



The Cover Photo (left) featured in The Times and other papers around 10th Jan. The Alps? Norway? Colorado? No it's our own Kinder Downfall in the Peak District! The one on the right photo is by Graeme Stanford who did Easy Gully on Creag Meagaidh with Pete Poultney & Chris Dean on the Monday of the Scottish Week.

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2 – 3	Noticeboard / Future Events incl Away Dinner Details & BMC Meetings by Zoom	<p>If you have read recent Newsletters or looked at www.wbmc.org recently you will know that I am stepping down from producing the Newsletter at the AGM and the Committee is hoping that someone else will step forward and have a go. When I edited a non-digital magazine in the early 2000's it was a monthly production. It continued as 12 issues a year until COVID struck and Joe Priest changed to "double-bill" newsletters May/June 2020 "for the time being". When I took over in Nov/Dec I decided to stick to this as I found it much less stressful to produce one issue electronically every couple of months. 27 twenty-page issues later I still think this is true, but any new editor could decide to produce something totally different. 2 – 6 pages a month might well suffice in these digital days, especially now we have a very up-to-date website. Incidentally the constitution states a minimum of 2 issues per year! Obviously I'll still be willing to put some stuff together & help any volunteer to put something together, especially on coach meet routes.</p> <p>On a different matter the committee decided to end the 'super cheap' coach fares introduced last summer, due to losses on the Meets & a price rise from Robinsons. It's now back to £25 per seat. (N.B. it was £20-22 / seat a decade ago!!). Note the latest the Coach Sec can cancel a coach without penalty is the Monday prior to the Meet, so it has been decided to try introducing a 'late booking surcharge' of £5 for those who book later than this (ie £30 a seat)</p>
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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 jaeied@hotmail.com</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bromwich_Mountaineering_Club</p>		

NOTICEBOARD: PROGRAMME OF FUTURE EVENTS:**COACH MEETS TO THE HILLS****Sunday 9th March – Clwydian Hills Coach****Sunday 13th April – Grassington & Settle****Saturday 17th May – Aber / Ogwen Long Meet****Reserve your seat with Nigel Tarr (07703 345729) as early as possible and be guaranteed a great day on the hills or an amble through beautiful villages, with a chance to win a bottle of wine in a free coach raffle.***These leave W. Bromwich at 7am & usually return around 9 – 9.30 pm giving 5-7 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 and enjoy the wonderful UK scenery?***EVENING INDOOR MEETS / TALKS AT THE RED LION**

Don't miss out on some brilliant accounts of brilliant adventures in the mountains – make sure you pop along to 190 All Saints Way, B71 1RH for the 8pm start.

Thursday 6th March “Hilary in the Himalayas” given by Hilary Jones (see advert on p 9)**Thursday 10th April** “Attempting Baruntse & Manaslu in 2024” by Wesley Marks (TBC)**Thursday 15th May** **The First Outdoor Meet of the Season -****COMMITTEE MEETINGS & MEMBERS' SOCIAL NIGHTS AT THE RED LION**

Thursdays 13th March, 17th April & 22nd May Committee meetings start at 7.30pm but many often arrive earlier to eat there & observers are welcome. Otherwise come along at ~ 8.30 pm for a drink & a chat (or meal) as you can guarantee someone will be there.

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 Poultnery 07779 366905 or peterpoultnery@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)

Another 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.

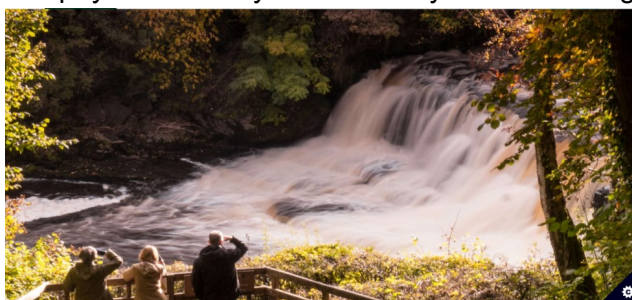
OTHER MEETS:-**AWAY DINNER 14th & 15th MARCH 2025 AT AYSGARTH FALLS HOTEL**

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>

OLD TIMERS WEEKEND AT THE HUT (Invitation only)

The next "old Timers Weekend" is down for 4th - 6th April I believe.

CHAPEL STILE WEEKEND SET TO RETURN??

Rumour has it that the Weirside Bunkhouse in beautiful Chapel Stile has re-opened for groups. Indeed it is showing on www.vrbo.com website as having accommodation for up to 20 people and has a review for 2024. The committee believe that Rob Cox (07847 315302) is attempting to arrange a Club weekend there in April.

NORTH WEST HIGHLANDS CAMPING TRIP IS NOW 17TH – 24TH MAY

Tony Emms (07793 008582) has altered the dates and venue slightly. It's now the Ullapool / Lochinver region & a bit later than on the Meet Card. A fabulous area with some great peaks – Suilven, Quinag, Stac Pollaigh, Cul Mor, Canisp, Ben More Assynt – don't miss it!

B. M. C. NEWS & MEETINGS

Ian Wyatt, Solihull MC & Midlands Area Clubs Representative (& Members Council Councillor) has emailed to say the next **Midlands Area Clubs' Meeting** is scheduled for **Thursday 13th March 1970-2100 by ZOOM**. Link & details below:

BMC Clubs AGM is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Join Zoom Meeting click <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81820241229?pwd=QERe43eTQYsScAfEJhLa4JDRGIb9cj.1> or use Meeting ID: 818 2024 1229 & Passcode: 819102

As usual please feel free to email him if there any topics you would like discussed.

i.wyatt5@me.com or 07800 830011

& THE NEXT BMC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE EVENING OF WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2025 by ZOOM. In 2024 AGM was online and attended by more people than at any "in person" event (211 individuals), so they are repeating this. If you want to influence matters like membership fees, "Summit" content etc please look up the link to attend on their website.

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 Grid ref
SJ 199 626

Llanferres Grid ref SJ 188 604

Pick Up: The Druid Inn, Llanferres
SJ 188 604

Required Map/s : OS 1: 25 000 OL

265 Bryniau Clwyd (Prestatyn, Mold &
Ruthin) or OS 1: 50 000 Landrangers 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 at The Druid Inn. (11 miles / 18km & 1200m ascent!)

This is a tough walk but 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) as soon as possible. N.B. To encourage early booking and so guarantee the Meet goes ahead, bookings after Monday 3rd March will incur a £5 surcharge.

Fares are now: Members £25.00. Guests £25.00. Under 18's £10.00

Cancellations after the Wednesday prior to the coach meet will still be charged £10 and failure to turn up without cancelling means the full coach fare will still be expected from you.

IF YOU THINK YOU'VE BEEN UNLUCKY

A 39 year old man by the name of J.Howells (no relation to the our Club member I'm fairly certain!) is reported to have admitted defeat in recovering his £635 million Bitcoin fortune. This was lost when his girlfriend threw out a black bin bag containing his computer hard drive in 2015 and it ended up in a South Wales tip. The Metro newspaper reported on 16th January that he lost a final legal bid to force Newport Council to let him make a search of the tip and he is reported as saying "Unless someone has a change of mind, it's game over. The fat lady is singing". It did not say whether this 'fat lady' was his girlfriend or if indeed he was still with person who was sadly over-zealous in being neat & tidy!!

SUNDAY 13th APRIL: SETTLE / GRASSINGTON COACH MEET
WHARFEDALE IS A NEW VENUE FOR THE COACH**Depart:** 07:00 – West Brom.

Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)

07:20 – Penkridge

Drop Off: Settle Town Centre (SD819536)

Skipton Roundabout (984528)

Cracoe Village (977601)

Grassington (SE004638)

Pick Up: Grassington (SE004638)**Required Map/s :** OS 1: 25 000 OL 10 Yorkshire

Dales Southern Area recommended) or OS 1: 50

000 Landranger &/or OS or “Outdoor Active” Apps

Suggested Routes:-**1) Across the Dales via Malham +/- Kilnsey (a linear 13.5/22km or 16 miles/26km)**

From Settle market place go up the hill steeply on Constitution Road; it turns left, and soon take a right uphill on to the Dales High Way. Follow this to the junction by Kirkby Fell (875640); Here you can go left to Malham Tarn (893658) & turn R onto Mastiles Lane, or go on to Cove Road (892640). Turn L up the road & right over the first gate, walking by a wall to visit the limestone pavement (897642) and beyond there is an easy path to the right (the Pennine Way) down to the cove and Malham town. Head S & get on LHS of the beck so soon there'll be signs to Janet's Foss (911633) going left off the Pennine Way. After the Foss you reach a minor road, and maybe take an out & back detour left to Gordale Scar. Back at the minor road you should continue up it & on when it becomes a track, eventually meeting the walled drove road, Mastiles Lane (930655) Turn right on this and soon see signposts to Kilnsey (970673). Cross the R. Wharfe at Conistone bridge (979675), go right down the road, soon taking a path to the left (982673) working its way up the side of the hill to eventually join The Dales Way and go down into Grassington. (Time ~ 6 – 7 hours)

For a shorter route that misses out seeing Kilnsey Crag fork Right at (937657) and soon hit Malham Moor Lane and its tarmac takes you all the way to Threshfield & Grassington.

Or to avoid all this tarmac, after Janet's Foss turn right off Goredale Lane at 923636 towards Weets Top trig, then left to Park House (934633), Know Bank (946627) Lainger Beck, Threshfield Moor (965635) to Threshfield - 8 miles of quite easy walking - & Grassington. (Time ~ 5 hrs)

2) Across Embsay & Cracoe Fells to Wharfedale linear (16 km or 10 miles)

From Skipton Roundabout head up the Grassington Road turning off Ri on Brackenley Lane and up to Embsay Moor Reservoir & track across East Harts Hill (995562). Then North over pathless terrain to Cracoe Fell and continue as Route 3

3) Across Cracoe & Thorpe Fells to Wharfedale (11 km or 7 miles)

From Cracoe Village head SW up Fell Lane & up onto Cracoe Fell (993589) with its War Memorial & trig point (1666 ft). Then head NE over to Thorpe Fell (506m) trig (008597) & across fell to Thorpe (012616) & down to cross R. Wharfe by suspension bridge at 025623. Then Left on dales Way to Grassington.

4) To Kettlewell & Back (or less) by The Dales Way (17km/10.5 miles or 11km / 7 miles)

From Grassington head up Moor Lane and turn off Left along The Dales Way. It's 8km to Kettlewell and you can return close to the Wharfe river by minor roads, paths & the Yorks Dales Cycleway. Or turn off The Dales Way at Scot Gate Lane (992683) and drop down left to Conistone to halve the distance & return by the Y D Cycleway or path that climbs back to The Dales Way from 982673.

Fares are now: Members £25.00. Guests £25.00. Under 18's £10.00**To book your seat please contact Nigel Tarr (07703 345729) as soon as possible.**

N.B. To encourage early booking and so guarantee the Meet goes ahead bookings after Monday 12th May will incur a £5 surcharge on the above fares. Cancellations after the Wednesday prior to the coach meet will still be charged £10 and failure to turn up without cancelling means the full coach fare will still be expected from you.

*Cracoe Fell – a Marilyn*

SATURDAY 17th MAY: ABER TO OGWEN LONG MEET**Your chance to walk the length of the Carneddau for the 1st time since 2016.****This is such a great walk that it used to be a regular on the Club programme!****Depart:** 07:00 – West Brom.

Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)

07:20 – M54 Junction 2 service road

Short stop: At Corwen.**Drop Off:** Abergwyngregyn (655 727)

where the coach will stay most of the day

Pick Ups: Abergwyngregyn (655 727)

Ogwen Glan Dena (668 605)

Helyg (691 602) & Capel Curig (721 582)

Betwys-y-coed (coach leaves here 2100 hr)

Required Map/ s : OS 1: 25 000 OL 17

Snowdonia & / or OS 1: 50 000 Landranger

115 Snowdon and surrounding area

Rhaeadr Fawr (Aber Falls) with Marian
Rhadr Fawr crags beyond**Suggested Routes:- Circulars Walks from Aber**

1) Llanfairfechan Coastal Circular & Aber Falls. Walk through Aber village on the N. Wales Path to car park (664719 for Aber Falls, then stay on road, crossing bridge & climbing steeply for ~1km to higher car park (676716) before heading N & E on the path (an old Roman Road) across open moorland to where it turns N at 693723. Descend to & through Llanfairfechan & return to Aber along the footpath that follows the coastline from 678754 to 647732, where you turn left to cross the railway line & A55(T) road. You should still have plenty of time to get to Rhaeadr Fawr (668700) & back.

2) North Carneddau Circuit Start as for Route 1 but at the higher car park leave the N. Wales Path and climb Foel-ganol & continue along the ridge to Drum. Then Foel Fras (696682) Garnedd Uchaf (687669) Bera Bach (672677) Drosogl (664680) +/- Gryn Wigau (654675) before heading N to the top of Aber Falls. The N. Wales Path takes you off the hills & back to Aber. (Around 7 miles)

Carneddau Traverses to the A5 (All around 9 – 11 miles long with 40% route above 2,500 ft)

3) Full Carneddau Crossing to Ogwen Glan Dena Head S to hit a forest track at 664718 and climb gently to below Marian Rhadr Fawr crags (669700) from where you should be able to look down on Aber Falls. Then head E to climb Llwtmor Bach (681699) & Llwtmor (689693), then S over Foel Fras (696682) Garnedd Uchaf (687669) & Foel Grach (689659) where there is a refuge hut. On to Carnedd Llewellyn (684645) before swinging W to Carnedd Dafydd (663630) & SW to Pen yr Ole Wen (655619). Follow the E ridge down to Afon Lioer and a track to Glan Dena or descend the steep S ridge to Ogwen (refreshments) and paths E along the N side of Llyn Ogwen to pick up spot

4) Direttissima to Helyg Go along the road to view Aber Falls & find a way up to summit Bera Mawr (675683). Continue to Garnedd Uchaf (687669) Foel Grach (689659) refuge hut & Carnedd Llewellyn (684645). Head SE from the summit and cross Craig yr Ysfa to Pen yr Helg Du (698630) and down its S ridge to the hut at Helyg (691602)

5) Carneddau Crossing to Capel Curig As route 1 but leave N. Wales Path at 693723, continuing E to the pass at Bwlch Ddeufaen (714718). At iron gate turn SW to reach Carnedd y Ddelw (708705) then S to Drum (708696) & on to Carnedd Llewellyn (684645). Leave as in Route 4 but on reaching the col at Bwlch Eryl Farchog (695633) take path on right that descends steeply into Cwm Llugwy. Head S on E shore of reservoir to metalled track and follow this S to the A5 at Gwern Gof Isaf (686602). Walk through the campsite and follow the old A5 east to Capel Curig arriving at the car park behind Joe Brown's shop.

Fares are now: Members £25.00. Guests £25.00. Under 18's £10.00**To book your seat please contact Nigel Tarr (07703 345729) as soon as possible.**





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YOUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE TO TRANQUILITY ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER


WYE 6th - 9th March 2025 - an offer from one of our coach passenger visitors, Jacky White, a certified Yoga teacher at Core Revolution.

Are you ready to unwind after the holiday hustle and rejuvenate your soul in a serene countryside retreat? Join us at the stunning riverside Symonds Yat Lodge, nestled beside the rapids of the picturesque River Wye, for a blissful getaway that promises relaxation, reflection, and renewal. This idyllic setting is perfect for finding peace and stillness. See www.finestretreats.co.uk/rentals/house-symonds-yat-riversdale-lodge-494322.html

What's Included?

-  Yoga sessions
-  Guided hikes
-  Breathwork and meditation
-  Sound bath therapy

Accommodation:

-  Sleeps up to 14 in 6 luxurious bedrooms:
- 4 Double Rooms (Standard £350 / En-suite £400)
Couples in Double Rooms (£300 per person)
- 2 Shared Rooms (£250 per person)

Booking Details: Secure your place with a £150 deposit by end of January, with the balance due by end of February. Any questions or to book contact Jacky via WhatsApp 07792318614. Don't miss this chance to reconnect with yourself and nature. Reserve your spot today and embrace the calm you deserve! "I can't wait to share this peaceful experience with you!"

**IF YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YET YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025 IS NOW OVERDUE! PLEASE PAY ASAP AS BELOW**

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!! NB Some members still have standing orders set up which are paying lesser amounts. Please check and amend if this applies to you!

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.

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

N.B. 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 age you are, you get third party cover should you be sued as a result of a mountaineering-related accident. However, because late renewals have to be added individually to the BMC there may be some delay before late renewers have this cover. New prospective members have this for 3 months only and must then join the Club or they will no longer be covered by the BMC insurance & their membership will lapse.

**"HILARY IN THE HIMALAYAS" THURSDAY 6th MARCH INDOOR MEET TALK
is on THE DHAULAGIRI CIRCUIT which she did 12th - 31st OCTOBER 2024**

For years I thought I wanted to trek the Annapurna Circuit.
My job said NO (schoolteachers can't go in term time!)
My health said NO (CFS [chronic fatigue syndrome] years; then 2 decades later: 14 days was 'Yes' but 21 days still NO)
My mountaineering friends said NO (it's become too commercial; opt for adjacent Manaslu Circuit instead, that's more remote – but go now before they open up a trade route to Tibet)
In November 2018 I booked for November 2020 (my diary reads: a planned act of boldness, positivity and excited anticipation – arguably sheer, over-reaching madness...!)
Then the UK government said NO (pandemic: grounded!)
The Nepal government said NO (We don't want you, you'll bring covid; in May 2021 a surge in coronavirus cases in Nepal and Everest Base Camp was reported)
But I was on the first Manaslu trek to go, in November 2022; well worth the wait!
Now Dhaulagiri Circuit beckoned (far side of Annapurna massif, even more remote; diary entry January 2023: tempting, very tempting...)
Mountaineering friends said GO (our favourite trek – but read "Annapurna", Herzog's account of the first ascent of an 8000m peak, 1950, which cost him dearly)
My age, health, fitness, bank balance all said GO now, while you can
Jagged Globe said GO now (only 2 places remaining)
So, in October 2024, I did!
In Jagged Globe's own estimation it is two levels of challenge higher than the Everest Base Camp, Annapurna or Manaslu circuits, and has more of the feel of an expedition than a trek. It took us clockwise around the 7th highest mountain in the world (8167m), and up to 5400m at the highest pass, French Col; and we spent 6 nights camping on the glacier and/or above 4000m. It was indeed challenging but another fabulous experience . Hilary Jones



Vanessa Biddulph's atmospheric view of bad weather on the high Cairngorms from a Corbett

COACH KING AND QUEEN 2024

There were 12 Saturday or Sunday meets last year but as July's coach to the Rhinogs was cancelled due to low numbers booking and Mitch's Meet is now a car meet, the data in the coach book relates to a maximum of 11 possible attendances. And there were THREE people who achieved that total, one being our esteemed Coach Sec Nigel Tarr who would be a Coach King every year, if it wasn't his job to be there on the meets as often as possible. The others were BILL DARLING who is COACH KING for the first time and CLAIRE HAMMONDS who is COACH QUEEN for a third successive year - there were no stats for 2021 & 2020 due to COVID causing so many cancelled coaches. ANDY BROWN should also be recognised as one of last year's COACH KINGS for although the spreadsheet shows him being present on 10 coaches, he voluntarily got off the one he "missed" because otherwise the coach was overfull! Well done to all 4 of these members and our grateful thanks to them for their loyal support of the Coach Meets.

The other passengers were:-

9 Coach Meets: 4 members : Julie Atkinson, Martin Conway, Tony Emms and Phil Smith

8 Coach Meets: 6 members : Rob Allen, Darren Groutage, David Hellyar, Geordie Hind, Wendy Morris and Stewart Shaw.

7 Coach Meets: 4 members : Darren Beards, Paul Brindley, John Dale and Hannes Truter.

6 Coach Meets: 6 members : Stuart Fellows, Fred Hammonds, Ben Hatfield, Ian Merther, Adrian Shaw and Peter Thorpe.

5 Coach Meets: 7 members & guests : Dave Coats, Annette Cope, Norris Yuk Hung, Hilary Jones, Dani Kwok, Dee Sendeva and Tim Wilkes.

4 Coach Meets: 8 members & guests : Suzanne Byrne, Jo Cheung, Teresa Chilles, Jan Cox, John Edwards, Elena Norman, Mike Smith and Sarah Wheatcroft.

3 Coach Meets: 13 members & guests : George Allen, John Banner, Vanessa Biddulph, Lucy Groutage, Graham Hadley, Jonathan Howells, David Kirk, Wesley Marks, Maxine Pincher, Dom & Nick Piotrowski, Nika Savenko and Phil Williams.

2 Coach Meets: 22 members & guests : Charlie, Karl & Oakley Bradley, Sandra Ceney, Mel Evans, Noel Kelleher, Tye Kerlew, Olof Lee, Bobo Leung, Paul McAlley, Ryan Pang, Liz Perks, Mateusz Piekos, Ken Priest, Lewis & Liz Reynolds, Emily Smith, Graeme Stanford, Oliver Stephenson, Julie Thorpe, Neen Whitehouse and Mark Wood.

Just 1 Coach Meet: 31 members & guests : Mark Andar, Chris Banks, Daniel Biddulph-Howells, Olivia Boyth, David Brace, Clare Charleson, Daniel Collins, Anthenia Dimitrou, David Doherty, Bill Douglas, Becky Green, Imogen Harley, Christine Hibs, Barbara Howells, Brian Leung, Jervis Lam, Aleisha Lawley, Andy Morley, Neil Parsons, Claire Pearson, Kerry Poston, Paul Read, Guy Sheppard, Steve Showell, Andrew & Caroline Snape. Jo So, Jim Tansey, Hazel Webb and another Claire and a Gabby.

To summarize 107 different people used the coach and 374 seats were taken up, an average of exactly 34 per coach, meaning there were generally quite a few empty seats, but the July coach to Braithwaite was accidentally overbooked and had 50 passengers. The next most popular meets were to Cader Idris in August (43 passengers); Brecon Beacons in November (42 passengers) and Castleton for the December walk and meal (38 passengers). Of the coaches that ran the fewest seats were occupied in May (21 went to Seatoller), March (27 went to the Arans) and September (28 went to Coniston). So a mixed year attendance and weather-wise but one that was enjoyed by the vast majority of those that bothered to get up early to be at the Edward Street car park by 7am.

2025 hasn't had a brilliant start in terms of numbers either so PLEASE try and support the coach meets whenever you can, and mention them to friends and walking acquaintances. It would be a sad day indeed if these had to be reduced through lack of take-up, especially as the Coach Meets are still the main way that the Club attract new members. NB The committee has no intention of reducing the coach meet programme.

WBMC PAYING IN CODES FOR BANK REFERENCE

Online banking means that more & more members are now paying for their club activities by direct transfer into our Co-operative bank account. This has the potential for payments not to be recognised by committee members as to who paid them in and why they did so! This makes the job even harder for the event organisers, the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer, who have to try to decipher who has paid and for what. To make the payments easier to allocate to the correct activity the Committee now asks that all members please use the code system below as References when they pay money in online:-

The main ones are listed below but further codes can be set up by the Organisers for any other events. Thanks for your help in this.

For Coach Fares (in November) CF = Coach Fee : 11 = Month , then your Initial & Surname. eg CF11 J Bloggs

For Annual Membership Fees AM = Annual Membership : 25 = Year , then your initial & surname eg AM25 C Bonnington We will be able to work out whether any or all of this is classifiable as a 'donation'.

For Hut Donations HD = Hut Donation 02 (if you went in February) , then your initial & surname eg HD02 D Trump

For Scottish Winter Week SWW25 then your initial & surname eg SWW25 PJ Proby

For Scrambling Weekend (in June) ScrW06 then your initials etc eg ScrW06 M Ali

For Away Dinner this coming March AD03 then your initials etc eg AD03 H Hippo



West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Bank Details

Sort Code 08-92-99

Account No 6548 7846

Please send all Cheque Payments to the Treasurer
at:- 18 Muirfield Close,
Bloxwich, Walsall.
WS3 3XF

WELSH 3000's OPPORTUNITY Date confirmed as weekend of 31/05 - 02/06

The Hut is booked 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 and several people have already, so you won't be on your own. However, you could be if you can't keep up! 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 already 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

**CALLING NOTICE / AGENDA FOR THE WBMC 2025 AGM
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 who is not seeking re-election to this post)
 - . 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 and can be proposed from the floor on the night)
8. Malcolm Collins Award (must be proposed & seconded in advance) 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 have been 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.

"SPIDER'S WEB" HITS WALSALL 7th MARCH

Ken & Joe Priest's Band "Spider's Web" (featuring HentSmith) will be playing a selection of hits from The Doors, Kinks, Rolling Stones, Jefferson Airplane etc at "The Wheatsheaf" – a dog-friendly, community pub at 4 Birmingham Road, Walsall WS1 2NA on the night of Friday 7th March. All WBMC members who like early '60's music would be welcome, as it would be great to see some friendly faces in the audience. If you know of any producer/s who'd be keen to help them record their first album, please bring them along too!

WEST BROMWICH M.C. DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY IN 2027

The committee is conscious of the fact that in 2027 our Club will have been in existence for 75 years. Indeed some of you may remember that a 70th Anniversary Dinner Dance was held in June 2022, so 2027 will be our "Diamond Anniversary". This term may seem wrong to some of you but Google explains that the term "diamond" was originally used to refer to a 75th anniversary, although Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897 led to the term being used to refer to a 60th anniversary as well. If we don't go along with "Diamond" then we will be having to call 2027 our "Semisesquicentennial" which is quite a mouthful.

Whatever it gets called it is not too early to think about how we might want to celebrate the year and some ideas were mooted at the January committee meeting. For example:-

- Our members submitted 50 different peaks on one day to celebrate our 50th Anniversary so maybe this time we should try for 75 different peaks on the same day, or over a weekend? Or our members now getting a bit long in the tooth? Maybe a group of 75 members all submitting the same mountain on the same day would get more publicity in the press and Snowdon from the Hut & Plas Gwynant via the Watkin Path seems ideal! But have we got enough members who can still do this? Tryfan is on the Club badge but that seems even tougher. Or is the Welsh Matterhorn behind the Hut an option?
- Maybe a 75 km walk or 46.6 miles? This is equivalent to walking across Wales from the border at The Anchor Inn to the coast at Clarach (45 miles) and such a marshalled walk is organised every September <https://www.acrosswaleswalk.co.uk/> but we could do something different.
- Maybe a 75 km cycle ride by 75 members?
- An Indoor Meet with photos of 75 mountains?
- A survey of members to establish our "Top 75 Mountains"?
- A Charity event to try and raise £7,500 for Mountain Rescue?
- **One of the reasons for me wanting to step down from being Newsletter editor in March is my wish to finish off the "WBMC Timeline" that I started during COVID. Some of you may remember these appeared in Newsletters from late 2020 until October 2022 and so far I managed to cover the early days up until July 1972 but then life got too busy. If I could complete the timeline and bring it up to the present day, maybe it could be published in 2027, possibly in an A4 magazine format? This could be valuable as there are people & events that were missed out in the "First 50 Years" book and some Malcolm Collins recipients reckoned there were errors in the book as to why they received the award. Obviously lots of info is out there in the Club's "50 Years" book but very little of this is sequential. In order for the Timeline to be complete it would be necessary for every member to send in their memories of significant events – significant for them or the Club and I would have to spend several days looking through our archives in Sandwell Library. I cannot guarantee that I would be able to complete such a venture but would try my best and one thing is for sure - if I can't complete it for the 75th anniversary I will certainly not be around for the 100th!**

SO....if you would like an event, or yourself, recorded in a WBMC Timeline, send the details to John Edwards, 6 Dovehouse Court, Olton, B91 1EW or jaejed@hotmail.com

In the meantime if any readers out there have suggestions for other celebratory events, or comments on any of the above (eg what month or dates particular events should take place or venues for a possible dinner dance / event) please send them in using committee@wbmc.org so that every committee members has a chance to read & consider their ideas before they are discussed in 2025 or 2026.

A BIG “THANK YOU” TO OUR VETERAN MEMBERS

Up until 2021, if you had been a member of WBMC for 30 years or more and were over the age of 70 (or was it 65?) you became classed as a “Veteran” member and were no longer obliged to pay an annual membership fee. I think we currently have 11 Veterans still on the Membership List and I noticed, while starting to look at the possible Gift Aid claim for 2024, that more than half of them gave a sizeable donation, equivalent to or greater than the stated membership fee, as a Gift during that year. I think this generosity deserves recognition and so this piece short piece is just to **thank anonymously those Veteran (& Life) members that gave donations for their generosity** and to let the general membership know that, contrary to what many in the Club believe, Veteran & Life members are not necessarily a drain on the Club’s resources. Indeed their donations are extremely valuable when it comes to Gift Aid submission to the HMRC as they are directly attributable to individuals, which helps us secure Gift Aid on Small Donations (GASDS) from sources such as the Hut and un - named individuals. That being so, I would like to encourage any Ordinary or Life Member (who is a UK taxpayer) to maybe add a donation to the WBMC coffers when the new Membership year comes around each January, but only if they feel they can afford to do this of course!

John Edwards

FRANCIS ROGERS R. I. P. (- 24/1/25)

Mike Thompson has received the sad news that Francis Rogers, who served as our Secretary from 1992 to 1997 sadly passed away recently. During her secretarial career she spent 2 spells, each around a year, working in Saudi Arabia and also worked at The Hague as a NATO Secretary. For many years she was a regular on Club events, along with her sister, and she was the organiser of several Away Dinners. Some time before 2018 she ceased to be a member of WBMC and suffered a stroke but Nigel Tarr gave her a lift to the Away Dinner last year which she enjoyed even though she was not able to communicate or make herself understood. Apparently she had carers coming in to help her and they found her dead in her room on Friday 24th January. Sheila Baseby has informed me that Francis’s funeral will be held at Lichfield Crematorium on Friday March 7th at 11.30am and any WBMC member is welcome to attend.

STEVE BENNETT R. I. P. (- 7/1/25)

I have been told by Paul Read that Steve Bennett, who was an active member of the Club not that long ago, passed away suddenly on the 7th January. Ian & Paul sent the following photos of Steve in action on the hills. His funeral will be held at Sandwell Valley Crematorium at 10.45 am on 28th Feb, followed we think by a wake at The Scott Arms Conservative Club.



THE FIRST MEETS OF 2025

Sadly the Sunday of Mitch's Meet coincided with warnings of blizzards across virtually the whole of the UK and Government advice to stay off the roads & motorways unless your journey was absolutely necessary. The Committee thought about cancelling the Meet but in the end most of those who had said they would be attending decided that it would be folly to risk travelling in the face of such bad weather warnings, although conditions on The Wrekin could have been "interesting", as New Tandy used to put it.

The January Indoor Meet was also cancelled and due to lack of snow and ice in the Italian alps, the Cogne week never went ahead as published on the meet card! However the Ogwen coach did go ahead in spite of the number of seats booked was disappointingly low. Tony Emms & others enjoyed a winter's day walk via the "Devil's Kitchen" As he put on Facebook it was "positively idyllic" (see photos including one of a binary snowman)



The February Indoor Meet went ahead with a late change of topic as John Edwards stepped in to show folk what it was like when 8 club members went to Putin's Russia to attempt Mount Elbrus (& have a good time in Moscow!). Patterdale is always a great venue for a February coach and it once again proved a popular Meet with contrasting conditions depending whether you stayed low or went high. Stewart Shaw & others had a "great days hiking" doing Red Screes, Fairfield & St Sunday Crag from the Kirkstone & then down to Glenridding. He commented "Challenging on some of the crags, but good times" & this can be seen on Sophie Kellaway's post of "some beautiful frosting on Striding Edge".



ICE CLIMBING COGNE, AOSTA, ITALY : 18 – 25 Jan 2025 from Ken Priest

This was a last minute trip with Dave & Kim from Bromsgrove and Heather from Worcester clubs - and Graeme Stanford has still not forgiven me! He booked a skiing holiday instead when it didn't look like Cogne was on – no idea who put the early Jan dates on the Club Meet Card! The last couple of trips have proven to be disappointing due to the temperatures & conditions; it seems even the 'Alps reliability' has changed to a similar situation like the UK. A lot of luck is needed as even a heavy snowfall can ruin a climbing trip as it restricts what routes you can access.

Conditions this year, I am glad to say were good with most routes being formed and no recent fresh snow slowing down our approaches. On that note I agreed with Heather that the walk in was more arduous than we remembered, perhaps our fitness and age! Consequently, I found the walk in with heavy sacks containing all our equipment, ice screws, extenders and ropes more difficult than the climbing. Most routes we left our sacks at the bottom, only carrying a small bag with drinks, spare clothing (crucial to have extra gloves) and snacks. In the 6 days available we climbed 5 different routes in 5 different locations, with two new ones we had never visited. That said climbing routes previously done still feels different as the ice can form in different ways each year and whatever you climb, ice remains a great experience. The one day of bad weather (ie heavy snow), we did try to get out climbing, but had difficulty on the roads and couldn't drive far enough up the valley. By mid afternoon all the roads were well cleared but it was too late for us to reasonably get a route done in daylight, and I had stupidly pulled down the boot lid onto my head resulting in a head wound, so for once we were sensible and had a chilled afternoon off enjoying the town.

Cogne is a major centre of cross-country skiing with regular races attracting hundreds of competitors and crowds. This year for the first time there were also bike races which is a new innovation and the TV cameras were getting ready for the following weekend of racing. It was also good to see so many families and youngsters enjoying the outside life in the mountain environment.



Anyway, we climbed a couple of old favourites and some new ones:-

- Lillaz falls involving 5 pitches and a lovely walk off
- Fenillaz, aka the Scottish gully of 6 pitches with abseils in Valleile valley
- Valmiana, in the beautiful Valnontey valley, again about 5 pitches and a late night dark abseil descent with head torches
- Champalong, another waterfall in the Lillaz valley
- Cascata di Tere in the Valsavaranche valley.

All in all, a great trip but so tiring climbing day after day that I would recommend a day off in the middle of the week unless

you're very fit!

We returned from Turin without our baggage as there had been a mix up at the airport but as I write a courier has returned them, so no lost equipment!



SCOTTISH WINTER WEEK AT COYLUMBRIDGE RESORT HOTEL : FEB 15 – 22

A great turnout for this annual event with 61 people + 4 dogs! As well as organisers Jonathan Howells & Vanessa Biddulph and Daniel (19) & Isabel (13) the attendees were Annette Cope, Jan Cox, Bill Douglas, Tony Emms, Rob & Anita Allen, Geordie Hind, Phil Smith, John Lee, Dave Brace, Ian Merther, Paul Read, Andy Brown, Robert & Sara Briard with Alex (16) & Bella (14), Andrew Darling, John Edwards, Hilary Jones, Suzanne Byrne, Becky & Daniel Green with Christopher (13) & Lucas (10), Pete Poultney, Adrian Bates, Ken & Lou & Jess Priest, Mark & Alison Bathe, Richard Brown & his wife, Dave & Clare Kirk with Ethan (18) & Hannah (11), Graham & Tracey Stanford, Chris Dean, Jez Hopkins, Tina Deoray, Steve Prichard, Guy Bryan-Brown, Tracy & Tony Wallace, Dawn Picken, Roger Boulton, Ian Dyus, Luke Austin, Liz Villa, Jim Tansey, Stuart Fellows, Ryan Pang, Neil Loyd & Dave Hellyar (some will have put photos on Facebook!) plus Loki, Seb, Whisky & ?. A new venture was to use a WhatsApp group rather than a paper Route Book, supplemented by the "Life360" tracker app if people cared to download it. This gave increased data protection and seemed to work well, although not everyone is on WhatsApp & it was trickier to see what everyone else was doing until it was too late to join them!

True "Winter conditions" were enjoyed in the first half of the week with sunshine and views if you chose to do Corbetts & lower peaks but whiteout & a bitterly cold 20 mph buffeting wind if you went for Munros. On Wednesday MWIS said "Upland gale 40-50 mph; -3°C at 900m feeling -15°C in the wind" and Thursday & Friday were even worse as the temperatures were predicted to rise to 6 or 7°C at altitude but feeling -12°C in the even stronger (50-80mph) winds! On the Sunday Chris Dean got to the summit of Cairngorm in whiteout but those who went into Coire an t-Sneachda had less luck (indeed there were avalanches in some of the gullies) Vanessa, Jim, Bill, Stuart, Dave, Ryan, Annette, Jan, Daniel & Tony had better weather on the Corbett, Meall a Bhuachaille and Rob Allen & Bill Darling got to with 100m or so of the top of Sgor Gaoith before high winds drove them back. However they succeeded the following day, when Chris D, Graeme & Pete P did Easy Gully on Creag Meagagh, where Steve & Guy were climbing Centre Post and Staghorn Gully (both 400m grade III routes). Bill D, Tony, Ryan, Jan & Annette climbed Creag a Chalamain via the Ch'main Gap & returned to hotel via the Lairig Ghru. On Tuesday Geordie, John L, Phil, Rob & Bill did 2 of the Drummochter 4 (Geal Charn & A Mharconaich), Richard B did A' Chailleach & John Ed did Ben Wyvis. On Wednesday many people did lowland forest or valley walks or hired bikes to cycle the great local tracks as the winds were too strong to venture high. So the few pictures below show mostly show the first few days and something of the hotel.



Meall a Bhuachaille on the Sunday & John Lee's shots of his companions on Geal Charn on the Tuesday

Below are Ken Priest's shot of his fellow climbers' feet, John Edwards's selfie of Ben Wyvis and Stuart Fellows' showing Vanessa's frozen suit of armour having gone through the Chalamain Gap, plus others of the hotel & environs. Can you recognise whose foot is whose? Check out Stuart's Facebook page for more great footage.



NEW Cotswold Discount Code AF-BMC-M1

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

PRESENT Dave Hellyar (Chair), Georgie 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: -

- We Lease the Hut
- We only let it out to Members and Guests
- 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

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

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 12th Dec 2024 @The Red Lion 7.00pm start

PRESENT – Dave Hellyar, John Edwards, Rob Allen, Will Read, Jan Cox, Nigel Tar, Tony Emms, Claire Hammonds, Geordie Hind, Fred Hammonds

1. APOLOGIES – Darren Groutage

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2024 proposed by Geordie and seconded by Fred

3. MATTERS ARISING – None

4. OFFICER REPORTS

Treasurers Report – there is currently £19,232 in the general account. (includes deposits for the Scottish Week, and Away Dinner) and £30,862.88 in the ring-fenced account.

Membership Report – the Club currently has 184 members with 12 prospective members, 7 of which are long term (beyond 3 months) and yet to pay in full. Membership to be paid by the end of January 2025 and guest fees will apply to the hut and coach after this date until membership is reinstated by payment. In addition, there is no BMC insurance without full membership.

Hut Report - between 27/10 and 30/11 the hut was used by 38 adults for a total of 68 bed nights over 16 nights. Donations totalled £571. The electricity bill for November was £78.32. Still awaiting a water bill from Plas Gwynant. During the Old Timers WE a new carbon monoxide detector was fitted and a hole started to improve the air flow into the back of the log burner. Power was lost temporarily during the recent storm.

Coach Report - the December Coach attracted 37. The total loss was £174.90, including £11.90 parking. Eight have so far booked onto the January coach.

Website/Publicity – the fliers designed by Will are now printed. There was some discussion about where to distribute them and everyone took some. The meet cards are now available.

Insurance/Safeguarding – John has a contact in Sandwell who may or may not be able to advise regarding safeguarding. An adult must agree to be responsible for an under 18 on events and this needs to be clear when booking. The adult is responsible and not the Club. A member has expressed an interest in becoming a safeguarding officer and advising on such matters.

5. CLUB FUTURE DIRECTION – Will Holmes passed round the publicity (A4 & A5 flyers & cards) that he had produced. These should attract new members as younger ones are required for succession within the Club. It probably needs a few months to evaluate the success of the flyers.

6. AOB – the Club 75th anniversary is approaching, bring thoughts to the next meeting. Nigel reports that Chapel Stile is back on the menu and Rob Cox is attempting to arrange a WE in April.

The BMC is 80 next year and Summit is now digital which saves £90,000 per issue.

It is still possible to get a discount at Cotswold with the Club membership card.

Meeting finished at 7.55pm.

Next meeting January 16th 2025

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 16th Jan 2025 @The Red Lion 7.35pm start

PRESENT Dave Hellyar (Chair), Geordie Hind, Rob Allen, Claire Hammonds, Jan Cox, Nigel Tarr, Fred Hammonds, Darren Groutage, Tony Emms, John Edwards, Will Read.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE None received

2. ACCEPTANCE OF DECEMBER 2024 MINUTES. The October minutes were proposed as correct by John Edwards 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

Treasurers Report – there is currently £23,680 in the general account. (includes deposits for the Scottish Week, and Away Dinner and BMC membership). The ring-fenced account contains £30,862.

Claire submitted copies of the draft accounts for the AGM. Donations from the hut have increased and there have been no major improvements to the hut along with reduced electricity costs due to the faulty underfloor heating being disconnected. Gift Aid (thanks to John) was £1800 for one year only. £400 from sales/other donations/EasyFundraising. The coach meets lost £1600 in 2024 (we need to evaluate this). The overall surplus was £1900 (including Gift Aid). Membership fees for 2026 need to be discussed prior to the AGM.

Membership Report – from today there are 89 paid members, 3 long term prospective members and 13 prospective members. A few are still wrongly paying the same amount as the previous year.

Hut Report - between 29/11/24 and 3/1/25 the hut was used by 41 adults for a total of 94 bed nights over 26 nights. Donations totalled £928 (two big groups). The electricity bill for December was £54.60. We are still awaiting a water bill from Plas Gwynant (not paid for 3 years). Still working on ideas for an alternative heat source. The Old Timers have booked 4-6th April and a Hut working party is still to be arranged.

Coach Report - the January Coach attracted 27 passengers and the total loss was £402! Coach costs are now £900 for Wales, £950 Yorkshire/Lakes and £1000 for a long meet, increases of about 10%. Nigel proposed and Jan seconded that coach donations return to £25. Carried, one vote against. Also, the same donation is requested from both members and non-members. Carried, one vote against. There was a non-resolved discussion regarding the cancellation of coaches with low uptake – Nigel commented that this has to be done by the Monday prior to the Meet or we will still be charged. There was a unanimous decision to continue with Robinsons.

Website/Publicity – Darren wants to know about errors on the website so he can correct them.

5. CLUB FUTURE DIRECTION – Ideas for the 75th anniversary in 2027 were discussed. John will attempt to produce a booklet. Fred suggested a charity event (probably before 2027). Seventy five on top of Snowdon? Seventy five Km walk? Seventy five peaks? Dinner dance? Open to more ideas.

6. AOB – Agreed to pay for a heating engineer to visit the hut with Fred and Darren to discuss possibilities. Meet information will go on the website when John relinquishes his position. Child safety additions to be made at the hut to comply with safeguarding (fireguard and ladder cover). Also, coach goers need to be reminded to wear seatbelts. Coach Kings are Bill Darling and Andy Brown both 11/11. Coach Queen is Claire. Also 11/11. Discussion on the Malcolm Collins award and agreed it can be shared between 2 or 3 people as it has in the past. . Proposed that Ordinary Committee posts have a role attached to ease the pressure on some Committee members.

Meeting finished at 9.02pm.

Next meeting February 13th2025. Need to decide Club fees for 2026, AGM and President election.

WEEK-LONG CHARITY CLIMBING EVENT AT REDPOINT WORCS 31/3 - 5/4

Rebecca Evered, duty manager at Redpoint Worcester, has emailed to notify us of a week-long "CLIMBATHON" event they are proposing in aid of the Grace Kelly Foundation & Adam Claxton. The idea is simple – individuals get 5 points for every route they climb, with 1 point for ever repetition. The more routes you do, the more points you get... and points mean prizes!

There will be 2 categories:- individual and group. The club with the most points by the end of the week will have some advertisement space at reception for the month!

There's a one off £5 entry fee per person for the competition which lasts the week, then entry will be the usual club rate. Scorecards will be available from reception on Monday the 31st March.

To find out more about the Grace Kelly Foundation or Adams cause, use the links:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/3qqdwr-this-is-our-fight?](https://www.gofundme.com/f/3qqdwr-this-is-our-fight?lang=en_GB&utm_campaign=fp_sharesheet&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=whatsapp)

[lang=en_GB&utm_campaign=fp_sharesheet&utm_medium=customer&utm_source=whatsapp](https://www.gkcct.org/) and <https://www.gkcct.org/>

HUT NEWS

There was a flurry of messages from the Hut in late Jan as a falling branch caused by storm Eowyn brought down cables over the parking area. Initial concerns were that these were power cables but it turned out they were fibre internet cables and the damage to these caused loss of internet connection to Plas Gwynant, the Hut and many other properties down the valley. Outreach have been out to replace the fibre, which involved closing a road, but the internet which is now working again.

Fred arranged a wood delivery and he & Clare worked on getting the delivery sorted early in a morning of thunder, lightning and heavy rain to make sure members would be able to stay warm, as the underfloor heating in the hut as not been working for a while now. This was due to a badly cracked Thermostat which had burnt out contacts. Darren tested it and was not rated for the 18 amps which the underfloor heating pulls. To try and get the hut warm within a couple of hours (rather than 24 hrs it takes with the underfloor heating) we are actively taking professional advice on different types of heating, such as Far infrared and Radiant flat panels heaters. Please bear with us as we do not want to get this potentially expensive installation wrong. Fred also managed to break through a new flue at the rear of the wood burning stove.

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 (Midlands Area Clubs' Representative & Members Council Councillor)

REMEMBER THE BMC's "SUMMIT" MAGAZINE IS NOW DIGITAL & ONLINE

Go to www.thebmc.co.uk/summit-magazine to see the #116 Winter 2024 issue.