever forget who you are! When you've got presents for everyone, or just treated yourself, check out your basket and the items will be delivered to your door in just a few days. When you realise that there are around 40 organisations that trust the Coventry firm to produce the gear that promotes their club or group's name, you can tell that the quality & prices are excellent, as this Newsletter editor can also testify.

WBMC HELPS FACILITATE EPIC CHALLENGE FOR BRISTOL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Report by David Thompson (our current President's son)

Just over 2 months ago, West Bromwich Mountaineering Club played a crucial role in facilitating a truly inspiring event – 11 year old Sophia Baldwin's courageous charity climb up Snowdon. Sophia, who was born with the rare metabolic disorder Cobalamin C Disease (CBLD), completed this awe-inspiring feat on 17th August to raise funds for Bristol Children's Hospital, a place that has provided her with life-saving care since birth. The club's hut provided a perfect base for Sophia and her support team, helping launch the adventure. Her grandmother stayed at the hut to celebrate her finishing the climb along with WBMC member Roger Boulton & other friends, Accompanied by her mom and dad, Clarrie and Mark, her Uncle Sam & her friend Eddie & myself & my wife Marina, Sophia tackled one of the hardest routes up Snowdon, the Watkin Path, and a most challenging descent, taking 10.5 hours to complete the journey, which involved 1,167 meters of ascent over nearly 17 kilometres. She had always dreamed of climbing Snowdon and her determination, courage, and infectious humour shone throughout the day, making it an unforgettable experience for all involved. This was made even more so as some of those helping her find the way up went ahead to tell the public at the summit that she was coming, so she received unexpected round of applause as she climbed the steps to the trig point.

Sophia's story is one of resilience and triumph over adversity. Severely sight-impaired and facing complex health challenges from CBLD, Sophia has defied expectations throughout her life. Thanks to breakthrough research and the care from Bristol Children's Hospital, she became one of the first CBLD people in the world to have their progressive sight loss condition stabilised through a new medication protocol, allowing her to take on this extraordinary challenge.



Sophia trained properly before the climb, weighting her school bag daily & adding extra exercise into her weekly schedule. Her visual impairment severely reduces her detail & depth perception, and she has compromised balance, so taking on the uneven terrain ascending and descending Snowdon was a really big deal but she smashed it during her training walks on uneven paths in lower hills. It is really pleasing to be able to announce that Sophia has so far raised an incredible £3,601 for the hospital, well in excess of her initial target of £1,500. The WBMC not only provided accommodation but several members also

generously contributed to the fundraiser, helping Sophia make a lasting difference for the many children supported by the hospital. If you want to add to this total and maybe push it past £4,000 please feel free to donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/super-Sophia> And a special thank you to her incredibly supportive friend Eddie who accompanied her every step of the way.

For those who want to relive the magic, a film of Sophia's walk can be viewed here at <https://www.facebook.com/100032437397204/videos/1565763510673645>

To the club members who helped make this remarkable journey possible — your support meant the world to Sophia. Her achievement, facilitated by the club, is a testament to what can be accomplished when community, courage, and determination come together. Well done, Sophia, and thank you to all who contributed to this truly unforgettable day!

MY WALK OF LIFE

by David Carrington-Porter of Solihull

(An article published in the Ramblers "Walk" magazine after David was interviewed by their editor)

I've been blind since the age of 7. I went to a school for the blind in Worcester where, as well as academic subjects, they encouraged outdoor activities – rowing, swimming, horse riding, walking in the Malvern Hills and Brecon Beacons. My parents were also lovers of the outdoors, taking us on camping holidays. When I was seven or eight, they would send me to the local shop for newspapers. That might sound cruel, but it was the best thing they did. They didn't mollycoddle me and neither did my brothers. I was encouraged to do everything.

After university and some part-time work, I had a career at the RNIB, advising blind and partially sighted students and providing training for college and university staff. I joined the Countrywide Holidays Association (CHA) and walked with them. In those days I just turned up, hoping somebody would guide me. That's how I met my wife – she offered to guide me on the walks. We joined Solihull Ramblers together and my blindness was never an issue. When our daughter Julia was born I carried her with us, including up the Old Man of Conistone in the Lake District. But as she got older, it became harder. I read about Milton Mountaineers, (www.rnib.org.uk/sightline-directory/organisations/milton-mountaineers-c54cba52-b796-45fc-983e-390a5fdb1173/) a charity for blind walkers founded in 1969, and my wife said: 'Why don't you join?' so I started holidaying with them. I also joined the Guide Dogs Adventure Group, although I've never had a guide dog (I walk with a trekking pole in my right hand) and went on their active holidays for blind people. After I was divorced in 1997, the Solihull Ramblers secretary, Sheila Woolley, invited me on walks and encouraged others to try guiding me. Indeed we featured in an episode of Radio 4's "Ramblings" in October 2008, when Claire Balding interviewed Sheila & I about our unique relationship as we rambled around Lowsonford in Warwickshire (available to listen to at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/b00f0q0s>)



I was still walked as well with Milton Mountaineers when in 2005 the then-leader persuaded me to take over, organising one holiday a year. When I retired in 2010, the Guide Dogs Adventure Group no longer existed but Milton Mountaineers members were asking for more holidays. We now run 2 or 3 a year! One sighted helper, David Grimshaw, became a close friend, so I asked: "How about helping me?" It's useful having a sighted person involved, checking out accommodation or nipping round the hotel to make sure everyone's ready. I've travelled the world walking. David & I have done the Tour du Mont Blanc and Mount Toubkal in Morocco. With another friend I've been to Machu Picchu, China and India. I've trekked in Nepal, walked Wainwright's Coast to Coast and holidayed with Traveleyes, the company run by Ramblers president Amar Latif, who is also blind.

I enjoy the challenge of hiking up mountains. In 2000 climbed Kilimanjaro & I trekked to Everest Base Camp for my 60th birthday in 2011. Everest was hard, but I found Kilimanjaro more challenging; that's the one I'm proudest of. With Milton Mountaineers, I've climbed the highest mountain in each of the 4 UK nations: the Ben, Snowdon, Scafell Pike &

Slieve Donard. We've just had a holiday in County Kerry, where I recalled climbing Carrauntoohil – the highest mountain in Eire. Our sighted guides are great! I don't need a running commentary, but I like my guide to describe surroundings. Having been sighted as a child, I can imagine the scene. Our guides find points of interest such as tree bark or moss and say: *'Come and feel this.'* I can soon tell if someone will be a good guide. If they ask me, *'Would you like to take hold of my elbow?'* I instantly feel relaxed. Whereas someone else might just grab my elbow, or I can feel their arm shaking with nerves. Some sighted people worry they'll say the wrong thing: *'Look over there'* or *'Did you see that TV show?'* I don't mind – I use the same language! The biggest annoyance is a guide constantly apologising: *'I'm sorry you can't see this, but...'* About 2 million people in the UK have impaired sight and around 320,000 are registered blind, so it's great that The Ramblers is trying to make walking more accessible. The more people that can be included, the better. If anyone can go out with their local group, provided they're fit enough to do the walk. Well, that's the true meaning of inclusion, isn't it?

ADRIANA BROWNLEA BECOMES WORLD'S YOUNGEST WOMAN TO CLIMB ALL THE 8,000 m PEAKS AT THE AGE OF 23.

Adriana reached the 8,027-metre summit of Shishapangma in Tibet on 9 October, becoming only the 2nd British person to complete the gruelling feat of all fourteen 8,000 'ers. It came just 3 years after she reached the top of Everest and then resolved to climb all 14 of the world's highest peaks. Fewer than 100 people have climbed the 14, all of which are in the Himalayas & Karakoram range. The only British climber to complete all 14 was Alan Hinkes in 2005 and it took him 17 years to do it. He is reported to have said *"I have followed Adriana's determined progress since first meeting her in 2021. It is great news to hear another Brit has climbed all 14 eight-thousanders. To climb all these mountains in less than four years is a remarkable achievement. None of these giant mountains are easy or safe and she has shown extreme dedication, as well as enduring a lot of suffering & risk to complete all the 8,000-metre peaks."*

Adriana grew up in SW London and was a University of Bath undergraduate when she started, although she laid out her ambition as an 8 year-old at primary school, writing: *"I would like to be famous for climbing the highest mountain in the world ... and be one of the youngest girls to do this"*

Her passion for the outdoors was fuelled further when she completed the E&W 3 peaks (Snowdon, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis) in just 22 hrs at the age of 8 with her father, Tony. However, it was in May 2021, at the age of 20, when she fulfilled her childhood dream of summiting Mt Everest, thus setting in motion the journey to her record breaking achievement. After summiting Mount Everest (8,849m – 31 May), she went back in the autumn and took on Manaslu (8,153m), summiting on September 27, then Dhaulagiri (8,167m) on 7 October 2021.

In 2022 she was back in the Himalaya and climbed 7 of the 14 peaks:- Annapurna (8,091m) on April 28, Kanchenjunga (8,586m) on 17 May, Lhotse (8,516m) on 22 May and Makalu (8,481m) just 6 days later, 28 May. In July she went over to Kashmir to summit Nanga Parbat (8,126m), then to the Karakoram for Broad Peak (8,051m - 20 July) and K2 (8,611m) just 8 days later, becoming the youngest woman in the world to climb the world's second highest peak.



Above on K2
In 2023 she was back and got to the top of Gasherbrum II (8,035M), then became the youngest person of either sex to summit Gasherbrum 1 (8,080m) without supplementary Oxygen, before climbing to her 13th 8,000m summit Cho Oyu, 8,188m.

She did Shishapangma, (8,027m) with Seven Summits Treks along with 8 other women and 7 men who were all hoping to complete the 14 8,000ers challenge.

According to Seven Summit Treks, all 29 members of its expedition team reached Shishapangma's true summit and Nepali mountaineer Nima Rinji Sherpa, age 18, made history

as the youngest person to conquer all 14 mountains above 8,000 metres, having started by summiting Manaslu just over 2 years ago at the age of 16 on 30 Sept 2022!

Alasdair Scot McKenzie of France (also 18) became the youngest European to achieve the feat. Dawa Yangzum Sherpa became the first Nepali woman to summit all 14 eight-thousanders and Naoko Watanabe became the first Japanese woman, Alina Pekova the first Russian, Ko-Erh Tseng the first Taiwanese & Adrian Laza the first Romanian to complete the challenge.

For her last climb, Brownlee climbed without the use of supplementary oxygen, making it an even tougher challenge – 10 times harder she reckons.

As she neared the top of Shishapangma, she told the Times newspaper, *"I started to cry. I hadn't reached the summit yet, I couldn't even see it, but I knew it was going to happen. It took another hour before we reached the incredible summit. By this time it was just sunrise and we had a beautiful clear sky. It was the most incredible moment. I cried again remembering that I had just summited all 14 8,000-metre peaks and made history."*

"It's all about intrinsic motivation for me and wanting to push my body and achieve my personal goals," she said. *"Mountaineering is my escape in life, it makes me feel free and truly connected with myself so it becomes an obsession to go back. I quit university and my degree to pursue a career in mountaineering and sacrificed friendships, regular teenage life and more, but it was all worth it."*

Looking ahead, she said she wants to work with others with an enthusiasm for mountaineering, after returning to finish her degree at Bath. *"I will stay in the mountains, but now want to help others achieve their dream by creating a new generation of high-altitude mountaineering and trekking experiences which focuses on safety and clients' past experiences."* she says.

KILIAN JORNET CLIMBS ALL 82 4,000+ m PEAKS IN THE ALPS IN JUST 19 DAYS!!

Jornet completed the link-up, which he has named "Alpine Connections" entirely under his own power, using a bicycle to travel between the peaks rather than vehicles. The numbers behind the achievement are staggering, with Jornet having covered 1,207 kilometres across almost 268 hours of effort, and 247,191 feet (75,344 metres) in height gain. The previous record for climbing the 4,000 metre peaks of the Alps in a single push was set by the late Ueli Steck in 2015, who summited all 82 peaks over the course of 62 days. Steck, like Jornet, did this solely using his own power, without motorised travel but whilst Steck sometimes descended peaks by paraglider, Jornet remained on foot, or bike, throughout.

Jornet was accompanied on many of his summits by friends, but climbed many solo, whilst also having a team with him who supported him with the logistics of the link-up.

Because he sometimes ran, climbed, or cycled deep into the night, he broke the challenge down into 16 stages, rather than 19 days:-

Stage 1: Bernina

Jornet climbed the easternmost 4,000 metre peak in the Alps, Piz Bernina (4048m). He ran and climbed 29km, with 2573 metres of elevation. He then cycled more than 210km with almost 4,000 metres of elevation to reach the next stage. He said *"After dreaming about this project for a while, it feels so exciting to be on the move!"*

Stage 2: Oberland I

Jornet summited Lauteraarhorn (4042m), Schreckhorn (4078m), and Finsteraarhorn (4274m), bringing his overall 4,000 metre peak tally to 4. His comments *"Overall it was not an easy stage with challenging weather. Fortunately, I was able to shelter in a hut and get a few hours of sleep before continuing. Four 4000m peaks are now done. Looking forward to the next!"* To read about the other 14 stages and see some great video footage check out the article at 'UK Climbing' (3rd Sept)

https://www.ukclimbing.com/news/2024/09/kilian_jornet_climbs_eighty-two_4000_metre_peaks_in_19_days or visit Kilian's Instagram page.



MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 15th AUG 2024 @The Red Lion 7.40pm start

PRESENT Dave Hellyar (Chair), Rob Allen, Claire Hammonds, Jan Cox, Nigel Tarr, Fred Hammonds, Darren Groutage, Mike Thompson, Tony Emms, Jonathan Howells,

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Received from Geordie Hind, John Edwards & Will Read.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF JULY '24 MINUTES The July minutes were proposed as accurate by Rob and seconded by Tony

3. MATTERS ARISING Claire will add Darren to the account signature list and remove Geoff Hill.

4. OFFICER UPDATES **Treasurer:** Currently £18,004.77 in General account, including deposits for the 2025 Scottish Week The Hut Fund Account stands at £3084.89. Easyfundraising has earned £82.69.

Hut Secretary: Between 28/06 and 30/07 the hut was used by 30 people and £649 in donations was received. There is no longer an issue with flies. The smoke alarm is not being tested and signed for so there will be a reminder in the Newsletter. Awaiting a thermostat for the underfloor heating as the current one has not been installed safely. If people feel confident they can use the strimmer and it was proposed to purchase a new one for £150. A bulb has been removed from over the fire by a visitor.

Coach Secretary: There were 43 on the August coach which returned late and made a loss of £44. So far 21 have booked on the September coach.

Webmaster/Publicity: An online coach booking system is being trialled and so far has been successful. It is there for when it is needed. The company (Square) take 50p per booking but payment does not show to Claire as a coach booking fee. There is a danger of overbooking if it is used but Nigel does get an immediate email. It will be interesting to see who uses it. No refunds within a cancellation time limit. A mail will be sent to folk to inform them that they can book and pay online.

Membership Secretary: There are 2 new prospective members who will pay half fees for the remainder of the year. George Allen and partner are also interested. Tony is reformatting the membership forms and will add Gift Aid and email contact approval. Fred asked if membership forms can be placed in the Hut.

Darren mentioned that Nikka, one of the prospective members, was interested in updating Instagram leaving Anthenia free to focus on Facebook. This prompted a discussion on Led Walks from the coach as they are often advertised in the newsletter and often do not happen. "Do we need led walks?" prompted the rationale behind them. New folk on the coach could be less competent and require a shorter structured walk. Who will lead this? Rob suggested a separate sheet for the coach walk book as well as a kit check. Dave suggested incorporating map skills and is happy to lead the Coniston led walk in September. Do we need a backstop and high vis jacket and a print off of the walk? The purpose of led walks was deemed to be to do with increasing skills. It was noted that we rarely have such inexperienced folk on the coach. Two members express reluctance to take responsibility for those new to the coach.

5. MEET CARD 2025 Darren had already mailed a draft to the Committee, the result of an informal discussion between himself, Andy Brown, Nigel and Jan. Tony agreed to move the Torridon (now called Wester Ross) to WB 03/05/25. Jan confirmed the Welsh 3000 and European Week. It was suggested to call the Patterdale WE a Bunkhouse WE and move to 25/27 July. Darren will mail a revised meet card to the Committee and Jan will get it printed in September.

6. A.O.B. John has indicated that he will no longer be producing the newsletter after the next AGM in March. His newsletters are at an advanced state and it is unlikely that a successor will be able to replicate the content and the quality. It was agreed that the main focus should be forthcoming events and could be quarterly. Dave to contact John regarding his successor and construct an 'job description' to send to Jan to mail out. In the event of no editor coming forward the newsletter will lapse and the website and social media will be the future method of communication. Regarding digital marketing, Jan will contact Satnam for advice. Fred wants a message in the newsletter reminding visitors to test the fire alarm.

Meeting finished at 9.20pm Next meeting 12th September 2024

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 12th SEPT 2024 @The Red Lion 7.30pm start

Present – Dave Hellyar, John Edwards, Darren Groutage, Rob Allen, Will Read, Jan Cox, Nigel Tar, Tony Emms, Claire Hammonds, Mike Thompson

Apologies – Geordie Hind, Fred Hammonds

Acceptance of Minutes from August 2024 proposed by Tony and seconded by Nigel

1. Matters Arising – Dan Bow's resignation document was sent to Darren, who read it to the Committee. There was discussion regarding how the Committee should be serving members.

2. Officer Reports:

Treasurers Report – there is currently £18,704.04p in the general account (includes deposits for the Scottish Week (21) and Away Dinner (3 rooms remaining)) and £30,482.89 in the ring-fenced account. Jan will cancel the MailChimp account as emailing is now via the website.

Membership Report – no further enquiries to the Club. Two prospective members approached Mel and Pete at the Kiddy climbing wall and forms have been sent. Winter Highland training has been offered by a John Brookes and information is already in the November newsletter.

Hut Report (read by Claire) – Between 1/8 and 6/9 the hut was used by 23 adults and children for a total of 18 days. Donations were £799. The Electricity for that period amounted to £94.04. Darren and Fred are investigating a slot machine that will accept £2 coins and/or tokens. The fire extinguishers need checking and 2m³ needs to be ordered. A prospective member has now completed two hut meets and can now become a full member.

Coach Report - the September Coach attracted 28 after 5 cancellations. Lots of regulars were absent and the loss was £312. There was discussion around the continuation of the reduced £19 fare and it was agreed to continue with this price until a review in June 2025, unless Robinsons put up their fees. Robinsons costs will be available in the October meeting.

3. Club Future Direction – discussion regarding how to attract more members. Suggestions include providing flyers at Park Runs and local Gyms. Jan to design flyers. Funds amounting to £500 were agreed to trial PaperClip and a Google business account. The Express and Star could also be used to run stories on the exploits of members. The annual fee to Crystal to retain Club email addresses is due and amounts to £70.

4. AOB - John has started work on the November/December newsletter. Jan will sort menus for the Xmas meal. Agreed to pay £22 for a card reader for the coach. **Meeting finished at 8.55pm. Next meeting October 17th.**

OCTOBER MINUTES IN NEXT NEWSLETTER

MIDLAND AREA BMC CURRENT OFFICERS

Chair: Darren Johnson of Shrewsbury MC & Cave and Crag

Secretary (Acting): Neil Loydon of Wolverhampton MC **Hill Walking Rep:** Chris Sweetman

Climbing Access Rep West: Richard Law **Climbing Access Rep East:** Andy Harper

Midlands Members Council Rep: Ian Wyatt, Adrian Haliwell (Acting)

You can follow BMC Midlands on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/BMCMidlandsArea>

MIDLAND AREA BMC MEETINGS COMING SOON

Wednesday 6th November 2024 1900 – 2100 at Erdington Conservative Club (93 Orphanage Road, B24 9HU) **AGM followed by a presentation by Gary (5300+ 1st ascents) Gibson !**

Hopefully this will be a Hybrid meeting and there will be a link via Zoom on the BMC website

Friday 7th Feb 2025 1700 hrs start at The Regent Club, Leicester (102 Regent Rd, LE1 7DA) followed by a **presentation by Mick Fowler**

The Minutes of the previous Hybrid meeting held at Freedom Fostering, Wolverhampton & via Zoom on Tuesday 20th August 2024 are available online <https://media-cdn.incrowdsports.com/a8e580bd-6ecf-4ced-9a61-55ef4de1f9c4.pdf>

BMC WEBINAR PROGRAMME

The Club Support Webinar programme is designed for the officers, leaders and volunteers within affiliated clubs. These are a mixture of workshops, Q & A's and lectures. Titles & details of the future programme and ones that have taken place & been recorded can be found at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/en/club-support-webinar-programme>

Club Support Webinars coming up soon:-

- Basic Safeguarding Training (Children) on Tuesday 12th November 2024 1930-2030
- Working with Student Unions: Student Club Support on Thurs 14th Nov 1930-2023
- Promoting your club using social media on Monday 18th Nov 1930-2030
- Gear Maintenance for Climbing & Mountaineering Clubs on Thurs 21st Nov 1930-2030

All these sessions will take place on Zoom, are free to attend, require you to register your place in order to receive the Zoom link & are open to members of BMC affiliated clubs or of clubs seeking affiliation to the BMC.

Already recorded and available to watch are:-

- Becoming a More Inclusive Club (October 2021)
- Understanding Combined Liability Insurance (April 2022)
- Environmental sustainability in Clubs & Huts (April 2022)
- Children, Young people, Families & Clubs (April 2022)
- Student Club Support: Affiliation benefits (January 2023)
- Dealing with Serious Incidents (March 2024)
- Student Club Support: New Committee Members (May 2024)
- Understanding BMC benefits: Combined liability insurance Q & A (October 2024)
- Hut Network Webinar (October 2024)

If you want to get the latest info from the BMC, why not sign up for BMC 's "Club Together" initiative by adding your email to the circulation list at

https://mailchi.mp/ddb052c02f57/club_together?utm_source=BMC+Email+Subscribers&utm_campaign=58e58d0bc9-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_09_28_11_04_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-507aab5e70-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&mc_cid=58e58d0bc9&mc_eid=2a13a3de73

IF YOU WANT TO BE KEPT REALLY UP-TO-DATE WITH FUTURE WBMC EVENTS THEN PLEASE JOIN THE "West Bromwich Mountaineering Club" COMMUNITY on WhatsApp. FOR PHOTOS OF WHAT WBMC MEMBERS HAVE BEEN DOING CHECK OUT

@westbrom.mountaineeringclub on Instagram AND West Bromwich Mountaineering Club & West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Members on Facebook.