



*******EVEREST***** View from the Top of the World *****SPECIAL*****
29th May is the 70th Anniversary of the First Ascent of Everest**

	Contents	<p><u>CHAIRMAN’S CORNER:</u></p> <p>The AGM was a well attended & lively event which saw in several new executive & non-executive members to the committee. As the Chairman successor to Mel I am looking forward to working with a lively bunch who will have the best interests of the Club in mind as we go forward. Many thanks to all who attended the AGM and contributed to the discussions. A number of interesting, important topics were raised, all of which will feature in committee discussions over the coming months.</p> <p>That our Club has prospered for 70 years is a great achievement & it’s important to ensure it continues to do so for future generations. We can do so by creating a welcoming friendly atmosphere, with opportunities for people to share interesting, stimulating & rewarding experiences.</p> <p>The Club Hut & monthly Coach Meets are key features that have been augmented by the Fort William week, Chapel Stile weekends, Scrambling weekends, summer outdoor & winter indoor Evening Meets, midweek "Beer and Boots" & other events by members from time to time. The continuance of these will be encouraged and opportunities to add to them will be sought. Suggestions from everyone will be welcomed. I wish you all a happy and safe year, wherever you go & whatever you do.</p>
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<p>This Newsletter was produced by John Edwards. If you would like to write an article or spot something interesting about the mountains please get in touch with John via jaejed@hotmail.com</p>		

NOTICEBOARDPROGRAMME OF FUTURE EVENTS:COACH MEETS TO THE HILLS & MOUNTAINS:-

Sunday 14th May – Malham & S Pennines

Sunday 11th June – The Nantlle Ridge

Saturday 8th July – Keswick (Long Meet)

Reserve your seat with Nigel (07703 345729) and be guaranteed a great day on the hills.

These leave W. Brom at 7am & usually return around 9 – 9.30 pm giving ~7 hrs on the hills with linear walks often possible. If you don't fancy a long walk why not come along for a social day out?

LOCAL OUTDOOR MEETS :-

Thursday 11th May Canal walk from The Longhorn pub, Sutton Rd, WS5 3AR @ 6.30pm

Thursday 8th June A walk led by Andy Brown \ led by Mike's Smith & Thompson.

Thursday 6th July A walk led by Mel Evans – details to follow via Mailchimp.

INDOOR MEETS :-

Thursdays 18th May, 15th June & 13th July – Members' Social 8.30pm at The Red Lion

Tuesdays 30th May, 27th June & 25th July – Indoor Climbing at "High Places" Wyre Forest Climbing Wall, Silverwoods Way, Kidderminster DY11 7DT (closes 9.30pm)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS & SOCIAL NIGHTS AT THE RED LION (B71 1RH) :-

18th May, 15th June & 13th July Committee meetings start at 7.30pm & observers are welcome. Otherwise come along at around 8.30 pm for a drink & a chat or meal.

WEEKENDS & OTHER MEETS :-PATTERDALE SCRAMBLING WEEKEND Friday 19th – Sunday 21st May

Mel Evans has booked The George Starkey Hut in the Lake District and as new member Dan Bow, who is in charge of the climbing wall at Kiddminster, is working towards a mountain guide award, he's offering to take members out with no charge!! The weekend is self catering so the cost will be just £34 plus spending money. Mel now has 20 names so there's only a couple of places left – get in quick by phoning him on [07845 060043 !!](tel:07845060043) Although primarily booked for those interested in scrambling, this weekend is open to walkers & lovers of the Patterdale Fells.

Mel is also taking bookings for an **Autumn Scrambling Weekend (Sept 29th – Oct 1st)** based at Coppermines Cottage, Coniston, where WBMC will have the use of 14 beds at £15 / bed and he is accepting bookings for this as well on a "First come. First served" basis.

GOWER CLIMBING / SURFING / CANOEING WEEKEND Friday 16th – Sunday 18th June

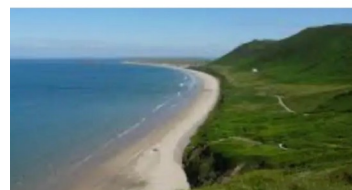
According to the BRMC Facebook page (opposite) this is being hosted by Kimberley Maiyh but I'm sure our Pete Poultney has a hand in it too!! As usual Pitton Cross C&C Park have only allocated so many places (14 pitches) so anyone fancy joining Ken, Graeme, Pete & others best contact Pete (07779 366905) so he can give the latest info.

Some are staying longer so if the Fri & Sat nights are full it might be possible to stop 18th onwards & still be in the same field.

WBMC CYCLE CHALLENGE TO THE HUT 9th & 10th June

Contact Vanessa Biddulph ([07709 514180](tel:07709514180)) if you are interested in part or all the challenge cycle ride or want to be a supporter.

← Gower Meet (16-18 June or a longer wee...



Jun 15 Gower Meet (16-18 June or a longer weekend)



Going



Maybe



Can't go

Private · Hosted by Kimberley Maiyh and Bromsgrove and Redditch Mountaineering Club

🕒 15 Jun at 19:00 – 20 Jun at 11:00

📍 Pitton Cross Caravan & Camping Park Rhossili, SA3 1PT Swansea

SUNDAY 14th MAY : MALHAM & SOUTHERN YORKSHIRE FELLS**Join us for another great day out in Yorkshire****Depart:** 07: 00 –West Bromwich. Edward St Car Park

07: 20 –Penkridge (ST19 5AS)

Toilet stop: Charnock Richard services**Drop offs:** Horton in Ribblesdale (SD 810721)

Skipton by request only

Malham (SD 901627)

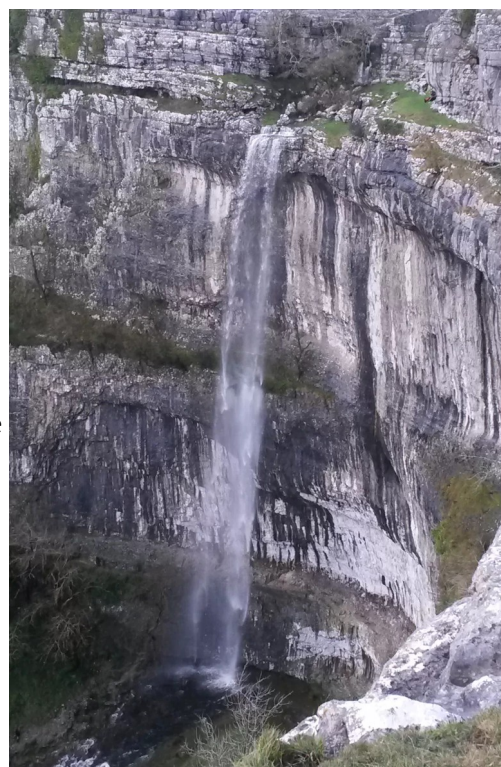
Pick up: Only at Malham (SD 901627)**Required map:** OS 1:25000 Outdoor

Leisure Map No 2 Yorkshire Dales Western Area or

OS 1:50000 Landranger 98 Wensleydale & Upper Wharfedale

& maybe 103 Blackburn & Burnley (for Skipton)

Right: Malham Cove in Dec 2015 after Storm Desmond brought a historic 260 ft drop waterfall back to life for the first time in living memory (photo: Christopher Scaife)

**Suggested Routes:****From Horton - in - Ribblesdale****Route 1. Pen-y-Gent & Fountains Fell (15.5 miles / 25 km)**

Take the Pennine Way to the summit of Pen-y-Gent (838734) and descend south to Churn Milk Hole, then eastwards crossing the road and up to Fountains Fell (865715) +/- other top (868707). Then off left to re-join the Pennine Way south to Malham Tarn (890673), Malham Cove (897641), then a kilometre or so back to Malham and the coach.

From Malham**Route 2. Goredale Scar and Malham Tarn & Cove (~ 10 miles / 16 km)**

From Malham car park head to Mires Barn (902624) and follow Gordale Beck to Janet's Fosse and then climb up Gordale Scar (915640). Head northwards to GR 897664 next to Malham Tarn and then follow the Pennine Way south back to Malham Cove (897643), taking care on limestone pavements & paths as these can be slippery in places especially if the Becks are in spate.

Route 3. Janet's Fosse & Malham cove (4.75 miles / 7.5 km)

As route 2 to Janet's Fosse, climb the waterfall on left at 912634. Turn left on signed path to Malham Rakes Lane & after approx. 250m turn left on signed path to Malham Cove. Descend back to Malham as route2 – take care on descent if slippery!

Route 4. Rye Loaf Hill (~ 10 miles / 16 km)

North on the Pennine Way to Malham Cove but at top of steep ascent turn left to the road & footpath that leads S of Ewe Moor. Ascend Kirkby Fell (874636) & W to trig on Rye Loaf Hill (864633) Drop off south and take minor roads to Kirkby Malham & Pennine Way N to Malham.

From Skipton**Route 4. Get to Malham (?? miles / ?? km)**

Various Skipton to Malham routes can be taken dependant on participants whims & "bagging" requirements.

THERE WILL BE A LED WALK DEPENDING ON CONDITIONS ON THE DAY.**Fares: Members £23, Non members £26, Under 18's & Full time students £10****To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729***Should you cancel after the Wednesday prior to the coach date a £5.00 fee will be charged.**Failure to turn up without cancelling and the full coach fare will be expected.*

SUNDAY 11th JUNE : THE NANTLLE RIDGE (7 Peaks over 2,000 ft !)

Depart: 07: 00 – West Brom Edward St
Car Park (B70 8NL)

07: 20 – Service Road, Junction 2, M54

Toilet stop: Welshpool

Drop offs:

A 487 W of Nebo (SH 467508)

Rhyd-Ddu (SH 571526)

Beddgelert (SH 591481)

Pick ups: Rhyd-Ddu (SH 571526)

Beddgelert (SH 591481)

Required maps: **OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure**
17 Snowdon or OS 1:50000 Landranger 115
(shows A487 drop off)



Suggested routes:

Northern end of the ridge Y Garn & Drys-y-coed

From A 487 - Route 1: Nantlle Ridge S to N (~ 8.5 miles / 13.5 km) LED WALK IF WEATHER OK

Take minor road to Nebo village where road forks. For an extra peak (& slightly longer walk) take the right fork & pass S of Cors y Lyn marsh & climb slopes S of Llyn Cwm Dulyn to cairned summit of Mynydd Graig Goch (4974385) then across to Bwlch Cwmdulyn (509488) then due N to the ridge proper Garnedd Goch (512495) trig. Or take left fork to pass N of the marsh and climb the W slopes of Garnedd Goch to the col & N to the trig. Whichever, the route is then NE to Craig Cwm Silyn (526503). Continue NE but descend steeply N and then E to a narrow col (532507), then up the broad S ridge of Mynydd Tal-y-Mignedd (536514) with its huge (climbable) tower. Over 3 more tops: Trum y Ddysgl (545516), Mynydd Drws-y-coed (549518) & Y Garn (552526) & then drop down E towards Lyn y Gader & the B4418 road to the pub at Rhyd-Ddu.

From Rhyd-Ddu - Route 2 : Northern Part of Nantlle Ridge (6.5 miles / 10.3 km)

Walk up the B4418 road and leave it at the sharp right bend (567527) to climb steeply to the summit of Y Garn (552526). The fun now begins with an easy scramble up Mynydd Drws-y-coed (549518) & along a narrow grassy ridge to Trum y Ddysgl (545516). Descend from the summit to a narrow rocky section with some exposure before a grassy ascent up Mynydd Tal-y-Mignedd (536514). Go back along the ridge to SH543513, then descend S to Bwlch-y-ddwy-elor (553504) from where a good path descends through the forest NNE to Rhyd-Ddu.

From Rhyd-Ddu - Route 3 : Elephant Mountain / Mynydd Mawr (6.6 miles / 10.6 km)

Follow a track through the forest to Bwlch-y-Moch (561540), then the ridge East to Foel Rudd (549544), continuing along the narrow ridge above Craig-y-Bera to the summit of Mynydd Mawr (540546).

From Beddgelert - Route 4 : Moel Hebog & it's Northerly Neighbours (~7 miles / 11.5 km)

From A4085 just N of the village, follow a footpath to an old building from where a good path climbs the east face of Moel Hebog to the summit (565469). Descend steeply NW to a col (560475) then up to the top of Moel yr Ogof (556478) - see if you can spot it's cave. A little farther NW is Moel Lefn (554485). Then follow the ridge on a good path (not marked on most maps) to a disused tip (553495) and into a disused quarry (551500). Then climb over Bwlch-y-Bwlch-y-ddwy-elor (553504) and descend through the forest as route 2 back to Rhyd-Ddu.

From Beddgelert - Route 5 : ??? an easy one

Fares: Members £23, Non members £26, Under 18's & Full time students £10

To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

Should you cancel after the Wednesday prior to the coach date a £5.00 fee will be charged.

Failure to turn up without cancelling and the full coach fare will be expected.

SATURDAY 8th JULY: LONG COACH MEET - KESWICK**Depart:**

07: 00 –West Bromwich. Edward Street Car Park

£4 charge on Saturday (B70 8NL)

07: 20 –Penkridge (ST19 5AS)

Toilet stop: Charnock Richard services**Drop offs:**

Scales NY 343 269

Threkeld NY 325 254

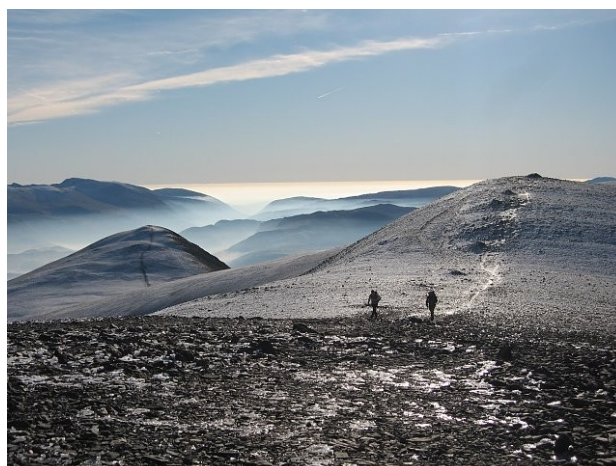
Keswick Coach Station NY 263 235

Pick up:

Keswick Coach Station NY 263 235

Grasmere Coach Park NY 339 082

Ambleside



Required map/s : **OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure 5 Skiddaw's summit ridge with Skiddaw Little Man on left English Lakes North East** or **OS 1:50000 Landranger 90 Penrith & Keswick**

SUGGESTED ROUTES:**From Scales Route 1: Blencathra. & Skiddaw - 17 miles / 27km 1600m ascent.**

From Scales follow the footpath NE then N and NW before the grade 1 scramble up Sharp Edge and round to Blencathra. Continue down the SW ridge of Blencathra before going W to cross Glenderaterra Beck (296 278) and reaching the Cumbria Way (293 279). After crossing the beck go S along the Cumbria Way before climbing NW to the summit of Lonscale Fell and continue to the top of Skiddaw. Retrace your steps to descend to Keswick and if time and stamina permits add Latrigg to your list of hills bagged. *A very long and arduous route which can be cut short at a number of points.*

From Threkeld Route 2: The Dodds, Helvellyn & Fairfield - 15.5 miles / 25km 1650m ascent

From Threkeld follow footpaths S and climb to the summit of Clough Head. Continue S along the ridge over all the tops till Helvellyn and Dollywagon Pike. Drop down to Grisedale Tarn before the steep pull up to Fairfield. Continue S to Great Rigg and then over Stone Arthur and down into Grasmere. *Another arduous route with the only option to cut short onto the 555 Keswick to Grasmere road and then a bus ride or hitch.*

From Threkeld Route 3: Rte 2 with Ambleside finish – 17 miles 27km 1750m ascent.

Follow Route 2 to Fairfield summit. Continue E then S over Hart Crag and High Pike back to Ambleside. *Not for the faint hearted but you've plenty of time and you will have earned your pint.*

Plenty of shorter & less hilly routes from Keswick for example**From Keswick Route 4: Ullock Pike, Skiddaw & Cumbria Way / Allerdale Ramble**

Follow the Allerdale Ramble NW through Thornthwaite Forest to eventually reach Ravenstone Hotel (236297). From the right side of the hotel, follow a steep path through a conifer wood then take the long heather-clad ridge to Ullock Pike (244287). This was Wainwright's favourite route up Skiddaw. Continue along the slate rocks of Longside Edge to Skiddaw and then descend via the Cumbria Way and the Allerdale Ramble back to Keswick.

From Keswick Route 5: Cat Bells & back (take money if you want to catch the boat!)

Take paths to Portinscale and then the Cumbria Way to climb Cat Bells (244198). Alternatively, it may be possible to take a Derwent Water Launch (anticlockwise) at the Landing Stage at (264227) to Hawes End to save the walk in. *Distance 12km (8 miles) less if you take the boat cruise one way.*

Fares: Members £23, Guests £26, Under 18's & Full time students £10

To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

Should you need to cancel, please do so no later than the Wednesday prior to the coach date or a £5.00 fee will be charged. Fail to turn up and the full coach fare will be expected.

Thanks to Andy Brown for help with the routes

AGM (held in the 'Library' at The Red Lion) REPORT

This year's turn out was as good as last year's was poor. There were some good discussions and reports but just as we got to the "Election of New Committee" trays of delicious food (curried chicken, naan bread, sausage rolls & dips) started to arrive so the last few Agenda items were covered speedily as nobody wanted the food to go cold! Claire Hammonds received her Coach Queen certificate and a bottle of wine, John Edwards received the Malcolm Collins Award and AOB consisted of a very brief vote of thanks to the officers retiring from the Committee: Mel Evans, Wendy Morris, Liz Reynolds & Chris Dean. So in case anyone missed it (mentioning no names!!) *"West Brom MC is very grateful indeed for the hard work these volunteers have put in over what has been as difficult a period for the Club as it has been for the country."* Perhaps that's a slight over-exaggeration, but the first part is certainly true! **Thank you all very much for your time & efforts. Enjoy your 'retirement' & , who knows, maybe we'll see you serving again some time in the future!**



Your committee for 2023/24 is as follows:-

President: Mike Thompson	07773 944316	sir.m.thompson1940@icloud.com
Chair: David Hellyar	07732 051073	hellydav@live.co.uk
Vice Chair: David Hind	07505 364318	geordiehind@gmail.com
Secretary: Jan Cox		secretary@wbmc.org
Treasurer: Claire Hammonds	07761 571464	clairehammonds@btinternet.com
Membership Sec: Tony Emms	07793 008582	membership-secretary@wbmc.org or toniemms@aol.com
Hut Secretary: Pete Poultney	07779 366905	hut-secretary@wbmc.org or peterpoultney@hotmail.co.uk
Coach Secretary: Nigel Tarr	07703 345729	tarnnigel@gmail.com
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Jonathan Howells (co-opted)	07859 932389	jhowells42@gmail.com



THE MARCH COACH MEET : sadly one to forget! "C'est la vie"

Well it had to happen sometime I guess! Saturday 11th March was supposed to be our first coach to visit Hawes but, sadly, mechanical problems meant it never got as far as Charnock Richard services. It was a bitterly cold day and the coach turned up with out-of-order heating but the info was that a mechanic with the spare part/s would meet it at Penkrudge and make the repair as the coach drivers changed over. This is what happened but it caused considerable delay and when the coach pulled up at Sandbach Services to let Andy off (he'd decided to head back home by train as he was frozen & there wouldn't be enough time for him to do what he wanted) it was noticed that liquid was pouring from a blown cylinder head gasket! So the driver phoned base for a relief coach and all the passengers went into a cafe for a drink & a warm-up. A much newer coach duly arrived around 1½ hours later, by which time the weather had deteriorated & it was obvious there wasn't going to be enough time at Hawes for folks to do the walks they had planned, so Nigel aborted the Meet and told the driver to return to West Brom. Everybody felt very frustrated, including the coach driver, but everyone was back at Edward St just after noon. Robinsons have apologised & withdrew their invoice. Hopefully just a one-off.

☺☺ THE APRIL COACH MEET : ONE TO REMEMBER! ☺☺

Well it had to happen sometime I guess – a post-COVID coach meet made a profit at last! And what a day the 40 on the coach enjoyed on only our 2nd visit to the western end of Parc Cenedlaethol Bannau Brycheiniog – sunshine, views & a mild breeze all day with mainly dry conditions underfoot. The full traverse of "The Black Mountain", or Carmarthen Fan as it is also known, seemed improbable giving the time pressure but once Nigel made the top of the A 4069 Black Mountain Pass (aka the "Top Gear Road") the first drop-off, the original 5 intending to do the full ~13 mile traverse swelled to 23! Alighting at 11am, Garreg Lwyd trig was reached in 25 minutes, Foel Fraith by noon & Garreg Las at 12.50pm, where we paused for a quick bite to eat.

Most hit the 2nd trig of the day on Carreg Yr Ogof at 1.30pm & only a few veered left to take in the minor summit of Waun Lefrith, because Picws Du looked far more majestic off to the right. Likewise only some stuck to the edge of the escarpment to claim Fan Foel but almost everyone on the coach visited the highest top Fan Brycheiniog (802m / 2,633ft) at some point in the day. Some dropped down Bwlch Gledd to the shores of Llyn y Fan Fawr and then skirted the base of Fan Hir, but the purists went over the top of course and looked down on the others!

I don't think any of us were lucky enough to spot the Lady of the Lake – the most beautiful girl in the world according to the 13th C young Welsh farmer. (See legend details at... <https://www.discovercarmarthenshire.com/explore/walking-in-carmarthenshire/carmarthen-fans-short-walk/>) but I saw some very attractive, tired, sun-tanned WBMC beauties in the pub which we all reached on time! Or maybe that was the lovely beer talking!!

Also a big thank you to Mike & Emily Smith & Darren G for volunteering to lead the Led Walk from The Gwyn Arms, so folk who didn't fancy the full traverse could see the 5 highest summits. They had to stay on the coach an extra 30 minutes but got back to the Tawe Bridge at approx the same time as the larger group (5 pm). On the coach heading home Martin Conway received his Certificate & prize for being last year's Coach King; 'Bookie' Andy Brown paid out the winnings on the Grand National sweepstake that he organised on the outward journey and John Edwards came round with his 'exotic nuts' for people to sample! **For photos: see Facebook**

Finally some stats for Route 5 from Tony Emms:-

Distance to 1st pub 19.85km (12.5 miles) *Total time* 6 hours 18 mins *Moving time* 5hrs 16 min
Av moving speed 3.7km/h (2.3 mph) *Max speed* 5.5km/h (3.4 mph) *Av speed* 3.3 km/h (2 mph)
Start altitude 478m (1,568 ft) *Finish altitude* 209m (685 ft) Thus 269m (882 ft) more descent than ascent but GPS said "Elevation gain 1100m (3,609 ft) Elevation lost 1094m (3589 ft)" which cannot be right! *8.39km* (5.2 miles) *Uphill* : 9.79km (6.1 miles) *Downhill* : leaving 1.2 miles *Level* ☺

THE LAST INDOOR MEETS OF THE 22/23 WINTER

The early March cold snap brought snow but happily Hilary Jones made it up from Surrey in time to give her “Manaslu Circuit” presentation, without needing her snow shovel. It was a mucky night so ‘Hats off and thanks’ to the 20 or so brave souls who did venture out, including the family group celebrating Darren's birthday! Quite a number contacted her to say they had hoped to attend but

Well here is a resume and a few of the photos for those who didn't make it. Her Exodus Travel trek was the one of the first since the pandemic in mid-late Nov / early Dec 2022 and was the last of the season. It was led by Valerie Parkinson, the 1st female mountaineer to summit Manaslu, at 8163m the 8th highest peak in



The anticlockwise route around Manaslu

The West face of Manaslu's sheer granite cliffs

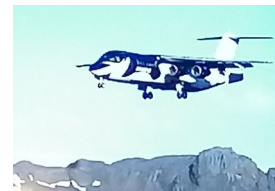
the world, without supplementary oxygen in 2008. The Manaslu Circuit is very similar to the better-known adjacent Annapurna Circuit but takes 14 days as opposed to 21 for the full Annapurna trek. It's highest point is 5,200 m on the Larkya La pass, only 200m lower than the Annapurna route and it appealed because it is less commercial & more remote and generally regarded by those who've done both as slightly more challenging. Hilary was one of 10 trekkers and she says that none of them could have done it without their 3 excellent Nepalese guides & 6 porters. They followed the mighty Buri Gandaki river as it narrowed into a spectacular gorge and passed through several tiny villages perched on the valley sides before emerging onto alpine meadows which are inhabited by a cluster of Tibetan communities below Manaslu's North face. They generally walked 5 – 8 hours each day, covering between 4 & 14 miles at an average altitude of 2,700m and stayed at teahouses & camps along the way.

The group crossing the Larkya Pass before descending through forest to join the main Annapurna Circuit route





In April it was the turn of Geordie Hind to wow another large audience with his presentation about Three Blokes & a Lady Flying to Frei, which his brother in law John Lee, Jan Cox & Bill Douglas had 'volunteered' him for. The show, like their trip, was divided into thirds:- Antarctica, Argentina & Chile. To get to Antarctica involved flying over Greenland with Delta airways to USA, arriving in Punta Arenas late on the second day. 2 days later, a 2 hour flight



took them to the Chilean Frei Station on King George Island - a place with 3 churches! - in the South Shetlands. This modern air route saves a potentially rough & much longer crossing of the Drake Passage but misses out a bit on albatross acrobatics. At Frei, along with the 51 other passengers, they boarded "Ocean Nova", an ice-strengthened vessel that was to be their home for the next 7 days.

Sailing across the Bransfield Strait in rough weather meant most missed their first evening meal, but things soon improved as they anchored at Mikkelson Harbour in the lee of Trinity Is. This was to be the first of 11 landings (2 per day) which saw them step foot on the continent twice. One of these was Jan's favourite, Neko Harbour, where they reached their highest point (~180 m) from which they could look down on glaciers calving. Sailing through the narrow Lemaire Channel (or 'Kodak Gap' as the Yanks used to call it!) was another highlight. Their farthest south was Wordie House, an old British base on Galindez, one of the Argentine Is, preserved as it was in the 1940's by the Antarctic Heritage Trust, which was Georgie's highlight. 3 of out "Gang of 4" & 75% of other passengers 'enjoyed' a "Polar Plunge" in the -2 °C waters but like most cruises these days, because of Covid concerns, they were sadly unable to land at places like Vernadsky, the Base with the largest bar in the Antarctic which the UK sold to Ukraine in 1996 for £1. To prevent the accidental introduction of alien species & diseases they had to make all landings wearing disinfected wellingtons rather than their own boots and, rather irksomely had to keep within flagged routes to minimise wildlife disturbance - today's penguins require a 'personal space' of 5m radius & seals 15m but that never seemed to bother the old whalers & sealers! Their last port of call was Deception Is - a flooded volcano - where, after a look around the remains of the old whaling station & a climb up the ridge of ash beyond, they got the sad news that incoming bad weather meant their cruise was being cut short by 1/2 a day and they had to start the 8 hr sail back to Frei immediately to be sure of a flight out back to Punta.

60 minutes of presentation done so we broke for 'refreshments' - and there was still 2/3rds of the trip to cover! However, Geordie managed this skilfully. Basically they caught a bus to Puerto Natales, hired a car to drive to El Chalten in Argentina, where they lived in style in a "garden shed" for £80 a night. This enabled them to do daily walks of 13-18 miles to get views of Cerro Torre (3128m) & Fitzroy (3405m) peaks & the Laguna de los Tres viewpoint on well-defined trails.

Returning the car to Puerto Natales, they were driven to a Chilean campsite 170 miles N of Punta Arenas in the Parque Nacional Torres del Paine (pre-booking essential) where they had another 4 days of long hikes, mostly on the "W" trails, to see the mountains, glaciers, lakes & rivers in southern Chilean Patagonia. The Towers of Paine (2,600m) are the centrepiece of the park but they also took the Lago Grey ferry to see Grey Glacier, the largest in the area but much smaller than the ones they'd seen in Antarctica. During their trip they 'ticked' 3 species of penguin, 3 types of seal & 3 species of whale, royal albatross, sheathbills, condors caracara, Darwin's rhea, guanaco, puma &



many more - for a full list of birds ask Jan! Three very tiring & expensive weeks but, judging by the great photos / presentation & envious faces in the audience, worth every penny..... you only live once! The "Three Blokes and a Lady" record their thanks to Jonathan Walton of Penguin Cruising Club who was working on the Ocean Nova. He made the Antarctica trip happen by generously offering a much reduced cruise fee. *Note: a recording of most of the talk was made by the Editor and will be shared by We Transfer, but if you miss this you can send him a USB stick for a copy.*

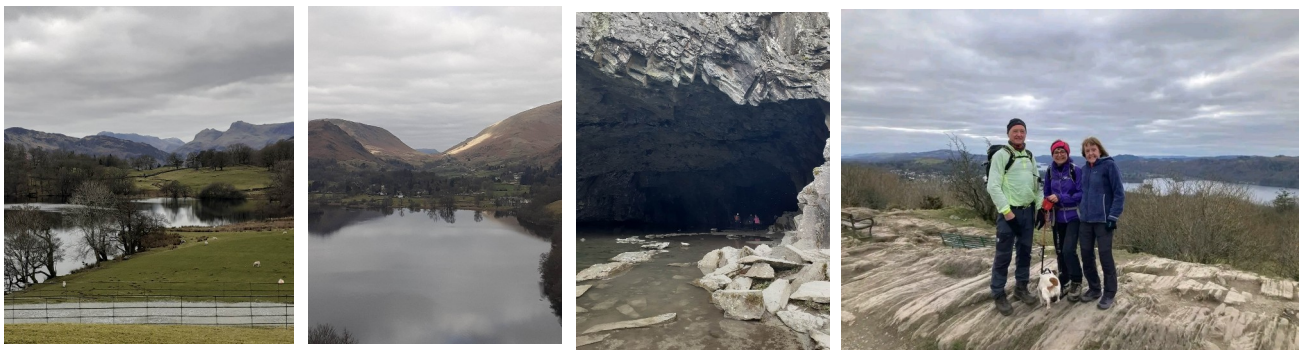
THE SCOTTISH WINTER WEEK AT FORT WILLIAM



The really cold weather arrived after the February Half Term week but the 47 folk who occupied 24 rooms at The Beinn Nibheis Hotel enjoyed themselves judging by what I saw on Facebook. Hilary commented in an email *"I really enjoyed my week in Scotland despite the almost total absence of snow & ice - and even WBMC ers! But it was nice to make new friends. So big thanks again to Jonathan Howells for organising - and to Bill Douglas for recruiting!"* Disappointment at the lack of snow was tempered by some excellent weather, especially towards the end of the week, and the lack of many of the usual WBMC faces was made up by many guests, especially from Worcester MC. Jon is unsure why not many WBMC members booked, after saying last year that they were happy to come back but concluded *"It was a good mix from the other Club and we all got on so I'll be opening the Winter Week up to them again in 2024"* (above Hilary Jones in front of a bare Buchaille, Chris Dean's photo of one of his work colleagues, Andy Crosbie?, near the top of No. 2 gully on Ben's Nevis and 2 of the guests in Glen Nevis with the Steall Falls in spate)

THE AWAY DINNER WEEKEND

Seems to have been a success as Barbara Challinor posted on Facebook "a superb weekend in the Lake District. Walked the Loughrigg Circuit, passing Lake Windermere, Loughrigg Tarn & Rydal Water along the way with views of the Langdale Pikes & Rydal Caves." Someone



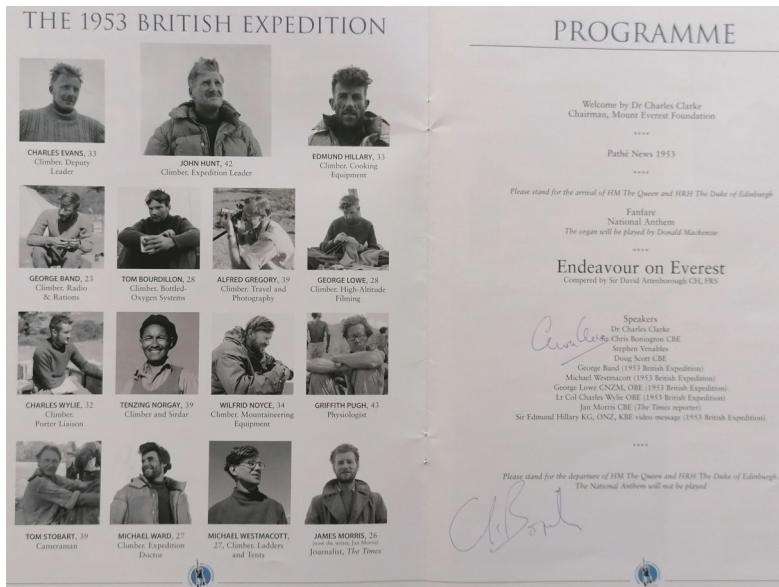
commented her photos (first 3 above) "looked like paintings"! Fred, Claire, "Snoopy", Chris White & others went up Orrest Head (RH photo) . Apparently quite a few members now take advantage of the buses, particularly those with a bus pass. The 555 from Windermere takes you all the way up to Keswick, passing through Ambleside & Grasmere, so is a great ~60 min journey, especially on the top deck, and this enabled many to do the Pikes from Ambleside. There were around 48 on the weekend and, in the absence of Mike T, Barbara found herself delivering the Toast for the evening. Sadly, the dancing on the Saturday was a bit disappointing as there was no DJ and the music choice for the night seemed to be Kylie Minogue. But the hotel is always welcoming and this year the menu choice for the Dinner was unusual but very nice. Oh, and Fred, kept Bob & Nigel company, staying up until the gin & whiskey ran out!



29 MAY 2023 : THE 70th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ASCENT OF EVEREST

20 years ago on the 29th May I was heading to The Odeon in London's Leicester Square for a Royal Gala Performance in the presence of HM the Queen & HRH the Duke of Edinburgh celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the First Ascent of Mount Everest. This was arranged by the Mount Everest Foundation - a charity set up by the Alpine Club & Royal Geographical Society after the 1953 ascent - and fronted by Sir David Attenborough, who introduced the various speakers:- Dr Charles Clarke*, Chris Bonington*, Stephen Venables, Doug Scott, George Band*, Michael Westmacott*, Charles Wylie & Jan Morris, with a video message from Sir Edmund Hillary out in the Himalaya. My ticket cost £25 and was autographed by Tenzing Norway's sister, Pem Pem Tenzing, his nephew Nawang Gombu Sherpa (the first person to summit Everest twice) and Jan Morris; while I managed to get the asterisked speakers to sign my programme.

Two days later I paid £10 to be present at the IMAX Theatre at



Millennium Point for an evening where Stephen Venables introduced a screening of the 1953 35mm documentary "The Conquest of Everest" followed by the 1996 IMAX film "EVEREST". This was filmed using the heaviest camera ever taken up Everest weighing 42 lbs fully loaded with 500 feet of 70mm film, which gives a 10 times larger frame area than the 1953 camera. But a 500 ft roll of film for the IMAX only lasts 90 seconds!!

To celebrate the anniversary the WBMC Newsletter that month was an 'Everest Jubilee Special', with the front cover filled by the News Chronicle front page of June 2nd 1953 with its headline "The Crowning Glory." In this Newsletter I'll share some of the mementos from those 2003 events and try to bring the statistics up to date, as some have changed greatly. For example in 2003 the world's highest mountain had been climbed just over 1,500 times by around 1,000 climbers but as of July 2022 there have been ~11,346 summit ascents by 6,098 different individuals, with currently around 800 people attempting the ascent each year. As far as I am aware no member of WBMC has made an attempt yet.



THE ROUTE TO THE TOP



STUART HOLMES

Colonel John Hunt's careful step-by-step ascent was the key to the 1953 expedition's success. Hunt's plan was to take the mountain in stages, ascending in incremental steps and establishing camps that would act as rest and/or resupply points along the way. Once Base Camp was established on 12th April, the team members set about searching for a way through their first obstacle – the Khumbu Icefall. Halfway up, at the site of a 1952 Swiss encampment, they established Camp II. This was to be used as a rest station for teams ferrying supplies up to the higher camps, but the alarming movement of the glacier on which it was situated – often more than a metre a day – led to its abandonment.

Upon reaching the top of the icefall, the team pitched Camp III on 22th April, and then Camp IV on 1st May; the former was used as a lower terminal for ferrying supplies up the Western Cwm. Three teams carried supplies from Base Camp to Camp III and another took them from Camp III to Camp IV, which was established as the advanced base camp for assault parties making their way higher up the mountain. It became something of a tent village, accommodating as many as 30 men at a time. The next

obstacle was the Lhotse Face, at the foot of which Camp V was set up on 3rd May. About 300 metres up the face, Camp VI briefly acted as a base for teams making forays up the face. It wasn't until 17th May that Lowe and Noyce established Camp VII about halfway up.

It was a further four days before Noyce and Sherpa Annullu finally completed the route to the South Col. Three days later, Hunt, Bourdillon and Evans pitched Camp VIII. 19 Sherpas climbed to this camp, six of them twice, delivering 230 kilograms of equipment and supplies.

On 26th May, Hunt and Sherpa Da Namgyal then established Camp IX in a rock hollow on the crest of the South-East Ridge at about 8,340 metres, stocking it with a tent, food, kerosene and oxygen cylinders, before returning to the South Col. Hillary and Tenzing set off from Camp VIII on 28th May, picking up the supplies from Camp IX. Within two hours they were beginning to tire, so they found a ledge at about 8,500 metres and set up their tent. At 6.30 the next morning, they made their final push for the summit.

Reproduced from the May 2003 issue of Geographical.
www.geographical.co.uk



A HEAD FOR HEIGHTS AND FIGURES

Everything you probably didn't realise you wanted to know about Everest

Age: Approximately 50 million years

Height: 8,848 metres or 29,029 feet

GPS co-ords so you know you're at the summit: N 27° 58'6 E 86° 55'6

Average summer temperature at the summit: - 19° C

Average winter temperature at the summit: - 36° C

Minimum temperature at the summit: ~ 60° C

Maximum windspeed at the summit: ~ 285 km/hr or 175 miles per hour

Frequency of high winds at the summit: One hurricane every 4 days!

Oxygen level at the summit: 33% of that at sea level

Average annual precipitation at Base Camp: 450 mm or 17.7 inches

Highest number of people to reach the summit in one day: 354 on 23rd May 2019

Highest number of people to reach the summit in one year: 876 in 2019 (up to the 50th Anniversary it was 182 in 2001)

If I set off from Base Camp what are my chances of success?: Around 2/3 rds of climbers who went above base camp between 2006 & 2019 reached the summit.

Does it matter if I am a man or woman?: Women are more likely to summit than men & less likely to die - but not by much! 68.2% vs 64.4% summit and 0.5% of 548 women died vs 1.1% of 2,860 men.

Does age matter much?: Most people reading this will be sad to hear that success rate plummets steeply after the age of 40 - and the older you are the more likely you are to die! It's 4% if you're over 59!

But I'm an experienced mountaineer!: Previous experience at high altitude (> 6,000m) does help but greater climber experience seems to matter less now than it used to.

What's it likely to cost me? For the most popular S.E. Ridge route, it's around £43,000 with a sherpa or £58,000 if you choose a western guide, plus ~ 60 days of your time (+/- your life).

Nepal or Tibet side?: Success from the Nepal side is 65.8% & from the Tibet side less at 58.4%.

First ascent: Sir Edmund Hillary (New Zealand) and Tenzing Norgay (Nepal) on 29th May 1953

Second ascent: Ernst Schmied and Jürg Marmet on 23rd May 23, 1956. Dolf Reist and Hans-Rudolf von Gunten also summited the following day. All were Swiss.

Third ascent: Wang Fuzhou, Gonpo Dorje, and Chu Ying-hua of the 1960 Chinese Mt Everest Expedition made the summit on 25th May 1960 and were the first to successfully climb Mount Everest by the North Ridge.

First to traverse Everest: On 22nd May 1963 Tom Hornbein & Willi Unsoeld (both USA) made their ascent alone up the difficult West Ridge, traversed the North Face and then up the narrow couloir that bears the former's name. They descended from the summit down the SW Ridge, bivouacking high up. It cost Unsoeld 9 of his toes due to frostbite. This was the 5th expedition to have a successful summit attempt.

First ascent by a Woman: After surviving an avalanche, Junko Tabei (Japan) became the first woman to climb Everest on 16th May 1975. She was the 35th person to succeed.

First ascent by a disabled person: On 27th May 1998 Tom Whittaker (USA), who has an artificial leg, made it 3rd time lucky and got to the top after failing in 1989 & 1995.

First Blind person to summit: Erik Weihenmayer (USA) on 25th May 2001

First ascent without the use of oxygen: Reinhold Messner (Italy) & Peter Habeler (Austria) achieved this feat on 8th May 1978. Habeler was so worried by the medic's prognosis that this might cause permanent brain damage that he performed the world's highest glissade, descending the 800+ metres from the South Summit to the South Col in around an hour.

First solo ascent: On 20th August 1980 Reinhold Messner (Italy) made the first Alpine-style solo ascent via the North Col, across the Great Couloir & up onto the Northeast Ridge. He deliberately chose the monsoon season when no-one else would be making attempts. During a lull he set off from Adv Base Camp carrying a 20kg rucksack, bivouacked twice and reached the summit on the 3rd day. Probably mountaineering's ultimate achievement!

World's highest bivouac: Doug Scott (England) & Dougal Haston (Scotland) reached the summit as dusk on 24th Sept 1975 - the first British climbers to do so - when they completed the previously unclimbed Southwest Face. They survived the night in a snow hole on the South Summit at 28,704 ft (8,611 m) Fastest ascent from Base Camp to summit: 8 hr 10 min by Pemba Dorje Sherpa

Youngest to reach the summit: Jordan Romero (USA) who was 13 years old when he summited on 22 May 2010. Two years later he became the youngest person to complete the "7 Summits" by climbing Vinson Massif aged 15.

Oldest to reach the summit: Yuichiro Miura (Japan) was 80 years 224 days old when he reached the top for the 3rd time on 23rd May 2013. He'd also successfully climbed Everest when he was 70 and 75 years old - and was the first to attempt a ski descent in 1970 (see later). In 2017 an 85 year old Nepalese climber tried to regain the title but had a heart attack at Base Camp and died.

Most ascents by a man: 24 by Kami Rita Sherpa (Nepal) aka Thapke. His last was on 21st May 2019, having made his 23rd ascent just 6 days earlier!

Most ascents by a woman: A 9th successful climb was made by Lhakpa Sherpa on 16th May 2018.

Total number of Everest ascents: 10,155 ascents by 5,780 different climbers since 1953 according to "Everest by Numbers 13/12/2021" but this is obviously changing all the time. The most up-to-date Everest data seems to be collated by mountain guide Alan on his site www.alanarnette.com and in his latest entry of 2nd Feb this year he states there have been 5,721 ascents by Sherpas & Tibetans & 5,620 by paying clients, making the number of times Everest has been climbed 11,341.

How many routes are there up Everest?: By 1982 there were 9 routes that had been used but at the start of 2022 Alan Arnette states there have been 20 routes used but 98% of all climbers use either the Northeast (Tibet) or Southeast (Nepal) Ridges. For almost everyone the other routes are too dangerous, too difficult & not commercially guided.

Total number of Everest deaths: To date 306 people have died on Mt Everest (was 280 in March 2019) and while the number of deaths has been increasing, the overall death rate above base camp has fallen to below 1%

Main cause of deaths: For the 2010-2018 period this was avalanche (41.6%) with exhaustion (16.6%) and Acute Mountain Sickness (12.5%) the next most common.

Is Mt Everest the most dangerous peak in the Himalaya?: No, Annapurna I is the most dangerous of all mountains. Since 1900, 224 expeditions to climb it have resulted in 72 deaths, that is in nearly 1 in 3 ascents one participant did not return. K2, Kangchenjunga, & Nanga Parbat are also far more dangerous with 21-29% death rate (roughly 1 death for every 5 successful ascents to their summits) compared to Everest's 14%

Client to Sherpa ratio on Everest: Current ratio is 1 : 1.62 In 2022, 415 sherpas enabled 256 clients to summit from the Nepal side.

First person to attempt to ski down Everest: On the afternoon of 6th May 1970, Yuichiro Miura (yes, it's him again!!) stood on Mount Everest's South Col at an altitude of more than 26,000 feet. He had previously set a world speed skiing record of 172.08 km/hr (107 mph) in 1964 & now, as he did some turns at 25,940 feet, he held the world altitude record for skiing! On his head he wore a fighter pilot's helmet, complete with a transceiver, he had oxygen tanks & a parachute on his back and a pair of skis on his boots. He took off down Everest's slopes at 1.07pm and very quickly deployed the parachute. As the wind & its strength were constantly changing the

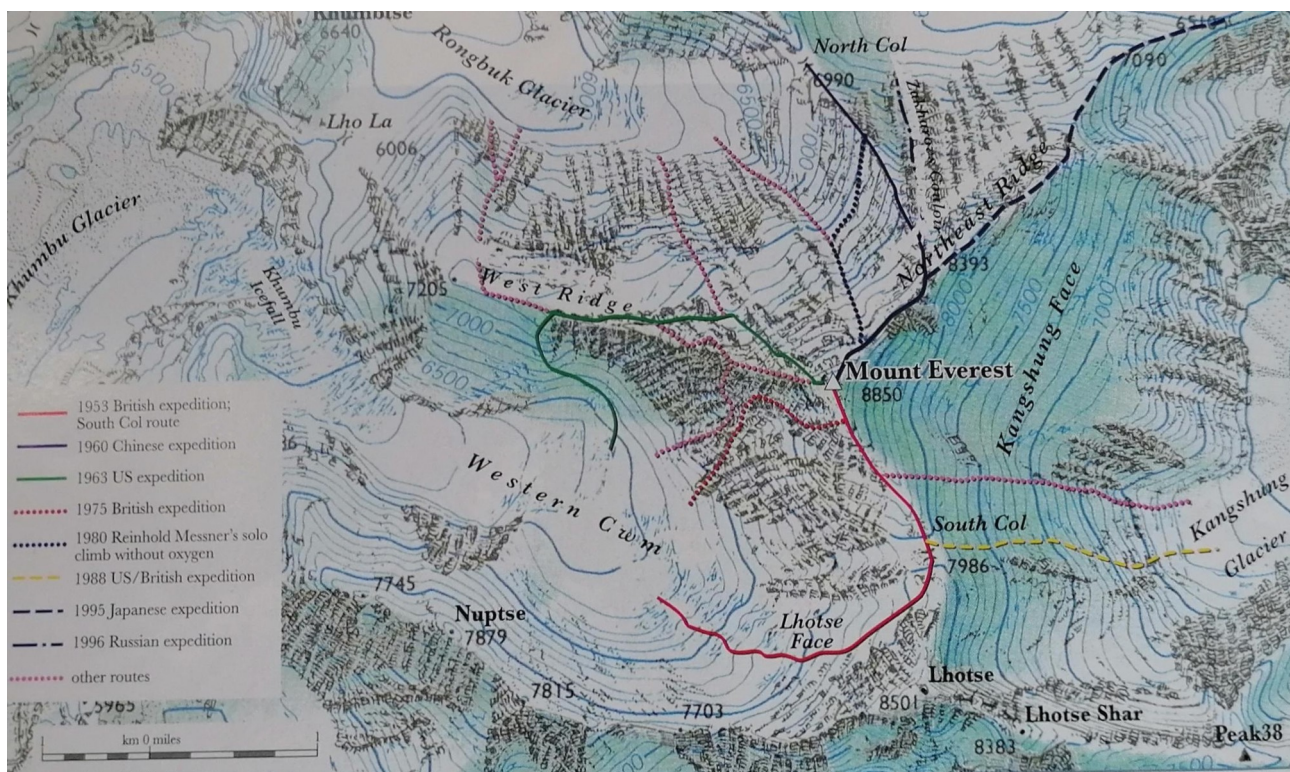
parachute became worthless and Miura couldn't maintain control. When a ski caught on a rock he fell & slid helplessly down the ice and was 99 % sure he would not survive. His skis released but the safety straps kept them attached to his body & they flailed beside him until one broke off and bounced off like a toothpick. There was nothing he could do to stop as he slid toward the world's highest bergschrund waiting below. After sailing over a rock, which propelled him 33 feet into the air, he hit a small snow patch and miraculously halted, just 250 ft from the gaping hole. His descent of approximately 4,200 vertical feet took about 2 minutes and 20 seconds and his journey was recorded in the 1975 documentary "The Man Who Skied Down Everest", the first sports film to win an Academy Award for best documentary. He also wrote a book by the same title, published in 1978.

First person to complete a ski descent of Everest: In 2000 Davo Karnicar (Slovenia) completed a ski run down the original route taken by Hillary & Tenzing in 1953.

First person to complete a snowboard descent of Everest: 22 year old Marco Siffredi (France) made a successful descent of Everest on a snowboard via the Norton Couloir in May 2001 (Right) He wanted to come down the Hornbein Couloir but this didn't have enough snow, so he tried again the following year. On 8th Sept 2002 it took him & 3 sherpas 12.5 hrs to reach the summit ploughing through chest-deep snow but the weather seemed perfect so, after resting, he set off down into the Hornein Couloir but never turned up at base camp and his body has never been found.



The map below shows the main routes used to climb Everest.



"DEATH ZONE: CLEANING MOUNT EVEREST"

Hilary Jones mentioned this 99 minute documentary, made in 2018, to me last year as she'd seen a friend's Facebook post :- "I'm watching a documentary on an expedition to Mt Everest..... Not to climb - but to clean up the astonishing amount of rubbish left on the mountain by past climbing expeditions. It's about 30 young Nepalese Sherpas who undertook this difficult project. They had

to stay very high up on the mountain for weeks to tidy the slopes & carried ~1,800 kgs of rubbish down on their backs!! They recovered dead bodies left on the mountain & they got sick from human faeces left at the camps. They did all of that under the most intensely difficult conditions - because they care about this beautiful mountain. They care about the people downstream who had to drink water contaminated by garbage & bacteria from the bodies & faeces." It's still available on Amazon Prime, who describe it as 'a dramatic self-documented story of 20 elite Nepali climbers who venture into the "Death Zone" of Mount Everest to restore their sacred mountain and the contaminated water source of 1.3 billion people'.

As Hilary says "I keep thinking why can't we all take a little bit more care of our one precious mother earth? **We only have one!**"

MORE WBMC DOCUMENTS ADDED TO THE SANDWELL ARCHIVES

On 27th February the Editor lodged another load of documents (26 items in all) into Sandwell's archives. These comprised :-

- ** The Treasurer's Files & accounts from 1984 to 2002; 2006 to 2010 & 2014 to 2017 inclusive.
- ** The bound Hut Journal 1964 – 1980 and the Hut Booking Sheets from 2000 to 2013.
- ** The Hut Secretary's Booking Diaries for 2003, 2005 and 2006 to 2014.
- ** 4 rolled up plans of the toilet block extension to the Hut (Oct 1970 & April 1973) and the seating plans for the Dinner Dances of 31/10/1980 & 20/11/1981)
- ** A folder of old, no longer used, Bank & Building society accounts & signatories
- ** A polypocket of the most recent Meet Cards (including 2023's)

They already have:-

- ** Our Newsletters from 1985 plus 1989 to May 2019;
- ** Hut Journals 1981 to 1988 and 1992 to 2008;
- ** AGM Minutes from 1985 to 2018 (*missing 1989, 2012, 2016 & 2017*);
- ** Committee Minutes from Dec 1952 to February 2011
- ** A file of the names of all WBMC Officers & Committee members from 1951 to 2019 - this last was started by John Henk and I endeavour to keep this up to date.
- ** Coach Meet books from 1993 to 2012
- ** Membership Cards from 1992/3 to 2017/18 (*missing 93/94, 94/95, 96/97, 2000/01 & 02/03*)
- ** Meet Cards from 1989/90 to 2018/19 (*missing 1994/95, 1996/97, 2000/01 & 2002/03*)
- ** A copy of "The First 50 Years Book" & 2 folders of material collected for this (some ended up not being included) plus Brian Drew's "A Long Way From Clent" (re Len York)
- ** A black folder of miscellaneous items of interest, Newspaper articles etc.

All of these are available for WBMC members to view, and other researchers / members of the public if the committee approves of their intentions beforehand.

The Sandwell Archives Service operates from Smethwick Library (High Street, Smethwick, B66 1AA) but their hours are different from the Library, opening only 4 days a week (Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat) 10am – 4pm. If you don't have one already, they can issue you with a free CARN reader's ticket, which is used in archive services around the country but you need to take proof of your name, address and signature e.g. a driving licence plus your WBMC membership card if you want to view our archives. There is a car park just around the corner and Smethwick Rolfe St station is 2 minutes away (Galton Bridge 15 mins). They recommend you book in advance as they have limited staff & space (but I didn't on 22th) by phoning 0121 569 4985 or emailing archives_service@sandwell.gov.uk Go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/archives or www.blackcountryhistory.org to view / search for WBMC in their community history catalogues & photographs online.

NB If any member has any of the missing items (**in bold above**) I'd be very grateful to have copies to make our archives complete. Or anything else that they think deserves preserving for that matter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR :-**TUESDAY CLIMBING GROUP ON TV**

Our March 2022 Newsletter contained details of the "Tuesday Climbing" group up in Derbyshire / Sheffield and pictured Pete Townsend, their oldest member. Sadly Peter died last October & his fellow climbers think about him every week & raise their glasses to him after each climbing session. Well, he featured again on the BBC Countryfile - "Going to Extremes" programme which was aired on Sunday 26th February 2023, as their early tribute to the Everest 70th Anniversary. The BBC contacted Peter's daughter to ask permission to show some footage (previously shown on Countryfile in January 2020) of Peter, then aged 82, climbing on Stanage with presenter Helen Skelton (of Blue Peter / Stricklycumdancin' fame) & fellow 'Tuesday Climbers' Ollie Lewis & Crystal Morley. Although you've now missed it, it will be available on iPlayer for the next year or so and Geoff & I are sure it will be of interest to members as it shows the original boots & gear used on Everest, techniques used to test modern gear and Elise Wortley's "Women with Altitude" project & her repeating the exploits of early female walking pioneer Nan Shepherd.

Cheers

Geoff Brown (now based in Eyam)

MALCOLM COLLINS PHOTOGRAPH

Hi John

Does anybody know the whereabouts of the photo of Malcolm Collins that was hanging on the wall of the hut? If it's found could I ask the committee for it to be put back up please?

Many thanks

Ken Priest

Ed: I remember the one Ken means and hopefully it will turn up, but at the same time I'd be interested if any of the older members could send me photos of Malcolm as it seems a shame he's only remembered in one – and there's no photo of him at all in the "50 Years" book!

WELSH GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATION LICENSING CONSULTATION

On 16th December 2022 the Welsh Government launched a consultation on their ideas for a 'Statutory licensing scheme for **all visitor accommodation** providers in Wales'. The committee only got to hear about it on 7th March when Wendy Morris received an invitation from Ian Wyatt, the BMC Clubs Rep' for the Midlands Area, to a Zoom meeting on the evening of Monday 13th March – very last minute as the consultation ended just 4 days later! The consultation had only been brought to Ian's attention by the Bromsgrove & Redditch Club, not the BMC! As it appeared it would apply to club huts, they asked if he could facilitate a meeting of all interested Midlands' Clubs to discuss the 36 pp document and possible responses. In the event around 20 people participated, with WBMC the most represented (Mel, Dave Hell & John Ed). All the Clubs felt that this extra cost of having to apply for a license should not apply to their Hut, especially those that were members-only or not-for-profit, especially as many didn't actually own the building. It was felt that the more -ve responses were sent from individuals, Clubs & representative bodies the better. The WBMC committee met on the 16th March and I tried to attend via Zoom from home, where I could put together my own response and get it off in time. Although the consultation is now closed the proposals can still be viewed online via <https://www.gov.wales/statutory-licensing-scheme-all-visitor-accommodation-providers-wales> The draft responses of the BMC and MAM were shared on the Club's Zoom and I can send these to members by return if they care to email me. John Edwards jaejed@hotmail.com

MANY THANKS INDEED FOR YOUR DONATIONS & GIFT AID DECLARATIONS

As a Community Association Sports Club, WBMC is able to submit a claim for Gift Aid on the donations of specific individuals or certain non-specific collections made by the Club. So a big thank you is in order to the 15 people (you know who you are) who gave voluntary donations as part of their 2022 membership, or extra for the use of the Hut. These have been used to claim Gift Aid from HMRC, post 5th April 2023. Together with Hut donations and a small part of what folk paid for coach seats between 1st Jan & 31st Dec 2022, I'm hoping the 2022 claim will bring in a 4-figure sum to the Club's coffers! To date 120 people have signed up to permit the Club to claim allowable Gift Aid when this is possible. If you are a UK tax payer and are happy to sign such a declaration please get in contact with the editor who will email you a form. Likewise please let him know if you have signed but are no longer eligible to give Gift Aid.

& ANOTHER WAY EVERYBODY COULD HELP THE CLUB: EASYFUNDRAISING

In February I was in contact with a financial advisor I've been using for over 25 years and he replied in an email *"I promoted Easyfundraising (EF) <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> to my Sub-Aqua Club members back in the 2000's and encouraged members to pass this on to friends and family so we could widen the 'net' considerably. This was remarkably successful & my club raised a LOT of money. All that would be needed is for your members to register with Easyfundraising and nominate WBMC as their chosen recipient of reward funds. Currently EF pays beneficiary organisations amounts based on purchases (eg 12.5% of the amount you spend on all sorts of things such as printer cartridges, clothing, holiday, wine, flights etc etc). With advances of technology, there's a way to remind users of the need to use EF, as they offer an 'add-in' for your chosen browser, so whenever your browser detects you are in 'buy' mode, it pops up a reminder to ensure you do what is necessary to ensure a donation is made based on what you spend: **John, I think use of EasyFundraising is a 'no-brainer', as it's so easy to arrange – and if WBMC regularly reminds members and other supporters of its existence, it will result in a steady stream of extra income."***

So I went online and logged on. I wanted to see if I could switch the 'cause' I wanted to support & add West Bromwich Mountaineering Club as one of these 'causes' and was surprised to find that this had already been done back in 2018 by David Jones! But because this was not promoted to members at the time, no money had been raised for the Club and I was only the 3rd person to sign up to support WBMC. I decided to try it out immediately as there was something that Carol wanted that she'd seen in Dunelm. Instead of going into Solihull, I logged on to www.easyfundraising.org.uk, selected Dunelm as the shop I wanted to visit online (it could also have been Morrisons, M&S, Sainsbury, Boots, Booking.com, J&B Sports or one of many others) and bought the object for £20 as a result of which WBMC is 34p richer and I am currently shown as the top donor! The bigger the purchase and the more members & their families make online purchases this way, the more money trickles into the Club's coffers. A "no brainer" indeed! I downloaded the EF app to my phone and later added the 'Reminder' prompt link to Google on my Laptop.

So as soon as you finish reading this Newsletter, please register with EasyFundraising and select West Brom MC as the organisation you want to support. I'll be giving more tips and prompts on our coach meets, social media and future Newsletters.

"MAISON PAQUES" : FANCY VISITING LES & NEIL'S GAFF IN SUMMER 2023?

Lesley Easter has been in touch about what has become 'Neils Life Project' :-
"We are pleased to say that our French home is almost finished (note : almost!) and we want to take this opportunity to invite the WBMC members to experience the peaks & valleys of the High Pyrenees and stay awhile in our 'Gaff' during the coming summer.

Our house is situated below the village of Betpouey on the D918, the main road that ascends the infamous Col du Tourmalet from Luz Saint Sauveur. This is a favourite with cyclists as a classic



section of the Tour de France. Indeed, we are currently renovating the garage to provide secure storage for bikes, and it'll be finished before the end of June - he promised!!!

For the mountaineers that want to tick off a top or two, we can offer transport to the start of ascent routes of Vignemale, the highest of the French Pyrenean summits at 3298m. There are plenty of other 3000's to choose from e.g Neouville (3091m) accessible from the Refuge de Glere, which is walking distance from the house. The UNESCO Heritage site of Cirque de Gavarnie is a short drive away and gives access to refuges & the heights of Taillon (3144m) and the Breche de Roland (2807m).

We'd prefer you to research your own plans & just let us know your preferred itinerary.

Plenty of guide books will give you all you need to know to plan your trip to name just one :

<https://www.bookdepository.com/Walks-Climbs-Pyrenees-Kev-Reynolds/9781786310538>

For those that prefer a less arduous challenge you can meander on lower level walks, visit local villages and take advantage of the thermal waters in the local spas. Not forgetting white water rafting , mountain biking, zip wire challenge and via ferrata in the gorge of Luz St Sauveur.....

DOWN TO THE NITTY GRITTY .. We can accommodate 8 guests in our van, we have 1 twin room, 1 family room (double room adjoining a very small single which could be converted to a bunk if numbers are important) & 1 double room that can also be a twin.

We would quote a price depending on your requirements e.g number of nights, use of van, self catering or half board. We only offer self catering as a whole; not a mix of HB/SC and don't worry..... Lesley isn't cooking!

Getting Here / Travel Information:-

RYANAIR FLY STANSTED TO LOURDES (and we will transfer you the 45 minute drive to and from the house) For Parking at Stansted Airport see

<https://www.stanstedairport.com/parking/>

PREFER BIRMINGHAM FLIGHTS?? YOU CAN ADD A CITY BREAK WITH RYANAIR FLIGHTS TO TOULOUSE OR BORDEAUX. Both Of These Cities Connect To Lourdes By Rail But You'd Need At Least 1 Nights Stay To Appreciate The Cities.

Any queries or for more information please email easter.lesley@orange.fr



FINALLY: A huge 'Thank you' to those from the club that have helped with renovations and to those that have visited us during the Winter ski season.

**Your support has been invaluable xxxx
THANK YOU!**

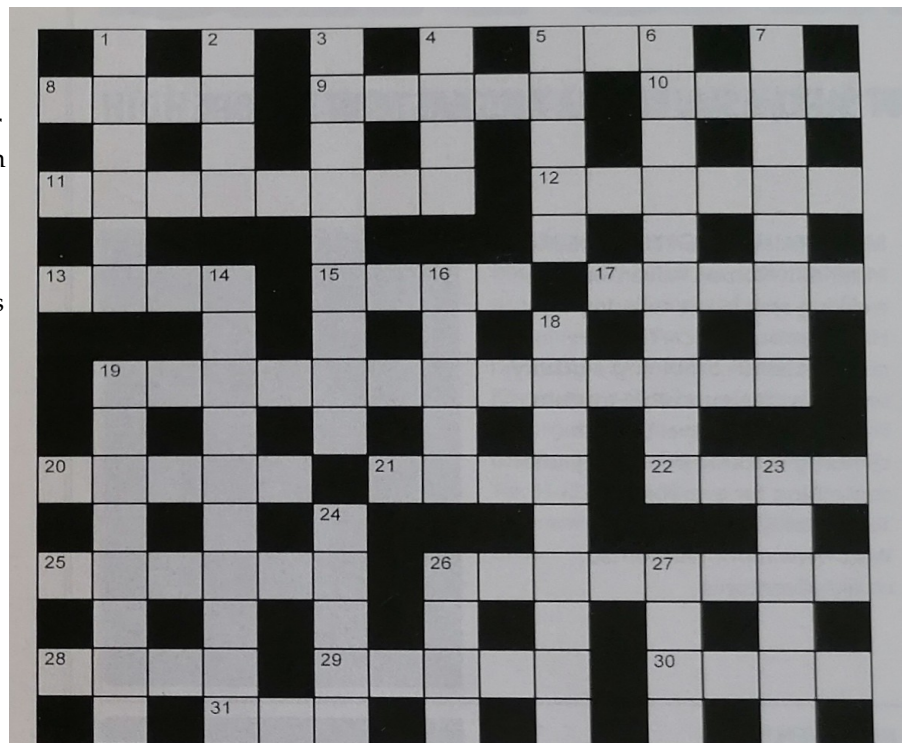


PRIZE CROSSWORD WITH GEOGRAPHICAL / MOUNTAINEERING THEME

Discovered in the celebratory Geographical Magazine of 2003, here is an appropriately-themed crossword for members to try their hand at. Lists of answers or a scan / photo of your completed effort to be sent to the editor

(jaejed@hotmail.com) by Midsummer's Day (or Midwinter's Day if you are a Southern Hemisphere reader).

Answers and the name of the sender of the nearest all correct answers (and £10 prize winner!) will be revealed in the next Newsletter.



ACROSS

- 5 Vegetable found in pipe, Annapurna (3)
- 8 Long-legged wading bird I bisect partly (4)
- 9 Winter home secured by Tabei, gloomily (5)
- 10 Average held by Shipton or Mallory (4)
- 11 Velcro, initially, makes possible only member of the 1988 UK/US team to Everest peak! (8)
- 12 Points out climbers' support aids (6)
- 13 Initially climbers Lambert, Unsoeld, Burke's association (4)
- 15 Scree formation includes ridge in the main (4)
- 17 Knocks down Lakeland hills (5)
- 19 Everest ice mass makes you hug a UK climber, madly! (6,7)
- 20 Snow transport guided between poles (5)
- 21 Accra geologist holds rock unworn by glacier
- 22 Wide difference of opinion – Persian, perhaps? (4)
- 25 Talk about the French in Swiss-style accommodation! (6)
- 26 Cor! Ohio's moved to a Caribbean location (4,4)
- 28 British backing on Czech city (4)
- 29 Rinse out tree secretion (5)
- 30 Go across the Simplon, for example (4)
- 31 Chap's backing S.E. Asian country, briefly (3)

DOWN

- 1 Get roped in to descend a rockface? (6)
- 2 Like to get first class return from the continent? (4)
- 3 Mountain-dwelling community sees racing driver, eccentric Brit, go to top of Everest (4,5)
- 4 Mountain range at heart of Nepal psyche (4)
- 5 Ship's stern gets round Bolivian lake (5)
- 6 Gangster in confusion – he ascended with Mallory/Irvine (1924) and Tabei (1975) (3,7)
- 7 Argumentative type of horse-breaker? (8)
- 14 Brill duo? No, sadly – he failed to reach the summit (with Evans) in 1953 (10)
- 16 Alpine peak in Transkei (German) (5)
- 18 Kathmandu's leader and gnus hang around Everest's icy east face (9)
- 19 Desert plateau helps supply jackal, a haricot... (8)
- 23 Damaged hostel – it's linked to Everest's peak by South Col (6)
- 24 A bit of Everest or Matterhorn bad weather? (5)
- 26 It's all right drowning manuscript with Siberian port! (4)
- 27 Vital link between one mountaineer and another? (4)

CONGRATULATIONS TO CHARLOTTE TAYLOR (nee Goddard)

Charlotte (above) completed the London Marathon on 23rd April in 4 hrs & 26 minutes.

In the process she raised nearly £2,500 for Cardiomyopathy UK in memory of her father & one time WBMC Chairman Pete Goddard! If you want to help her get to £3,000 you can still donate via

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/charlotte-taylor115?utm_source=copyLink&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=charlotte-taylor115&utm_campaign=pfp-share&utm_term=a6dca2993d1a46be8967b09995eccc9ee

"WET WEATHER OPTION" INVITATION FROM KARL BACON AT "THE FOUNDRY"

Over the years at The Foundry, we have hosted many groups who were rained off in the Peak District and it's always a pleasure to welcome groups from all over the country to our climbing wall. . As we approach the time when you might be planning a visit to the Peak District or Sheffield, I would like to make you aware of the **discounted offers** we can make to your club members when you come to The Foundry.

- Entrance will be charged at £6 per climber. Our normal "On Peak" climbing rate is £9 at weekends.
- As a member of our Club, which you become once you have registered with us, you can take advantage of any deals in the members' shop at the time of the visit. Registration at the Foundry is free.
- You will be entitled to free kit hire on the day of your Club's visit. If coming as a club group just send Karl a message in advance. If coming as an individual bring a current WBMC membership card.

At the Foundry, you'll have access to; top rope climbing from grade 3 to 6c, lead climbing from 4 - 8a+ & bouldering from font 3 - 7c. There are over 60 top rope routes, 70 lead routes & 120 boulder problems on two contrasting walls. There are also 7 autobelays on a variety of walls to enjoy.

To make your visit more efficient, can you ask your members to complete our Over 18 Unsupervised Registration waiver if they are competent climbers in advance I have provided a link below: [Over 18 Registration](#)

If any of your group are novice climbers, they should register as a novice with the waiver below: [Novice Registration](#) They will then be required to be signed in by one of your competent members. Again the waiver is below: [Sign in a Novice](#)

An unsupervised member can sign in and supervise up to two novices.

If you have any questions about any of the points above, or other points about visiting our wall, please do not hesitate to get in touch or visit our website www.foundryclimbing.com

Cheers Karl karl@foundryclimbing.com tel :0114 279 6331

(The Foundry Mountaineering Club is at Unit 2, 45 Mowbray Street, Sheffield, S3 8EN)

MINUTES OF THE WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16th March 2023 @The Red Lion

Present: Mel Evans(chair), David Hellyar, Nigel Tarr., Andy Brown, Mike Thompson, Chris Dean, Wendy Morris, Rob Allan, Liz Reynolds, Mike Smith, Pete Poultney.

1.Apologies: Jan Cox, Geordie Hind, John Edwards, Jonathan Howells.

2.February Minutes: Acceptance proposed by Mike S, seconded by Pete P. Agreed nem com

3: Matters Arising: Jan to enquire whether LDWA uses BMC insurance to cover corporate liability.

Andy will publish details of the Rhum meet. Chapel Stile w/e is sadly cancelled due to refurbishment of the building.

4.Officer Updates: Treasurer- Club balance is £40,039.17p with £30,000 ring fenced. This is net of Nev's Winter Week, BMC fees and Away Dinner. The desirability of having someone monitor the Treasurer while compiling the final accounts to check for errors or omissions was raised and deemed worth pursuing.

Membership Sec: To date 40 people have not renewed their membership. Of these 33 are Full members & 7 Students etc and they have until 31st March to pay. Including the above 40 we have 213 members: if none rejoin 173. £5219.55 has been paid in membership fees & £36.12 is now the annual BMC fee. There was a brief discussion about relaxing the joining criteria for prospective members to encourage new ones but it was decided to consider options at a future time. One prospective member, Nicci Falloon, was proposed by Rob Allen & seconded by Jan Cox. Mel proposed that the 2024 Club membership fee remain the same as in 2023. In the event of a BMC subscription increase there could be an EGM to discuss and possibly increase the subscription before it became due.

Newsletter: John has almost finished the March / April Newsletter

Website/publicity: Nothing to report

Hut Secretary: No further news about the Internet installation. The gas supply controls and the shower are receiving attention. The Hut is occupied most weekends and some mid-weeks too.

Coach Secretary: Nigel said the servicing of the coach amenities rests with the driver. The problem with the heating on the March meet was attended to at Penkridge by replacing a filter on the heating system but this did not solve the problem. Later on the coach stopped on the M6 & a failure of the head gasket was discovered. A duplicate coach was provided, albeit too late to continue to Hawes. The meet was abandoned & the fee waved by Robinsons. It was agreed that, by letter, Robinsons be advised that the Club expects better service & that Andy & Nigel collaborate in the letter's preparation.

Meets: The Scottish Week was successful with 45 attendees but only 12 were WBMC members & the balance from other Clubs. Hilary's slide show was well attended & enjoyable and Geordie is to give April's on the Antarctic adventure. April coach is to 'The Black Mountain' and the May evening meet will convene at The Longhorn pub at 6.45pm. Andy B will provide details of the Rhum trip. Tony E will be at Torridon over the Bank Holiday w/e if anyone wishes to join him.

5. BMC: Nothing to report. **6. AGM:** Will take place at the Red Lion on Thursday 23rd march commencing at 7.30pm.

7. Any Other Business: John E has been nominated for the Malcolm Collins Award in recognition for his work on the Newsletter. The Website will have to be updated after the AGM.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm Next Meeting- 20 /04/23 @ The Red Lion.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF WBMC COMMITTEE, held on 20th April 2023 at The Red Lion. 19:30 start

Present: Andy Brown, Rob Allen, Claire Hammond, Nigel Tarr, Dave Hellyar (Chair) , Mike Smith, Jan Cox, Fred Hammond, Darren Groutage , Geordie Hind, Jonathan Howells

1. **Apologies for Absence:** John Edwards

2. **Acceptance of March Minutes:** proposed by Andy and seconded by Fred

3. **Matters Arising:** Nigel and Andy did not construct and send a letter to Robinsons. Nigel has spoken with them. There was discussion regarding a letter and agreed to take no further action.

4. **Officer updates: Treasurer** Club balance is £40,040 (£30,000 ringfenced) as of 20/03/2023. Claire still has no access to the online account. She will be investigating ways to get interest on the ringfenced £30,000. **Membership Secretary** To date, 42 people appear not to have renewed their membership. however a true number is not available as Tony does not know who has paid until Claire gets online banking access. Tony is also unable to exit onedrive and has contacted Joe.

Membership details have been made available to 4 interested persons. **Newsletter** John has almost finished the May/June newsletter. Andy agreed to construct a front sheet for the Keswick long meet in July. Fred and Mike agreed to lead the May and June led walks. **Website/Publicity Hut Secretary** Hut WiFi now available. Pete intends to give the password on booking. Some discussion around this and agreed the password should be in the hut. wood is now £100 per tonne (or ton) so only burn when necessary. The shower has been repaired although the header tank pressure is not good. **Coach Secretary** The last coach meet broke even with 40 persons (4 @£10). The timings of dropoff was an issue and in future there needs to be better communication between the newsletter (more accurate), the coach secretary and the driver. **Meets** So far 21 have booked on the next coach. Four are going to Rum (all sorted). The last indoor meet was well attended. First outdoor meet this year to start at the Longhorn in Walsall, led by Mike S and Mike T. Jan to chimp out details. Next meets June - Andy Brown July - Mel Evans August - Pete Poultney September - Rob Allen Dave is considering Chairman's Challenge options as this is on the meet card.

5. **BMC:** As requested Jan had some insurance details from LDWA. BMC are dictating Club fees and will not provide details for the following year. The Club need corporate liability (Officers and Directors). Discussion regarding competency of leaders and participants and insurance cover. Need to establish options and investigate BMC v alternatives in terms of cost and policy requirements. Tony will investigate the MCS. Darren will look at 'something'. Jan to consider Insuresport Mutual

6. **AOB:** Dave proposed the business programme for the following year. Need to address these before the 2024 AGM
 Subscriptions Membership criteria Hut fund Hut booking Club activities
 Website Dogs at the hut Dave will decide the order with Website being first (May). Committee to consider what we want from a provider before the next meeting. Fred asked about the hut keys held by past members. Andy said these had been paid for so are not the property of the hut. Rob suggested a key code that is regularly changed.
 Meeting finished: 20.53 pm Date of next meeting: 18/5/2023 The Red Lion.

REQUEST FOR PHOTOS & STORIES FROM SOCIAL MEDIA SEC. ANTHENIA

Can everybody please send me their favourite pics from any outdoor adventures that they are happy for me to publish on Instagram & Facebook? Ideally PM (personal message) them with a short caption on our Instagram or Facebook (the one with the club logo) accounts please? This is just so I know I have your consent & that you're happy for me to publish.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064679917542> and

<https://instagram.com/westbrom.mountaineeringclub?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>