

WEST BROMWICH MOUNTAINEERING CLUB



**JULY/AUGUST 2025
NEWSLETTER**

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NEWS

Club news:

- ♦ Editor's note: the eagle eyed may notice a change in format as a new newsletter editor (Sophie K) takes the reins for the rest of the year. Special features include a 'clickable' contents above and clickable links! Please do reach out to share your stories and pictures for future editions via email, Facebook or WhatsApp.
- ♦ The May 10th long coach meet to Ogwen was unfortunately cancelled due to low numbers booked on, with the risk of incurring an £800+ loss. Please make sure to book your place on the coach early if you want to be sure these meets can go ahead.
- ♦ The June 8th coach meet to Ambleside and the Langdales on the other hand was sold out! See more on [page 11](#).
- ♦ A new Cotswold Outdoor branch has opened at Merry Hill. They are happy to look at stocking more climbing gear etc. with our support. Don't forget your BMC discount!
- ♦ At the start of June, 8 members took on the Welsh 3000s in extremely challenging conditions, read about it on [page 14](#).
- ♦ Members are encouraged to leave a 5* review on Google. Click this link <https://maps.app.goo.gl/JviTPFzLrLiBRohP9> or hit the maps tab after searching.
- ♦ Members are also asked to please return GiftAid forms where eligible - see the important message from John Edwards on [page 15](#).
- ♦ Stalwart veteran of the club Dave Farmer passed away recently. Those Members who wish to pay their respects can attend his funeral at Stourbridge Crematorium on Tuesday 8th July at 12.20pm. There will be a wake afterwards at The Horns Pub(Lyttleton Arms) on the Bromsgrove Road. For any other info please contact Roger Boulton on 07702 184147.

World news:

- ♦ Fastest known time records for summitting Mont Blanc from Chamonix fell 3 times in one month. On May 24th Benjamin Vedrines set a new speed record for skiing up and down Mont Blanc — 4 hours, 54 minutes, and 41 seconds. Then, just days later on May 31, mountain athlete William Boffelli of Bergamo, Italy, skied the route 11 minutes faster for a time of 4:43:24. Meanwhile the ladies' record was broken by Elise Poncet, also skiing, in a time of 6 hours, 54 minutes and 51 seconds.
- ♦ The "Xenon Expedition" on Everest was a success. Four British former special forces soldiers summited in under five days without the usual weeks spent acclimatising on the mountain. The veterans spent several weeks sleeping in hypoxic tents before inhaling xenon gas at a special clinic two weeks before the climb to protect their bodies from altitude sickness.
- ♦ English climber and mountain guide Kenton Cool achieved his 19th summit of Everest, the most of any non-Sherpa.
- ♦ Nepali parliament are considering a proposal that going forward, permits for Everest will only be issued to those who have climbed at least one 7,000 peak in Nepal.
- ♦ A debate has raged between the admin of the "All things Cuillin" page on facebook and tiktok influencer "Outdoorgingerchannel" with accusations that the young men had cut a tree down being rebutted as exaggeration. This has raised questions for many on our responsibilities in the outdoors, particularly when camping.

REGULAR MEETS AND FUTURE EVENTS**REGULAR MEETS****Coach Meets:****Sunday 20th July - Buxton/Whaley Bridge****Sunday 10th August - Corwen/Llangollen****Sunday 14th September - Coniston**

Coaches leave West Brom at 7am to give 5-7 hours on the hills. Multiple stops mean linear walks are often possible. If you don't fancy a long walk, how about a social day in beautiful surroundings, ending in the pub?

Reserve your seat with Nigel Tarr (07703 345729) or book on www.wbmc.org as early as possible. You will be guaranteed a great day on the hills or an amble through beautiful villages, with a chance to win a bottle of wine in a free coach raffle. You can now pay for the coach meet by card on the coach!

Evening outdoor meets:

Thursday 10th July - Sarah Wheatcroft will be leading, approximately an hour and a half around the Enville Sheepwalks from/to The Cat (DY7 5HA) starting at 6:00pm. The pub serves food up until 8:00 PM if people would like to eat after the walk. The pub have given permission for us to use their car park. If there are more than 10 People eating we will need to book a table and a £5 per person deposit is required, for this reason- prior notice of attendance to the walk would be appreciated. The 10th of July does happen to be Sarah's birthday so a nice pint of Enville will not be refused.

Evening outdoor meets (ctd.):

Thursday 7th August - Claire and Fred Hammonds will be leading , approximately a 1.5 hour walk starting from Barley Mow Milford Common, 28 Main Road, Milford, Stafford, ST17 0UW. Park on pub to start walking at 6pm . Remember to register your car at pub if eating there, alternatively park over road. If eating at the pub, food orders are taken up to 9pm. If you plan to eat please drop Claire a message on 07761571464 by Wednesday 6 August 2025 so she can confirm numbers and reserve a table. Plan to walk from the pub at Milford Common to the Millennium Sun Dial, through the ancient oak forest to the Gruffalo Tree and back.

Thursday 11th September - John Edwards will be leading a circular walk of around 5 miles from The Beacon Hotel, Sedgley (DY3 1JE) (Phone: 01902 883380) that he last led around 6 years ago. Woodsetton Reservoir, Sedgley Beacon & Sarah Hughes Dark Ruby Mild are the main attractions. Meet from 6.00pm for a 6.30pm start.

Committee meetings/social nights at the Red Lion:

Thursdays 17th July, 14th August, 18th September

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

Indoor meets - October will feature a Slovenia talk hosted by Darren Groutage, November will showcase the Dolomites, December will be the quiz night!.

Indoor climbing at High Places, Kidderminster:

A group of WBMC members have been indoor climbing at High Places, Wyre Forest Leisure Centre, Siverwoods Way, Kidderminster DY11 7DT on the last Tuesday of every month from 6 to 9.30pm. If you want to be added to the WhatsApp group for these meets or want more information, please feel free to get in touch with Pete Poultney 07779 366905 or peterpoultney@hotmail.co.uk.

Also see <https://www.placesleisure.org/centres/wyre-forest-leisure-centre/centre-activities/climbing/> for more details.

Indoor climbing at Redpoint, Birmingham:

Another group of WBMC members has started indoor climbing every week at Redpoint Climbing & Bouldering Centre, 77 Cecil Street, Newtown, Birmingham B19 3ST at 12 noon on Wednesdays & Saturdays. If you want to be added to the WhatsApp group for these meets or want more information, please feel free to get in touch with Darren Groutage 07973 405348 or dgroutage10@outlook.com

Also see <http://www.redpointbirmingham.co.uk/> for more details.

EVENTS

Outdoor climbing at Horseshoe quarry:

Wednesday 30th July - The Quarry is near Eyam in the Peak District (postcode S32 5QL). There is free parking for around 12 cars. Use the "General WBMC Chat" WhatsApp group to express your interest or to volunteer as the meet coordinator. For latest news on how this BMC-owned quarry is now suitable for paraclimbers following the grand "re-opening" on 7th May see <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/en/horseshoe-quarry-improved-access>

BMC AGM:

Wednesday 3rd September (evening via Zoom) - In 2024 AGM was online and attended by 211 people - more than at any "in person" event (211 individuals), so they are repeating this. If you want to influence matters like membership fees, "Summit" content etc please look up the link to attend on their website.

Gower climbing festival:

5th - 8th September - The BMC Gower Climbing Festival is a weekend of adventure on the Gower Peninsula in South Wales. Whether you're a seasoned sea-cliff climber or new to climbing, this community-driven festival is the perfect way to explore Gower's stunning limestone cliffs. Tickets start from £60 for BMC members and are on sale now via the BMC website.

Chairman's Challenge 2025:

- ♦ The challenge allows entrants to determine everything, within the set broad parameters.
- ♦ The challenge is **"to create and undertake a two-day walking journey of no less than 20 miles, with one night spent in any selected mode"**.
- ♦ The journey can be anywhere in the UK but the route must be entirely chosen by entrants and NOT derived from existing established recognised routes.
- ♦ It should include items of interest such as geographical features, ancient monuments etc.
- ♦ It can be linear or circular.
- ♦ Entrants will prepare a **route guide**, containing all the information required to undertake the journey, including public transport to and from the start/finish points, overnight accommodation options and grid references for significant points of the route.
- ♦ Pictorial content would be an advantage.
- ♦ Entrants can choose the dates on which their journeys are undertaken.
- ♦ **Route guides**, which must be submitted to Dave H no later than **Friday 30th October 2025**, will be judged by Dave H and two non-entrants.
- ♦ A modest prize will be awarded to the winning entry. Good Luck!
- ♦ Submit route guides to hellydav@live.co.uk or by post to 123 Castlecroft Rd, Finchfield, Wolverhampton WV3 8BY

COACH MEET

SUNDAY 20th JULY: BUXTON/WHALEY BRIDGE

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

Depart: 07:00 – West Brom., Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)
07:20 – Penkridge (ST19 5AP)

Drop Off: A537 Shining Tor (SJ 997724)
A537 Axe Edge/Goyt Valley (SK 028713)
Buxton (SK 056736)
A5004 Errwood Reservoirs/Midshires Way (SK 032752)
A5004 Whaley Bridge

Pick Ups: Buxton - Sylvan Coach Park (SK 063735) **NB not the same place as drop off**
Whaley Bridge Railway Station - bus stop (SK 011815)



Axe Edge trig point

Required Maps: OS 1:25,000 **OL 24** Peak District: The White Peak & **OL 1** Peak District: The Dark Peak
OS 1:50,000 **119** Buxton & Matlock & **110** Sheffield & Huddersfield

Suggested Routes:-

From Buxton:

Route 1) Buxton Country Park & Poole Cavern (easy)

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

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

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

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

Route 3a) Linear walk from Buxton to Whaley Bridge (8.8 miles/14.2 km, 650 ft ascent)

This is part of the 200 mile Peak District Boundary Walk. From Buxton head through the Pavilion and Serpentine Gardens before turning up Carlisle Road. Turn L onto Watford Road & pick up the path through the golf course. Keep following onto Bishop's Lane before making a right by the trees. Follow this path to Errwood and Fernilee Reservoirs then head North, keeping the water on your left. Continue on through Taxal past St James Church. The Midshires Way will lead you into Whaley Bridge.

From Shining Tor:

Route 3b) Linear walk from Shining Tor to Whaley Bridge (8.5 miles/13.7km, 500 ft ascent)

Alight at the café and head south before taking the sharp left main path. A left turn takes you up to the summit of Shining Tor - the highest point in Cheshire and one of the "County Tops". Follow the path north across Cats Tor before heading right at a junction of paths. Head gently down hill to Errwood and Fernilee Reservoirs, then head north, keeping the water on your right. At the top of the reservoirs continue on through Taxal past St James Church. The Midshires Way will lead you into Whaley Bridge.

From Whaley Bridge:

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

Discover the beauty of Whaley Bridge's scenery and the heritage of its Industrial past on this fairly gentle walk. <https://www.whaleybridgetowncouncil.gov.uk/uploads/whaley-bridge-walk.pdf> for directions

Fares: Members £25, Non members £25, Under 18's & Full time students £10
To book your seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729 or book on the website

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

COACH MEET

SUNDAY 10th AUGUST: LLANGOLLEN/NORTH BERWYNS

The last coach trip to Llangollen was way back in 2011 although Mitch's meet has since visited.

Depart: 07:00 – West Brom., Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)
07:20 – M54 J1

Drop Off: Froncysyllte (for aqueduct) (284 942)
Llangollen (213 420)
Horseshoe Pass (192 483)

Pick Ups: Llangollen Main car park (213 420)

Required Maps: OS 1:25,000 **Explorer 255** Llangollen and Berwyn
OS 1:50,000 **Landranger 117** Chester & Wrexham

Suggested Routes:-

From Froncysyllte:

Route 1a) The aqueduct (5 miles, easy)

Cross the aqueduct (built by Telford and opened in 1805) to Pontcysyllte and continue west along the towpath to Llangollen, possibly veering North to climb Castell Dinas Bran (222 431) en route.

Route 1b) The longer version (11 miles)

As route 1 but then follow the Offa's Dyke path through the woods and along a minor road to World's End (215 459). Retrace the route 2-3km then skirt west of Fron Fawr on the footpath to Valle Crucis Abbey (207 444). Then head south to Llangollen via the canal towpath with the option to climb Castell Dinas Bran if you're still feeling energetic.

From Llangollen:

Route 2) Castell Dinas Bran (3.5 miles, easy)

Leave the main car park and cross the early 12th century Llangollen bridge. Zigzag steeply up to Castell Dinas Bran (222 431) to see the 13th century ruins ringed with iron age defences and fantastic views. Descend WNW to Pentrefelin Wharf, where barges carrying slate left for England.

From Horseshoe Pass:

Route 3) Eliseg's Pillar, Valle Crucis Abbey & Castell Dinas Bran (4 miles)

Get off at the pub to visit the ancient pillar of Eliseg (203 444) before heading to Valle Crucis Abbey (207 444). Footpaths lead South and Easy to Castell Dinas Bran, and as route 2 the path off the summit to the west leads you back to Llangollen.

Route 4) Sir Watkin's Tower & Eglwyseg Mountain (9.5 miles)

From the top of the pass, climb the obvious track Easy to Cym y Brain. Pass the wireless masts to seek out the Trig Point at the ruin of Sir Watkin's Tower (214 497). Descend SE towards World's End and return to Llangollen via a minor road leading into the Offa's Dyke path at the foot of the towering limestone cliffs. Peak baggers can alternatively continue on and stay high to pick up Eglwyseg Mountain which is a Dewey.

Route 5) Llantysilio Mountain (9 miles)

From the top of the pass head west to climb Moel y Faen, then south to Moel y Gamelin, and west again to Moel y Gaer and Moel Morfydd (1 Marily and 3 Deweys). Take the steep descent south (162449) then head east to Rhewl. A minor road takes you SE to Horseshoe Falls (196 432), then paths follow the Dee back towards Llangollen



The Grade 1 listed Pontcysyllte aqueduct is the longest aqueduct in the UK and the highest in the world.

Fares: Members £25, Non members £25, Under 18's & Full time students £10
To book your seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729 or book on the website

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COACH MEET

SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER: CONISTON

A regular in the WBMC coach meet calendar, why not take the opportunity this year to try something new?

Depart: 07:00 – West Brom., Edward St Car Park (B70 8NN)
07:20 – Penkridge (ST19 5AP)
Drop Off: Torver (284 942)
Coniston (303 975)
Pick Ups: Coniston (303 975)



Halifax LL505 crash site, Swirl How

Required Maps: OS 1:25,000 **OL 6** The English Lakes - South Western area
OS 1:50,000 **96** Barrow-in-Furness & South Lakeland

Suggested Routes:-

Route 1) Dow Crag & Old Man (19km/12miles)

Leave the coach and head N to Old Quarries (278960) & onto the Old Walna Scar Road (274965). Head on up the cove to Goats Water - you could go up the RHS of the tarn to Goats Hause (265983) but a more spectacular route is to take the path on the LHS & head up to the mountain rescue post and the foot of Easy Gully. The East face of Dow Crag is very spectacular and not for walkers except for this steep but relatively easy breach, which heads diagonally upwards to exit just south of the summit of Dow Crag (262978). Then go N, then E, to Goats Hause & uphill in a SE direction to the summit of Coniston Old Man (272978). From the summit head E then NE (273977) & descend to Lows Water (275981), pass through old mine workings & cross path junction (284981) to Miners Bridge (293980). Keep on RHS of beck through the farm past the Sun Inn & into Coniston. If you wish to bypass Easy Gully or "bag" more tops, continue along Walna Scar Road, cross stream (271964) to path junction on RHS (258964). Follow path over Brown Pike (260966) Buck Pike (262972) to Dow Crag summit.

Route 2) Old Man, Swirl How & Weatherlam (14km/ 9 miles)

From Coniston follow the paths to the Miners Bridge (294980), and continue past Crowberry Haws to Low Water (275982). A steep path now leads to the summit of The Old Man of Coniston (272978). From the summit head N along the ridge to Swirl How (273005). Descend steeply to the East down the rocky Prison Band & continue on up to Wetherlam (288011). Descend the grassy ridge to Furness Fells (292000) & continue on vague paths to Hole Rake (293991). From here good paths lead down to Coppermines Valley & Coniston.

Route 3) Old Man & Swirl How (11km/7 miles)

Proceed as for **route 2** along the main Coniston ridge to Swirl How (273005) then descend steeply to the East down the rocky Prison Band to Swirl Hause (278008). From here take a more direct route South past Levers Water (282994) and along the Coppermines Valley back to Coniston..

Route 4) Relatively low level to Tarn Hows (10km/6 miles)

Head along roads to Shepard's Bridge (304976) and then hit the Cumbria Way to Tarn Hows. Then to the A593 at Oxen Fell High Cross (328017) and return to Coniston by paths that run to the right of the road.

Route 5) Wetherlam (14km/ 9 miles)

Head NW to Miners Bridge (295981) and then take the path through the disused quarries that lead to Hole Rake (293991) and then reverse route 1 to the summit of Wetherlam (288011). Leave the summit along the NE ridge and descend until you hit the path in Greenburn (295023) which heads off E, then S To Tiberthwaite (306010) from where minor roads lead to the A593 and a footpath running parallel to this takes you back to Coniston.

Alternatives and extras:-

- **Point of interest:** From Swirl How head West and North towards Great Carrs to see the remaining wreckage and memorial for the Halifax bomber which crashed in poor weather in 22nd October 1944.
- **Peak bagging:** For the Wainwright baggers, head West and North to collect Great Carrs, then South-West to Grey Friar - easily done as an out-and-back.
- **Climbing:** The east face of Dow Crag boasts a huge number of trad routes of all difficulties as well as a handful of grade 3 scrambles. Check out https://www.ukclimbing.com/logbook/crags/dow_crag_cumbria-355/ for route guides.

Fares: Members £25, Non members £25, Under 18's & Full time students £10
To book your seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729 or book on the website

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COMMITTEE MATTERS

President: John Edwards	07837 198355 jaejed@hotmail.com
Chair: David Hellyar	07547 126286 (new no.) hellydav@live.co.uk
Vice Chair: Darren Groutage	07973 405348 wbmcdg@outlook.com
Secretary: Sarah Wheatcroft	07398 365990 secretary@wbmc.org or s.e.wheatcroft@googlemail.com
Treasurer: Claire Hammonds	07761 571464 clairehammonds@btinternet.com
Membership Sec: Tony Emms	07793 008582 membership-secretary@wbmc.org or toniemms@aol.com
Hut Secretary: Fred Hammonds	07527 744481 hut-secretary@wbmc.org or f.hammonds@btinternet.com
Coach Secretary: Nigel Tarr	07703 345729 tarnigel@gmail.com
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COULD THIS BE YOUR CHANCE??? FEEL FREE TO VOLUNTEER	

May Committee Minutes

Present: Darren Groutage, Nigel Tarr, Sarah Wheatcroft, Tony Emms, Claire Hammonds, Darren Beard, Will Read, Luke Astin

Apologies: David Hellyar, Fred Hammonds

Acceptance of minutes from April 2025: Proposed by Claire Hammonds, seconded by Will Read

Matters arising: Limited space is available on website to add photographs. Will Read is going to have a look and see whether we can improve our visibility on Google and has already started working on this. If we could put a notice on the newsletter to encourage members to write a Google review please. Darren Groutage has suggested that we need to spend some money on our online advertising but this has not been put into place as yet. The committee members have had a discussion around WBMC members highlighting WBMC on their social media posts to try and entice outside members interest. We are also asking for new ideas to be put forward for activities to encourage new members. Subscriptions will remain at £41 for 2026 as we have agreed to absorb any additional cost to members. A new lead for the hearing loop needs purchasing for Indoor meets commencing in October.

Treasurer report: Claire Hammonds reports £18,779.46 in current account, reserve fund £31,328.82, at an interest rate of 2.21% from April 2025. BMC have been paid £5300. Hut donations for April totalling £1300, January £300, February £189, March £166. The electricity bill for April was £80 reflecting the recent uplift for people using the Hut. Health and safety costs for Hut spend was £400 and the coach loss has reduced to £302.

Coach secretary: Nigel Tarr reports Aprils long coach meet Aber/Ogwen cancelled due to only 14 people putting their name down, the date change doesn't appear to have affected numbers. If proposing a new route please plan the drop offs accordingly and not leave it to Darren to research. Tony, Luke and Darren have volunteered to reccy the future routes to ensure timings, place for the coach to park. Nigel is going to get the 2026 meet card produced.

Hut secretary: Fred hammonds reports total number of nights booked = 74. 31 people used the hut in April. A few issues have arisen from the Hut in regards to the fire not being cleaned properly, mattresses is not stood on side to dry properly and dirty tea towels left at the Hut. Heating quote for new heaters was £2600 these are being fitted in the week of 3rd to the 10th of June following a unanimous vote in favour at Aprils meeting, there may be some disruption during the day where the power needs to be turned off so we're going to try and persuade the electrician to attend on the 10th June as there is no one booked in for that date at the moment.

Membership secretary: Tony Emms reports we currently have 200 members. Four new inquiries from prospective members and inquiry from a gentleman with a 14 year old who wants to rock climb with children of a similar age, unfortunately we don't have any current members in this age bracket but they have been invited to attend a social evening at the Red Lion. Tony is going to contact BMC to check whether the fees have been paid for the latecomers/new members.

President: John Edwards reports Sophie Kellaway has expressed an interest in producing the newsletter/ bulletin going forward and has already started working with John to produce. John is going to continue to do the Gift Aid for another year, veterans/life members sometimes donate as they no longer pay fees provided we have a decent amount of people with names and addresses we can go in with the small donations. We need to include a downloadable copy of the gift aid form for members to sign. would go on sale in June 2027.

May continued.

AOB: BMC business latest meeting no one currently from the club attended. Club 75th anniversary: suggestion for potential of renting barn at the farmhouse/campsite local to the club hut for the party in June 2027. They are currently well known for hosting events such as weddings. Sarah Wheatcroft has contacted the Great Barr Hotel where we have previously held an anniversary dinner they are asking for a £500 deposit which is non-refundable and is deemed a potential risk if the business goes under before the party takes place in 2027. We have got the date of 27th November 2027 held with no deposit yet paid. They have an alternative suggestion which is if we book the room out for their Christmas party night (held throughout December) priced at £55pp to include a 3 course Christmas meal, tribute act and disco. We would need to fill 120 covers to have the room to ourselves but we could potentially share the room with other party goers. Tickets for this event

April Committee Minutes

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

Apologies: John Edwards.

Acceptance of minutes from March 2025: Proposed by Darren Groutage, seconded by Will Read

Matters Arising: 75th Anniversary - no deposit paid towards securing the Great Barr Hotel as yet for 27th November 2027. Sarah Wheatcroft will call the hotel on Tuesday to look further into the matter with Philippa. £295 for room: we need to find out what the £500 payment is covering and will we be refunded if anything happens in the meantime to cause the event not to go ahead. No further information received from Plas Gwynant, currently £165 pp for 2 nights in bunk rooms with breakfast and evening meal £245 for the Celtic Hotel in Caernarfon. Suggestion put forward to approach YMCA/hostels to accommodate numbers

Hut Secretary: Darren & Fred have been looking into the options for heating the Hut and have had a quote of £2860 given for 2 heaters, 2 controllers and thermostat. One to go over the table and one by the current wood burner corner. This does come with a Warranty. The heaters were 1.8 kw but Darren is considering the 2.4kw as a better option. Unanimous vote in favour.

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

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

BMC is all paid up

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

Coach Secretary: Nigel Tarr said a good day was had by all 42 on the Yorkshire Coach Meet which has knocked £80 off the deficit.

Currently there are 12 booked onto next coach meet which is the Aber/Ogwen Long Meet & some regulars are now unable to attend due to the change in date. David Helier is suggesting that we stick to the advertised dates but we will be running at a loss.

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

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

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

Member activities

June Coach meet to Ambleside/Langdale

A packed out coach meet to an area with many options and enjoyable days for all.

Group 1 headed up Pavey Ark via Jack's Rake.

One group tackled the steep climbs of Bowfell (right) via the Climber's Traverse - in the words of Imogen Harley they "went up and then went down."

A third group took the option of a linear walk from Ambleside to Elterwater (with a little stop off at the Britannia!) then onwards to Langdale, finishing up at New Dungeon Ghyll. Sarah Wheatcroft noted that "It was a beautiful walk in spite of not doing any major hills" and that's clear to see from the pictures below!



Member activities

Scottish trip to Suilven - Fred Hammonds

The idea for this trip was initially suggested by John Edwards back in 2020 with plans for a 2021 winter camping alternative to the Scottish week in February, so we set about buying a big 10 person Roben's Klondike tent with a log burner. Then as we all know COVID and lockdown put an end to the plans. Fast forward a few years and illnesses and we arrived at the Port a Bhaigh campsite in Altandhu on 15th May 2025 in a stunning very sunny beach/loch location without the log burner as this was summer, big mistake it was freezing at night the group wore everything you could get on in your sleeping bag. Tent up, a meal in the fantastic Am Fuaran bar and early night after the 13 hour journey to get there ready for a 6-o'clock start next morning.



A 50 minute ride on a roller coaster single track road arrived at the car park just outside Lochinver where our first encounter with the midges made us gear up and get off quickly. With a 7.25 kl to the bottom of the Bealach mor our route up which has a very steep but good path we set off with some easy scrambling to the main summit Caisteal Liath 731 mt .11 kl from the car park . Lunch on the summit with some of the best views of the surrounding Scottish mountains is one we'll all remember. We set back down the Bealach reaching the bottom thinking it was uphill walking on the way in, somehow turning into an uphill walk on the way out too? We reached the car park 9.5 hours round trip in really sunny beautiful weather ready for a well deserved beer in Lochinver. Well done to Jan Cox, Paul Brindley, Mark Stevens. Suilven isn't a Munro or even a Corbett but as a Graham it doesn't give up its summit without some tough walking.

The next few days we did some lower trig points and beautiful coastal paths with Dave Hellyar and Oliver Stephenson joining us after they had done Ben Stack 721 mt a Graham with Andy Brown the previous day .



Member activities

Delightful Dartmoor - John Edwards

My memories of walking on Dartmoor are mixed. The rolling moorland with the occasional rocky tor is not my favourite 'mountainous' National Park, especially after climbing Yes Tor & High Willhays with my better half around 20 years ago. After a descent which involved a fair bit of heather bashing to get back to the car, the journey back to the Midlands was notable for the cold stony silence coming from the passenger seat.

So staying at "Laplands" in the midst of a plethora of narrow Devon lanes this June I thought I ought to try and redeem myself by finding a nice easy local walk. And Google came up trumps with :- "The Buckland Beacon walk, known for its stunning views and the unique Ten Commandments Stones".

I decided we should follow the route described by www.twoblondeswalking.com so we parked at Cold East Cross car park (SX 741743) and followed easy paths across Buckland Common to the 1253 ft / 382 m summit of the Beacon with all of 40 m of ascent and just 2 miles there and back! We didn't spot the "Dartmoor Christmas Tree" but did see Dartmoor ponies with foals, some Highland coos and lots of Dodder growing on the gorse. Plus the stones that Moses, sorry Lord Whitley the Lord of Buckland Manor, had graffiti'd / carved in 1928 to mark the rejection of the proposed new Common Book of Prayer! Apparently it took the stonemason 6 months to complete the carving and the Dartmoor National Park Authority's Communities Fund £16,000 for a lengthy restoration programme in 2016 (check out <https://youtu.be/Vpelt5sFKA?si=j63yqyGsHqtOwyGg> to see the guy doing it!)

As you can see from the photos the weather was lovely and my companions felt the walk was lovely and "just about right" for them. Brownie points for me then! I'd recommend it to others if they're down this way, plus the slightly more energetic "Rippon Tor & Haytor Rocks" circuit nearby that I did 4 years ago.



Member activities

Welsh 3000s Challenge - Jan Cox

On Friday, the 30th of May this year, eight folk (Graeme Stanford, Gurinder Dulai, Adam Gaydon, Andy Brown, Rob Allen, Neil Parsons, Sophie Bates and James Taylor) and supported by Ken Priest had a wet and windy overnight experience on Snowden summit prior to a planned attempt at the Welsh 3000 challenge the following day. The conditions on the top were atrocious and non-conducive to sleep, all were a combination of wet/cold/tired/fed up by Saturday morning. Meanwhile, the support team (Tony Emms, Jan Cox, Darren Groutage and Adrian Bates) were warm and cosy back in the hut. The view of the Snowden Massif on Friday evening from Llanberis looked good with just a few clouds on the summit. However, the weather soon deteriorated much worse than forecast and by 4 am outside the hut it was unpleasantly wet, cold and breezy with poor visibility.

Back on top, and after no or very little sleep the others packed up and set off at 4:30 am. Conditions were so bad that Sophie and James wisely knew they would not appreciate the upcoming hours and came straight down the railway track to meet the support team at Nant Peris. The remainder descended down Cwm Uchaf after visiting the summit of Crib Gogh thus avoiding the North Ridge and the horrid scree. They reached Nant Paris Park and Ride looking like drowned rats and ready for bacon butties. Many thanks to Tony for letting us use his van to do the cooking and for being a bag dump! Graeme, Andy and Adam made the decision to attempt the challenge again in better conditions and gratefully accepted lifts back to the hut to where a meal awaited them. Ken also accompanied them as he had fulfilled his role of guiding across Crib Gogh.

Rob, Gurinder and Neil carried on to the second stage starting with Elider Fawr which was invisible as it was shrouded in mist and rain. Despite the poor conditions they made good progress. Neil had enough by the Glyders and descended towards Ogwen and was picked up by Tony. Gurinder got to Tryfan and had issues with his navigation equipment and wisely descended to Glan Dena. Rob allegedly saw a patch of sunshine while snacking on Tryfan but decided to descend to Ogwen due to a dodgy knee and was picked up by Jan. All three were given a hospitable welcome at the very nice Glan Dena hut to which we had been given access. Many thanks to Toby the MAM Hut Warden.

Looking at a cloud shrouded Pen yr Ole Wen with 65 km winds forecast on the Carnedd's it was decided to abandon the challenge and try again another time when the mountain trolls are feeling more friendly. Well done to all to all who attempted the route in very unpleasant conditions. Sensible decisions made to retreat and a reminder that the mountains will always be there.

Footnote. Graeme, not to be beaten, and accompanied by Chris Dean did complete the route a couple of weeks later. They were unsupported, did not spend the night on Snowden and carried full packs. They reported the conditions as 'bloody awful' with visibility about 10m which is clear from the picture! They were almost 24 hours on foot with over 18 hours on the actual route. Apparently, they will repeat the 3000 challenge again to try and beat this time! Well done Graeme and Chris!



An important notice from John Edwards!

GIFT AID: CAN YOU PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM ON THE NEXT PAGE IF YOU ARE ABLE TO.

Dear WBMC members,

We have recently received a 4 figure sum from HMRC as a result of our Gift Aid claim made recently for the year 2024. Many thanks to all those of you who have completed Gift Aid forms in the past – you made this possible!

However, when making the claim I noticed that the forms we used & that folk had to sign are now no longer used. I am therefore asking that everybody who is able to gift aid to please complete the modern form by filling in their details, writing West Bromwich Mountaineering Club as the name of the CASC and ticking the box. Notice you have to specify a donation on this form. Can I suggest you do one of 2 things:-

Either put down £0.01 (and pay nothing) and I will make a donation of the total of these 1 pences,

Or

Make a small donation of somewhere between £1 & £5 (or more if you are feeling generous) by Bank Transfer to WBMC Co-op bank account 65487846 (sort code 08-92-99) using the Reference GIFTJoeBloggs (or whatever abbreviation best identifies you).

Please print the form on the following page or download the form from this link https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7f980340f0b623026906ca/CASC_GAD_Multiple_Donations.pdf

Then either email the form back to me as an attachment (to jaejed@hotmail.com), give it to me on a coach meet or at The Red Lion, or post it to me at 6 Dovehouse Court, Olton, Solihull B91 1EW

This is especially important if you are a **Life or Veteran member who still pays something annually** (even though you do not have to) or **if you use the coach** a couple of times or more a year because these are the main things we currently claim individually-named donations on. However, sometimes part of the membership fee can be claimed. The donations for use of the Hut are also claimed, but not on an individual basis.

Remember you have to be a UK taxpayer paying more than £50 in tax a year to be able to sign the form. Feel free to email me to say you are unable or do not wish to Gift Aid.

Many thanks in anticipation.

John Edwards jaejed@hotmail.com

Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) Gift Aid Declaration – multiple donation**Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate**

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

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I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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