

	<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PRESIDENT'S PREFACE</u>
1 – 4	Noticeboard / Future Events	If you bother opening & reading the West Brom MC Newsletters you will notice that this Bulletin is much shorter than any recent Newsletter.
5	May Coach: Aber / Carneddau Saturday Long Meet	This is because the Newsletter Editor stepped down at the recent AGM and so far no volunteer has been forthcoming to produce future issues.
6	June Coach: Ambleside / Langdale	If no one steps forward to take on the role members will have to get their information from the website www.wbmc.org , the Club's WhatsApp or Facebook groups, occasional emails or shorter Bulletins such as this produced irregularly.
7	July Coach: Buxton / Whaley Br	The previous editor (me) would be very willing to help any new incumbent in the role, especially with the coach meet pages or committee minutes, although he is of the age when he might very well know less about word processing / desk top publishing than a younger person who might fancy the role. John Edwards
8	AGM Synopsis/New Committee	
9	R.I.P. John Haddon (& his pipes)	
10 – 11	February, March & April Committee Minutes	
12	"Supernatural" Evening Report	
Check	Out www.wbmc.org	
<p>This Bulletin was produced by John Edwards. If you are interested in trying your hand as Newsletter Editor 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:

COACH MEETS TO THE HILLS

Saturday 10th May – Aber / Ogwen Long Meet

N.B. NOTE CHANGED DATE TO AVOID CLASH

Sunday 8th June – Ambleside / Langdale Meet

Sunday 20th July – Buxton / Whaley Bridge 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 OUTDOOR MEETS

Thursday 22nd May The First Outdoor Meet of the Season - Will Read will be leading a walk of ~5km over Cannock Chase. Meet at the Castle Ring car park on the south end of Cannock Chase (nearest postcode is WS15 4RN) from 6.00 for a 6.30pm start. After the walk folk can stop at The Park Gate Inn, next to the car park for drinks & food if desired.

Thursday 5th June Dave Hellyar will lead an evening walk in Wolverhampton. Meet at "The Oddfellows" pub, Compton (WV6 8AA) 6pm for a walk, starting 6.30pm, along the canal towpath & former railway track. The Oddfellows serves good food at reasonable prices & we have had several outdoor meets based at this venue.

Thursday 10th July Sarah Wheatcroft will be leading a 'birthday walk', possibly across & around the Enville Sheepwalks from / to The Cat (DY7 5HA) – details will be confirmed / circulated later.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & MEMBERS' SOCIAL NIGHTS AT THE RED LION

Thursdays 15th May, 12th June & 17th July Committee meetings start at 7.30pm Members are invited to listen in as observers - pop along to 190 All Saints Way, B71 1RH for the start, or does as some others do and arrive a bit earlier to eat there. Otherwise come along at ~ 8.30 pm for a drink & a chat (or meal) as you can guarantee others will be there.

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

A group of WBMC members have been indoor climbing at High Places, Wyre Forest Leisure Centre, Siverwoods Way, Kidderminster DY11 7DT on the **last Tuesday of every month from 6 to 9.30pm** They have a **WhatsApp group** that enables them to keep in touch and if you want to be added to this group or have more information about who goes, cost etc please feel free to get in touch with Pete Poultney 07779 366905 or peterpoultney@hotmail.co.uk Also see <https://www.placesleisure.org/centres/wyre-forest-leisure-centre/centre-activities/climbing/> for more details of how folk can use the Centre.

INDOOR CLIMBING AT “REDPOINT” (BIRMINGHAM CLIMBING CENTRE)

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:-**CHAPEL STILE WEEKEND IS “NOT ON” THIS YEAR**

Although the Weirside Bunkhouse in beautiful Chapel Stile has re-opened for groups of up to 20 people, Rob Cox has found it is pretty well booked up for 2025 so a WBMC w/e there cannot happen. However, he is going to look at what might be available next year. See www.vrbo.com and search for Weirside Bunkhouse if you want to see what it's like.

CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE 2025 : ALMOST ANYTIME IN 2025!

The challenge allows entrants to determine everything, within the set broad parameters. The challenge is **“to create and undertake a two-day walking journey of no less than 20 miles, with one night spent in any selected mode”**.

The journey can be anywhere in the UK but the route must be entirely chosen by entrants and NOT derived from existing established recognised routes.

It should include items of interest such as geographical features, ancient monuments etc. It can be linear or circular.

Entrants will then prepare a ROUTE GUIDE, containing all the information required to undertake the journey, including public transport to and from the start/finish points, overnight accommodation options and grid references for significant points of the route. Pictorial content would be an advantage.

Entrants can choose the dates on which their journeys are undertaken.

ROUTE GUIDES, which must be submitted to myself by no later than Friday 30th October 2025, will be judged by myself and two non-entrants. **A modest prize will be awarded to the winning entry.** Good Luck Dave H

(hellydav@live.co.uk or by post to 123 Castlecroft Rd, Finchfield, Wolverhampton WV3 8BY)

SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS CAMPING WEEK IS NOW 17th – 24th MAY

This year we will be in Assynt in the far North West. This area is a good base for climbing Suilven, Quinag, Canisp, Stac Polly, Cul Mor, Ben More Assynt & Ben Hope.

Campsites will be “Shore Caravan Site” at Achmelvich - no dogs allowed (01571 844393) and “Clachtoll Campsite” – dogs allowed (01571 855377). If you need more information contact Tony Emms (07793 008582)

WBMC CLIMBING DAY AT BIRCHENS EDGE : SATURDAY 24th MAY

A chance to practice your climbing skills, hopefully with some of the Club's “experts”.

Birchen Edge is a gritstone rock face in the Peak District, England close to the A619, Bakewell (Postcode DE45 1PS). It is popular with walkers and novice climbers as most of the climbing routes are in the relatively easier lower grades. It is suggested that those interested contact each other via the **“General WBMC Chat”** group which is a subgroup of

the "West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Community" on WhatsApp as this has 80 signed up members. If you are not already on it contact Darren Groutage (07973 405348) with your mobile phone number and ask to be added. It's a busy weekend as.....

BROMSGROVE MC CLIMBING WEEKEND PEMBROKE, 23rd - 25th MAY

Ken Priest says that Bromsgrove MC have a weekend planned at the basic St Petrox Campsite and that anyone interested should contact him on 07779 908708 (or just turn up but you must be confident in abseil approaches as it's all sea cliffs.

SUPPORTED WELSH 3000's WEEKEND 30th MAY – 1st JUNE IS NOW FULL

Around 2 months ago people interested in this were asked to join a WhatsApp group so they could continue to get details and there are now 11 WBMC members using the Hut that weekend who will be attempting the challenge. If there is sufficient demand it may be repeated next year so please contact a committee member if you are disappointed to have missed out.

GOWER WEEKEND 27th – 29th JUNE

Worcester, Bromsgrove & West Brom MC's mingle at Pitton Cross camp site Rhossili beach yet again or, if our quota is full, one of the cheaper ones nearby, for the usual weekend of walking, bodyboarding, climbing and generally having fun on the beach. Pete Poultney (07779 366905) is again co-ordinating. We didn't hear that anybody was brave enough to bivvi the night on Wurm's Head last year and listen as the dragon's blowhole hisses! Or is it more idyllic than scary? See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhPB7C6oFXg&ab_channel=AlexandraReuter

CLIMBING NIGHT AT CASTLE NAZE SATURDAY 28TH JUNE

Castle Naze is a west-facing, moorland gritstone crag at the NW edge of Combs Moss near Chapel-en-le-Frith with quality routes (67 in total), a great view and a hill-fort nearby. Grid reference is SK052783 off Cowlow Lane. The internet says "Certain routes contain loose rock (e.g Pinnacle Arete with its big wobbly block) so watch yourself, especially on the friable top-outs. N.B. Dogs are currently prohibited on the crag and land around." Combs Valley Campsite is nearby (SK23 9UW) if you fancy making a full weekend of it. Again please use the "General WBMC Chat" group (which is a subgroup of the "West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Community") on WhatsApp to express your interest or to volunteer as the meet co-ordinator.

EUROPEAN WEEK IN SLOVENIA 5th - 12th JULY

This is going ahead with smaller numbers than last year as some that visited Slovenia in 2024 are now going to the Dolomites.

WEDNESDAY CLIMBING DAY AT HORSESHOE QUARRY WED 30th JULY

The Quarry is near Eyam, close to the A623, in the Hope Valley (postcode S32 5QL) where there is free parking for around 12 cars. Internet says the car park is open 11.30am – 2.30pm every day. Again please use the "General WBMC Chat" group (which is a subgroup of the "West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Community") on WhatsApp to express your interest or to volunteer as the meet co-ordinator. For latest news on how this BMC - owned quarry is now suitable for paraclimbers see <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/en/horseshoe-quarry-improved-access>

BMC NEWS BELOW

NEX BMC MIDLANDS CLUBS NETWORK ZOOM – 01 MAY 2025 1930 - 2100

Ian Wyatt invites all to the Clubs' Network Meeting **this coming Thursday**. To join:- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85005516506?pwd=F2rDIPxWs276Elk9JKvsherawIHc5y.1>
Meeting ID: 850 0551 6506 Passcode: 099004

THE NEXT BMC AGM WILL BE HELD WEDNESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER (evening) by ZOOM. In 2024 AGM was online and attended by 211 people - more 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.

THE GOWER CLIMBING FESTIVAL 5 - 8th SEPTEMBER 2025

The BMC Gower Climbing Festival is a weekend of adventure on the Gower Peninsula in South Wales. Whether you're a seasoned sea-cliff climber or new to climbing, this community-driven festival is the perfect way to explore Gower's stunning limestone cliffs. Tickets start from £60 for BMC members and they go on sale at 6pm on Sunday 30 March via the BMC website.

COMING SOON? AGE RESTRICTIONS ON A MOUNTAIN NEAR YOU ??

The Times of the 6th March featured an article by Richard Parry, their Asia Editor entitled "British Climber's Death Leads to Call for Age Limit on Borneo Mountain."

Elderly tourists could be banned from climbing Malaysia's highest and most famous mountain after a series of fatalities among older climbers.

The most recent death was that of a 70-year-old British man, who collapsed last week a few feet from the summit of Mount Kinabalu on the island of Borneo.

The tourism minister of Sabah state, in which the 4,095m (13,435ft) peak is located, said she was considering an age limit or "stamina test" for climbers.

"[We] will study further the suitability of having the climber age limit as well as determining its number," Christina Liew said in a statement after the death of the British man, who has not been identified. She acknowledged that "the fitness of a climber is not necessarily related to his or her age".

Mount Kinabalu is the highest mountain on Borneo, an island that Malaysia shares with Indonesia and Brunei. It is located within Kinabalu Park, a Unesco world heritage site, and attracts 49,000 climbers a year.

Only those aged over 15 are given permits for the climb, which takes two days. Most climbers stay overnight on the mountain before striking for the peak at dawn, when the views are spectacular. Climbers without suitable clothing can find trouble on a journey that begins in tropical heat but can end in freezing temperatures at the peak.



It takes a two-day trek in tropical heat to reach Mount Kinabalu's summit

The latest tragedy was the fourth on the mountain in less than a year. It took place on Tuesday last week, after the

British man collapsed close the summit in the early morning. It took rescuers almost three hours to reach him and it was not until ten hours after his collapse that he was taken to hospital and declared dead. He had succumbed to hypothermia. Some reports said that he was inadequately dressed for the cold.

Last month, a 65-year-old Malaysian man died after falling unconscious halfway up. In August and October, two Malaysian climbers in their fifties died, one of them of hypothermia.

NEW WAINWRIGHTS RECORD! CAN ANY WBMC MEMBER BEAT IT?

Ultrarunner and Montane athlete Tom Hollins has set a new record for an unsupported Wainwrights challenge. The 51-year-old reached the finish line having successfully summited 214 Lake District peaks, covering over 310 miles (500km) of rugged and unforgiving terrain. Hollins' self-supported achievement sets a new "Winter Wainwrights" record of **8 days, 9 hours and 44 minutes!!!** Winter rounds have to be completed between 1st December and 28th February but this time is faster than the current self-supported Summer Wainwrights record of 14 days, 11 hours, held by James Forrest.



SATURDAY 10th MAY: ABER TO OGWEN LONG MEET (Note new date)**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.**

N.B. To encourage early booking and so guarantee the Meet goes ahead bookings after Monday 5th 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.

SUNDAY 8th JUNE : AMBLESIDE / LANGDALE COACH MEET

Ambleside previously featured on the programme in June 2007, when the route compiler warned 'Beware of the gear shops! Please note that walking into gear shops in Ambleside can cause severe financial damage: taking your credit card out is a risk you may not wish to contemplate.'

Depart: 07:00 – West Bromwich

Edward St Car Park B70 8NL

07:20 – Penkridge

Toilet stop: M6 Charnock Richard Services

Drop offs: A 591 N of Windermere station (SD 414987)

A 593 / 591 Jn Ambleside (SD 372036)

Chapel Stile (SD 321053)

New Dungeon Ghyll (SD 295064)

Pick ups: New Dungeon Ghyll (SD 295064)

Chapel Stile (SD 321053)

Ambleside Bus Station (LA22 0BZ or SD375044)

Required map: OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure 7: English Lakes SE Area (+ / - 5 & 6 depending on route chosen)



Jack's Rake route up Pavey Ark

Suggested Routes : The following are just suggestions. You can get your own off the web if you want to from eg www.walkingbritain.co.uk or www.walkingenglishman.com or Wainwright's 'Eastern' or 'Outlying Fells' books.

From N. Kendal : Route 1. Western End of The Dales Way (9.5 miles & 970ft ascent) Road or footpath to Burneside and cross R. Kent to hit Dales Way. This follows river to nr Staveley, then roads & tracks to Bowness - SO TURN NORTH TO WINDERMERE @ SD 423971 to pick-up.

From Windermere : Route 2. Wainwright's First Lakes Peak - Orrest Head (2 miles & 400 ft ascent) It's just 20 minutes to the top (SD414993) via leftmost of 3 drives that leave the main road opposite railway station. Make a circuit by heading N to minor road, then left and left back to railway station near last pick-up.

Route 3. Sour Howes (SD428032) & Sallows (SD437040) (9 miles & 2,000 ft ascent) Stay E of Kirkstone road to Allen Knot (a NT earthwork at SD414011) & hit Longmire & Garburn tracks & back over the Wainwrights from the top of the pass (SD436044) and return to Windermere where you started + / - Orrest Head.

From Ambleside : Route 4. Loughrigg Fell – over & around (6.5 miles & 1,400 ft ascent) Cross the River Rothay at SD372046 and there's paths galore but don't miss the summit at SD347051

Rte 5. Wansfell Pike (SD394042) & Baystones (SD403052) (5 or 7.5 miles & 1,450 ft or more ascent) Head E to Stockgyll Force & up first Wainwright, then NE to second and on to Idle Hill (SD046059). Then turn Left to return to Ambleside town via left side of Stock Gyll or Right to reach Troutbeck paths that lead S to Kirkstone junction.

From Rydal : Rte 6. Fairfield & Red Screes (12 miles or less & up to 4,300 ft ascent) Up lane beside Rydal Mount & fork left at gate to rocky Nab Scar & Heron Pike (SD356083). Then N over Great Rigg to Fairfield (SD359118). Turn right to Hart Crag (SD368113) & Dove Crag (SD374105) from which you could head back south to Ambleside. Or continue to Little Hart Crag (SD387100) +/- Red Screes (SD396088) before heading SSW down the ridge to Ambleside.

From Grasmere : Route 7. Helm Crag +/- the Easedale Round (8 miles & 2,300 ft ascent) Take the Easedale Road and well marked path off right to the lovely summit of Helm Crag (SD327093). Return to Grasmere via path to N and then E if you fancy an easy day or continue over to GibsonKnott (SD319099) and Calf Crag (SD302104) Continue W to the col & then head back to Grasmere over Easedale's Tarn Crag (SD304092)

From Thirlspot : Route 8. Helvellyn & Seat Sandal (9 miles & 3,700 ft ascent) Climb to Raise summit (SD343174) and then S over White Side, Lower Man to Helvellyn (SD342151) On to Nethermost (SD344142) & Dollywagon (SD346131) Pikes before dropping down to Grisedale Hause. Head for Grasmere, taking in Seat Sandal (SD344115) if you've time & energy left.

Fares: Members £25, Non members £25, Under 18's & Full time students £10

To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729 asap

N.B. To encourage early booking and so guarantee the Meet goes ahead bookings after Monday 5th 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.

SUNDAY 20th JULY: BUXTON / WHALEY BRIDGE MEET

A new venue for the coach I think. The nearest we've been to this area in the last 20 years was a car meet to the Roaches in May 2021

Depart: 07:00 – West Brom.

Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)

07:20 – Pekridge ??

Drop Off: Buxton Opera House (SK 056734)

Whaley Bridge (SK 011815)

Pick Ups: Whaley Bridge (SK 011815)

Buxton Opera House (SK 056734)

Required Map/ s: OS 1: 25 000 OL 24 Peak District: The White Peak & OL 1 Peak District: The Dark Peak or OS 1:50,000 119 Buxton & Matlock & 110 Sheffield & Huddersfield

Suggested Routes:- Circular Walks from Buxton

1) Buxton Country Park & Poole Cavern (easy)

Walk through Buxton Park to get to Green Lane (SK17 9DH) & the Poole Cavern car park. From there a 30 min walk along a woodland path leads up to the open summit pastures of Grin Low (1,434ft) where you can climb the folly "Solomon's Temple" (SK055718). Then head west around the limestone quarry; cross the road onto Stanley Moor, then work east to Countess Cliff and north back to the Cavern via Fern House. A visit to the Cavern's historic underground passages with many geological formations is well worth it: cost ~ £12 :guided tours 45 mins

See <https://poolecavern.co.uk> and <https://poolecavern.co.uk/woodland-walks>

2) Axe Edge, Cheeks Hill, Whetstone Ridge, "Cat & Fiddle" Inn & back (moderate)

As route 1 to the road at 044718 and then head SW crossing the A53 to the trig on Axe Edge (036705). Then swing westwards over the shoulder of Cheeks Hill and along Whetstone Edge (008705) to the famous Inn (001719). After refreshments head east back to Buxton across Goyt's Moss via an old road/track.

Route 3: Linear walk from Buxton to Whaley Bridge (or vice versa as described)

This is part of the 200 mile Peak District Boundary Walk. From Whaley Bridge railway station, take Reservoir Road (signposted Toddbrook Reservoir) & go through Whaley Bridge Memorial Park & follow signs for Reservoir Walk which becomes the Midshires Way after a BMX park. Arrive on a road & follow it through a housing estate, cross the A5002 to the footpath ahead and into open fields. Stay on the path (though faint at times), eventually crossing a lane into woods. Emerge at St James Church in Taxal (007798) & turn left. Take the 1st path on left, a restricted byway, through a graveyard & down to the river. Turn L to cross the bridge then R and zigzag left up to a footpath on the right through woods. At a footbridge cross the river and pass a nature reserve entrance, then turn L & cross another footbridge before taking the grassy track uphill, signposted Knipes, until you reach the lane beyond Knipes Farm (Madsar Farm on the OS map). Turn L & follow the lane/track until it crosses a cattle grid. Follow the lane right, with Fernilee Dam (013777) on the left and enter woods, signposted Errwood. Keep left at a fork, then left for the signposted Waterside Walk. Follow the path gently downhill and alongside the reservoir. At the end ascend right to the road and follow the road over Errwood Dam (014758) and on, then uphill to a fingerpost on the right. Turn R and follow the path towards the centre of a belt of trees ahead. Continue through a gate, first with the wall on the left & then across open fields with views over the reservoir to your right. After ~1 km, fork L at a bench & go uphill to hit a road by a car park & large pond. Turn R & follow the old Cromford & High Peak railway line to the abandoned tunnel end & take the footpath on your left signposted Buxton. Follow this until you approach some trees. Take the LH fork & descend steps to Bishop's Lane & turn L on this. Head uphill and pass to the right of a row of cottages and through the woodland beyond. The path descends to Watford Farm where you go R through a large gate and onto a golf course. Take the wide public footpath down the middle of the course to Watford Rd & at the end turn Right into Carlisle Road. At the T-junction at the bottom cross St John's Road, turn L & take the next path on your R into Serpentine Gardens & across Burlington Road into the Pavilion Gardens. Follow it along to the Opera House (Distance: 9.2 miles/14.8km Ascent: 1,700ft/518m)

Route 4: Whaley Bridge Circular (6.0 miles/ 9.7 km)

Discover the beauty of Whaley Bridge's scenery and the heritage of its Industrial past on this fairly gentle walk.

<https://www.whaleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk/uploads/whaley-bridge-walk.pdf> for directions

Fares: Members £25, Non members £25, Under 18's & Full time students £10

To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729 asap

N.B. To encourage early booking and so guarantee the Meet goes ahead bookings after Monday 5th 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.



Axe Edge trig point

2025 AGM (held in the 'Front Room' at The Red Lion) SYNOPSIS

There was a good turn-out of members (44) to support the Club's 73rd AGM and a further 15 people sent their apologies. The previous years minutes were agreed without dissent and under Matters Arising the meeting agreed with the Committee's suggestion that the membership fees due on 1st January 2026 remain as they are (£41) in the hope that the Club's reserves will be able to absorb any increase in BMC affiliation.

Officer's reports were received and commented on. The Committee's proposal to rename the "Hut Fund" as the "Reserve Fund" created some debate & several speakers from the floor felt that this should be subject to a vote at next year's AGM, seeing as it was re-established as the "Hut Fund" at the 2008 AGM. Several also commented that it proved difficult or impossible to hear what was being said and wondered what had happened to the Club's PA system. Some of the other points that arose were:-

* The club made a surplus of £1894 - almost the same as the gift aid received from HMRC.

* Only 71 members & 36 guests used the coach in 2024 in spite of the fares being reduced for much of the year. Partly because of this, but also because Robinsons' cost increase, the coach made a loss of £1,598 during the year so the price of a seat is now back to £25. The Coach Sec. pointed out that just an extra 5 people a month booking seats would stop the coach losing money and guessed that taking away the coach meets would lose the Club 30 - 40 members and stop us recruiting many new ones. No one disagreed.

* The Club has 147 paid-up ordinary members this year, plus several Life, Veteran, Student, Junior & Prospective members, taking the total to 201.

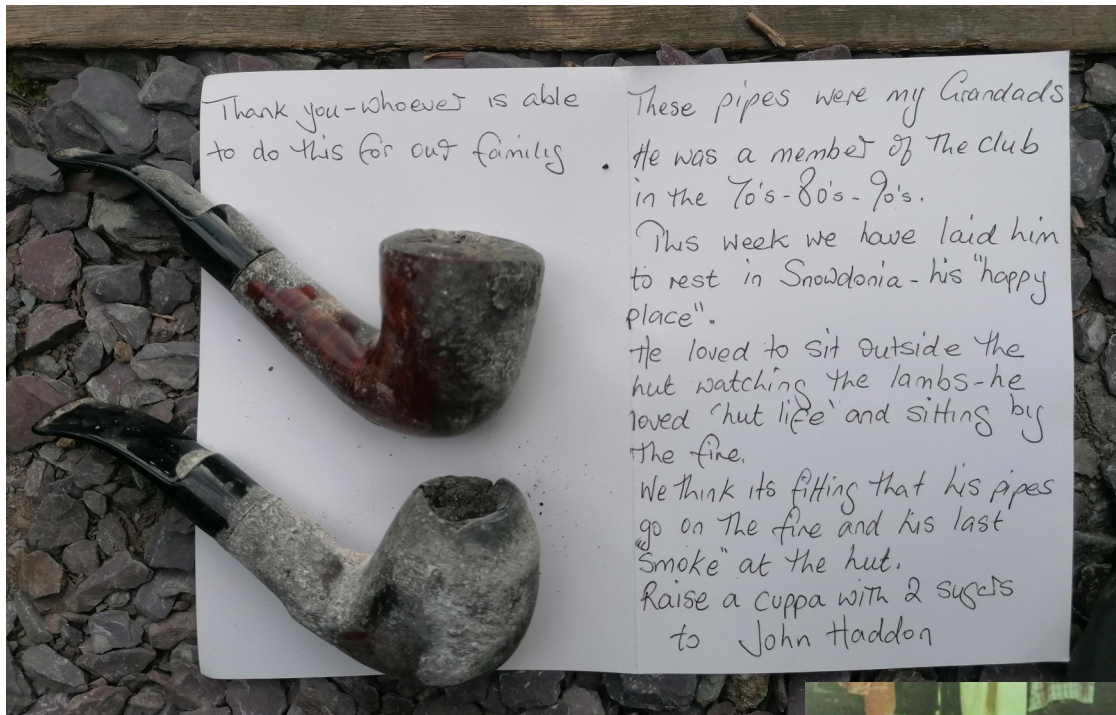
* There was ~ 40% decrease in Hut expenditure as no major hut improvements were required in 2024 and electricity savings reduced utility bills. Overnights were not too dissimilar to 2024 and the committee are looking at purchasing new, more efficient heaters next year rather than the repairing the currently defunct (burned out) underfloor heating system.

* During 2024 the Club invested in a new website and 2 more radios for coach meets.

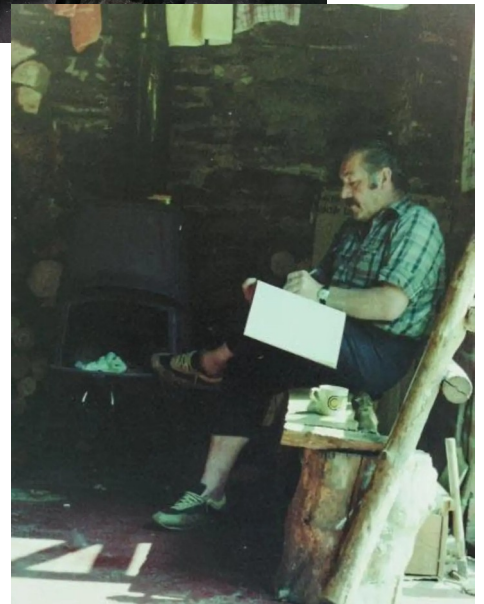
The new committee for 2025/6 were proposed and elected as below

President: John Edwards	07837 198355	jaejed@hotmail.com
Chair: David Hellyar	07547 126286 (new no.)	hellydav@live.co.uk
Vice Chair: Darren Groutage	07973 405348	w BMC.dg@outlook.com
Secretary: Sarah Wheatcroft	07398 365990	secretary@wbmc.org or s.e.wheatcroft@googlemail.com
Treasurer: Claire Hammonds	07761 571464	clairehammonds@btinternet.com
Membership Sec: Tony Emms	07793 008582	membership-secretary@wbmc.org or toniemms@aol.com
Hut Secretary: Fred Hammonds	07527 744481	hut-secretary@wbmc.org or f.hammonds@btinternet.com
Coach Secretary: Nigel Tarr	07703 345729	tarnnigel@gmail.com
Publicity Sec:		POSITION VACANT
Newsletter Editor:		POSITION VACANT
Ordinary Members: (up to 5)		2 POSITIONS VACANT
Will Read	07880 848149	will.o.read@gmail.com
Darren Beards	07484 615257	darrenbeards@gmail.com
Luke Austin	07563 213571	Ljaustin00@gmail.com
COULD THIS BE YOUR	CHANCE???	FEEL FREE TO VOLUNTEER

The only position that required a vote was for President, as both John Edwards & Ken Priest had been proposed & seconded. Claire Hammonds & Bill Darling received Coach Queen & King certificates (& have now received a bottle of wine each). There was again only proposal received for the Malcolm Collins Award – a joint nomination for Wesley Marks for climbing Baruntse (a new highest ascent by any WBMC member) and Darren Groutage for his sterling efforts with the new website. Geordie Hind, Jan Cox, Rob Allen, Jonathan Howells & John Edwards 'retired' from the Committee and Dave Hellyar thanked them for their time & efforts over the past year or so.

RIP JOHN HADDON (& HIS PIPES)

Arriving at the Hut for the April "Old Timers" Weekend, Fred discovered a card and package with 2 old pipes (above) tied to the woodstore. We thought they were possibly left there by a grand daughter, although it seemed we no longer had a way of contacting the family directly. Of course, we raised a toast to John's memory and left a post of the pipes being ceremonially burned on the Club's Facebook page, hoping a relative might see it. Sure enough his daughter Jan Mercer did, commenting "My brother Ian and I spent many weekends at the hut with him and his friends, most of whom have passed, Les, Stan, Keith, Waggy are names I remember." So did Meg Woodhall who wrote "Thank you so much for doing this for Grandad John, he talked about the hut often and had wonderful stories to share." Amongst other comments Chris Shinton wrote "Shared a tent with John for 2 weeks in the Alps in 1981. Great bloke. Sad to hear of his passing" and his daughter, Sarah Wheatcroft, shared one of Chris's photos of John at the hut (above) & brought it to the attention of Ian Haddon, John's son, who sent "The only photo have of WBMC from the old days; some faces I remember. My dad and me 3rd & 4th from the right hand side of photo."



MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 13th Feb 2025 @The Red Lion 7.35pm start

Present – Dave Hellyar, Rob Allen, Jan Cox, Nigel Tar, Tony Emms, Claire Hammonds, Fred Hammonds, Mike Thompson and Sarah Wheatcroft (guest)

Apologies – Will Read, Darren Groutage, Geordie Hind, John Edwards

Acceptance of Minutes from January 2024 proposed by Fred and seconded by Rob

1. **Matters Arising** – None
2. **Officer Reports** **Treasurers Report** – there is currently £21,779 in the general account. (Scottish Week, and Away Dinner paid). Awaiting invoice for BMC subs estimated at £4,700. The ring-fenced account contains £30,862. Claire spotted an attempt at fraud (£30.52 for AA membership). Bank refunded. Membership subs for 2026 discussed including the possibility of dipping into the ring-fenced fund. Also, the rationale of continuing with the BMC was revisited. Fred proposed that membership subs remain the same unless the BMC fees become 'extortionate' as there are 'options'. Tony seconded. Mike made the option clearer by proposing that the ring-fenced hut fund is utilised. Jan seconded this. The vote was unanimous.
Historically, the Club has donated to Mountain Rescue and the Snowdonia Society. Agreed to continue to support Mountain Rescue but not Snowdonia Soc.
Membership Report – from today there 192 members with 147 paid members, 3 long term prospective members have been deleted so now there are 11 prospective members, 19 lifers, 13 veterans, 6 juniors and 2 students. Some lifers and veterans still donate and the latter 4 categories are a financial loss as the BMC fees still need to be paid if these folk are to remain in the Club. This adds up to 198.
Hut Report - between 2/01/25 and 21/02/25 (51 days) the hut was used for 19 days for a total of 57 bed nights. Donations totalled £447 The electricity bill for January was £56.23. a cubic metre of wood costing £10 has been delivered. Internet is restored and expecting 3 months refund. Infra red heaters are estimated to cost £725 +VAT without installation. Awaiting a further quote. The ladder guard will cost £75 and a fire guard £30, both essential for child protection.
Coach Report - the Patterdale Coach attracted 37. There were 4 no shows, one of whom had paid in advance. The total loss was £230.
To date 17 booked onto the March coach.
Website/Publicity – leaflets distributed to Tipton Leisure Centre, Erdington and Wolverhampton GoOutdoors, Decathlon and Wednesbury baths.
3. **Club Future Direction** – Fred reported on his findings regarding booking Plas Gwynant for the 75th anniversary in 2027. There are 60 beds (all bunks). PG prefer to do the catering (Saturday breakfast, lunch and evening buffet, Sunday breakfast) and need to leave by 3pm. Two dates proposed 11/12th June and 25/26th June.
Mike proposed a December dinner dance too and will investigate the Gt Barr Hotel.
4. **AOB** – AGM, with have the same agenda as 2024. Jan to send calling notice and minutes.
The Club trustees need to be established.
Nigel suggested that Committee meets moved to a 2 monthly basis and this idea was rejected.
Mike noted that a past member has died and noted that ASDA have a promotion to get kids off the street. Tony will put posters in ASDA.
Ice axes and poles need to be loose on the coach (not on sacs) to prevent damage.
Meet finished at 21.07 Next meet 13/3 (Jan apologised for absence in advance).

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 12th Mar 2025 @The Red Lion 7.35pm start

Present - David Hellyer, Claire Hammonds, Fred Hammonds, Nigel Tarr, Darren Groutage, Tony Emms and Sarah Wheatcroft (guest & minute taker)

Apologies - Jan Cox, Will Holmes, Rob Allan, John Edwards and Geordie Hind.

Acceptance of minutes from February 2025 - proposed by Claire. Seconded by Fred. Accepted nem con

1. Matters Arising - Donation to Mountain Rescue. £100.

2. Officers Reports - AGM : Dave Hellyer will reference the following:- •Deceased members. •Reserve /fund bank account. •Discuss usage for hut/general purpose. •Utilise interest. •March Coach fare has now returned to £25. •Successful Scottish Week. •Website updated / improved. •Coach meets - encouraging new members. •Club flyer. •Digital payments to be encouraged. •The Clubs 75th anniversary.

Treasurer's Report: Claire Hammonds will reference the following: •Surplus of £1,900 for 2024. •Donations. •Key Expenditure •Coach •The hut. There is £21,880 in the current account & £30,862 in the reserve fund. Refund received from Scottish Power for loss of power following storm as £245 cheque issued to Liz Reynolds - this needs to be transferred to Claire Hammonds. The contract for the telephone/internet is finishing soon, current cost is £43.15 & now looking to source a new package costing approx. £40.

Easy fundraising: Volunteer required to deal with gift aid. Darren Groutage is asking for people to use 'Easy fundraising' as part of their everyday online shopping, there is an easy app you can download.

Membership secretary: Tony Emms said we currently we have 195 members, of which there are 6 prospective. There is an issue with adding members through BMC due to people not being clear on who the membership is for when making payment. There is also an issue with people not updating their personal information and a reminder is to be put in the newsletter.

Hut Secretary: Fred Hammonds to say •Members use of hut is still below pre-covid numbers •Maintenance needs to start, quotes are to be sourced for the heating & electrics •Working weekends dates to be arranged, proposed dates 19th-22nd June 2025 •The under floor heating has been condemned & to have it replaced is not economical. It is questionable as to whether an alternative is needed as there is the wood burner for cold weather. Darren Groutage has approached trades for a quote for an alternative source of heating for consideration. •To safeguard members when using the hut a fire guard purchase will cost £52.20 and a ladder guard will cost £65 •31st May 2025 the Hut is booked for the Welsh 3000s. Between 2/01/25 and 21/02/25 (51 days) the hut was used for 19 days for a total of 57 bed nights. Donations totalled £447. So far for March there have been 8 visitors to the hut. Numbers are lower due to the Scottish Week & the Away Dinner.

Coach Secretary: Nigel Tarr said 43 attended the coach meet to Clywdian Hills & 23 are currently booked on coach meet for April. Date for May coach meet possibly moving to 10th May due to clash with Scottish camping week.

Election of officers: All committee officers have been proposed & seconded by the deadline of 12th March 2025, and received in writing. David Hellyer is asking for ordinary members to take some responsibility for organising outdoor meets. Indoor and outdoor meets need to

be discussed as an agenda item. Ideas for the meets should be set out on an email to Darren and formatted as it would appear in the newsletter so that it can be simply copied and pasted.

75th Anniversary 2027: Plas Gwynant has been approached for costs for us to use their function and accommodation facilities. Fred has also been asking Plas Gwynant for the water bill but has had no response as yet. A weekend event for the Anniversary has been proposed with a possible date of 19th June 2027, but we are unable to make a decision until we know the costs involved. Do we wish to go ahead and have an additional celebration in the form of a Black Tie Dinner/ Dance later in the year with a possible date of 27th November 2027 at the Great Barr hotel? This is the only available date currently available for a sit down meal with a Christmas menu. The cost for room hire is £295 and a deposit of £500 is required to secure the date.. The function room will accommodate 100 people.

Any other business: Veterans & Life members are to be asked to pay their contribution to the BMC if they can afford it. BMC Public Liability Insurance will cover members over the age of 80 in the UK, but not abroad.

People supporting the Welsh 3000's will have a free night at the hut, this is for support staff only who will be driving runners and supplying water stations along the route. Event to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 17th April 2025 @The Red Lion 7.35pm start

Present: David Helier, Clave Hammonds, Fred Hammonds, Nigel Tarr,, Darren Groutage. Tony Emms, Sarah Wheatcroft, Will Read, Luke Austin, Darren Beard

Apologies: John Edwards.

Acceptance of minutes from March 2025: Proposed by Darren Groutage, seconded by Will Read **Matters Arising:** 75th Anniversary - no deposit paid towards securing the Great Barr Hotel as yet for 27th November 2027. Sarah Wheatcroft will call the hotel on Tuesday to look further into the matter with Philippa. £295 for room: we need to find out what the £500 payment is covering and will we be refunded if anything happens in the meantime to cause the event not to go ahead. No further information received from Plas Gwynant, currently £165 pp for 2 nights in bunk rooms with breakfast and evening meal £245 for the Celtic Hotel in Caernarfon Suggestion put forward to approach YMCA/hostels to accommodate numbers **Hut Secretary:** Darren & Fred have been looking into the options for heating the Hut and have had a quote of £2860 given for 2 heaters, 2 controllers and thermostat. One to go over the table and one by the current wood burner corner. This does come with a Warranty. The heaters were 1.8 kw but Darren is considering the 2.4kw as a better option. Unanimous vote in favour.

Fred reported Hut Occupancy for 21/02 - 21/03 was 52 overnights by 31 people (26 Members & 5 guests) resulting in £438 donations. Old Timers w/e had full attendance and lots of work was completed, including wood cutting & work around the table. Concern about unstable Pine tree at the back of hut was raised with Gareth from the Forestry service & he has been out for a look on 15th April and was met by Sarah Wheatcroft on site. He has said that they survey every year and it hasn't raised any issue as yet, but he has tagged it for inspection. A yearly Risk Assessment needs to be carried out and displayed on the notice board. Fred has suggested putting something in place at the hut to discourage unwanted parking eg clamping signs or a board to state that the parking is prohibited. There have been plenty of volunteers for the working weekend starting on Thursday 19th June.

Treasurer Report: Claire Hammonds said £18,334 in the current account; £31,228 in the reserve fund with £365 interest. BMC is all paid up

Membership Secretary: - Tony Emms stated we have 199 members currently & Leon is now a Full Member, bringing total up to 200, plus 2 student members. 3 months has now expired without 4 prospective members (Chris Burnett, Rowena Jones, Richard Speak & Lee Wescott) fulfilling membership requirements so Tony is going to remove them from the list. Neil & Leslie Easter have no address in the UK to give to BMC as they are resident in France & BMC insurance will not cover them abroad.

Coach Secretary: Nigel Tarr said a good day was had by all 42 on the Yorkshire Coach Meet which has knocked £80 off the deficit. Currently there are 12 booked onto next coach meet which is the Aber/Ogwen Long Meet & some regulars are now unable to attend due to the change in date. David Helier is suggesting that we stick to the advertised dates but we will be running at a loss.

Future Agenda Items: Chairman David Hellyer said the Hut Fund needed to be one – no discussion today but can we all consider the topics that we should be discussing as a committee moving forward.

AOB: Apologies from David but can we move the next committee meeting to 15th May?

Can Claire & Neen join future meetings via Teams if they take on the Club's publicity? It was felt by most that this wouldn't really work. Darren Groutage raised the subject of funds for the digital platform. Will Read has suggested Google Clicks to push searches with key words to WBMC but this costs around £600 -700 per year. We should encourage members to post about their experiences with the Club on social media. Also can we take it in turns to lead outdoor evening meets? Will is covering May (Cannock); David is covering June & Sarah has offered to do one in July but there seems to be a lot going on that week with members on other socials. Neil Loydon has some affiliation with Wolverhampton Uni whose student union have formed a group interested in mountaineering, particularly climbing. He has asked whether experienced climbers in WBMC would be willing to supervise them to give a taste of what it would be like. Unfortunately, this wouldn't likely be an option. However, there are 50 potential new prospective members that could sign up on student rates and come along to see what we're about. Meeting then closed

“SUPERNATURAL” EVENING INDOOR MEET with Tony Emms

As a change from the usual mountain stuff, Tony Emms volunteered to give the final Indoor Meet presentation of the season on 10th April - one that he used to use at the school where he taught science, even though he'd never seen a ghost or apparition. Called “Supernatural” it did have connections to the mountains & some places some of us may have visited.

After going through some of the science of the electromagnetic spectrum (did you know some people can see into the infra red? or see “Orbs”? – and not just in photos), energy & it's exchange, especially that “stored / detected by” minerals & rocks, especially quartzite & calcite (swinging crystals & compass needles) he went on to describe strange, unexplained experiences that have been well documented at 8 locations in UK, all reported by more than one individual, & asked whether we were aware of the dreadful history associated with them?

Here they are below with some of the links I found later online:-

- 1) **The 10 Bells, Spittlefields**, London: Prostitutes, labourers & Jack the Ripper
https://www.casebook.org/victorian_london/tenbells.html; and
<https://thejacktherippertour.com/blog/the-ten-bells-a-haunted-hotspot/>;
- 2) **Kirklees Priory** & Robin Hood's treacherous cousin, the Prioress (plus Red Roger!)
<https://www.robinhood.info/factandfiction/in-history-and-legend/116-ghostly-sightings-at-robin-hood-s-grave-site>;
- 3) **The Skirrid Inn**: Judge Jeffries' hangings <https://www.hauntedhappenings.co.uk/skirrid-inn/>;
- 4) **The Drovers Inn**, North Loch Lomond, G83 7DX: Angus the builder' ghost walks the corridors
<https://hiddenscotland.com/journal/the-tragic-ghosts-of-the-drovers-inn>;
- 5) **The Jacobite in the Woods** (near Culloden) <https://spookyscotland.net/haunted-culloden/>;
- 6) **Cannock Chase's 'Black-eyed Girl'**: Beware the giggly ghost of a murdered girl.
<https://www.staffordshire-live.co.uk/news/local-news/couple-traumatised-after-terrifying-encounter-7770097>;
- 7) **Luibielt Lodge**, Upper Glen Nevis: Scotland's most haunted bothy
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c77j68e37pvo>;
- 8) **Am Fear Liath Mor** (The Big Grey Man) of Ben McDui: takes 1 step for every 3 of yours!
UK's most haunted mountain https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Am_Fear_Liath_M%C3%B2r;

There was a good attendance for this entertaining & fun evening. If you have had any strange experiences when visiting or staying at a location in the UK, or experienced any unexplained happenings or feelings of unease or foreboding, please let us know!

AND FINALLY**A GOODWILL MESSAGE FROM OUR WELSH FRIENDS**

“Ai hop ddat yw can ryd ddys and ddat yt meiks sens tw yw. Iff yw can ryd ddys, dden yw sawnd ryt and ar redi tw gow hycing in wals widd gofforawalc dot cwm. Gwd lwc and Haf ffyn.”
(For help with translation contact Hilary J)

&

IF YOU THINK SNOWDON SUMMIT IS BUSY, CHECK OUT

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/>

[674573438847580/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v](https://www.facebook.com/reel/674573438847580/?mibextid=rS40aB7S9Ucbxw6v)

