

This Month's Cover Photo:
Hilary Jones with assistant guide Chombe in the Himalaya in September with Dhaulagiri, the 7th highest mountain in the world, in the background. She enjoyed a fabulous trek around the Dhaulagiri Circuit. (More inside)



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2	Noticeboard / Future Events	How quickly time goes by. Another festive season is upon us, whilst memories of the climb up to Bleaklow and the Christmas meal at Glossop Golf Club are still reasonably clear in the memory. And so much has happened over the twelve months since then.
2 – 3	Away Dinner 2025 Details	We all will have personal memories of days and even weeks, spent in the hills, dales and mountains of Britain and beyond (even as far away as Greenland and New Zealand).
4	Mitch's Car Meet: The Wrekin	The year has seen us say fond farewells to fellow Club members , and welcome others who have joined our number. Such is the pattern of life, with the Club continuing to be a focus for a range of outdoor pusuits catering for many interests.
5	Jan Coach: Ogwen / Llanberis	On behalf of myself and the Club committee I wish you all the best for the season, and for a happy and enjoyable 2025.
6	Feb Coach: Patterdale	
7	March Coach: Clwydian Hills	<u>EDITOR'S BIT: NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS?</u>
8	Scottish Winter Week Details	Isn't it rather odd that most of us seem to have to wait until the start of a New Year to set resolutions that challenge us and give us aspirations, when we should perhaps be doing this constantly? But it is a 'threshold moment' when we can reflect on what we can do that's better. The changes we make may be tiny and gains marginal, but over time they can accumulate to make a big change. What could each of us do that would give ourselves more QMD's (quality mountain days) I wonder?
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<p>This Newsletter was produced by John Edwards. A grateful THANK YOU to those members who got in touch and contributed information & articles. If you spot something interesting about the mountains please get in touch with John via jaejed@hotmail.com</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bromwich_Mountaineering_Club</p>		

NOTICEBOARD: PROGRAMME OF FUTURE EVENTS:

But first a warm welcome to our new prospective members Steve Showell, Chris Barnett & Nahian Bahar, plus several guests from Hong Kong that we've seen on the last few coaches.

COACH MEETS TO THE HILLS

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

Sunday 12th January – Ogwen / Llanberis

Sunday 9th February – Glenridding / Patterdale

Sunday 9th March – Clwydian Hills Coach

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 9th January No presentation. Thursday 6th February Wes Marks "Big Himalayan Peaks presentation (TBC). Thursday 6th March Trekking in the Himalaya" Hilary Jones (TBC)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & MEMBERS' SOCIAL NIGHTS AT THE RED LION

Thursdays 16th Jan, 13th Feb, 13th March Committee meetings start at 7.30pm & observers are welcome. Otherwise come along at ~ 8.30 pm for a drink & a chat or meal.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY 20th MARCH 7.30pm SHARP

All members please try and attend the AGM to be held at "The Red Lion".and think about whether you could serve on committee, or propose someone for President, the Malcolm Collins Award, Secretary or Newsletter Editor. Ensure you arrive early if you want to eat before the meeting starts.

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:

COGNE ICE-CLIMBING WEEK 4th –11th JANUARY 2025 Contact Pete P or Ken P

"NEV'S" SCOTTISH WINTER WEEK 15th – 22nd FEBRUARY 2025

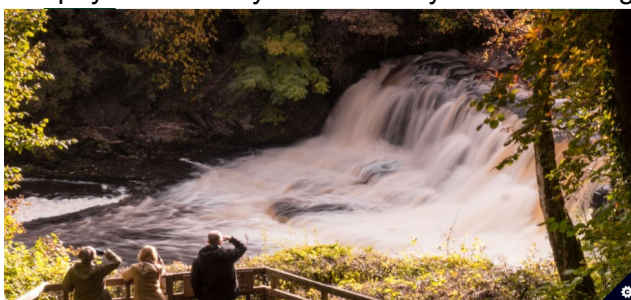
Thanks to Jonathan Howells' organisation we're heading back to the Cairngorms after a gap of several years; this time stopping at the Coylumbridge Hotel, not far from Aviemore. The hotel has a pool and accepts dogs and is fantastic value. See full advert on page 8.

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>

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBER 'DOWN UNDER'

The powers of Facebook let us know that on the first Sunday of December veteran WBMC member Chris Shinton, won the New South Wales SE Bowls Region Open Reserves Triples Final at the Merimbula Bowling Club, where he's pictured between Kerry and Bill.

YOUR NEVER TOO OLD!

Last September BMC Patron Mick Fowler and climbing partner Victor Saunders, aged 68 and 74 years old respectively, made the first ascent of Yawash Sar (6,258m) in the Karakoram, Pakistan. It has been 40 years since the pair first climbed together in Pakistan, and 37 years since their renowned ascent of The Golden Pillar of Spantik,



a few hours from Yawash Sar. Berghaus-sponsored Mick is also a former tax man and an anal cancer survivor who now uses a colostomy bag. Two of Mick's recent trips were ruined by spoiled dehydrated food & two were wash-outs due to the weather so he was chuffed to be successful again. What was the climb like? *"The face was complex & we were fortunate to find good climbing conditions and, after extensive binocular research, weave our way through numerous probable cul-de-sacs without reaching any impasses. Hardest part? The lack of good bivouac sites. At one point, we endured an excruciatingly uncomfortable hanging bivouac in strong winds"*. But it wasn't all plain sailing. Mick is quoted saying *"With my harness going directly across my colostomy bag there are inevitably going to be 'squidge-out-the-side' accidents occasionally. But the main post-operation problem is that I have no padding in my buttocks and that makes sitting bivouacs extremely uncomfortable."* Mick's top tip for new mountaineers? *"Take it easy. Don't rush."*

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

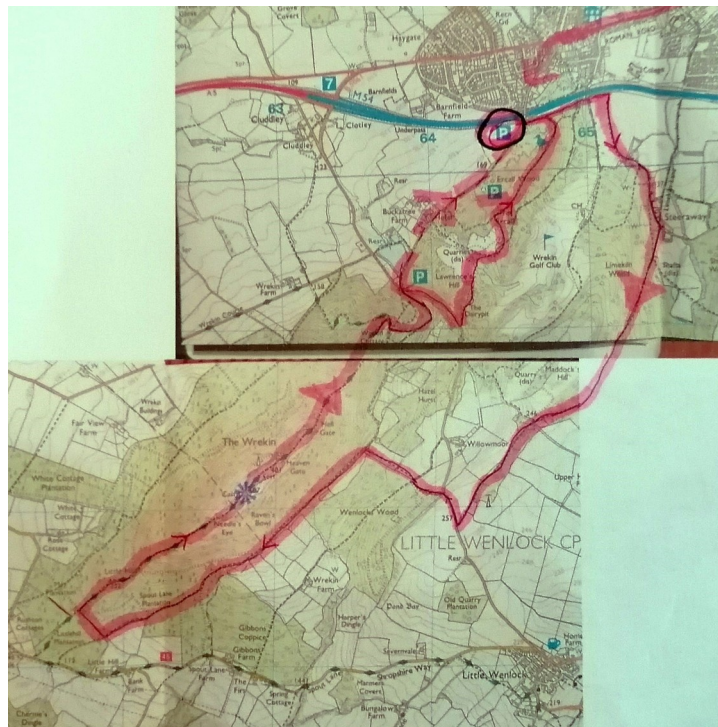
Meet: 10:00 –Ercall Lane Car Park
Wellington, Telford (TF1 2DY)
Grid Ref SJ 646 103 Free I think
~ 40 miles from Birmingham.
Exit M54 at Jn 6 for Telford West.

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 asap

Required maps: OS 1:25000 Explorer 242 Telford, Ironbridge & the Wrekin or OS 1:50000 Landranger 127 Stafford & Telford



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

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)

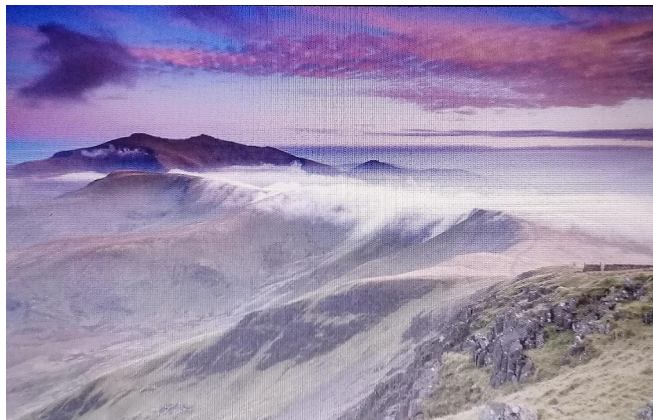


Photo: Misty Ridge & Yr Wyddfa from the summit of Moel Eilio

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 (km / 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 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

SUNDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2025: PATTERDALE & GLENRIDDING**Depart:** 07:00 – West Bromwich

Edward St Car Park B70 8NL

07:20 – Penkridge

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

Climb NW up the steep Slope to summit of Red Screes (396087). Then continue NW, first descending into Scandale Pass, then climb again following a wall apast Little Hart Crag and up onto Dove Crag (375104). From here follow the ridge over Hart Crag and onto Fairfield (359117). Leave the summit heading north and descend via the sharp peak of Cofa Pike (358121) and on over St Sunday Crag (369135) & Birks (382144) before heading down into Patterdale and a short road walk to the coach in Glenridding.

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

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

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

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

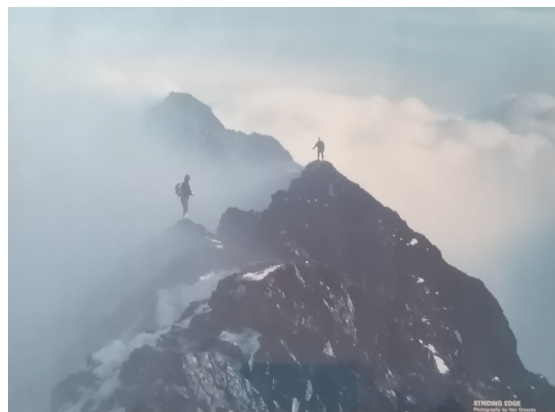
FROM PATTERDALE Route 4 Striding Edge & Helvellyn (~ 14km - 9 miles)

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

N.B. Winter gear should be worn & carried. Depending on the snow conditions, and ice axe & crampons may be required for these walks. Alternatively stay on lower slopes and off the tops THERE WILL BE A LED WALK DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS ON THE DAY.

Fares: Members £23, Non members £26, Under 18's & Full time students £10**To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729*****Should you cancel after the Wednesday prior to the coach date a £10.00 fee will be charged.******Failure to turn up without cancelling and the full coach fare will be expected from you.***

(*Van Greaves received £20 from Arthur Dixon, who then sold it as a best selling postcard until around 2005! Van had to get 5,000 prints made at his own expense to make any money. One sits on my dining room wall & if you want one of the few remaining I suggest you contact him on vangreaves@hotmail.com pronto!!)



SUNDAY 9th MARCH: CLWYDIAN HILLS COACH MEET**Last visited in December 2021****Depart:** 07:00 – West Brom.

Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)

07:20 – M54 Junction 2

Short stop at Corwen.

Drop Off: Bodfari Grid ref SJ 096 700

A541 Grid ref SJ 172 680

Loggerheads Country Park SJ 199 626

Llanferres Grid ref SJ 188 604

Pick Up: Llanferres SJ 188 604**Required Map/ s :** OS 1: 25 000 OL

265 & / or OS 1: 50 000 Landranger 116 & 117

Above: Moel Famau (555m) left distance

**Suggested Routes:-****FROM BODFARI: Route 1 The Length of the Clwydians**

Follow footpaths east and climb to the top of Moel y Parc (SJ 119700). Then head south to traverse the ridge over the summits of Penycloddiau, Moel Arthur, Moel Dywyll, Moel Famau, Foel Fenlli & Moel Eithinen. From the final hill head east down to a well deserved pint in Llanferres. (11 miles / 18km & 1200m ascent!)

This walk can be cut short at Moel Famau reducing the ascent to 1000m.

FROM A541: Route 2 Moel Arthur & Moel Famau

Follow footpaths west to climb Moel Plas-yw and join the main ridge at Moel Arthur. Then head south to traverse the ridge as far as Moel Famau before descending south-east to Llanferres and a welcome drink at The Druid Inn. (6 miles / 10km & ~ 700m ascent)

FROM LOGGERHEADS: Route 3 Easier walking

Enjoy a stroll around Loggerheads Country Park where there are various trails and options.

To book your seat please contact Nigel Tarr (07703 345729) Booking opens 14th November

Fares: Members £22.00. Guests £24.00. Under 18's £10.00.

**Cancellation after the Wednesday prior to the coach meet and you will be charged £10
Fail to turn up without cancelling and the full coach fare will be expected from you.**

DAFT THINGS HILLWALKERS DO

UKHillwalking's Dan Bailey has recently put together an article on the strange behaviour that only makes sense (if at all) up on a hill and compiled a list of "Top 10 walkers' quirks". Can you think what these might be and how many would you admit to doing? Do they obviously apply to certain other WBMC members you could name?! See page 15 to find out if you've guessed right and are you guilty as charged!!

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.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025 IS NOW DUE

The Membership Secretary would like ALL membership renewals paid by the end of January if at all possible as this makes it much easier to transfer the entire current membership list across to the BMC in one action and ensures that individuals are covered by the BMC insurance against third party claims. Later renewals have to be added singly which makes a lot more work and this inevitably means delays which could result in someone, who thinks they have paid and therefore have insurance, not actually being registered on the BMC members list at the time they are involved in an incident.

To remind folk the fees agreed at the 2024 AGM for next year are:-

Adult £41 (which includes BMC membership worth £29.33 in 2025) . If you joined BMC as an individual it would cost you £12.47 more than your WBMC membership!!

Students £19.75 (this means they get WBMC membership for free and actually pay less than the club has to pay the BMC!)

11 – 18 year olds £17.70 (again the Club is subsidising the discounted BMC fee)

Under 11's £0.00 ie membership of BMC is free.

As a BMC member you are covered for £10,000 of personal accident cover if you are between the ages of 3 & 80, plus whatever your age, you get third party cover should you be sued as a result of a mountaineering-related accident.

The easiest way to pay these fees is probably by Bank Transfer to the Club's Co-op Bank account No 65487846 (Sort Code 08-92-99) **quoting the reference "AM25* _ * _"** where * _ * _ is your name, abbreviated if necessary.

Or you can send or give a cheque made payable to "WBMC" to Tony Emms, 28 Farmer Way, Tipton, DY4 0BE.

If you are able to add even a small extra amount as a donation to the Club please do so as this helps the Club (which is a CASC) to secure Gift Aid from HMRC

There are many other Mountaineering Clubs who take the view that if a member has not renewed by the end of January, then they have resigned & are no longer a members of the club (although WBMC is not one of these: better late than never!)

If you have checked our great new website www.wbmc.org recently you may have noticed that Tony has now designed a simplified one-page Membership Form which gives us the ability to record dates from prospective membership to full membership, as we MUST now strictly adhere to the 3-month BMC grace period for new / prospective members. Failure to join the club within this 3-month grace period will now unfortunately mean that any applicant will not be covered by the BMC insurance and their membership will lapse.

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

WBMC 2025 AGM AGENDA (as at 2nd Dec 2024)
to be held Thursday 20th March 2025 at 8pm at The Red Lion B71 1RH

1. Roll Call
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the 2024 AGM
4. Matters Arising (including any Special Motions)
5. Subscriptions for 2026
6. Ratification of Officer Reports (Chair, Treasurer, Membership, Coach, Hut)
7. Election of Officers
 - . President (Mike Thompson's 5 year term is ending)
 - . Chair (currently David Hellyar, who is prepared to step aside for someone new)
 - . Vice Chair (currently Geordie Hind)
 - . Honorary Treasurer (currently Claire Hammonds)
 - . Honorary Secretary (Jan Cox is not seeking re-election to this post)
 - . Coach Secretary (currently Nigel Tarr)
 - . Hut Secretary (currently Fred Hammonds)
 - . Membership Secretary (currently Tony Emms)
 - . Newsletter Editor (John Edwards is not seeking re-election to this post)
 - . Publicity / Social Media Secretary (currently Anthenia Dimitriou)
 - . Committee (5 to be elected)
8. Malcolm Collins Award and Coach King & Queen Award
9. Any Other Business

Please get your thinking caps on and propose individuals for the Malcolm Collins Award and President. Also be prepared to propose or second the present incumbents of the various Officer roles (or others if they have expressed an interest in standing), or think about standing for them yourself. Nominations should be received by the Secretary at least 7 days before the AGM and should be accompanied by an expression of willingness to serve if elected, although ordinary committee members can be proposed and seconded at the meeting.

Motions on general matters can also be proposed at the meeting but Special Motions to alter the Constitution & Rules must be received in writing by the Secretary no later than the 31st January and be proposed by 7 Full Members.

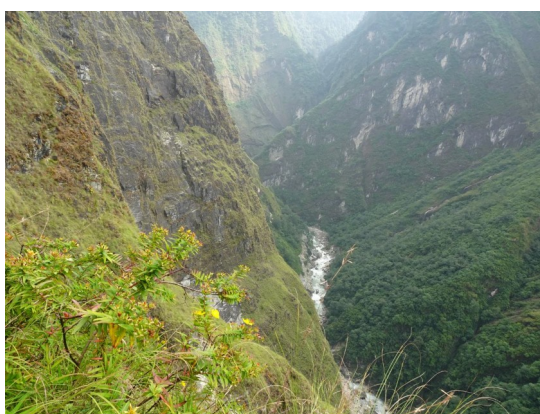
Also remember that, to be quorate, the AGM needs to be attended by a minimum of 25 full members, so please do your best to attend.

WELL I NEVER! Did you know that the place on earth where time goes fastest (& you would be lightest) is the summit of Chimborazo (6263m) which is the farthest point from the centre of the earth; 'higher' above it then even Everest because of the Earth's 43 km (27 mile) equatorial bulge. For the same reason you are 1 mile closer to the moon on the summit of Kilimanjaro than you would be on top of Everest !

DHAULAGIRI CIRCUIT 12 - 31 OCTOBER 2024: From the Science Block to the Annapurnas from Hilary Jones

Our first camp (top right) was outside the Maths & Science block in the school grounds at Sibang (1750m), overlooking the football and volleyball pitches.

We set off following the mighty Myagdi Khola ascending steep hillsides on exposed paths with stunning views. It was hazy, muggy weather...hot and sweaty work - with the constant sound of rushing water way below. Our campsites were perched above the river and were often on promontories, terraced, or on the Chhonbardan glacier itself. At Dhaulagiri Base Camp (4100m) it



started snowing when we arrived but we awoke the next day back to a true "Room with a view" - clear deep blue skies & wonderful ice-capped mountains! However, it was anything but quiet. There was the intermittent but all too frequent sound of 'thunder' (even at night) – plus the usual rockfalls,



avalanches, & the glacier itself creaking.

As you can see from the front page, we left behind some great views of the magnificent Dhaulagiri, at 8167m the 7th highest peak in the world, with Sherpa Chombe, as we headed for the pass called French Col. At 5400m this was our highest point. Then followed more morainic ridges, more stunning vistas, more huffing & puffing over ice and crampons. Over another broad & shallow pass at 5200m and the awesome panorama of the Annapurna massif suddenly appeared ahead!

Then finally came a steep descent to Marpha at 2650m (renowned for its apple orchards & brandy).



Ed: Many thanks to Hilary for sharing a "taster PowerPoint" with me with these photos and descriptions.

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

WHERE WE MEET : THE RED LION by David Jesudason

(pages 148 – 151 of his book "Desi Pubs" published by CAMRA Books £14.99)

Red Lion

190 All Saints Way, West Bromwich B71 1RH
redlionwestbrom.com

Bar: Mon–Thu 12.00–22.00; Fri & Sat 12.00–23.00; Sun 12.00–21.30.
Kitchen: 12.00–21.15; Fri & Sat 12.00–22.00; Sun 12.00–21.00.

West Bromwich has so many food options it can be hard to choose where to eat. As well as a slew of desi pubs, there are many restaurants, balti houses and cafés offering Asian and Caribbean fare. I've visited several times and left one of the town's most famous pubs till last, mainly because I knew I didn't want to rush – I wanted to savour every moment.

The publican of the Red Lion, Satnam Purewal, realises he has to compete, and does things very differently in his establishment, which was one of the first – and most culturally important – desi pubs in the area.

'We've become a hub [of desi pubs],' he says. 'People travel here. Because of that the standards of food have got to be really, really high.'

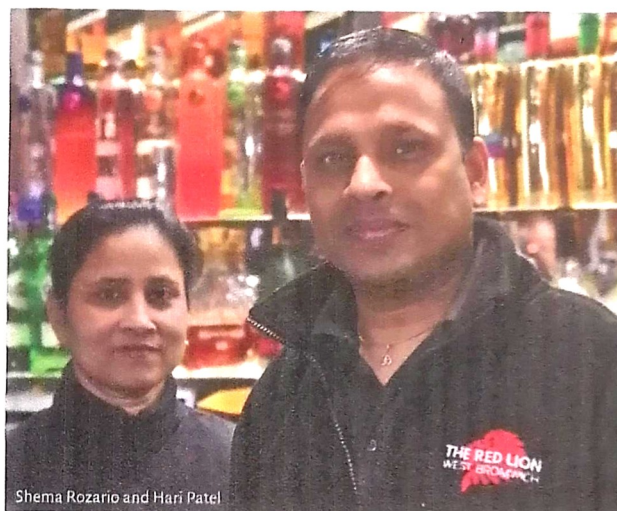
Purewal's father, Jeet, set up the pub in 1997, after following the example of Suki (with whom he's best friends) at the nearby Vine (see p152) by taking over a drinkers' bar that had mainly a white clientele. He had to win them over, of course, and he did so deftly, proving once again that British-Indians were well-suited to running pubs and that they could turn 'wary' customers into friends.

Asking Purewal about his experience you get a nuanced, considered view, not only because he grew up in an area that evolved from one of racial prejudice, to tolerance, to celebrating other cultures, but also because he worked at a secondary school teaching sociology and psychology (he still teaches one day a week as well as running the pub).

'A lot of times,' he says about white people's initial prejudice, 'it's because they've never known anyone from that background. When you have a drink with someone, spend the evening with them, your inhibitions go out of the window and you get to know them properly.'

'Pubs create social cohesion. And that's the best thing about them.'

Visiting the Red Lion was a moving experience for me, not just because



Shema Rozario and Hari Patel

of Purewal's philosophy but because it's a shrine to the past with its gorgeous stained glass windows commemorating Malcolm X's appearance on Smethwick's Marshall Street (see p17) and the toil of the Indian diaspora when they first arrived to work in the Midland's foundries.

This was my first visit to the area since Avtar Singh Jouhl's death, and having written his obituary for *The Guardian* it felt like a full stop to my research into his great life, one that ultimately led to the region's desi pubs being set up.

However, I wasn't expecting the pub to be so forward-looking and such a warm, welcoming environment. It's a family-friendly venue for all members of the community, meticulously planned to suit everyone's needs. It even has a quiet room for autistic children.

This, Purewal tells me, was because of the time he had to reconfigure the Red Lion when Covid struck. It wasn't a refurbishment as such – that had already happened in 2017 – but rather a way of changing the business to make things ultra-safe for his customers. All these changes are in place today because they help the pub to be an inclusive environment for women and children.

'It forced us to change,' he admits. 'We couldn't squeeze in people anymore. We had to have two-metre gaps for social distancing including blocking off some urinals, table service and every month we sanitised everywhere with fogging agents. I took Covid so seriously and I was so strict. To be honest, the stricter we were being, the more people appreciated it. So it drew in a lot of trade.'

West Bromwich - THE MIDLANDS

THE MIDLANDS - West Brom



'None of our regulars got Covid. We kept the table service, but you can still order at the bar – we're still a pub. But because 99% of our customers are families they order at the table and this helps women who might feel intimidated by a bar because of male gaze.'

Purewal also has a large room with a retractable roof – which inspired the one in Sollihul's Lazy Hill – which meant that people could eat indoors but be Covid friendly. The pandemic might have had devastating consequences, but here it was the engine house of change with the outdoor seating now being perfect for diners and drinkers on a summer's day.

Whatever the case, Purewal is the quintessential host and I feel like I can ask him questions that other publicans would feel wary about answering. The pub, aside from its great work in the pandemic – which also included a lot of charity initiatives like helping the homeless – does so much for its community, such as sponsoring children's football teams so they become freely available for all. I put it to him that being a landlord must be an empowering position for a British-Indian.

'I'm very proud to be a landlord,' he answers. 'Being in charge of your own business is always empowering. [The community work] is also a bit of a Sikh thing. It's *sevadar*, which is embedded in us. To do *sevadar* means you are giving back to the community.'

Purewal shows me around the pub and it's apparent he sees the building as an extension of his classroom, with lots of books present. He's proud that the only untidiness is the kiddie's books section. 'It shows they're used,' he beams.

When we get to the stained glass windows, he points to one which has his dad featured on it and explains why pints of Mild are so culturally important to the older generation who worked in the foundries. I knew they were drunk on their lunch breaks, but until now I never knew why factory workers took to Mild with such enthusiasm.

'They used to get all this rubbish on their chest,' he says about the polluted, inhumane conditions. 'Because Mild was a very weak beer it would clear it out.'

'Not many youngsters drink it now. But if we get people visiting from London who lived in the Midlands and they see the [Banks's] Mild on the tap they go "whoa! I've got to have one of those!" It's nostalgia for people who live elsewhere.'

The only thing I regret about my trip to the Red Lion is Purewal's Tigger-like energy meant he had to leave before I could ask him for his photograph. Next time.

The highly competitive food that he mentioned wasn't hype. I have a sizzling salmon tikka dish which is crispy on the outside but succulent in the middle. It's a tricky dish to pull off as the onions and red peppers could normally overpower the salmon but it holds together really well. It's great for sharing and a bit much for one, despite my gallant efforts.

I also ordered a tarka dhal which is as comforting as Purewal's words. I watch how his customers – both desi and white – warmly greet the hardworking staff and how they feel saddened to have missed Purewal. I'm left with the feeling of having been in the presence of a great mind who could articulate exactly why desi pubs are such a powerful force of social cohesion.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOUR "SUMMIT" MAGAZINE?

Is it just me who has missed something from the BMC but it hadn't struck me until 11th December that I hadn't received the winter issue of "SUMMIT" magazine from the BMC? Or the Summer or Autumn editions! Fortunately I attended an excellent online "Open Forum" that evening (6.30-8.30) chaired by Mary-Ann Ochota and discovered that **'Summit' is now DIGITAL and has now gone completely online** and that the BMC are saving £90,000 four times a year by not sending paper copies to members. A pity I think they forgot to tell anybody!

To see the #116 Winter 2024 issue - which is special one celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the BMC – go to www.thebmc.co.uk/summit-magazine and click on the cover that says "the Adventure Continues" and it should pop up without you having to enter your membership details. If you click in the top right corner you can download and save it to your device as a pdf. Several back issues are also available to read and it is the intention that all will eventually be there. At the moment it means that every member of an affiliated club like WBMC can read EVERY "Summit" whether or not they upgrade to full BMC membership – previously those who don't upgrade only got one copy per year through the post. There was a lot of discussion as to whether this was a progressive move or not. At the moment it seems that even members of the general public can read the magazine whether they are BMC members or not but next year there might be a "paywall" to view or the necessity to quote your name and membership number.

MORE FROM THE BMC OPEN FORUM MEETING

The BMC was formed in 1944, the brainchild of Geoffrey Winthrop Young. Back then there were 25 Clubs among the founding members, now there are over 250. In 1979 it bought its first crag. Can you name it? Someone won a book by being the first to write 'Bwlch y Moch, Tremadog' in the Chat. There is a Timeline of what the BMC has achieved in the latest Summit so I won't add more here, except to say that we were told membership now stands at ~82,000, with Clubs back to pre-Covid numbers. And the last year's AGM was online and attended by 211 individuals, a higher number than at any "in person" event, so next year's will again be online via Zoom (a hybrid event is too expensive to organise apparently). **So make a note in your diaries, because the BMC's financial year is in transit from January to April, THE NEXT BMC AGM WILL BE HELD ON THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2025 by ZOOM.**

BMC personnel seem to be changing a lot these days and, although there are no plans at the moment to bring back a paper "Summit" the BMC want your views on this or any other matters relating to BMC policy / mountaineering / climbing / walking etc. As one member posted last night "Summit was established to solve the BMC's communication issues and to give members a tangible benefit. We've taken both those away, and also the proper annual report that we used to do, and also the Members' Handbook. Is it any wonder that our members now ask more than ever what the BMC does / is for?" Have you seen or read the last BMC AGM report, or the minutes of the Board of Directors? Would you have read it if you had received a paper copy? Please share your views with the powers that be in their "Strategy Survey / Consultation"

www.thebmc.co.uk/en/have-your-say-2025-to-2030-bmc-strategy-consultation

The meeting also included a session about "Winter Monitoring of Plants", especially the rare ones on ledges in Snowdonia (how to protect them, especially in winter) and an interesting

INTERVIEW WITH ADRIANA BROWNLEE.

What gave her the idea to climb? Doing the Three Peaks Challenge with her dad when she was age 9 (after hypothermia on first attempt) made her tell her teacher that her ambition in life was to climb Mt Everest.

How could she afford to climb big peaks so young? He father paid for their trips together to climb Elbrus, Kilimanjaro & Aconcagua when she was a young teen. Then she approached North Face to be their 'youth ambassador' and they agreed to help with gear & some finance. After her success on Everest she & her team realised she could be the youngest ever to complete the 14 8,000m so she really went for sponsorship, writing 40 letters a day and maybe getting just one reply.

How much did it cost? It costs around \$1 million to do the 14. Some of the companies involved allowed her to pay later or in instalments

Most Challenging Moment/s? Toughest technically was probably the Kingshofer Wall – a rock face grade 8A at 6,000m on Nanga Parbat. Physically, possibly the last part of Shishapangma when the stress of climbing without supplementary oxygen made her body react with vomiting & diarrhoea.

Tip for others? Regardless of who you are climbing with, remember you must be able to rescue yourself in bad situations. Find a good climbing partner (she did 12 of the peaks with Gelji Sherpa and has now founded "AGA Adventures" together with him)

3 Words to describe herself / & as an animal? Ambitious Stubborn Organised / Shark or Eagle

Best snack on the mountains? Pringles

Next aim? Visit Japan *Is she a BMC member?* Yes, of course!

Anything taken to all 14 summits? A stone with an angel inside given to her by her mother.

What does mountaineering mean to you? Escape, freedom and meditation – the latter is really all about just focussing on one single thing.

Is there going to be a movie? There already is "Dream Again", directed by Mathis Decroux, available to view (for a fee) at www.therm-ic.com. It should be on at film festivals next year too.

14 x 8000m SUMMITS ADRIANA BROWNLEE

- Adriana Brownlee is a British mountaineer
- Completed the National Three Peaks in 22 hours when she was just 9 years old
- Successfully climbed Mount Elbrus, Kilimanjaro, and Aconcagua, before she turned 18
- The youngest woman to have climbed the world's second-highest peak K2
- The first British woman and youngest woman to Summit all 14 8,000m peaks

MOUNTAINEERING EXPEDITIONS

1. Mount Everest, 8,849m (2021)
2. Manaslu, 8,153m (2021)
3. Dhaulagiri, 8,167m (2021)
4. Annapurna, 8,091m (2022)
5. Kanchenjunga, 8,586m (2022)
6. Lhotse, 8,516m (2022)
7. Makalu, 8,481m (2022)
8. Nanga Parbat, 8,126m (2022)
9. Broad Peak, 8,051m (2022)
10. K2, 8,611m (2022)
11. Gasherbrum II, 8,035m (2023)
12. Gasherbrum I, 8,080m (2023)
13. Cho Oyu, 8,188m (2023)
14. Shishapangma, 8,027m (2024)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hi John, Martin, Norris and Dani,

Thank you all for your kind note and copy of your newsletter. It was delivered in the post yesterday. I liked the vague address you wrote on the envelope - it made me chuckle!

(Ed it contained half a post code; a grid reference, mention of a red Land Rover & the fact that David was a farmer on a NT-owned farm)

I hope you're all well and continuing to enjoy your club walks in beautiful places.

The weather here is really starting to turn and the nights are drawing in quickly. Hope you've got some good winter trips planned for the next couple of months.

Best wishes and many thanks,

David Kelly, nr Fell Foot, Little Langdale

**SEE IN THE NEW YEAR WITH SOME NEW LOGO'D GEAR!!**

Didn't get what you really needed for Christmas? Don't fret – it's a New Year so treat yourself !!! Just go on-line and get yourself to 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.

WINTER BOOTS FOR SALE

Tony Emms (07793 008582) is selling a pair of **Scarpa Manta Pro Boots**, ideal for winter mountaineering. They are **Size 8 (= 42)** and are in excellent, almost new condition, having been worn just once. He is asking £150 for them.



COULD YOU HELP PARACLIMBERS? REQUEST FROM THE BMC

The West Midlands Paraclimbing Club (WMPC), one of our fellow Midlands clubs, is seeking volunteers to help with their regular climbing sessions. The WMPC are “a group that get people with disabilities climbing”, but in order to do this some additional support is required to do things like belay, assist in putting on harnesses, completing forms and the like. No additional training or DBS checks are required as they will be tapping into the experience of the volunteers who will be operating with more established WMPC members. If you would like to find out more then please visit WMPC's website <https://westmidlandsparaclimbingclub.co.uk/> or contact the club directly at WMPC2017@outlook.com.

There is a fantastic opportunity for your club members to contribute to the wider climbing community by supporting people that would not otherwise be able to access the benefits of climbing that we all enjoy so much (and maybe sometimes take for granted). So, can I ask you to please forward this request to all of your club members.

Thank you, Ian Wyatt

(Volunteer, Midlands Area Clubs' Representative & Members Council Councillor)

MIDLAND AREA BMC MEETINGS COMING SOON

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>

Wednesday 3rd September 2025 evening start time BMC AGM via Zoom

DAFT THINGS HILLWALKERS DO “TOP 10 WALKERS' QUIRKS”

(Ed: I'll admit to 5 of these)

- **Touching the cairn or trig** Does it really bring you luck?
- **Inappropriate gaiter use** Wet weather, bogs and snow are all justifiable excuses to sport that most unflattering of legwear, the gaiter. But on a parched path, in a heatwave?
- **Carabiner on the rucksack** How often are they actually used?
- **Map case around the neck** Yes it's easy to hand, but surely it's also a flapping and twisting garrot that whips you in the face with every gust of wind? Keep it folded in a pocket like the pros.
- **Mountain memes** Social media identikit insta-poses rocking crop tops / full makeup.
- **A serious case of man-leg** Strike a power pose on your conquered summit, one leg raised triumphantly on a rock.
- **Treating Kendal mint cake as food** Simultaneously freshening the breath and rotting the teeth,
- **Rubber caps on your poles** Why? – it's just asking to lose them!
- **Putting on the bagging blinkers** It's a cast iron pretext to visit places you may never otherwise see, but if a peak is worth climbing once then it's probably worth doing a dozen times. Others barely deserve a first glance, let alone a special trip... as Marilyn fans may admit in more lucid moments.
- **Being too special for lists** The boot's on the other foot now. You're that superior sort who derives a sense of personal validation from bucking the trend; one of the pure walkers for whom the quality of a mountain trumps its appearance on any list. You'd rather do endless laps on The Buachaille than ever set foot in Drumochter.

WHICH DO YOU THINK ARE THE 3 MOST COMMON?

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 17th OCT 2024 @The Red Lion 7.30pm start

Present – Dave Hellyar, Darren Groutage, Rob Allen, Will Read, Jan Cox, Nigel Tarr, Tony Emms, Claire Hammonds, Geordie Hind, Fred Hammonds

Apologies – John Edwards

Acceptance of Minutes from August 2024: Proposed by Darren and Seconded by Rob

Matters Arising – Jan not done the flyer, Will Volunteered – Jan to send details

Officer Reports **Treasurers Report** – there is currently £18,226.31p in the general account (includes deposits for the Scottish Week, Away Dinner & Xmas meal) and £30,862.88 in the ring-fenced account. The hut Octopus account will be changed so there is no standing charge for 12 months. The estimated cost is £761 pa, compared to £1230 pa on the current rate. Proposed by Claire seconded by Jan and unanimous vote for the change. Meter readings still need to be recorded as the location is not conducive to a smart meter.

Membership Report – no further enquiries to the Club apart from 2 expressions of interest. Tony reports that the BMC website is temperamental & time consuming. Currently, there is a possibility that some members were not actually registered with the BMC and this invalidates their insurance & liability cover for the Committee. Prospective members have no insurance after 3 months. The BMC now charges £29.33 for membership and this will be passed on the WBMC members.

Hut Report - Between 13/9 and 20/10 the hut was used by 31 adults for a total of 20 days. Donations were £549. The wood delivery was stowed thanks to Chris & Ken, and Ken also checked the fire extinguishers.

A hut booking for 6 was cancelled with a one day notice and Fred questioned if the Club should require payment in advance for hut bookings. This would mean a constitutional change and needs to be proposed for membership consultation. Fred also has two trailer loads of wood to donate to the hut. A new thermostat has been purchased

Coach Report - the October Coach attracted 28, with 2 no shows who had already prepaid. The total loss was £258. Eighteen have booked onto the Brecons coach so far, including 3 non-members.

Website/Publicity – As stated, Will volunteered to design the flyers. Dave initiated a discussion about changing the Club name to include hill walking. After discussion this was deemed unnecessary as all publicity clearly states the range of activities on offer. The website mentions hillwalking in the title as this means the site gets more hits. Fred noted that very few had booked onto the Biking w/e. This could be because of a lack of publicity and event organisers need to be more proactive and inform website managers so they can send the relevant emails to members.

Club Future Direction: It has become clear that the Club is vulnerable to claims from non-members.

John sent a query regarding this to be added to the next BMC area meeting agenda. The Club may need legal advice regarding liability. The issue is with non-members participating in Club events without first becoming a prospective member which in turn involves completing an application form, paying the BMC fee and being registered before any participation (prospective members need to be registered straight away or shortly after participating). There was unfinished discussion to be continued. A further issue is child protection and welfare and safety at the hut for which the Club has no documentation. Jan read the joining instruction for a nearby mountaineering club that only accepts 18+ as members and requires BMC membership prior to joining activities. Dave will make enquiries with BMC & insurers. Tony will find out how other clubs manage new members. Darren proposed a system whereby the coach could remain accessible to non-members and this needs further investigation. Dave called for a show of hands regarding who would continue on the Committee.

Fred queried the insurance position regarding the Scottish Week and European Week. These are booked independently with no Club organised activities so no Club liability.

AOB – Tony will send 2025 membership request to website managers and John. Tony also requested the purchase of a Club laptop for use with indoor meets to replace the current one (14 years old and a lost password). Discussion showed that this was not economically sound for 6 uses per year.

The Christmas Social has been rescheduled for 12/12 – Jan to order food.

An application has been made for the 2025 Cotswold code.

Nigel queried the curry night on 22/11, decided to hold it at the Red Lion, Nigel booked the venue for 7.30.

Darren reported the cost to keep the Club emails for a further 2 years is £160. He also questioned whether an instant heater would be more cost effective & efficient compared to underfloor heating. He will investigate further.

Meeting finished at 9.30 pm. Next meeting November 14th Same time – same place.

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 14th Nov 2024 @The Red Lion 7.40pm start

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Received from Jan Cox, John Edwards, Will Read & Jonathan Howells

2. ACCEPTANCE OF OCTOBER 2024 MINUTES. The October minutes were proposed as correct by Darren Groutage and seconded by Tony Emms

3. MATTERS ARISING No urgent matters arising were recorded so the chair moved straight to the officer updates.

4. OFFICER REPORTS **TREASURER** Club balance is £50,068 as of 12/11/2024. The SAVINGS Account balance is £30,862 and there was £19,206 in the GENERAL account. We had a payment from Easy fundraising of roughly £35 which has been paid into our Account

The Treasurer stated that there are now three signatories for the Bank Account who are Claire Hammonds, Darren Groutage and Jan Cox. Darren asked how it was going on adding himself to the online Banking so he could help tie up any payment reconciliations. This should be sorted out in the very near future.

The Club has signed a new 1-year deal with Octopus for our Electricity at the Hut, and this will automatically save us about £360 a year/£30 a month.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Tony Emms stated that there were 3 new prospective members who are Steve Showell, Chris Barnett and maybe Nahian Bahar. There is now a New simplified Membership form consisting of one-page which Tony has designed. This gives us the ability to record dates from prospective membership to full membership as we MUST now strictly adhere to the 3-month BMC grace period for new members. Failure to join the club within this 3-month grace period will now unfortunately mean that any applicant will not be covered by the BMC insurance and their membership will lapse.

HUT SECRETARY There was a general discussion about charging guests the Hut fees before they use the hut. This was because on some occasions people who had booked say 10 people into the hut and only 6 had turned up and there was a waiting list for other guests. Thus, the club is out of pocket and certain guests could have then made use of the hut.

A consensus was that a minimum booking of 6-8 people or more may be required to pay the donation in advance. The Committee put off taking a vote on this so we could ponder the implications until the next meeting.

The Welsh government has produced a written statement legislating to support tourism in Wales. The Bill proposes to introduce a visitor levy to charge people staying in overnight Visitor Accommodation and also to set up a Statutory Licensing scheme so providers can demonstrate their accommodation meets certain conditions and standards. (Star rating in England).

None of the above will apply to WBMC as:-

1. We Lease the Hut
2. We only let it out to Members and Guests
3. It is a donation guests pay not a fee.

19 guests used the hut from the 27th of October to the 11th of November (16 days) and a donation of £360 was received for 10 nights of use. Expenditure on various items including a new strimmer was quite hefty in the last 2 months with £272 spent in October and £211 spent in November.

A water Bill was requested off Debbie Bacon from Sandwell Council for the last 39 months of use back to July 2021. Fred has roughly calculated that roughly 220 m cubed of water was used & could be about £305 - only a very rough estimate though.

A pilot hole has been drilled into the wall at the rear of the fire so that a four-inch hole can be drilled later to help with the airflow and hopefully heat the hut up more efficiently and faster.

The underfloor heating was tested by Darren to see how much power it was using. After hours of research, it was felt a new form of instant heat would suit the hut better allowing guests to have more heat quicker rather than relying on the underfloor which takes up to 36hrs to get the hut up to decent temp

COACH SECRETARY Nigel stated there were 41 guests on the November Coach meet to Brecon with a loss of £100 ensuing. There were two no shows but fortunately they had been paid already via the Website.

At the time of the meeting 38 guests were booked on the Xmas Coach to Hope and all were having a meal except four.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR John sends his apologies. We are still looking for a Newsletter Editor for next year.

WEBSITE/PUBLICITY Darren said that over the past month we have had 3 people enquire about the club after viewing the Website 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, and Tony agreed to keep on top of this.

Will Read had confirmed that the new WBMC Flyers and Business cards were due to be back from the Printers very soon so hopefully we can start handing them out before Christmas.

5. INSURANCE/SAFEGUARDING The Chairman had printed off several pages of the BMC's Club Guidelines "INSURANCE" Frequently asked Questions. This provided re-assurance and useful information for all the Committee on various questions we have been talking about for the last few months. The importance of members being insured by the BMC is of great relevance. If members are not renewed by the end of February, then they will no longer be members of the club as they will not be covered by the insurance. See section 2.8 of BMC guidelines.

6. CLUB DIRECTION

1. The future shape of the club – What are we looking to achieve.
2. Coach Meets – Trying to increase numbers
3. How important are member numbers - Very important because of an aging membership
4. What we actually do – besides Hill Walking and Mountaineers. Boots n Beers etc.
5. How do we attract new members – Advertising, Word of mouth, need more ideas,
6. To be more Pro Active in shaping the club -
7. How to take the club forward – Younger members, new ideas,
8. What do we offer to members – Canoeing, Cycling, Hill Walking, other sports

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS Nigel stated that the Meet Cards would be available for Guests on the Xmas Coach on the 8th of December 2024. The Skills weekend has been cancelled due to a lack of demand.

Membership cards will no longer have the Code on them for the Cotswolds' discount, as this has been withdrawn by Cotswold. Members can still get 10% discount by using their BMC card.

The meeting finished at 9.20pm.

8. NEXT MEETING Date of next meeting 12/12/2024 The Red Lion. 1930

INDOOR MEETS WINTER 2024

Three excellent Thursday night presentations so far this season, thanks to Tony, Ken & Geordie. I managed to make the first two and was impressed by the range of activities members got up to in Slovenia and can see why the Club's ice climbers like sunny, fairly predictable Cogne compared to the winter conditions we often get in Scotland & Snowdonia. Geordie's Greenland talk was very well attended I gather and if you missed it like I had to you can see something of what it was like at <https://www.expeditiongreenland.com/trip> as he went with PIRHUK Greenland Mountain Guides founded by Helen and Matt Spenceley.

12 RULES FOR AGEING BOLDLY

With no WBMC member getting any younger, and as Paddy McGuinness (dob 14/8/73) & Chris Harris (dob 27/1/75) are now on TV feeling “old” at age 51 & 49 respectively!!, it seems that it might be appropriate to pass on some tips from Carl Honoré, a global expert on ageing. There were once 3 life stages that we all went through if we were lucky:- *Learning, Working & Resting*. In the 21st C we may continue to do those things - but along with so much more:- learning new skills; volunteering; travelling to far-flung places; joining campaigns to push for change; fulfilling creative ambitions; and so much more. But where to start?

Carl is a firm believer that every now and again, throughout our lives, we should be pausing to reflect and consider what we want our lives to look like. All too often we don't take the time to see the big picture and reset it if necessary. Sometimes it is not easy to make big changes – life often throws up obstacles, which may be to do with failing health or lifestyle restrictions. We have to learn to take the rough with the smooth; to be able to say “*This has happened, but I can still*” And that little word ‘**but**’ is the key. It means that when something goes wrong, you are able to anchor it in the rest of your positive life and manage it better. One needs to embrace the concept of ageing with optimism and make the most of our time, being realistic enough to acknowledge that life may not always be plain sailing.

1) Keep on learning and experimenting. The adage that you can't teach an old dog new tricks isn't true – even of dogs. Novelty keeps you energised and engaged.

2) Cultivate strong relationships. Carl's advice to everyone, but especially those in later life, is to keep fostering strong social networks.

3) Draw inspiration from role models. Think Helen Mirren, David Attenborough, or even Michelangelo, who rebuilt St Peter's Basilica in his 80's.

4) Keep your brain & body fit by exercising and eating well.

5) Check out Japanese lady, Marie Kondo's, “KonMari” method for tidying & simplifying your life. If something – a job, a friendship, a collection – no longer sparks joy, drop it or declutter. Streamline your life to make every moment count.

6) Find a purpose. Something that puts meaning into your life and fire in your belly.

7) Be honest about your age. Lying about it gives the number a power it does not deserve – and reinforces the myth that younger is always better. Owning your age is the first step to making the most of it.

8) Remain flexible and open to change, growth & evolution. As Lao Tzu put it “Whoever is soft & yielding is a disciple of life. The hard & stiff will be broken. The soft & supple will prevail.”

9) Ignore the doom-mongers who say sex, love & romance belong to the young: they don't. Make room for all three, however old you are, if that's what you fancy.

10) If you think growing older will be bad, it will be bad. Be positive and focus on the upsides of ageing: feeling more at ease in your own skin; deeper relationships; more happiness, altruism, creativity, knowledge and experience.

11) Cultivate a sense of humour. Laughing boosts health. As George Bernard Shaw put it “You don't stop laughing when you grow old, you grow old when you stop laughing.”

12) Think about death. Don't dwell morbidly on it, but don't shy away from it either.

An awareness that time is finite gives life shape and meaning. Or as Richard Dawkins put it “However brief our time in the sun, if we waste a second of it, or complain that it is dull or barren or (like a child) boring, couldn't this be seen as a callous insult to those unborn trillions who will never even be offered life in the first place?” If you want to read more, check out Carl Honoré's book “Bolder: Making the Most of Our Longer Lives” (Simon & Schuster UK £9.99)

WEST BROM MEET & MEMBERSHIP CARDS FOR 2025 ARE HERE!!

Indoor Meets & Social Nights

At
The Red Lion
190 All Saints Way
West Bromwich B71 1RH

Climbing Nights at
Wyre Forest Leisure Centre
Kidderminster DY11 2DT



**West Bromwich
Mountaineering Club**

Meets 2025

COACH 07724 316311
HUT 01766 890284

www.wbmc.org

B.M.C. AFFILIATED
Membership No: 910538

WEATHER www.mwis.org.uk

JANUARY 2025

4th - 11th Cogne ice climbing
Sun 5th Mitch's Meet
Thurs 9th Indoor Meet
Sun 12th Coach to Ogwen/
Llanberis
Thurs 16th Social Meet

FEBRUARY 2025

Thurs 6th Indoor Meet
Sun 9th Coach to Patterdale/
Striding Edge
Thurs 13th Social Meet
15th - 23rd Scottish Winter Meet
Cairngorms

MARCH 2025

Thurs 6th Indoor Meet
Sun 9th Coach to Clywdian
Range

Thurs 13th Social Meet
14th - 16th Away Dinner -
Aysgarth Hotel
The Dales
Thurs 20th AGM

APRIL 2025

Thurs 10th Indoor Meet
Sun 13th Coach to Grassington/
Settle
Thurs 17th Social Meet

MAY 2025

3rd - 11th Camping in NW
Scotland
Thurs 15th Outdoor Meet
Sat 17th Coach to Aber/Ogwen
Long Meet
Thurs 22nd Social Meet

Sat 24th Climbing Day -
Birchens Edge
30th - 1st June Supported Welsh
3000s

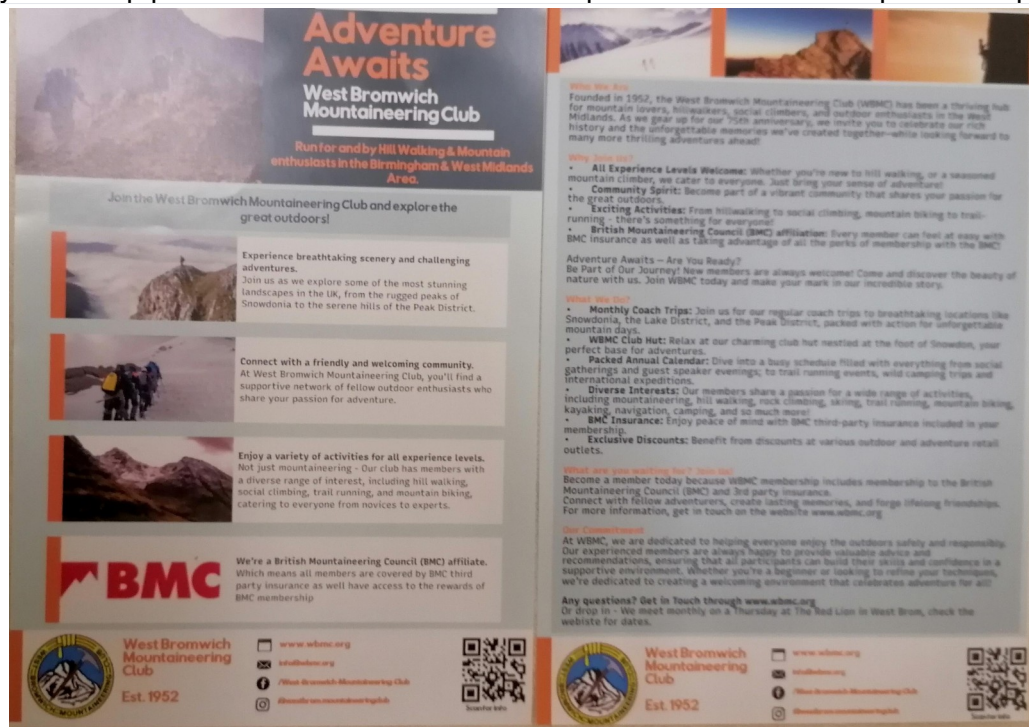
JUNE 2025

Thurs 5th Outdoor Evening Meet
Sun 8th Coach to Amberside/
Langdale
Thurs 12th Social Meet
27th - 29th Gower Weekend
Sat 28th Climbing Night-
Castle Naze

JULY 2025

5th - 12th European Week
Slovenia
Thurs 10th Outdoor Evening Meet
Thurs 17th Social Meet
Sun 20th Coach to Buxton/
Whaley Bridge

Collect yours from Nigel or Tony!! Thanks to Will Holmes we also have some new A4 & A5 size posters and flier If you know of venues anywhere near you where these could be displayed to help publicize the Club and it's events please take a few and pin them up.



Adventure Awaits
West Bromwich Mountaineering Club

Run for and by Hill Walking & Mountain enthusiasts in the Birmingham & West Midlands Area.

Join the West Bromwich Mountaineering Club and explore the great outdoors!

Experience breathtaking scenery and challenging adventures. Join us as we explore some of the most stunning landscapes in the UK, from the rugged peaks of Snowdonia to the serene hills of the Peak District.

Connect with a friendly and welcoming community. At West Bromwich Mountaineering Club, you'll find a supportive network of fellow outdoor enthusiasts who share your passion for adventure.

Enjoy a variety of activities for all experience levels. Not just mountaineering - Our club has members with a diverse range of interest, including hill walking, social climbing, trail running, and mountain biking, catering to everyone from novices to experts.

BMC We're a British Mountaineering Council (BMC) affiliate. Which means all members are covered by BMC third party insurance as well as access to the rewards of BMC membership

Why We Are:

- Founded in 1952, the West Bromwich Mountaineering Club (WBMC) has been a thriving hub for mountain lovers, hikers, social climbers, and outdoor enthusiasts in the West Midlands. As we gear up for our 73rd anniversary, we invite you to celebrate our rich history and the unforgettable memories we've created together-while looking forward to many more thrilling adventures ahead!

Why Join Us?

- All Experience Levels Welcome:** Whether you're new to hill walking, or a seasoned mountain climber, we cater to everyone. Just bring your sense of adventure!
- Community Spirit:** Become part of a vibrant community that shares your passion for the great outdoors.
- Exciting Activities:** From hillwalking to social climbing, mountain biking to trail-running - there's something for everyone!
- British Mountaineering Council (BMC) affiliation:** Every member can feel at ease with BMC insurance as well as taking advantage of all the perks of membership with the BMC!

Adventure Awaits - Are You Ready?
Be Part of Our Journey! New members are always welcome! Come and discover the beauty of nature with us. Join WBMC today and make your mark in our incredible story.

What We Offer?

- Monthly Coach Trips:** Join us for our regular coach trips to breathtaking locations like Snowdonia, the Lake District, and the Peak District, packed with action for unforgettable mountain days.
- WBMC Club Hut:** Relax at our charming club hut nestled at the foot of Snowdon, your perfect base for adventures.
- Packed Annual Calendar:** Dive into a busy schedule filled with everything from social gatherings and guest speaker evenings, to trail running events, wild camping trips and international expeditions.
- Diverse Interests:** Our members share a passion for a wide range of activities, including mountaineering, hill walking, rock climbing, skiing, trail running, mountain biking, kayaking, navigation, camping, and so much more!
- BMC Insurance:** Enjoy peace of mind with BMC third-party insurance included in your membership.
- Exclusive Discounts:** Benefit from discounts at various outdoor and adventure retail outlets.

What are the rewards for? (Joining)
Become a member today because WBMC membership includes membership to the British Mountaineering Council (BMC), and 3rd party insurance. Connect with fellow adventurers, create lasting memories, and forge lifelong friendships. For more information, get in touch on the website www.wbmc.org

At WBMC, we are dedicated to helping everyone enjoy the outdoors safely and responsibly. Our experienced members are always happy to provide valuable advice and recommendations, ensuring that all participants can build their skills and confidence in a supportive environment. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your techniques, we're dedicated to creating a welcoming environment that celebrates adventure for all!

Any questions? Get in Touch through www.wbmc.org
Or drop in - We meet monthly on a Thursday at The Red Lion in West Brom, check the website for dates.

West Bromwich Mountaineering Club
Est. 1952

www.wbmc.org
info@wbmc.org
#WestBromwichMountaineeringClub
@westbrom.mountaineeringclub

WEST BROM MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (WBMC) PARTICIPATION STATEMENT

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. However, because experienced climbers & hill walkers strive very hard to know their own limitations, the sport enjoys remarkably low accident rates.

IF YOU WANT TO BE KEPT REALLY UP-TO-DATE WITH FUTURE EVENTS THEN PLEASE JOIN THE "West Bromwich Mountaineering Club" COMMUNITY on WhatsApp or check out our great new website www.wbmc.org FOR PHOTOS OF WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING HAVE A LOOK AT @westbrom.mountaineeringclub on Instagram & West Bromwich Mountaineering Club on Facebook