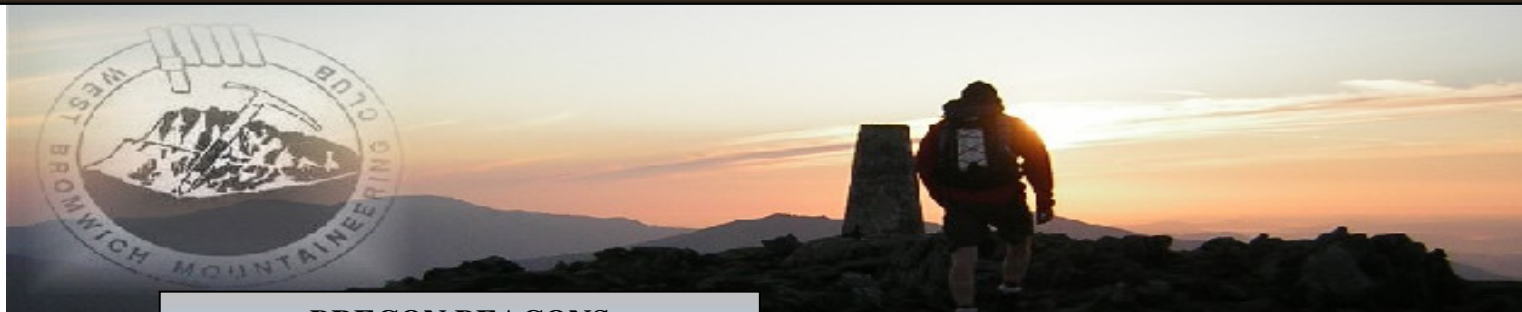


# WEST BROMWICH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB NEWSLETTER



## BRECON BEACONS COACH MEET SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2008



### PICK UP:

West Bromwich Police Station 07.00am

### DROPPING OFF AT:

Pencelli (094250)

Storey Arms (983203)

### PICKING UP AT:

Storey Arms (983203)

### REQUIRED MAPS:

OS. 1:25 000 Outdoor leisure

Map No 12 Brecon Beacons West & Central Areas



## SUGGESTED ROUTES:

**Route 1** From Pencelli follow the road west, and then turn left at the second road junction (090251). Follow this for a while then leave the road (081245) & start the long steady climb SW over Gist Wen (064218) to Bwlch y Ddwyallt (055203). The path now follows the cliff edge to Fan y Big (036206). A steep descent west to Bwlch ar y Fan is immediately followed by a steep ascent to Cribyn (024213). Another descent and climb takes you to the highest summit in the National Park, Pen Y Fan (012216). From the summit a short walk leads over Corn du (007213) to Bwlch Duwynt (006210) before dropping to Storey Arms and the coach.

**Distance 18 km (11 miles)**

**Route 2** Nuttall baggers might like to follow route 1 but where the ridge narrows at Rhiw Bwlch y Ddwyallt (057206) veer off left at to climb to the summit of Waun Rydd (062206) and then head south east for just over a mile to Allt Lwyd (079189). Retrace your steps to the Bwlch and then left to Bwlch y Ddwyallt (055203) and onto Route 1 again. After Corn du (007213), head NW to Tommy Jones' obelisk (000218) then follow bearing 260° to Y Gyrn (989216) then follow a fence south to a path junction (990211), which descends gradually to Storey Arms.

**Distance 23 km (14 miles)**

**Route 3** From Storey Arms walk down the road to a car park and find the start of the path (988198). The path first climbs to the col of Bwlch Duwynt then a short steep section takes you onto Corn du (007213) and finally Pen Y Fan (012216). Retrace your steps to Corn Du and descend as route 2.

**Distance 9 km (5½ miles)**

**Route 4** Fancy a change? From Storey Arms head SW to climb the ridge of Fan Fawr (970193). The summit is a small pile of sandstone blocks, above the trig point half a mile to the east! Then head NNE over bleak moorland to a depression from where a path leads to the impressive cliff of Craig Cerrig-gleisiad. The summit is at the left hand side of this at 961218. Continue north to the trig point on Fan Frynych (958228) then off down the track on the NE ridge. At a wall junction a permissive path goes S and then E to a picnic spot by the A470. Walking beside the road will get you quickly back to the Storey Arms or you take the path a little to your right on the opposite side of the road and climb up to Y Gyrn (989216) then follow a fence south to a path junction (990211), which descends gradually to Storey Arms.

**Distance 14 km (8½ miles)**

To book on the coach please ring Nigel Tarr on Tel: 07703 345729

Fares: Members £14.00, Guests £16.00, under 16's and full time students £6.00

Please put the coach mobile in your phone before you go out on the hills 07704 208 248

**£5.00 pp cancellation charges apply: You must cancel by 7 pm on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

Coach rule 7 applies: "Do Not Go Above The Snowline Without Ice-axe & Crampons." Please stow your ice-axes and crampons in the side compartment of the coach, DO NOT leave them in the coach boot where they could cause damage to the rucksacks.



## Editorial

Things to look out for in this the final newsletter of 2008 – Guys weekend to Scotland in January, a very fine hostel it looks too!!(refer to Dates for your Diary)and Ken Priests December slide show “The Bochette Way” (refer to your October newsletter for details!). A fine team they made with the youngest being 15 at the time of the trip. Join us at the Globe on the 11<sup>th</sup> December to hear the trials & tribulations of **The Bochette Six**. We have 2 coaches booked on our December coach meet(due to high demand) please avoid last minute cancellations as this will cost the club dearly! Don't forget subs will be due in January – pay early and Alison will **LOVE YOU!!** See you all at the Christmas social 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008, **The Globe**. (I couldn't make this newsletter any more Christmassy – there was no room!!!!!!!)

The Editor.



Message from our membership secretary:

### Membership

#### Club membership fees due January 2009:

Single members - **£23.00** Joint members - **£38.00**

Students - **£10.50** Junior members ages 16 – 18 years - **£8.00**

Young members (under 16 years) - **£1.50**

Subscriptions should be paid to the Membership Secretary, Alison Whitehead by cash or cheque.

Cheques should be made payable to: “**West Bromwich mountaineering Club**” and should be given to Alison on Thursday evening at the Globe or posted to: 20 Regent Drive, Tividale, Oldbury, B69 1TH

For anybody interested in joining the West Bromwich Mountaineering Club please contact Alison and she can provide you with an information pack which details the requirements for membership. [Alison.whitehead3@virgin.net](mailto:Alison.whitehead3@virgin.net) or telephone 01384 254110



### NEW STORE OPENING

Go Outdoors  
Eagle Street, Bilston Road  
Wolverhampton  
WV2 2AQ

WBMC members are invited to an open evening at the new GO Outdoors store in Wolverhampton on Wednesday 3rd December from 7.00pm 'til 8.00pm. There will be fabulous GO Outdoors offers for all who attend the store, along with a free discount card for all customers who make a purchase at the store \* (spend over £25.00 and subject to availability) Complimentary refreshments will also be provided. To attend the opening evening, please contact the store **Tel: 01902 350950**

We look forward to seeing you. Regards  
Chris Beddow (Department Manager Technical)

Anyone wishing to accompany Mike Smith on the Haute Route in August 2009 – The original high level route from Chamonix to Zermatt  
**contact Mike on 0121 360 0553**  
(More details in January newsletter)  
Cost for this trip should work out at approx  
£700 - £800 for 2 weeks!



### THE WBMC MEETING PLACE

**THE GLOBE INN - 27 Reform Street, West Bromwich, B70 7PE** Join us every Thursday night from 9.00pm in the Globe Inn, Reform Street, West Bromwich for an informal chat and a drink!



**WBMC Hut fees:**  
 Members - £3.00 per night  
 Guests - £5.00 per night  
 (maximum two guests per member)  
 16 yrs & under - £1.50 per night  
**Stamped addressed envelopes are provided in the hut for payment**  
**To book ring Mike T:**  
**01922 860451**  
 (When you are a fully fledged WBMC member you can purchase a hut key from Mike at a cost of £4.50)

**DECEMBER HUT AVAILABILITY**  
**(as of 13th November 2008)**

**Fri 5<sup>th</sup> December** – Old Timers weekend **FULL**

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> December** – Available

**Fri 19<sup>st</sup> December** - Full

**Fri 26<sup>th</sup> December** - 5 booked

**Wed 31<sup>st</sup> December** – 5 booked

(Midweek is generally free)



I went to hut with my mucker Paul (not yet a member) for the working weekend. Any road up we(the blokes that is) managed to replace the external wood store in the pouring rain, so have of course named it the Ark.(Someone did suggest "The Erection " but we thought best not to!) *I wonder who that was Pete!* Whilst we were building the Ark the ladies-Mikes wife, Carol and Bob Duncan's wife, Mary, made and replaced the mattress covers! So really I would just like to say "THANKYOU TO THE LADIES", (cuz if people don't know who makes them then they might get taken for granted and we wouldn't want that!)

Regards Pete Poultney 🙄 *(picture of the ark as an erection was hard to find!)*

**AND A BIG THANK YOU TO MARY & CAROL FROM THE CLUB!!!!!!!!!!!!**

*(Oh and the boys for their erection!)*

**MIKE THOMPSON WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK THE HUT WORKERS:**  
**MAL VAUGHAN, BOB & MARY, CAROL, PETE POULTNEY, PAUL BANKS & NIGEL JORDAN**

**IMPORTANT NEWS FROM YOUR COMMITTEE!**

The Prince of Wales Hotel otherwise known as Waterside has unfortunately closed for refurbishment for 18 months, therefore we have had to find an alternative venue for our away dinner. John Eadon has hunted high and low for a hotel that will supply us with what we need for the right price. The Lake District does seem to be getting more and more expensive and if the away dinner does not prove itself to be successful in 2009 an alternative destination will have to be sought for 2010! Suggestions welcome.....!

Anyone that would like to arrange one of our Summer evening meets please feel free to volunteer, all we need is a short walk and a pub meal!! Discuss with any member of the committee. Contact guy Harris on 07967820002 if you have a slide show for our Winter indoor meets.

The committee would like to thank all those that helped to make a successful skills weekend; Oliver Stephenson, Pete Goddard, Nicola Hall & the one footed Neil Easter.

Thank you to Jonathan Howells for organising the home dinner!!!!



**WBMC PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION**

At the 2007 AGM it was suggested that we have a Club photographic competition. This did not occur in 2007 but at the 2008 AGM I committed myself to organising one. After much deliberation it seems best to run this as a digital competition. These can be photos taken on a digital camera or digitised scans of B&W or colour prints or transparencies. These should be e mailed to me at [jaejed@hotmail.com](mailto:jaejed@hotmail.com) (via somebody else's e mail account if necessary) and, depending on the number of entries, these will be judged by members on a Thursday night or a sub-group of the committee. Accordingly I am inviting every member to send me as e mail attachments their entries for one or more of the 6 categories:-

UK Landscape  
 World Landscape (non UK)  
 Rock climbing / Scrambling  
 Portrait  
 Humorous  
 Black & White

There will be a maximum of two entries per category per person. All entries should be received by me between **now** and midnight 31st March 2009 and should have a title as part of the jpeg. Please make sure your e mail makes it clear which category each picture is to be entered for and that you give your name. If you haven't e mailed me before, your entry will probably end up in my 'Junk' box but I should be able to look at this regularly and transfer your images to the appropriate "Competition Folder". I will also e mail back to confirm that I have received your entry/ies so that you know they have not been lost in hyperspace.

This means, everybody should be able to send in their photos and if people have a couple of prints or transparencies they wish to enter then they can scan them in themselves or get them scanned professionally (1 or 2 should not be too expensive). John Edwards ( [jaejed@hotmail.com](mailto:jaejed@hotmail.com) )



The club sends Best Wishes to Mrs Pat Mullett who has recently undergone surgery to replace both knees! We wish you a speedy recovery Pat! (Oh, and watch out for the physios?)

**\*\*\* IMPORTANT NOTICE \*\*\***

BMC Midlands AGM: Thursday 27th November 19.30  
 The BMC will be holding their first meeting at Redpoint Climbing Centre in November, followed by an "interactive" show with Nick Bullock. This is your chance to get involved, meet some friendly people, rant about your favourite subject and scoff butties. If you want to find out more, email [iain.a.mckenzie@btinternet.com](mailto:iain.a.mckenzie@btinternet.com), I will need to know rough numbers so I can arrange food.

At the AGM we are going to elect members to the Midlands Area Meeting for the next year, if you are interested in getting involved, get in touch. I would like to stand down as Area Chair and Wall Rep but remain on the National Council.

Iain McKenzie

Link to the BMC Midland newsletter:

<http://www.thetowerclimbingcentre.co.uk/portal/images/stories/141108.pdf>



**WBMC ANNUAL AWAY DINNER****DATE CHANGE****THE AWAY DINNER IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR****FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009 2 NIGHTS****The Hydro Hotel**

The Hydro is one of the oldest Lake District Hotels, originally built as a water cure hotel in the late 19th century. This year, water treatment is returning to the Hydro, with the opening of the Hydro Spa, with spa, sauna and mini gym & boasts the newest hotel swimming pool in the Lake District. The Lake's edge is only minutes away and the hotel is walking distance from the shops of Bowness on Windermere.

The Hotel has over 80 bedrooms, all non-smoking, all with private facilities, colour television, telephone and tea and coffee making equipment. The hotel has ample parking.

[www.thehydro.co.uk](http://www.thehydro.co.uk)

The home dinner gives you a chance to walk in this beautiful area and yet enjoy a dinner/dance on the Saturday evening with fellow WBMC members. This weekend is open to non members and feel free to invite family!

Fri/Sat nights - £110.00 per adult in a twin/double room to include Friday room and breakfast, Saturday includes dinner, bed and breakfast & includes the disco on the Saturday night.

Single supplement - £25.00 per person per night

Dinner for non residents - £25 per person (must be prebooked)

Additional nights - £40.00 per adult per night twin/double share on a bed and breakfast basis

Lake view supplement - £20.00 per person per night

**FAMILY ROOM PRICE ON REQUEST (they have bunks in separate alcove)**

Children 12 -15yrs sharing a room with 2 paying adults pay 50 % - £55.00

Children under 12 stay free of charge if sharing a room with 2 paying adults but pay

£5.00 for the evening meal on the Saturday night.

**AWAY DINNER BOOKING FORM****27 MARCH 2009 2 NIGHTS**

**LEAD NAME .....****CONTACT TEL NO:.....****Email.....**

No of twins					Lake view supp (price as above)	SUB TOTAL
	x	£220.00 per room	=	£	Yes/No	£
No of doubles						
	x	£220.00 per room	=	£	Yes/No	£
No of singles						
	x	£160.00 per room	=	£	Yes/No	£
No of Triples (child sharing under 12yrs)						
	x	£225.00 per room	=	£	Yes/No	£
No of Triples (child sharing 12 – 15yrs )						
	x	£265.00 per room	=	£	Yes/No	£
Family rooms on request						
	x	TBA	=	£	Yes/No	£

Additional nights & room type	Dates	Cost £40.00 per person per night	
			£
			£
			£
			£
			£

No for Saturday dinner only					Names dinner only:		
	x	£25.00 per person	=	£			
Any special requests: e.g vegetarian meal requirements etc.					TOTAL		£
					DEPOSIT	£25.00 PER PERSON	£

A deposit of £25.00 per person is required at the time of booking, the balance is payable direct to the hotel. Unless a SAE is enclosed with your payment you will not receive a written confirmation. If you have an email address we can send you a confirmation. Please make your cheque payable to the West Bromwich Mountaineering Club and forward it with a copy of the booking form to Mr J Eadon, 33 Whitton, Leintwardine, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 0LS. If you have any further queries please contact John on 01547 540466

### THE CLEVELAND WAY (Helmsley to Filey Brigg)

Reading last month's Newsletter made me feel for Nicola & Oliver, who were so very unlucky with the weather when they attempted their long distance footpath this summer. Carol and I were more fortunate in our attempt to backpack the Cleveland Way, in spite of the dreadful English summer and both thought it was a really good route in an area, the North Yorks Moors, which we had only visited once before. Having done the Isle of Wight coast path when I retired 5 years ago with a ridiculously heavy tent and the West Highland Way last year using B & B's, I was keen to try a different route and put the little Saunders' Space-packer I bought on e-Bay to good use. As usual I let Carol plan the overnight stops (so I can't be blamed if the day's walking is a bit too hard) and she wisely built in 3 B&B stops so we could shower and dry kit out if necessary.

We said 'goodbye' to our car at Griff Farm just outside Helmsley on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August, having walked pack-free to see the White Horse of Kilburn the previous day. We had only gone a couple of miles when we took off our packs in order to look round the beautiful remains of Rievaulx Abbey and then spent the afternoon walking in intermittent rain to Sutton Bank. Fortunately the next day was clear and we got fine views as we followed the edge of the heather-clad Hambleton Hills all the way to Osmotherley – 13 miles without any café, pub or other shelter.

We were not so lucky on day 3 as it started raining as we took the tent down and stopped just as we reached our intended destination, the camp site (free if you eat there) at Lord Stones Café below Carlton Moor. We can really recommend this one as the food is good and not expensive & it serves real ale. We were able to dry out in front of their fire before pitching on a piece of grass as flat, level and close cropped as the lawns at Buckingham Palace, where we enjoyed a champagne picnic with Liz & Phil in June 2002 (am I allowed that bit of bullshitting?) (*Yes John but I'm not sure about the use of the word bullshitting!*) It turned out that Tuesday night is 'Bikers' Nite' and so we enjoyed cut price food and drink while listening to the jokes and banter of the Geordie Hells Angels!

The next section is the finest on the walk, as the path ups and downs its way over Cringle Moor, The Wainstones, Clay Bank Top and Urra Moor, which at this time of year smelled and looked fantastic with all the purple heather. The forecast was poor but we walked in sunshine during the morning and got views from each top. However, the scudding clouds were building steadily and 10 minutes after leaving Urra Moor we were enveloped in cloud and spent the next couple of hours walking into driving rain. As we dropped down off the Moors towards Kildale, the rain ceased so we were able to dry out a bit before we reached the farm campsite. This was occupied by several DoE parties and Carol's eyes lit up when the farmer mentioned the YHA Camping Barn that was just across from the toilets. So we splashed out an extra £2 per head to save putting up the tent in the soggy fields and I got to see one of Liverpool's pre-season friendlies as the barn had a TV! However, I don't think we'll be doing any more camping barns as sleeping the night in the tent would have been warmer.

Day 5 was one of our longest, 14 miles downhill to Saltburn, only it wasn't all downhill but another switchback over Easby Moor, Roseberry Topping & Highcliff Knab. Again we were lucky with the weather, the rain starting only after we had checked into our B&B.

The second half of the walk south eastwards along the coast is really interesting and picturesque up to Robin Hoods Bay but we thought the last 2 days through Ravenscar & Scarborough were a bit boring and were spoiled by too many caravan sites. We found the route much tougher than the West Highland Way with more ascent & descent and the latter was not pleasant as it often involved uneven steps, made slippery by all the rain and mud. There were more villages where we could take a break on this part of the walk – some like Staithes were very pretty, some like Skinningrove were ugly but interesting. Luckily we found shelter when we needed it and so were able to escape the heavy rain when it came. We spent a morning playing cards with my sister in a flat they had rented for the Folk Week in Whitby and were thus able to complete the section to Boggle Hole in the dry. We were just passing a swish hotel in Scarborough when it started to throw it down like stair-rods for 45 minutes so we didn't get wet at all and we were in the café at the end of the walk signing the Finishers Book when a sudden thunderstorm struck. So we completed the 112 mile route in 10 days, only 2 of which were sunny, but enjoyed ourselves and only had to walk in soaking rain three times.

The previous folk to sign the book were WBMC members Liz and John Cook who had completed The Wolds Way just 2 days before us. Their comment on that walk? "Yorkshire was shut! No coffee shops and pubs shut lunchtime!! Wet and hard work with backpacking and camping".

We felt we had been very lucky with our walk and would recommend it to anyone!

John Edwards (*Thanks John, you have given us all hope!*)

The Cleveland Way



Rievaulx Abbey





#### SEPTEMBER CLIMBING WEEKEND by Paul Brindley

For a mere novice like me, the September climbing weekend could not have been any better. With several experts, particularly Ken, Ollie and Pete, having a good many years of climbing experience and showing great patience, this was my first taste of proper outside climbing. The weather could not have been better, at any time of the year: blue skies and sunshine. The stage was set; the only question was 'could I cope, or would I bomb out?' We set off early, hopeful of a great day, spoiled only by the 'countryside smells' on the final approach to the car park. A short walk in to the Moelwyns gave no time for anticipation to grow to become fear. 'It's only a 220 metre multipitch, we'll soon knock the b-st-rd off', I heard someone say! Right! We split into teams, all three teams climbing within earshot of each other. Hearing other people swear at regular intervals meant they too were 'having similar fun'. The road at the valley bottom slowly became smaller, when you dared look down. The views got bigger. Then after what seemed like minutes, but was really hours, we were all at the top, all the teams finishing at the same place and together. Funny how hours become=20 minutes when you are both concentrating full on and having fun. Thank god that's it! Now just the agonising walk down in those climbing shoes.

'Time for another then!' came the same voice. 'We could just go to the pub, but its such great weather and rock'. The alcoholics were outvoted; off we went again, back up the same cliff but by different routes. Another few difficult moves and much soul searching. What do you think of when you are left on your own on a small ledge a few hundred feet up? I guess anything and everything except the drop. And the fact that you have to move soon. And why do the mountain rescue team practicing next to us make it look so very easy? Yet again, we all made it to the top. No falls, but plenty of scraped hands, knees and every other body part we could hold onto the rock with. And then another agonising walk down in climbing shoes, just to remind you of the adage that there is no gain without pain.

As the sun started to set, we walked out, smiles from ear to ear. The less experienced of us having dented our fear of heights, feeling very privileged to have spent such a great day in the hills with such experienced guys. And then back to the pub and the hut for a beer or two. What a great weekend.

*I think that Ken is planning to book in a few climbing weekend next year so keep a look out in the newsletter Diary (back page!)*

#### Alan George 9/8/1930 – 22/8/2008

It is with great sadness that we belatedly report that Alan George passed away shortly after his 78<sup>th</sup> birthday after finally losing his long fight with cancer and post-operative infection.

A founder member of Wolverhampton Mountaineering Club and a W.B.M.C. member for around 20 years, Alan had a real love of the hills and remote places; a passion reflected in his membership of the John Muir Trust and local Wildlife Conservation societies. Scotland was his favourite walking area, especially in winter, and he was a regular on the Club's Scottish Week for many years. Although he climbed lots of Munros, he was never a "ticker" – the route taken and the view from the summit was more important to him than the height. For most of his walking days he was fleet and nimbly footed and he showed great prowess in scree-running. One of his last ventures was to walk long sections of the Glyndwr Way with ex-WBMC member Ray Brown, a task made more difficult by local farmers who kept removing the signposts!

He was an excellent craftsman and his hobbies included glass engraving, book binding and silverwork. He worked as a pattern maker for almost 50 years and the many items he worked on included the locks on the Royal Yacht Britannia and parts of the Thames Barrier.

Unfortunately, Alan suffered from impaired hearing all his life and latterly this detracted from his enjoyment of evenings at "The Globe" so his appearances at Club became less frequent. A few years ago, he and Margaret had a clear-out of their treasured collection of mountaineering books and offered them to WBMC members to raise money for charity, so his memory lives on in many people's libraries as well as their minds. Any donations in Alan's memory towards 'Compton Hospice' or 'Cancer Research UK' should be sent to Jennings Funeral Directors in Wombourne.

**There was an attendance of well over a hundred at his funeral, with many of his WBMC friends present and we send our condolences to Margaret, together with an apology for the lateness of this notice.**

J.E



**"I only went out for a walk and finally decided to stay out till sundown, For going out, I found, was really going in." John Muir (1838-1914)**

With typical tongue-in-cheek humour an elder statesman of the club described the John Muir Trail (JMT) as "....a nice little walk ..." We had read differently and in early August decided to see for ourselves. The JMT runs for 216 miles through the Sierra Nevada mountains of California, from Yosemite Valley in the north to the summit of Mount Whitney (at 14,496ft the highest in the 48 states) in the south. It passes through large expanses of high mountain wilderness at an altitude of between 8,000 and 12,000ft, where there is no permanent habitation and no basic facilities.

We flew to Reno, Nevada, travelled south to Mammoth, (only one bus a day) then West on the hikers' shuttle to arrive in Tuolumne Meadows (8620ft) at lunch on the second day. Immediately the obligatory Wilderness Permit was organised, a bear proof container hired, a trowel purchased and by 2pm we were on our way to walk the 26 miles to Yosemite Valley. The effect of altitude, heavy sacs and very limited food meant that we literally staggered into the back-packers campsite at 7pm the next day. The Valley itself was absolutely mind blowing and well worth the effort, it was just a pity that time did not allow us to climb Half Dome. The famous El Capitan is one hell of a rock, amazing to think that the record climb is now something like 3 hours!

Next day we caught the early morning bus back to Tuolumne Meadows and generally rested before meeting up with our guide, Tricia, (she had climbed the short side of El Cap!) and fellow hiker, Dewayne. The following morning we set off along Lyell Canyon, an absolutely beautiful, long, relatively flat but steep-sided mountain valley under a cloudless sky, towards Donohue Pass (11,056ft) which we intended to cross early the next morning. This became our routine for the next twenty days, a high pass every 2 or 3 days. We were blessed with glorious weather. The pristine mountain environment was absolutely awesome. The sac was always heavy, even though our guiding service (The Sierra Mountain Centre) organised food drops so that 5 days of food was the max we carried. On the third day we had to walk our American companion, Dewayne, to a trailhead. He was out on his feet having totally overestimated his physical and mental abilities.

The highlight of the trek was the camp locations. Without exception they were stunning. Camp fires were allowed below 10,000ft and it was magical to sit in total wilderness by the camp fire and watch the sun set over the High Sierra at the end of each long hard day.

On the final day we summated Mount Whitney by 10 am on a perfect morning and so completed the JMT, the sting in the tail was the 11 mile (inc. 6,000ft of descent) walkout, totally out of food! It had been "...a nice little walk ..."

Mt Whitney 14,505ft

**Mel and Geraldine Evans.**

Towards Donohue Pass



**A SAFETY REMINDER BY Iris Cooksey**

The following is a little "ditty" which I submitted to the newsletter, a number of years ago, at a time when the committee were reminding members of the individual's responsibilities when venturing into the mountains. Like the recent weekend at the Club Hut, courses were set up for mountain safety and navigation; I particularly recall one held at Plas Gwynant where a group of us spent a beneficial and enjoyable weekend.

**Look all around and over the ground –**

**Keep your map on the track and not in your sack.**

**It's not such a rumpus to look at your compass,**

**Nor can it be fickle to carry a whistle;**

**And surely not coarse to carry a torch.**

**Is it really a hoot to know all your route**

**And remember the name from where you once came?**

**Take heed of all this if you don't want to miss**

**The place of good cheer where we all have a beer**

# **MITCH'S MEET**

## **NEW YEAR WALK & SOCIAL AT THE BREIDDEN**

### **HILLS**

### **ON SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009**

#### **DEPART:**

Scott Arms 8.50am  
West Bromwich Police Station 9.00am  
M 54 Junction 2 9.20 am

#### **DROPPING OFF AT:**

Criggion Car Park (294149)  
"The Breidden", Middletown, on the A458 (302125)

**PICKING UP AT:** "The Breidden", Middletown (302125)  
(SY21 8EL for Satnav users coming independently)

Required Maps: OS 1:25,000 Outdoor Leisure 240: Oswestry & OS  
1:50,000 Landranger 126: Shrewsbury & Surrounding Area

#### **SUGGESTED ROUTES:**

From Criggion (Hopefully the led walk unless the weather is really foul)  
Head east the south west to climb to Rodney's Pillar (365m) on Breidden Hill (295144) for fine views over the River Severn. Then head west and south across New Pieces to the col between Moel y Golfa and Middletown Hill (298128). Depending on preference one could then climb the grassy slopes of Middletown Hill (362m) (305133) or take a very faint track through wooded slopes onto the Marilyn, Moel y Golfa (404m) with its fine summit monument to a Romano leader (290124). Then retrace your steps and zigzag southwards and eastwards downhill to the A458. Turn left and you are soon at The Breidden Inn. **6 miles (10 km) but can be extended**

#### From "The Breidden"

Short circular walks are possible up onto Middletown Hill 362m (305133) and Bulthy Hill 290m (313137) by heading right from the Inn or a traverse of Moel y Golfa 404m (290124) by turning left and leaving the main road at The Dingle (298123) **4 miles or 2.5 miles (6.5 or 4 km) depending on route.**

**Food** will be available all day at **The Breidden**, where Mr Michael Leung offers a choice of over a hundred Cantonese, Thai, Malaysian, Japanese & English meals at reasonable prices. For example Soups £2.50, Starters £3 to £5, Beef Curry £5, Chicken Fried Rice £4.60, Grilled Fillet Steak (the most expensive menu item) £9.50, Omelettes around £5, Most Sweets £2.50.

The Inn (once known as "Four Crosses") dates back to the early 1800's and serves a variety of ales as well as the usual lagers and ciders. If you have any special dietary requirements or requests, please contact him on 01938 570880. The Inn normally opens at 12 noon but has kindly agreed to open earlier if the weather is bad. The coach will set off back to the Midlands between 6 and 7.00pm. Come along & enjoy this great social event made popular by our late President John Mitchell.

**If interested ring JOHN EDWARDS on 0121 744 7340**

**Fares:- Members and Guests £11.00 Under 16's and full time students £5.00**





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### 24<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> April 2009 Solihull mountaineering club hut

<http://www.solihullmc.org.uk> Within the foothills of the Aran mountains, looking down on the village of Dinas Mawddwy. Close by is Cadair Idris, the Rhinogs and the Western Berwyns. It is less than a 10 minute walk to the Red lion pub, with its good selection of fine ales and good food, and only a short drive to the local café for a hearty breakfast.

**Price is approx £8.00 per person per night.**

To book contact Geoff Hill  
01384 886130



### SCOTTISH MEET

16<sup>th</sup> January 2009 2nights

**By the Way hostel & campsite GRID REF: NN328303**

First of all, why the name '**By the Way**'? Simple, it's right beside the West Highland Way, In fact you can sit having a coffee in our hostel dining room and watch the Way walkers pass less than six metres away. Hence, literally 'By the Way'.

In July 2006 this hostel was officially opened by members of Killin Mountain Rescue Team (in recognition of the fact that the hostel is primarily aimed at hillwalkers and climbers). The hostel has 26 beds in 8 separate rooms - this includes a mixture of dormitories and twin, double and family rooms. The hostel also has a large common room and kitchen area containing all the facilities you would expect to find, including: microwave, cooker, oven, instant boiling water (via dedicated Lincat boiler), fridge, chopping boards etc. All cutlery and crockery is also provided. We have a temperature controlled underfloor heating system throughout the hostel which aims to keep the hostel at a comfortable temperature. The hostel also has a good drying room but by popular visitor request does not have a television (no soaps, no reality shows, no cookery or DIY programmes!).

Number of Beds: 26

Dorm Rate: £14.00 pppn

Twin Rate: £17.50 pppn

contact Guy on Tel: 07967 820002



### Youth Hostel Weekend

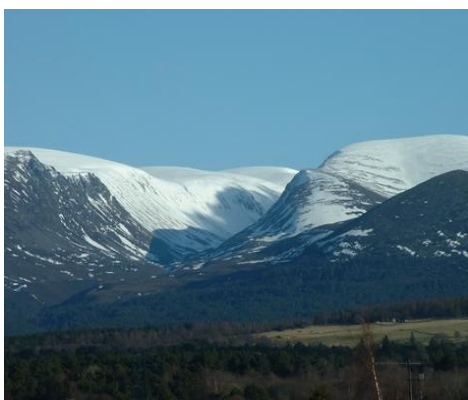
**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008 2 nights**

"Old village school in the beautiful Shropshire Hills. Tranquil and basic." You'll find this small hostel hidden away in the Shropshire hills. A walkers paradise, with the Shropshire Way passing close by and paths leading you to Long Mynd and Stiperstones.

**Cost per Adult: £43.00      Child: £39.00**

(This price includes 2 x breakfast & 1 evening meal at the hostel on the Saturday night)

**This will be a popular venue so to secure a place ring Nigel Tarr Tel: 07703 345729**



### SCOTTISH WINTER MOUNTAINEERING WEEK

Newtonmore

13<sup>th</sup> February until 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009

The Highlander Hotel is situated in the heart of the Scottish Highlands, within the picturesque village of Newtonmore. The hotel is an ideal base for touring the North of Scotland with mountain ranges, forests, lochs and river valleys waiting to be explored. Each bedroom is en-suite with satellite television, hospitality tray and hairdryer. The hotel is renowned for its friendly atmosphere and great food, and our well stocked bar (**that's what we want!**) gives you the perfect opportunity to sample many of the malt whiskies for which the area is famous.

Newtonmore is the gateway to the Cairngorms National Park.

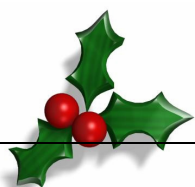
**Cost: Twin (doubles on request) - £27.00 per person per night on a half board basis.**

**Single rooms - £27 per person per night**

**Family rooms - £27 per person per night (under 14's sharing a family room are free)**

A £20.00 per person deposit will secure you a place on our annual visit to Newtonmore. Jonathan is investigating a sister hotel to possibly do a 2 centre with Ullapool. This is still under investigation.

To book ring Jonathan Howells Telephone number: 07739694079



## DECEMBER 2008 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>11<sup>th</sup> December 2008</b></p>	<p><b>Join us for our November Indoor Meet:</b> Enjoy Slides/Talks in the comfort of the Globe. Meet for an 8pm start. Ken Priest presents CLIPPIIN' IN THE CLOUDS by 'The Bocchette Six' Bocchette Way - a high level traverse of the Brenta group, Dolomites!</p> <p><b>See you there!!!</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>14<sup>th</sup> December 2008</b></p>	<p>Coach meet – Brecon Beacons</p> <p><b>Due to it's high popularity we have 2 coaches running on this meet! WE DO NOT WANT ANY LAST MINUTE CANCELLATIONS as this will mean a large cash loss for the club. Book now to secure a place!</b></p> <p>To book ring Nigel Tarr Tel: 07703 345729</p>
<p><b>Thursday</b> <b>18<sup>th</sup> December 2008</b></p>	<p><b><u>CHRISTMAS SOCIAL</u></b></p> <p>Make a note in your diary as we head towards the busy festive season. Meet at the Globe for the last Thursday before Christmas day, where we can enjoy a light buffet and catch up with friends. Meet at the Globe 8pm</p>
<p><b>Sunday</b> <b>4<sup>th</sup> January 2009</b></p>	<p><b>Don't forget to start the year off right with</b> <b><u>MITCH'S MEET</u></b> The Briedden Hills.</p> <p><b>ONLY 6 SPACES LEFT!!!!</b></p> <p><b>Contact John Edwards (0121 744 7340)</b></p>



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO  
YOU ALL!!!**

**Thank you** to all that have contributed to this newsletter keep up the good work! Closing date for copy for the January newsletter will be Wednesday December 17th 2008 **All contributions gratefully received!**  
**Send to the editor Lesley via post 79 Collis St, Amblecote Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 4EA OR Tel: 01384 342976 email:eeegy@blueyonder.co.uk**