



YOU CAN'T ALWAYS BELIEVE WHAT YOU SEE OR READ!! Left: The new micro-pub that has opened up on top of Ben Nevis was spotted by Jonathan Howells – shame it is AI generated!! Centre: “Stealing the Moon” photo art by Daniel Antoniol (<https://fantasticmatters>) was spotted by the Editor (both on Facebook) Right: The only REAL photograph - WELL DONE TO CHRIS DEAN & GRAEME STANFORD FOR COMPLETING THE SLMM

	<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED IN 2025 !!</u>
2 – 3	Noticeboard / Future Events	<p>Apologies if this Newsletter isn't up to the usual standard but life has been chaotic the last couple of months as Carol & I try to declutter and start moving into a flat which involves considerable down-sizing. But, our members seems to have been doing lots of interesting things at home & abroad and I've tried to keep up with events I've noticed through online posts and I am also very grateful for the articles received.</p> <p>However, as Gareth Southgate recently said “<i>It's time for a change and a new chapter</i>” so I'm giving notice here that I will be stepping down from editing the Newsletter at the next AGM. Hopefully giving this much notice will allow the committee time to find a successor, maybe somebody younger with a better grasp of technology than I have. I've enjoyed this second stint as Editor which has been very different from my first, which was back in the days of real paper cut & paste with no colour images to import – a time when 200+ copies were posted out! However, I do feel I want to take a break from HAVING to write stuff (I've been doing this for years for other groups as well as WBMC) although I promise I will try and supply the person who takes over the role with copy as often as I can.</p> <p><u>BOOK EARLY TO GUARANTEE A SEAT!</u></p> <p>The last 2 coaches have had waiting lists !!!! So if you want be sure of a seat best to contact Nigel during the week following the previous month's coach – it was de rigueur in the good old days :-)</p>
4	Sept Coach: Coniston Fells	
5	Oct Coach: Ogwen & Capel	
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7 – 9	Saunders Lakeland Mountain Marathon (Chris & Graeme)	
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14	WBMC & The Gower (Ken P)	
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19 - 20	Committee Meeting Minutes	
	<p>This Newsletter was produced by John Edwards. A huge 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</p> <p>Also check out our Wikipedia entry https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bromwich_Mountaineering_Club</p>	

NOTICEBOARD**NEW EMAIL**

Please note **DARREN GROUTAGE** has a **NEW EMAIL**. FOR ALL COMMUNICATIONS WITH HIM WHETHER IT IS TO DO WITH THE WBMC WEBSITE OR OTHER CLUB BUSINESS, PLEASE USE [wbmc.dg@outlook.com](mailto:w BMC.dg@outlook.com)

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to new Full & *Provisional* members : **Debra Rawcliffe, Sophie Bates, Karl Bradley, Paul McAlley, Dawn Picken, Ben Hatfield, & Luke Hall**. We hope you will all enjoy having fun with WBMC & that it becomes an important part of your lives.

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE EVENTS:**COACH MEETS TO THE HILLS**

Sunday 8th September – Coniston Fells

Sunday 13th October – Ogwen & Capel Curig

Sunday 9th November – Brecon Beacons

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?

LAST EVENING OUTDOOR MEET (2 – 4 mile walks, starting ~1830 & ending at a pub)

Thursday 5th September Kinver Edge The last evening meet of 2024 will be led by Jan Cox (07756 132492) Meet in time for 6.30 start at Holy Austin Rock House car park (DY7 6DL or SO83549 83635) then 6km along the Edge. Post walk pub is The White Harte on Kinver High St.

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

Thursday 10th October Tony Emms will give an illustrated presentation showing what the 13 strong WBMC party got up to in “Slovenia – July 2024”. 8 pm start.

Thursday 7th November Will be a Ken Priest presentation on “Ice Climbing at Cogné”.

Thursday 5th December “Greenland – Land of Mystery” by David ‘Geordie’ Hind

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & MEMBERS’ SOCIAL NIGHTS AT THE RED LION (B71 1RH)

Thursdays 12th Sept, 17th Oct, 14th Nov & 12th Dec Committee meetings start at 7.30pm & observers are welcome. Otherwise come along at ~ 8.30 pm for a drink & a chat or meal.

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 Poultney 07779 366905 or peterpoultney@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.

WEEKENDS & OTHER MEETS**WOMEN’S WEEKEND AT THE HUT FRIDAY 13th – SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER**

Always popular and a great culinary success so I’m told, the 2024 Women’s Weekend organiser is again Vanessa Biddulph so contact her (07709 514180) to secure your place for a weekend of great walking, magnificent mountains, fab food, great company and possibly some wild swimming and male-dissing.



SCOTTISH CORBETT WEEKEND AT TYNDRUM 27 - 29th SEPTEMBER 2024

The “Amazing WBMC Event of 2024” will be a late-summer Scottish Weekend at the beautiful location of Tyndrum, when Andy Brown will be attempting his last Scottish Corbett.

The attempt will be made on BEINN CHUIRN on Saturday 28th weather permitting & the walk will start directly from the hotel so no car driving is involved. If the weather is too bad to attempt the summit we will have Sunday to reconvene and try again. The Saturday evening is planned as a Social meal in the Hotel where we can all eat together. This will be a standard fare 3 course meal. It is then envisaged that people can make their own way home on the Sunday or stay the Sunday evening if you want to by informing the hotel yourself.

A two night stay has been negotiated at Muthu Ben Doran Hotel (FK20 8RZ) tel: 01838 400373 for the price of £55pp on the Friday and £75pp on the Saturday as this includes an evening meal. Single supplements are + £30. Most rooms are twin with a few doubles, so first come first served for any double rooms. The Plan is to all meet on Friday 27th September and make your own way to the hotel. If you are interested in attending it is **up to individuals to book with the hotel direct & they have said that booking by email is preferable using a group Code of G2125** along with Reservation No **103157** to reservations.cc3@muthuhotelsmgm.com If you can give them your full name & telephone no. (and the full name & tel no. of the person you will be sharing with if you are sharing) and they will contact you to take the payment. The deposit is £60pp and the reference is still ‘**Mountaineering club**’. The FULL balance MUST then be paid by 30th August 2024. Once the deposit is paid, could you please contact Darren Groutage (07973-405348) or info@wbmc.org so he can organise Names and Numbers on the trip?

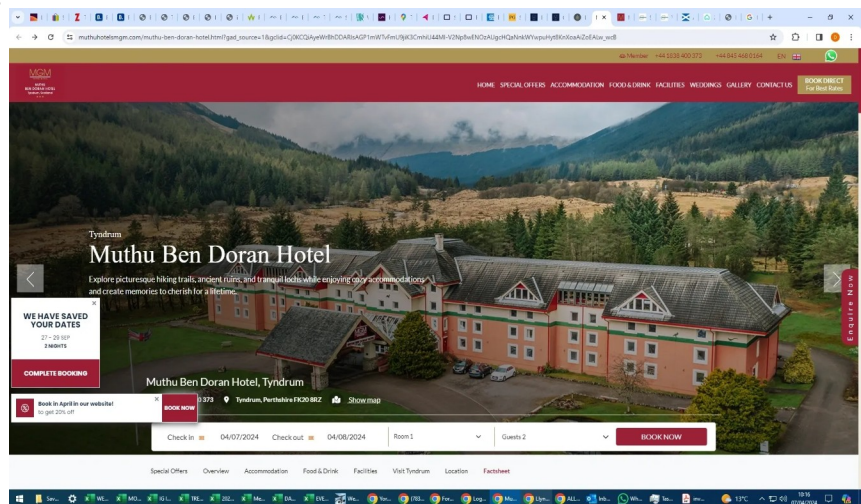
TRAILFEST WEEKEND Friday 27th - Saturday 29th September (You can't do both!!!)
The first of 2 weekends for those who like running. Contact Pete Poultney (07779 366905) for more information and how to book your place on the event and in the Hut.
CYCLING WEEKEND FROM THE HUT Friday 18st – Saturday 20th October
Jonathan Howells (07859 932389) will likely to be hoping to encourage the Club's cyclists to “get on their bikes” & enjoy some spectacular Snowdonia scenery on this autumn weekend which is based at the Hut.

WANT TO BE KEPT REALLY UP-TO-DATE? THEN BE SURE TO JOIN THE “West Bromwich Mountaineering Club” COMMUNITY on WhatsApp

Most folk seem to just use the ‘Chats’ part of WhatsApp but there is also a ‘Communities’ section and Darren has set up a ‘Community’ which allows members to select topic-based groups and get important announcements. As I type this I can see there are 45 people already signed up and each can select to join some or all of “Announcements”; “General”; Coach Meets; “Tyndrum Corbet w/e” & “Nev’s Scottish Winter Week” – the 5 groups already on it. There will be more added later for sure! The latest post in “Announcements” says **“Hi all WBMC members. We will be using What'sApp as a means of communication under the Communities tab going forward. This will enable us to provide quicker and easier information on club activities. Can I ask that anyone who knows of friends, relatives, partners etc who are not on WhatsApp that they may want to consider encouraging them to join?”** Folk can reply to “Announcements”, but only Community Admins can send them **so there should be less spurious info than in ‘Chat’ groups.** All members can see all the groups and decide which ones to join. Makes it easy to communicate, use poll questionnaires & share photos too!!

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SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER: CONISTON FELS COACH MEET**Depart West Bromwich:**

7:00am Edward Street Car Park (B70 8NN)

Pick up: 7.20am in Penkridge**Short Break:** M6 - Charnock Richard Services**Dropping off at:** Torver (284 942)

Coniston (303 975)

Picking up at: Coniston (303 975)**Required Maps:** OS. 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure Map -No.6. The English Lakes -South Western area (plus Map No. 7 – South Eastern area for lower level walks in the Tarn Hows region)**Suggested routes****(N.B. A LED WALK WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THE COACH)**

Route 1: Dow Crag & Old Man (19km/12miles) Leave the coach and head N to Old Quarries (278960) & onto the Old Walna Scar Road (274965). Head on up the cove to Goats Water - you could go up the RHS of the tarn to Goats Hause (265983) but a more spectacular route is to take the path on the LHS & head up to the mountain rescue post and the foot of Easy Gully. The East face of Dow Crag is very spectacular and not for walkers except for this steep but relatively easy breach, which heads diagonally upwards to exit just south of the summit of Dow Crag (262978). Then go N, then E, to Goats Hause & uphill in a SE direction to the summit of Coniston Old Man (272978). From the summit head E then NE (273977) & descend to Lows Water (275981), pass through old mine workings & cross path junction (284981) to Miners Bridge (293980). Keep on RHS of beck through the farm past the Sun Inn & into Coniston. If you wish to bypass Easy Gully or "bag" more tops, continue along Walna Scar Road, cross stream (271964) to path junction on RHS (258964). Follow path over Brown Pike (260966) Buck Pike (262972) to Dow Crag summit..

Route 2 : Old Man , Swirl How & Wetherlam (14km/ 9 miles) From Coniston follow the paths to the Miners Bridge (294980), and continue past Crowberry Haws to Low Water (275982). A steep path now leads to the summit of The Old Man of Coniston (272978). From the summit head N along the ridge to Swirl How (273005). Descend steeply to the East down the rocky Prison Band & continue on up to Wetherlam (288011). Descend the grassy ridge to Furness Fells (292000) & continue on vague paths to Hole Rake (293991). From here good paths lead down to Coppermines Valley & Coniston.

Route 3 : Old Man & Swirl How (11km/7 miles) Proceed as for route 2 along the main Coniston ridge to Swirl How (273005) then descend steeply to the East down the rocky Prison Band to Swirl Hause (278008). From here take a more direct route South past Levers Water (282994) and along the Coppermines Valley back to Coniston..

Route 4 : Relatively low level to Tarn Hows (10km/6 miles) Head along roads to Shepard's Bridge (304976) and then hit the Cumbria Way to Tarn Hows. Then to the A593 at Oxen Fell High Cross (328017) and return to Coniston by paths that run to the right of the road.

Route 5 : Wetherlam (14km/ 9 miles) Head NW to Miners Bridge (295981) and then take the path through the disused quarries that lead to Hole Rake (293991) and then reverse route 1 to the summit of Wetherlam (288011). Leave the summit along the NE ridge and descend until you hit the path in Greenburn (295023) which heads off E, then S To Tiberthwaite (306010) from where minor roads lead to the A593 and a footpath running parallel to this takes you back to Coniston.

**REDUCED PRICES FOR THE SUMMER !!****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.*

SUNDAY 13th OCTOBER: OGWEN & CAPEL CURIG

Depart West Bromwich: 7:00am Edward St

Car Park (B70 8NN)

Pick Up: ~7:20am Service Road M54 Junction 2

Drop offs: Pont Cyfyng (735572)

Capel Curig (721582)

Ogwen (656603)

Pick ups: Ogwen (656603)

Capel Curig (721582)

Required map: OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure Map
No 17 Snowdon / Yr Wyddfa



SUGGESTED ROUTES:

(N.B. A LED WALK WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THE COACH)

FROM PONT CYFYNG

Route 1: Moel Siabod Follow the track to a disused quarry (717555) then continue to Llyn 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 & the Capel Curig pick-up. **(9.5km / 6 miles)**

<https://www.osola.org.uk/rides/OSHubMap.php?f=moel-siabod-via-daer-ddu.gpx&t=moelsiabod-via-daer-ddu.gpx>

FROM CAPEL CURIG

Route2 : Galt yr Ogof, Foel Goch & Tryfan Head W & follow the ridge to Galt yr Ogoff (685586) & continue over Foel Goch (678582) to Llyn Caseg-Fraith (670584) and find a cairn at the col marking the Miners Track. Follow the track to Bwch Tryfan (662588) and ascend Tryfan (664594) via the South Ridge. Descend via the West gully to Ogwen. **(9km / 6miles)**

www.osola.org.uk/rides/OSHubMap.php?f=ogwen-route-2.gpx&t=ogwen-route-2.gpx

Route3 : The Glyders Follow route 2 to Llyn Caseg-Fraith (670585), then climb to the summit of Glyder Fach (656583) Continue along the plateau to Glyder Fawr (642579) and descend to Llyn y Cwn (638584) . Then take path to right of the Devils Kitchen to Llyn Idwal back to Ogwen. **(13km / 8miles)**

<https://www.osola.org.uk/rides/OSHubMap.php?f=ogwen-route-2.gpx&t=ogwen-route-2.gpx>

Route 4: Pen Llithrig y Wrach Leaving the coach at Capel Curig, the route takes footpaths North to steadily climb to the summit of Pen Llithrig y Wrach, then follow the tops to complete a clockwise circuit around Llyn Cowlyd Reservoir before returning to Capel Curig, with the option of a little scramble to the top of Y Pincin. **(13km / 8 miles 1200 m ascent)**

FROM A5 NEAR LLYN OGWEN

Route 5: North Ridge of Tryfan & Bristly Ridge Follow the road to GR 663603 & tackle the N Ridge of Tryfan (a Grade 1 scramble). At the summit (664594) jump from Adam to Eve and back if you dare! (weather permitting) and then descend the South Ridge to Bwlch Tryfan (662588) and continue up the Bristly Ridge (another Grade 1 scramble) to the summit plateau of Glyder Fach (656583). A less exposed alternative is to climb the scree slope to the left of the ridge. Scramble over the Castell Y Gwynt (654582) and follow the plateau edge NW to the top of Y Gribin (651582) . Descend this fine ridge back to Ogwen. Short distance but maybe not in high winds **(7km / 5miles)**

Route 6 : Y Garn (631596) ± Foel Goch (629612) from the 'Old A5' road (8km / 5 miles)

Route 7 : Easy walking up Cwm Idwal to the base of Devil's Kitchen (5km / 3miles)

Route 8 : Try some scrambling up the easy angled slabs of Little Tryfan

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.

SUNDAY 9th NOVEMBER : BRECON BEACONS COACH**Depart M54 Junction 2: 07:00****Depart West Bromwich : 07:20 from****Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)****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:****(N.B. A LED WALK WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THE COACH)****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.

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

SAUNDERS LAKELAND MOUNTAIN MARATHON (SLMM) from Graeme Stanford

In 2016 Sam Goddard & I entered the SLMM. Sam had done it as a child, with his Dad, Pete, and wanted to do it again as an adult to remember his Dad. I was looking for a challenge for my 50th birthday and we had a good go, successfully completing day 1 but Sam's leg injury had hampered the day and we knew a second day was not an option so we reluctantly withdrew. For me this left a real sense of unfinished business and I'd always wanted to go again. Chris Dean finally got sick of me moaning and agreed to do it with me - it's a "team of two" event - this year.

For anyone not familiar with the SLMM it's a long-running event which first took place in 1978. To quote the website [Saunders Lakeland Mountain Marathon – SLMM](#): *-The Saunders Lakeland Mountain Marathon (SLMM) is a two-day mountain navigation competition (or race) that is held annually in the Lake District for teams of two runners. The event comprises 6 linear courses of varying lengths & technical difficulty plus one 'score' course where competitors can choose which controls to visit over a 2 day total of 12 hours. The first day finishes at a mid-way campsite. Competitors must carry the lightweight camping and safety equipment listed in the rules. Competitors need to be competent in the use of map and compass in the mountains. Many checkpoints require accurate navigation, which is even more important in misty conditions.* Entrants are not given the start location until one month before the event and are not given the race area map until the start line. Once over the start line entrants finally receive the 'day 1' route card so transferring that to the map eats into your race time. The map shows 'all' of the control points (when Sam and I did it even these weren't shown) so you have to ensure you're navigating to the right ones in the right order. The map also shows various 'out of bounds' areas. Crossing through these or being caught using electronic navigation aids will see you disqualified. You can track your progress on Strava or GPS watches etc but you must use map and compass to navigate. Interestingly you must carry all the food you need and carry out all the rubbish you generate... but... you can pre-order beer and milk for the half way campsite and the recycling from that can be left there. Obviously we ordered a couple of beers each !!



We arrived at the start area, a remote farm about 3 km north of Haweswater, on the afternoon of Friday 5th July. There was plenty of space to camp and also a well-organised marquee to relax in, plenty of portaloos, an on-site caterer plus "Pete Bland Sports" had a shop set up so folk could buy last minute items or simply fondle the latest lightweight kit. We had brought a second set of camping gear so we wouldn't have to unpack our competition kit. After checking in and having a tracker fitted to one of our rucksacks we had our electronic 'dibbers' fitted to our wrists. At each control point both team members must 'dib' the sensor within 60 seconds of each other and the tracker must also be within a few metres of the checkpoint! We had dinner in the marquee, had a beer and settled down for an early night.

The weather was on our side for day 1. An early start and good admin had us at the start line in time for our allotted Saturday start time of 08:01. The starts are staggered so each minute a group from all classes starts. This, and the fact that different classes share control points but, as Eric Morecambe said, *"not necessarily in the right order"*, means there is little point in trying to follow anyone else. We got our maps and route cards, transferred the info to the map, had a

quick chat about the best route to CP 1, and we were off. We'd entered the 'Harter Fell' class which, if you found the optimal route, had a 2 day total of 37km (23 miles) and 2400m (7874 feet). The first day route card showed 22.9 km and 1450m ascent, hitting six CP's on the way. The first leg set the scene for the day. Using a few paths but mainly heading directly cross country we were soon up to 572 metres and had wet feet from our first of many river crossings. The first control point was in a sheepfold on the flanks of Wether Hill and we were there in just over an hour. The next leg was a strenuous descent and climb in and out of a valley to get onto Low Raise. This control point was hidden in a re-entrant in a fairly remote spot but we found it on the first attempt. We were then climbing almost to the summit of High Street before descending the narrow ridge of Long Stile onto the Riggindale Ridge. We had a 350m descent to CP 3 at the eastern tip of Blea Water followed by a steep pathless ascent, in an almost direct line, up onto Harter Fell. We found CP 4 hidden in a very steep re-entrant in Drygrove Gill and were now 4hrs and 40 mins in to the day. We hand-railed paths to get close to CP5 which was in a remote steep sided combe below High Street. It was a steep descent but the climb out the other side was a real killer. No paths involved just use your head to search out the easiest line. Once back up high we started to really



feel like we were 'on the way home' as the route took us

simply along the Gray Crag Ridge and down to Hartsop

Village. Once down we were happily chatting as we walked

and fell into the usual trap of missing the last CP by 100m, so we had to climb back up to hit CP 6 before jogging down into the village and the finish line at the half way campsite. We finished

Day 1 in 7 hours 40 mins and in 57th place (for our class). To put this into perspective the leader had clocked in a 3 hours 56 mins !! We hadn't strayed too far from the optimal route having covered 25 km and 1620m climbing.

We got our camp set up, food on, and sorted our admin. Plenty of time to relax and have a beer while applauding the teams still arriving. The course cut off was 8pm and a few teams did miss this. One pair did not get back until midnight so they must have got really lost. There was a good atmosphere in the halfway campsite and once again there was a marquee and plenty of portaloos so it was all quite civilised.

Our start time for Day 2 was 07:31 and the start was a 30 min walk from the camp site so we were up, re-packed, fed and ready to go very early. Route cards for Day 2 were dished out early so our admin was done before we started. The Sunday sun was out and we were on our way before most teams had made their way to the start. The second day is traditionally an 'easier' day and has a much earlier cut off time of 4pm. Our route card for the day showed an optimal 13.8 km with 950m ascent and 4 CP's. The start of the day was a steep pathless climb, then using contour features to find our way to a high point near Angle Tarn for CP1. Then we contoured across to Beda Fell before following the ridge over Beda Head and down to CP 2 at a sheep fold. We then had to find the allowed route, on the valley floor, through a large 'out of

bounds' area and onto the slopes of Pikewassa (yes that 'is' the name) where real route decision making came into play. There were a choice of routes here but we opted for the, what we felt was, easier contouring route. Sadly this meant a horrible steep climb past Brock Crag back up onto the remote Northern Fells. CP 3 was in a re-entrant which was easier to see on the ground than the map suggested, so we were soon heading across the 'bog of doom' towards the final CP above Cawdale Edge. From there it was a simple direct 1km jog down to the finish for tea and medals. We'd managed Day 2 in 4 hours 18 minutes. We were much closer to the optimal route this time on 15.4 km and 943m ascent.

The organisers provide all entrants with food at the end and there are random kit checks... we enjoyed the food - a very nice vegetarian chilli - and avoided the kit checks! All in all a really good event. Well organised and well attended with 501 teams starting (575 had registered). There was obviously a list of DNF's and withdrawals and a few teams missed the cut off times but 3 teams were disqualified for going out of bounds during the race.

Would I recommend it? Yes, definitely! It's a real test of mountain skills, navigation, admin and generally being able to manage yourself in, often remote, mountain terrain and most of all it was fun :-). Would I do it again? Yes... also definitely. It falls on my birthday (Day 2 was my 58th birthday) so it might clash with other things but I suspect I will be back for more. My thanks to Chris for joining me and therefore making it possible to enter, but also for going slow enough for me to keep up. Even more than that he carried extra weight all day Saturday so that he could leave four individually wrapped miniature bottles of Jack Daniels and a card on my sleeping bag on Sunday morning... for me to carry on day 2... lol... Cheers Chris.

AND MANY CONGRATULATIONS TOO FOR IMOGEN HARLEY ALSO UP IN THE LAKES

The 13th July saw the running of the Lakeland Trails Ultra 100k, 55k, 23k & 14 k events and one of our (fairly) regular coach passengers, fell runner Imogen Harley, had entered the 55k event – that is around 35.7 miles. Billed as *'a testing ultra marathon route through some of the most dramatic mountain scenery in the Lake District - the tough, challenging course will certainly live up to its billing as the most picturesque ultra marathon in the UK'*.

The 55k route includes 3 mountain passes with 7,000 ft of ascent, along with 5 well-stocked (& I suspect much-needed) feeding stations. Imogen entered the 'Challenge' event which started at 09:00 and had a 13 hour cut-off. Her comments on Facebook were *"It was hard. So hard. I can do the vert but not so much the difficult underfoots. More practice required there. Didn't come last. Made a friend. No blisters"*. In fact the event website shows she finished 212th in a time of 12:18:48 – well inside the cut off time and so received her well-earned medallion.



SOME HUT MATTERS

The Hut Sec has made several posts on Facebook, but not all members see these so some of the relevant information is given below. The hut wood burner cleans the front glass by what they call 'Air lick', which means that the flame licks the front of the glass stopping the build up of soot. So it is best NOT to pile a load of logs on at once as this will prevent the 'Air Lick' happening and the glass will go black! Better to build the fire up slowly & only add more wood when it burns down; then add a small amounts more as and when necessary. A small fire will bring the logs up to the burning temperature better than piling logs on and blocking the air flow. In addition hot ashes should not then fall out onto the floor causing damage and fire risks. Sadly the new carpet at the Hut, purchased in February, has already been damaged by ash falling out when people are opening the door to load up more wood. Maybe we shouldn't have carpet or a rug, especially a polyester one, so close to the log burner; or maybe some users should take a bit more care? Please try the above this coming winter & you will hopefully see it works! Note also that the lever at the front should be left to the left hand side of the burner.



Please also only leave a small amount of ash in the grate and empty the ash pan under the grate EVERY DAY so that the air flow is not restricted. Of course, in summer time you should only light the fire if it is really necessary!!

It might also be useful if members could make their views known as to whether the underfloor heating should be disconnected or not. Some committee members feel its use is an unnecessary expense – it is a 'Mountaineering' club hut after all & folk could just put on more clothing!! – but others think it has been more difficult to get the fire going with the makeshift grate and that Hut-users are loading up the wood burner more in the winter because "it's bloody freezing now the underfloor heating is disconnected"! It cannot be used at the moment as the switch has been arcing and is dangerous.

Fred has discovered some new mattress covers so things may be 'nice and fresh' next time you use the Hut. Finally, Fred is soon to have 10 weeks of treatment for his cancer so will need some help than usual from members for the next quarter of the year or so. We wish him well and hope it's not too debilitating.

WELSH 3000's OPPORTUNITY IN 2025

Date still to be decided (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 REMINDER OF YOUR 2024/5 COMMITTEE & CONTACT DETAILS

President: Mike Thompson	07773 944316	sir.m.thompson1940@icloud.com
Chair: David Hellyar	07732 051073	hellydav@live.co.uk
Vice Chair: David Hind	07505 364318	geordiehind@gmail.com
Secretary: Jan Cox	07756 132492	secretary@wbmc.org
Treasurer: Claire Hammonds	07761 571464	treasurer@wbmc.org or clairehammonds@btinternet.com
Membership Sec: Tony Emms	07793 008582	membership-secretary@wbmc.org or toniemms@aol.com
Hut Secretary: Fred Hammonds	07527 744481	hut-secretary@wbmc.org or f.hammonds@btinternet.com
Coach Secretary: Nigel Tarr	07703 345729	tarnigel@gmail.com
Publicity Sec: Anthenia Dimitriou	07449 138283	anthenia91@hotmail.com (co-opted)
Newsletter Editor: John Edwards	07837 198355	jaejed@hotmail.com
Ordinary Members: Rob Allen	07709 827724	allen4082@blueyonder.co.uk
Dan Bow	resigned	
Darren Groutage	07973 405348	wbmc.dg@outlook.com
Will Holmes	07866 516844	will.holmes1@yahoo.co.uk
Jonathan Howells	07859 932389	jhowells42@gmail.com

***** Don't forget to sign up to the WBMC Community Group on WhatsApp !! *****

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&qclid=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.

HOW HIGH IS BARUNTSE ??

Apparently the Nepal Government, in an effort for more accurate information, are running a system where the tourist board give out certificates on proof of reaching the summit, providing you give them your passport number, two passport photos and proof of having a climbing permit. Wes Mark's "official" certificate for his Baruntse climb arrived recently and as he says "Although the websites of all the companies I have looked at say the summit of Baruntse is 7162m, the official Nepalese certificate says different and gives the height of Baruntse to be 33 m lower - on the certificate it is 7129m."

HOW HARD IS IT TO CLIMB TO 7,000 m ??

On subject of high mountains, whilst decluttering I came across the letter I emailed to friends on 26th Sept 2006 during my visit to the Himalaya to climb Lhakpa Ri and here is just a snippet from it :-

"Great to be below 4,000m again, where the air has over 50% normal oxygen saturation, after 15 nights at over 5250m. The days may be tough but the nights are tougher by far!!! Thanks to a great team effort & a large slice of luck I was able to stand (well sit actually) on my first 7000m Himalayan peak at 1115 Nepal time (0630 BST) on Thursday 21st Sept after an 11 hour climb in deteriorating conditions. Then 4.5 hrs of descent, so a 15 ½ hr summit day with only bits of food & drink and no real breaks other than to let one's breath catch up. I am quietly confident it will also be my last big peak as it's a hard old game and I'm not getting any younger!

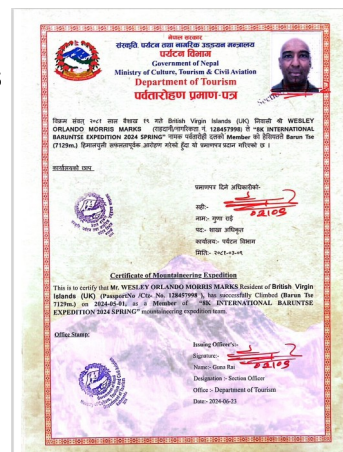
5 of us set off at midnight with Pasang leading us up through the ice seracs onto the smooth surface of the East Rongbuk Glacier. We had our harnesses attached to the rope by alpine butterfly knots &, by the light of our head torches, we headed up to a small tent erected at 6450m by a Japanese lady climber. The next part was the crux for me – a steep, lung-bursting snow slope up which I couldn't go more than 20 paces at a time without gasping for 10-15 recovery breaths. Dawn broke when we were near the top and we started to get some good views of neighbouring peaks & esp. the spectacular NE Ridge of Everest opposite, although the clouds were already beginning to build. A short section of fixed rope was used to negotiate a region of crevasses and then we turned right to see the route straight to the summit – a gentle plod at first, then an ever-steepening slope to the top of a snow-covered rocky crag. We could see the Japanese party on the last section and it looked slow going. When we got to the same section we found out why. Deep powder snow so that an energy-sapping step up was often followed by the boot's gentle slide back to its starting position!

We knew there couldn't be far to go when we passed them heading in the opposite direction but it was still hard work before David (from Scotland), Ben (from Devon), Ghombu & Pasang (from Nepal) and myself could plonk ourselves down where the paths ended on the West summit of Lhakpa Ri. Alas all the views had gone. The slightly higher East peak (7045m) was faintly discernable 100 yards or so away but there was too much unstable, deep powder snow & steep drops to make it feasible for us (or the Japanese) to try and go further along the ridge. We had to be content with the West peak at around 7025m. After a few summit photos we carefully started to retrace our steps, trying to spot our tracks in deteriorating visibility: a bit like from a Scottish Munro on a claggy winter day except there was no wind!" We were SO LUCKY with the weather really because the next 2 days & nights had such continuous heavy snowfall that the Jagged Globe party a day behind us at Adv. Base Camp stood no chance of even setting off to make a summit bid. Our last day at ABC was spent listening to avalanches thundering off an invisible North Col about 1-2km away. We never did get a view of Everest again. Other highlights of the trip:-

i) Bivvying the night of 15th Sept at Everest Base Camp (5140m) in the open thanks to the Ken Priest Pertex Bivvi Bag!

ii) Getting to 6550m on Mt Everest on 18th on an acclimatisation walk to the foot of the North Col.

Worst thing: Lack of any butter or margarine for the last 3 weeks.



Best ? Thing: The unexpected De Longhi propane radiator that helped top warm the communal mess tent for a few hours each night. Picci count so far around 850!! Looking forward to seeing Carol & Ian again soon – we’ve been apart too long. Cheers everybody” John Edwards

TWO MEETS OF EXTREMES

Report by John Edwards

What a turnaround! Only 13 booked for the June coach to the Rhinogs yet 50 booked for a July trip to Braithwaite. Was it the venue, the lower prices, better advertising or the fear of losing the regular coaches? The committee will try and work it out!

So one coach was cancelled and the next was (over) full. I say overfull because someone - who shall remain nameless - turned up & sat on the coach thinking that they had booked, when they hadn't! This would not have mattered at all on any coach during the last 20 years – that's how long it's been since we had a full coach - but when the Braithwaite coach picked up at Penkrigde it was discovered that there was no seat available for one of the waiting passengers. Fortunately Andy Brown saved the day as he had his bike on board, intending to cycle to some remote minor hill, and he graciously got off and spent the day cycling around the West Midlands and spending some time working on his campervan conversion.

After picking up Mike Smith's daughter & friend at Charnock Richard services, we headed to the Northern Fells. A few, tempted by Blencathra & Sharp Edge, got off at Scales and more alighted at Keswick to do Catbells (right, Sarah Elizabeth's photo), Derwentwater, Latrigg & the railway walk or shop in the town. Most carried on to the village of Braithwaite all intent on doing the Coledale Horseshoe. A few did the route clockwise but most, including Paul B's Led Walk party



went anticlockwise, although this soon split as Paul decided to carry on along the

Whinlatter road further than usual and take an unusual route up Grisedale Pike through the forest. Views were great, although there was cloud across the summits but this lifted as the day progressed. After Hobcarton Crag, the led group split and Darren G took the majority off south and west to summit Grasmooor before tackling most of the Crag Hill / Sail ridge. Having only set off walking at



11.15am timings were tight so they dropped off NE before Causey Pike so as to be able to get a brief drink in the pub.

I think everyone enjoyed a good sociable day on the hills, even though it was sun-less & with a chill wind. Passengers were entertained on the return journey, not only by Nigel's lucky dip draw for a bottle of wine, but by a couple of rounds of Groutage "Bingo"!! Lucy G went round selling the cards for a very reasonable 50p each and gave out felt pens before Darren G took on the role of master caller, complete with all the "two little ducks / dirty Gertie / droopy drawers" etc calls. The first card was a practice one, with winners of one line, two lines & full house getting their

money back but the 2nd card had BIG MONEY - £5 for the first to get one line; £10 for first to get two complete lines and £20 for a full card with all three lines completed (the latter was shared between the 2 winners, one of whom was a coach First Timer!). All good fun and I can see this could become a regular feature on future coaches.



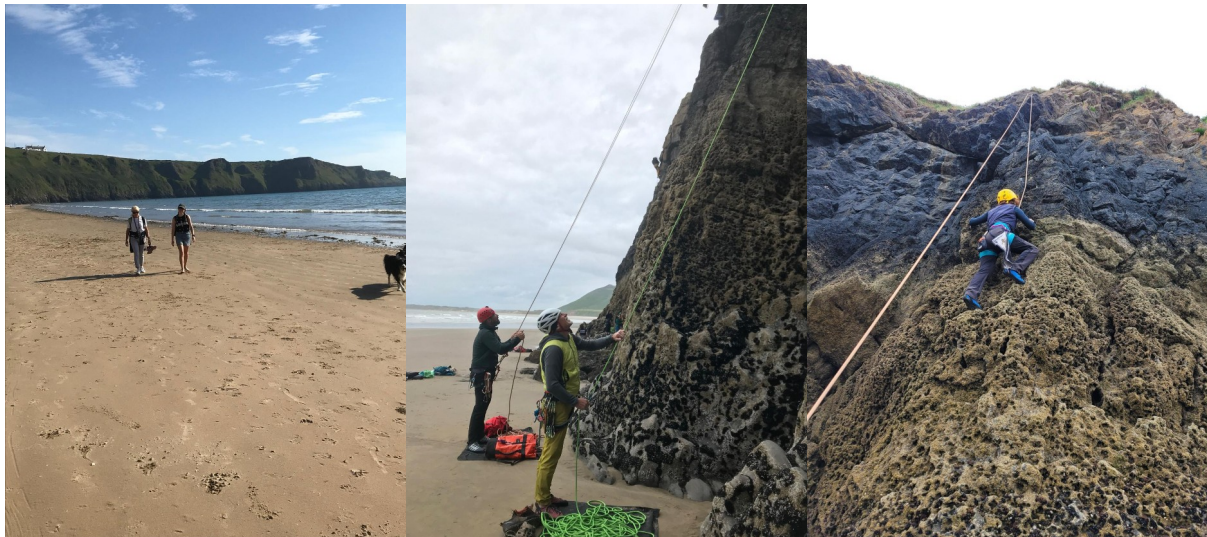
WBMC & THE GOWER

by Ken Priest

The earliest date I remember going to the Gower is 1985 and it was my first experience of combining a climbing meet and all the seaside has to offer. During the 1980's we went most years, camping at different sites and climbing on the wide choice of cliffs, many of which are relaxed in that there is no great exposure like that in Gogarth. In fact, several of the climbs start from the beach which allows for a family trip. After a very wet attempt to revive the tradition in the early 2000's, we found an outward bound residential centre which allowed camping so we ended up returning for several years until they got took over and the prices increased.



So, the Pitton Cross campsite has been our annual venue for the last few years; it isn't the cheapest but allows good access to all the places we like visiting including Worms head, Rhossili beach, Oxwich Bay and Port Eynon.



The recent years has seen us join up with Bromsgrove and Banbury clubs and during the day we all do our own things, walking, climbing cycling, swimming, body boarding and canoeing, so the activities cover a wide range to suit all. In the evening we have sometimes had a BBQ, met up in a pub, or cooked and the event shelter we take provides a communal area with most having a drink or two.

The Gower has given us hours of enjoyment in the most beautiful setting, and so it remains a firm fixture on the calendar. The wet suits seem to shrink a little though each year!

GOOD LUCK TO WES ON MANASLU

A few days ago Wes Marks will have been setting off to Katmandhu to make an attempt on the 8th highest mountain in the world, Manaslu, with 8K Expeditions.

We wish him the best of luck with good weather on the summit day plus a safe return.



MANASLU, the eighth highest mountain peak in the world (8,163 m. /26,781 ft) lies in the Nepal Himalayas (Lat. 28° 06' N., Long. 86° 40' E.). Ascended for the first time on 9 May 1956 by a Japanese expedition team led by T. Imanishi and Gyalsen Norbu, it continues to challenge the courage and spirit of the hardy adventurers from across the globe. This Holy Mountain, what its popular name literally means, offers six different established climbing routes to the summit, with an equally the same number of possible variations.

SOME OF MY FAVOURITE FACEBOOK PAGES

If you feel you already spend too long on social media then maybe this article is not for you but, **hopefully, it will encourage some other Club members to share some of the Facebook (or Instagram & Tik-Tok) sites that they get most pleasure from**, whether that is reading pieces or viewing photographs. Some folk may have heard me say that if I had to live my whole life in only one country in the world, I would probably choose it to be Scotland. And it that was reduced to just one part of the country it would have to be the Isle of Skye, with the Black & Red Cuillin & the Quirang. So my first "favourite" relates to this – **"All Things Cuillin"** is a public Facebook group back created in August 2017 that now has over 20,000 followers.

Adrian Trendall (Admin, mountain guide & photographer) often lifts my spirits in winter with his wonderful photographs of the Glenbrittle area, where he & his artist wife Bridgette live. And it's not just the photos; it's the wonderfully long & detailed text that he writes to accompany them. He'll often (so it seems) set off at 3 or 4 am for the main ridge just because of a particular weather forecast and the hope of catching a spectacular view in just the right light – a bit like Van Greaves! And it often works, but sometimes only for a few seconds. As he sometimes point out "What a wonderful place to have your 'office'!"

Another site I love, **"Hetta Huskies & CAPE Lapland"**, features the brilliant husky farm near Enontekio in the far north of Finland and is a must for dog lovers! I had a great time with this 'Eco-tour' agency back in February 2017 (was it really that long ago?!!!) sledging out ~ 90 km into the Tarvantovaara wilderness with my "own" dog team, along with 6 or 7 others. It was a brilliant, if rather tiring experience and I'd really love to experience something like it again, possible by head-torch during 24 hour darkness in the depths of winter!

With almost 200 dogs to feed & exercise, Pasi Ikonen (one of the first Finns to reach the South Pole unsupported in 2008) & his English wife & sledge racer, Anna McCormack, had a tough time when COVID disrupted tourism but survived by getting some of their older dogs re-homed with previous clients - see **"Hetta Huskies Rehomed"** Facebook group. Their posts of the snowy trails and contrasting warmth of the huts is a joy to see when we're in the depths of dark, damp UK winter.

by John Edwards

← ≡ All Things Cuillin 🔍 ➡

**All Things Cuillin** >

Public group · 19K members



+ Invite

**Hetta Huskies & CAPE Lapland**

4.6K followers · 200 following

Hetta Huskies is an award-winning husky farm in Finnish Lapland, 200km inside the Arctic Circle.

← ≡ St. Kilda - Hebrides 🔍 ➡

**St. Kilda - Hebrides** >

Public group · 8.9K members



+ Invite

Another great holiday I had was back in 1966. When England were winning the World Cup at Wembley I was heading out on a NT for Scotland working holiday on St Kilda, 50 miles out into the Atlantic from Harris. We were rebuilding cleits / cleitean (stone storage huts) on the main island Hirta & other jobs, but were able to explore and see the puffins, shearwaters, fulmar & gannets, not to mention the St Kilda wren & mice in our spare time, as well as enjoy beers at "The Puff Inn", the bar for the forces personnel who were tracking missiles fired from Benbecula. I managed to land on the neighbouring isles of Dun & Soay, getting to the top of the latter (& was lucky to revisit and summit Boreraig

back in Sept 2019). The Facebook group for people interested in these remote and deserted islands has some wonderful old photos of the inhabitants, the last 36 of whom were taken off on 29th Aug 1930, as well as the scenery and birdlife.

← Amazing Planet Earth



Amazing Planet Earth

3.8K likes · 3.8K followers

We are in love with the world and sharing it's beauty with you every day. Check out our Around the World Travel App <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/around-the-world-hd/id606694969?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D2>

A very different type of site that is sometimes very interesting is “**Old Pics of Brum**”, especially if like me you can remember things like the Digbeth Flyover and Victoria Square before the “Floozie”. And as a biologist I always like to take a peek at “**Amazing Planet Earth**” for the great photos and interesting facts about wildlife, geography & geology.

As I said at the start, if you have pages on social media that you feel are Extra Special please feel free to write in and share them with our readers.

← Old Pics of Brum



Old Pics of Brum

Private group · 113K members

+ Invite

WBMC GOES TO SLOVENIA from Facebook

A party of 13 individuals set off from Birmingham airport on 6th July intent of enjoying a week in Slovenia, which Jan had said was “a very nice place”. They based themselves in Kranjska Gora, a pretty town in the Julian Alps and judging by the photos posted had a great time. On their first day, Sunday 7th, 8 ladies plus Tony Emms went for what Tony called “*A Stroll along Slime ridge from the Vrsic Pass*” but as you can see from the photo opposite at Vratca (1799m, 5,900ft) with Velika Mojstrovka (2322m, 7716ft) behind, the terrain was fairly “rugged”. They reached the summit of Stemenova Spica (1909m, 6262ft) before a descent which involved some tricky moves across a steep snowfield. There was time for a beer in the Erjavceva Hut (1525m, 5000ft) before returning to the Ramada Hotel in Kranska G.

Around half the group devoted the next 2 days for an



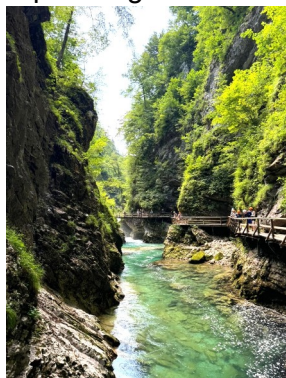
attempt of Triglav, the highest point in Slovenia at 2,864m (9,395 ft) - which appears on the coat of arms of the country & its flag. Day 1 involved an ascent from valley up to the Kredarica Hut, where they spent the night. and the following day (9th July) saw them continue along the Tominskova path, considered by many to be the toughest route, to the summit of Triglav. It looked a grand scramble route with cabled sections, iron spikes, steep scree and icefields.



After a foggy start Dave Coats, Tony Emms, Julie Atkinson, Suzanne Byrne, Annette Cope, Joanna Cheung & Anthenia Dimitriou successfully reached the summit in lovely conditions before returning to the valley. They had planned to return via the Cez Prag path, but were advised against it as it involved another tedious scree descent.

Unsurprisingly the next day was something of a rest day as they took a bus ride into Bled, a very pretty and popular tourist destination where there is lots to see and do, so much in fact that they could have done with more than

a 1-day visit. They walked the impressive Vintgar Gorge (helmets obligatory before rowing & paddling out to Bled Island).



On the 11th there was a mass 'Escape into Italia' as Jan Cox led her friend Jenny, plus Liz Reynolds, Suzanne Byrne, Joanna C, Annette C, Anthenia D, Dave H, Adrian B & Tony E on hired e-bikes (as you can see in the photo taken by a passing policeman) for an ascent to the border and down into Italy. At the



Planinski Hut in the nearby Tamar Valley there was time for a non-alcoholic drink before they



passed the Planica ski jumping hill used by "Eddie the Eagle" in the Alpine Ski World Cup series in the late 1980's. They enjoyed Lunch at the Belvedere Hut in Italy and investigated another beautiful lake.

On their final day, Friday 12th, Tony, Julie & Annette decided to have a go at Prisank (2547m, 8,354ft), which was a much tougher route than they thought, taking 11 hours to complete. All three reached the summit of Prisank, but were caught in a violent electric storm in a rock couloir about 2/3rds of the way down. Lightning strikes were every thirty seconds and the closest was a vivid lightening bolt hitting the end of the ridge about 400m ahead of them which became a fiery orange ball on contact with the ground! Thunder was instantaneous and deafening, reverberating from the rock walls of the couloir like multiple bombs. Tony described it as "Very, very frightening!" As they were in a rocky couloir, it was best to keep moving but they stowed all their metal bits of gear as a precaution. There are lots of photos, especially on the Facebook pages of Dave Coats & Tony Emms but if you want to see & hear about the trip "properly" come along to The Red Lion for the first Indoor Meet of the year on 10th October. It looks to have been one of the "Classic WBMC" trips abroad, up there along with the likes of Toubkal, Elbrus, The Haute Route etc etc Well done to Jan for suggesting it.



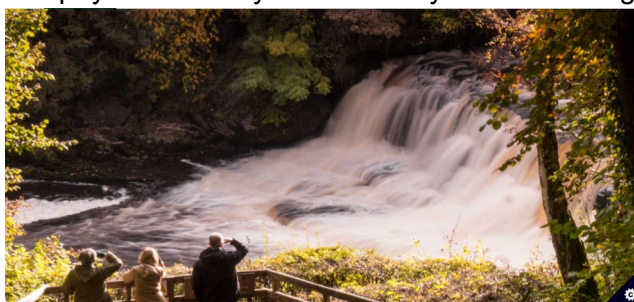
AWAY DINNER 14th & 15th MARCH 2025 AT AYSGARTH FALLS HOTEL

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>

YHA FESTIVAL OF WALKING 13th SEPTEMBER - 13th OCTOBER 2024

From 13 September to 13 October 2024, everyone can enjoy a month of walks from over 50 hostels across England & Wales by joining the 3rd instalment of the "YHA Festival of Walking". The month long celebration of walking is designed to boost your wellbeing, enhance your walking skills, and help connect you with nature and the outdoors. As a proud partner, the BMC invites you to join our free social walks, where you can explore stunning landscapes and meet fellow hill walking enthusiasts. Watch their trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5LI1Augseo>

Choose from the BMC's / YHA's free guided social walks for all abilities or follow one of their downloadable walking routes from a hostel for your own adventure. Plus with a 20% discount on overnight stays at festival hostels throughout the month it can be a real bargain - don't forget to book your accommodation as well as your walk for a perfect autumn walking treat !!

https://www.yha.org.uk/festival-of-walking?utm_source=BMC+Email+Subscribers&utm_campaign=6e70f301a7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2023_12_05_04_03_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0-7368d0ef55-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D&mc_cid=6e70f301a7&mc_eid=735e9768a0

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 18th June 2024 @The Red Lion 7.30pm start

Present: Rob Allen, Claire Hammond, Nigel Tarr, Dave Hellyar (Chair), Fred Hammond, Darren Groutage, Mike Thompson, Will Read,

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Jan Cox, Tony Emms, John Edwards, Jonathan Howells, Geordie Hind
2. **Acceptance of April 2024 minutes.** The last meeting was cancelled as it was not Quorate, so there are **NO MAY MINUTES**. The April minutes were taken as read by the Chairman

3. **Matters Arising** The Chair opens and moves straight to the officer updates.

4. Officer updates Treasurer

Club balance is £44,818 as of 13/06/2024 SAVINGS Account balance is £30,482 and there was £14,336 in the general account. We received a payment from Easy fundraising of £34.60 Andrew Brown & Geoff Hill are to be removed as serving authorized officers and Mike Smith is to be taken off the signatories of the club bank account as they are all no longer serving committee members. Darren Groutage is to be added as a new authorized Bank signatory. It was noted that Coventry Building Society should soon be taking over the Co-Op bank.

Membership Secretary

Although Tony was not present we did discuss the George Starky hut bookings. It was decided for future Club bookings a non refundable deposit (if none can claimed back) must be paid by all members & non-members. The event should be properly advertised and full moni

Website/Publicity

Darren said that over the past few months we have had 4-6 people enquire about the club.

6. **AOB** The Chairman gave a speech at length about what some people had inadvertently called The Hut Fund Bank Account, which seemed to have mistakenly got called this for some reason quite a few years back. It was unanimously decided that it will be called by its proper name The "RESERVE" fund bank account. Although not always possible, it was agreed that ultimately the committee should try and keep this figure above £30,000. The reserve fund is there precisely as that and is to be drawn upon only when the club seems fit and proper to do so. This was proposed by Dave Hellyar (Chairman) and Seconded by Mike Thompson (President). A major discussion then took place about the future direction of the club which is obviously ongoing but the main areas are:-

1. The future shape of the club
2. How important are member numbers
3. What we actually do
4. How do we attract new members
5. To be more Pro Active in shaping the club
6. How to take the club forward
7. What do we offer to members

Mike Thompson stated that Mike Bamford had passed away earlier this month and wanted any members that knew him to know this. After an apology Mike T then left due to another engagement.

Meeting finished 2100

Date of next meeting 25/07/2024 The Red Lion. 1930

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 25th July 2024 @The Red Lion 7.40pm start

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

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Jan Cox, Will Read.
2. **Acceptance of June 2024 minutes.** The June minutes were taken as read by the Chairman. Rob Allen stated he had not received the June minutes. Darren sent them again.

3. **Matters Arising** The chair opens and moves straight to the officer updates.

4. **Officer updates Treasurer** Club balance is £46,366 as of 25/07/2024. The SAVINGS Account balance is £30,482 and there was £15,884 in the GENERAL account. £1,827 had been received from HMRC as a result of the Gift Aid claim made for 2023 & we are likely to expect a payment of roughly £82 from Easy fundraising to be paid into our Bank around the 8th August. The Treasurer was still mindful that she needed to get the signatories of certain people so that they can be added/removed from fiscal duties on the club's accounts.

Membership Secretary Tony Emms stated that Debra Rawcliffe and Sophie Bates can now be signed off as full members, even though Debra lives up in Fife. Ben Hatfield, Karl Bradley and Paul McAlley were also signed in as full members (Paul McAlley was present at the meeting). Tony had noted that Rob Allen was not on the BMC members list with WBMC and so he does not receive 'Summit' Magazine. Tony will look into this and get it rectified but he commented how temperamental & cumbersome filling in of the BMC membership list is, saying he was having quite a few problems with it. Dawn Picken is a prospective member, along with Ryan Tritton and Luke Hall. Dan Bow has resigned from the committee (we think Jan Cox must have his resignation letter). Chairman Dave Hellyar has been trying to contact Dan but he has not responded.

Newsletter Secretary John hopes the next Newsletter will be out by the end of August and he is going to include Fred's details explaining the best possible way to use the Fire efficiently & correctly. John has altered the First time on the Coach questionnaire to now include a mobile number. **He also confirmed his intention to step down from editing the Newsletter at the 2025 AGM and let someone else have a go.**

Website/Publicity Darren said that over the past few months we have had 4-6 people enquire about the club and becoming a member, which is great news. We all need to keep abreast of any enquiry coming into the Club so we can encourage as many new members as possible.

Hut Secretary Fred said between the 10th June & 27th July '24, 42 nights had been booked by 17 people with donations of £457 received. He had found over 12 new mattress covers under the bottom beds, which will save the club a substantial amount by not having to replace the old ones. The underfloor heating Thermostat was looked at by Darren G and found to be in an unusable condition, so the mains were disconnected in the fuseboard. Andy Brown is trying to source a new one. A new Dimplex heater was fitted in the Shower room by Darren & Fred and a new extension lead was left at the hut to replace the damaged one that failed the PAT test. A 'measure up & site' survey was made for the new slot meters to be fitted for the underfloor heating and tumble dryer. It was reported that there was influx of Flies in the hut, but this now seems to have been sorted. A discussion on fitting an airflow-inlet kit to the fire ensued and as this would require a 4-inch core drill through the wall this could prove quite an arduous task.

Coach Secretary The June Coach meet to Braithwaite was a roaring success with the coach full at 49 people and a lengthy waiting list. Unfortunately, due to amnesia, an extra person turned up on the day of the meet and Andrew Brown kindly offered to ride his bike home from Penkridge so the driver could proceed. The Club received a donation of £106 from this meet and already 38 people have booked onto next month's coach to Cadair Idris.

Discussions about members booking by a certain time were had, but it was decided to keep the status quo for now.

The Coach survey results, which had around 65 people reply, were studied and the stand out factors were that Long meets should still go ahead; people still want monthly meets; £8 parking is an issue; Sunday meets were only slightly preferred to Saturdays; roughly a third said cost of a seat was an issue; and Car meets were preferred by ~10%. Many people wanted a shorter Coach journey duration for a few of the meets.

Led-walk leaders were not discussed for the Cadair Idris meet but hopefully there will be one. Ideally the committee should try and get volunteers sorted at least 6 meets in advance.

5. BMC The next BMC Midlands Area Meeting is to be held at 7pm Tuesday 20 August in person at 27 Waterloo Rd Wolverhampton WV1 4DJ (free parking at the rear & front of the building) and Via Zoom. Ian Wyatt is the BMC organizer of the Midlands BMC Clubs Network but will be stepping down from Midlands Members Council Rep at the next AGM. The current Midlands Chair is Darren Johnson and there are vacancies for Area Secretary, Area Hill Walking Rep & Members Council Area Rep. Ian had asked John Edwards if he wanted to take on the Secretary role again but he declined. Follow what's going on @BMC Midlands on Instagram and <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/en/midlands>

6. AOB It was agreed the WBMC AGM should take place on 20th March 2025 at 7.30pm.

Fred asked for any help with the Hut while he undergoes his Radiotherapy treatment. Andy Snape was mentioned as maybe wanting to help/join the committee. Jonathan has moved the Scottish week to a new hotel near Aviemore.

Indoor meets were discussed and suggested as follows:-

Oct '24 Slovenia trip by Tony Emms

Nov '24 Ice climbing at Cogne by Ken Priest

Dec '24 Greenland trip by Geordie Hind

Jan '25 WBMC 2005 Elbrus trip by John E, and maybe Oliver S

Feb '25 Manaslu trip by Wes Marks

Mar '25 Scottish Week 2025 by Jonathan H

Mike Thompson reminded us of his 5-year term as President was due to end at the AGM in 2025.

The Chairman talked again about the future direction of the club and what WBMC actually does and what it purports to do. A major discussion took place about the future direction of the club, one of the main topics being Advertising our club to the people of the West Midlands and, maybe, tweaking the name of the club. After some debate John E proposed & the Dave H seconded that £500 be put aside to employ the services or get help from a more specialist/professional & experienced person/company in the field of Digital Marketing, as it is beyond most of the Committee's expertise. To be continued:-

- The future shape of the club – What are we looking to achieve?
- Coach Meets – Continue trying to increase numbers
- How important are member numbers? – Agreed these were very important because of an aging membership
- What we actually do / offer members besides Hill Walking & Mountaineering? -Lots. Boots n Beers, occasional canoeing, running, cycling etc. Maybe this should be reflected in the Club's name?
- How do we attract new members? – Advertising, word of mouth etc We need more ideas,
- To be more Pro Active in shaping the club - ??
- How to take the club forward? – Younger members and new ideas needed.

The meeting finished 9.10pm. Date of next meeting 15/08/2024 The Red Lion. 1930 (August's Minutes will be in next issue)

IS THIS SPACE WALK AI, PHOTOSHOP OR GENUINE?

And can you name the peak to the right of the broken spectre?! This amazing photograph (© Owen Hope) popped up on Facebook (SlackChat). One of the comments was "That's an unreal photo" but the accompanying pictures suggested it was genuine. Apparently Owen and his friends Lizzie Wood & the guy in the photo Michael Ross, all based in Inverness, are devotees of the increasingly popular mountaineering sport called Highlining. More on this next issue!! Oh, and the mountain is the wonderful N.W. Highland peak An-Teallach.

