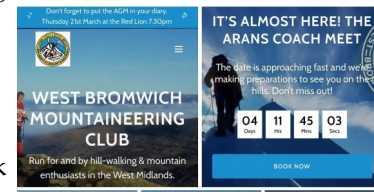


The cover shot of the new website : a cloud inversion on an Xmas Brecon Beacons coach meet

Contents		<p><u>NEW WBMC WEBSITE THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF DARREN GROUTAGE:</u></p> <p>After considerable debate & anguish, in January the committee agreed to a 3-year contract with the firm that Darren had been in contact with to see if we could produce a new website that committee members could edit relatively easily. GoDaddy produced some suggested layouts & content and after considerable effort by several members, but mostly Darren, we now have an attractive new site which publicises new events quickly and is much easier for enquirers & people who want to book on events.</p> <p>Ladies and gentlemen, We're excited to announce our brand new website with all up to date information about the club, past and future trips, events, newsletters and the rest is for you to find out!!</p> <p>www.wbmc.org (Link also found in our bio)</p> <p>Book a Trip with us or Drop us a line with an enquiry. Also Subscribe to our Newsletters to keep up to date with our news, trips and events. We look forward to hearing from you! 🎉</p> <p>Any feedback is welcome so we can improve our services. 🙏</p> <p>Yours, WBMC 🇬🇧🇨🇪</p>
2 – 4	Noticeboard / Future Events	
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<p>This Newsletter was produced by John Edwards. Thanks to those members who contributed information or articles. 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 Also check out our Wikipedia entry https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bromwich_Mountaineering_Club</p>		



N.B. Our Cotswold Discount Code has changed (2024)

NOTICEBOARD**WELCOME TO NEW PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS**

It's come to my notice that Dawn Picken, who first came on Club events back in 2022 has just paid her fee to become a prospective member. Better late than never as they say! We wish her well and hope she finds her time on the mountains with us enjoyable & friendly.

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE EVENTS:**COACH MEETS TO THE HILLS :-**

Saturday 11th May – Seatoller Long Coach Meet
 Sunday - Rhinogs / Barmouth Coach
 Sunday - Braithwaite Coach
 Reserve your seat with Nigel (07703 345729) and be guaranteed a great day on the hills & through beautiful villages.

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?

EVENING OUTDOOR MEETS (2 – 4 mile walks, starting ~1830 & ending at a pub) :-

Thursday 9th May Cannock Chase led by Will Holmes. Meet @ Castle Ring car park (WS15 4RN) grid ref SK045126 at 6.30pm sharp ready to start walking at 6.45pm (or The Park Gate pub after walk)
 Thursday 6th June 3 Wells & WW1 trenches @ Sutton Park led by Darren Groutage
 Thursday 18th July Mystery Tour with Geordie Hind
 Thursday 8th August Sandwell Valley led by Rob Allen
 Thursday 5th September Wyre Forest or maybe Kinver Edge led by Dan Bow

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

Thursdays 16th May, 13th June, 25th July & 15th August Committee meetings start at 7.30pm & observers are welcome. Otherwise come along at ~ 8.30 pm for a drink & a chat or meal.

INDOOR CLIMBING AT "HIGH PLACES" (KIDDERMINSTER CLIMBING WALL)

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

INDOOR CLIMBING AT "REDPOINT" (BIRMINGHAM CLIMBING CENTRE)

A group of WBMC members has started indoor climbing every week at Redpoint Climbing & Bouldering Centre, 77 Cecil Street, Newtown, Birmingham B19 3ST at **12 noon on Wednesdays & Saturdays**. They have a WhatsApp group that enables them to keep in touch and if you want to be added to this group or have more information about who goes, cost, standards etc please feel free to get in touch with Darren Groutage via 07973 405348 or dgroutage10@outlook.com
 Also see <http://www.redpointbirmingham.co.uk/> for details of how folk can use the Centre / registration and the various courses they offer.

WEEKENDS & OTHER MEETS :-**TORRIDON CAMPING WEEK 18th - 25th May**

Stopping at the small, newish Shildaig campsite (IV54 8XN) on the shore of Loch Shildaig. The village nearby has a pub that does meals, a lovely cafe & a grocery store. The w/e leader Tony Emms (07793 008582) has booked 12 places so if you are interested in tackling some of the Torridon "Giants"; some classic roack climbs or delightful low-level coastal walks contact him. Excursions to Applecross, Plockton & Syke are all within a days drive, as well!

N.B. Our Cotswold Discount Code has changed (2024)

PATTERDALE SCRAMBLING WEEKEND 14th - 16th June

We will be revisiting the ABMSAC/AC George Starkey Hut in Patterdale, this year. Places have been booked for 12 people, although it may be possible to add more later. Depending on numbers we may have sole occupancy. The Hut is fully equipped, even with blankets & pillows, but it's advisable to bring your own sleeping bag & pillow case. Although advertised as a scrambling w/e it is open to rock climberd and hill walkers. Expressions of interest should be addressed to the meet leader Tony Emms (07793 008582)

GOWER CAMPING WEEKEND 21st - 23rd June

Worcester, Bromsgrove & West Brom MC's mingle at Pitton Cross camp site Rhossili beach again or, if our quota is full, one of the cheaper ones nearby. Pete Poultney (07779 366905) is co-ordinating. Dare you bivvi the night on Wurm's Head as the blowhole hisses? Or is it more idyllic? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IhPB7C6oFXg&ab_channel=AlexandraReuter

CLUB TRIP TO SLOVENIA 6th - 13th JULY (NON-MEMBERS ARE ALSO WELCOME)

There are now 13 individuals booked to go to Kranjska Gora in Slovenia for a week in July and anyone is welcome to join the group :-)

Kranjska Gora is a pretty town in the Julian Alps and there is mix of activities available, including some good climbing and via ferrata. Some booked are planning to do some fairly hard hikes like Mangart, Prisank or Spik and others interested in something more relaxing. Jan Cox will lead one optional easy ascent to the border with Slovenia, Italy and Austria where the challenge is to get at least one limb in each country before heading of to a hut in Austria for coffee & cake! There will be another optional led walk around Sleme at the top of the Vrsic Pass. But folk are free to do their own thing.

We can keep in touch via WhatsApp regarding daily activities. There are loads of easy 8 to 20km (less if you use the bus) local walks along the valley. It is also possible to hire a vehicle or taxi if groups want to go further afield like Lake Bled or rafting on the River Soca.

Folk are responsible for their own travel arrangements and accommodation. Kranjska Gora is about 45min by taxi from Ljubljana airport (takes longer by bus). There is a plentiful range of accommodation in the town and two big supermarkets as well as various eateries. The food is good and the beer cheap. For those who want an easy life Tui are offering a room with breakfast and evening meal in the 4* Best Western (with pool) in Kranjska Gora, including flight from Birmingham and hotel transfer for £870 pp (price accurate on 28/12/23).

Let me know if you have booked or are interested/looking for a roommate and I'll add you to the WhatsApp group.

Jan Cox jan_cox@tiscali.co.uk

CLIMBING WEEKEND AT THE HUT 12th-14th JULY

New committee member Dan Bow is hosting a weekend in July that anyone who is a competent trad climbing leader is welcome to attend. Members who are not used to leading are also welcome providing they come as a pair where the other person is a competent trad leader. He has also got 4 spaces for people who want to learn some of the skills of outdoor climbing. They don't need any outdoor experience but do need to have the skills of an indoor climber (i.e. can belay and tie in) as a minimum. If you are interested please get in touch with him via 07969 741112 or dan@pinnacle-adventures.co.uk

If you haven't got the skills to attend this weekend but want to learn them Dan has managed to get a deal with the climbing wall at Wyre Forest Leisure Centre for their basically indoor competency course. WBMC members can do each session for £10.50 so £31.50 for the course, which is slightly better than half price!! These sessions run Tuesday and Thursday evenings and they need to book by emailing annaliesefoster@placesleisure.org

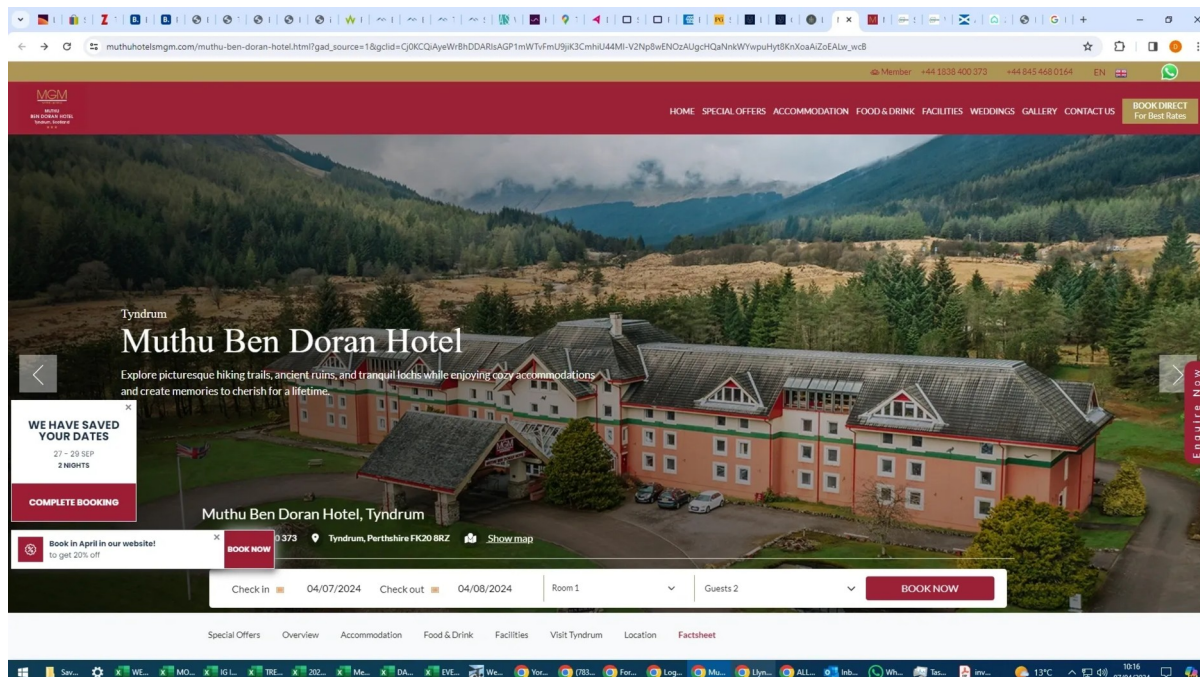
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WOMEN’S WEEKEND AT THE HUT FRIDAY 13th – SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER

Always popular and a great culinary success so we’re told, the 2024 Women’s Weekend organiser is again Vanessa Biddulph so contact her (07709 514180) to secure your place for a weekend of walking, eating and possibly wild swimming & male-dissing.

SCOTTISH CORBETT WEEKEND AT TYNDRUM 27 - 29th SEPTEMBER 2024

Greetings All Mountain Lovers. The “Amazing WBMC Event of 2024” will be be A late-summer Scottish Weekend at the beautiful location of Tyndrum, when Andy Brown will be attempting his last Scottish Corbett.



The attempt will be made on BEINN CHUIRN on Saturday 28th weather permitting & the walk will start directly from the hotel so no car driving is involved. If the weather is too bad to attempt the summit we will have Sunday to reconvene and try again.

The Saturday evening is planned as a Social meal in the Hotel where we can all eat together. This will be a standard fare 3 course meal. It is then envisaged that people can make their own way home on the Sunday or stay the Sunday evening if you want to by informing the hotel yourself. A two night stay has been negotiated at Muthu Ben Doran Hotel (FK20 8RZ) tel: 01838 400373 for the price of £55pp on the Friday and £75pp on the Saturday as this includes an evening meal. Single supplements are + £30. Most rooms are twin with a few doubles, so first come first served for any double rooms. The Plan is to all meet on Friday 27th September and make your own way to the hotel. If you are interested in attending it is **up to individuals to book with the hotel direct & they have said that booking by email is preferable using a group Code of G2125** along with Reservation No **103157** to reservations.cc3@muthuhotelsmgm.com If you can give them your full name & telephone no. (and the full name & tel no. of the person you will be sharing with if you are sharing) and they will contact you to take the payment. The deposit is £60pp and the reference is still ‘Mountaineering club’. The FULL balance MUST then be paid by 30th August 2024. Once the deposit is paid, could you please contact Darren Groutage (07973-405348) or info@wbmc.org so he can organise Names and Numbers on the trip?

TRAILFEST WEEKEND Friday 27th - Saturday 29th September

The first of 2 weekends for those who like running. Contact Pete Poultney (07779 366905) for more information and how to book your place on the event and in the Hut.

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SATURDAY 11th MAY: SEATOLLER * LONG * COACH MEET

Depart: 07: 00 – West Bromwich
Edward St Car Park B70 8NL
07: 20 – Penkridge
Toilet stop: Charnock Richard M6 Services
Drop offs: Keswick (264235)
Shepherds Crag (262184)
Seatoller (246137)
Pick ups: Seatoller (246137)
Shepherds Crag (262184)
Keswick Coach Station (264235)

Required map: OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure
No 4 The English Lakes – NW Area
No 6 The English Lakes – SW Area



Base Brown, Green Gable & Great Gable from Dale Head

SUGGESTED ROUTES :**FROM KESWICK Route 1 To Seatoller via Catbells, High Spy & Dale Head** (15.5 km – 9.5 miles)

Head W to Stormwater Bridge (255239) & into Portinscale. Follow the Cumbria Way south to the foot of Catbells and climb steeply to its summit (244198). Continue S along the ridge over Maiden Moor to High Spy (235162), making sure you enjoy the views behind you over Keswick to Skiddaw. Descend to Dale Head Tarn (230152) and turn W to the summit of Dale Head (223153). Then it's back downhill to Dale Head Tarn and eventually Seatoller via Tongue Gill & Rigghead quarries (240152)

FROM SHEPHERDS CRAG Route 2 High Seat & High Tove + / - Ullscarf &/or Bleaberry Fell (11 km – 7 miles or 19km / 12 miles with Ullscarf)

Head south of Shepherds Crag to hit the minor road to Watendlath. Then take the path E to the rarely visited summit of High Tove (289166). Or, if you're feeling fit, first head S to Blea Tarn (290144) & on to Ullscarf (291122) before heading N to High Tove but this adds several km. From High Tove it's only 1.5 km to the trig on High Seat (287181) & the same again to Bleaberry Fell (2852196). Drop down west to Ashness Bridge and W again to the B5289 where there are hotels very close to Lodore Falls & Shepherd's Crag (262184)

FROM SEATOLLER Route 3 Glaramara & Bessy Boot (10.5 km – 6.5 miles)

Follow the road E to Strands Bridge (252137) and from here follow the path up to Thornythwaite Fell (245118) & on to Glaramara (246105). From the rocky summit head NE to Combe Head (250109) & Combe Door (253109), then pick your way through rocky outcrops & small tarns to Rosthwaite Cam (256118) and the cairn on the summit of Bessy Boot (258125). Then descend W into Combe Gill and retrace your steps back to Seatoller.

FROM SEATOLLER Route 4 Green & Great Gables, Kirkfell & Brandreth (19 km – 12 miles)

From Seatoller follow the road to Seathwaite (235121) and ascend Green Gable (215107) via Sour Milk Gill. From the summit continue to Great Gable (211103). Leave NW to Beckhead Tarn (205107) and then onto the summit shelter on Kirkfell (195105). With luck you should have great views over the Scafells & back to Gt Gable ! Retrace your steps to Beckhead Tarn and traverse below Green Gable to Brandreth (215119). From here you can tick off Grey Knotts (217126) & walk down to Honister Pass (225135), where a short road walk leads to Seatoller.

FROM SEATOLLER Route 4 Green & Great Gables, Allen Crag & Glaramara (19 km – 12 miles)

Reach the summit cairn of Great Gable as per Route 4, then descend to Styhead (220095). Continue past Sprinkling Tarn (226091) to Esk Hause shelter (235083) and on to Allen Crag (235085). You can then follow the undulating ridge to Glaramara (247105) and continue N over Thornthwaite Crag (245118) back to Seatoller.

Fares: Members £25, Non members £29, Under 18's & Full time students £12

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 from you.

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SUNDAY 9th JUNE: RUGGED RHINOGS COACH MEET**Depart**

07:00 -West Brom. Edward St
Car Park (B70 8HU)
07:20 –M54 Junction 2 Service Road
(Brief toilet stop at Corwen)

Drop offs

Pont y Gribble(713306)
Llanelltyd(715194)
Barmouth(612158)

Pick ups

Barmouth(612189)The coach will be parked in the
coach park at the top end of the town by the Amusement
park.

Bontddu(673189)

Required maps

OS 1:25.000 Outdoor Leisure No18 Snowdonia - Harlech & Bala Areas for Routes 1, 2 & 3
OL No.23 Snowdonia – Cader Idris Area for Route 4



Rhinog Fach – ‘Queen of the Rhinogs’

Suggested routes

FROM PONT Y GRIBBLE **Route1: Both Rhinogs & the Ridge to Barmouth** (27km-16.5miles)
From Pont y Gribble follow a good track west to Graig ddu-Isaf (681301) & continue west through the forest to the Roman Steps (661299) and Llyn Du (656294) before climbing steeply to the summit of Rhinog Fawr (656290). Descend east for 40m then descend a very steep gully into the valley (660281). Then follow a path east to the col, then south making your own way through the heather to the summit of Rhinog Fach (665270). A good path now follows a wall over Y Llethr (661258), then Diffwys (661234) and eventually Bwlch y Rhiwgr (627200). From here descend to Sylfaen (632185) where a road leads into Barmouth.

NB This is a long, demanding, undulating walk; if in doubt have a go at route 2 or 3.

Route2 : Rhinog Fach & the Ridge to Barmouth (24km-15miles)

From Pont y Gribble follow a good track west to Graig ddu-Isaf (681301) but then head south through the forest past Grugle (675287) to grid ref (666283). Ascend Rhinog Fach (665270) then follow route 1 to Barmouth.

Route3 : Rhinog Fach & the Ridge to Bontddu (20km-12.5miles)

First follow route 2 to the summits of Rhinog Fach & Diffwys (661234). Then descend to grid ref (644227) and turn south east down the ridge of Braich to Banc-y-Fran (657202) where a short walk leads to Bontddu.

FROM LLANELLYTD **Route 4 : Morpha Mawddach Walk** (15km-10miles)

From Llanelltyd follow the A470 south to the A493 road junction and cross the bridge over Afon Wnion (713183). Follow the Morfa Mawddach walk along the dismantled railway passing Penmaenpool bridge (695185). Garth Isaf (653162) and Morfa Mawddach Station (628142) Cross the footbridge where a small toll is to be paid at the end before finishing in Barmouth.

Fares: Members £25, Non members £29, Under 18's & Full time students £12

To Book Your Seat contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

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SUNDAY 21st JULY: BEAUTIFUL BRAITHWAITE COACH MEET

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

07:20 –Penkridge

Drop offs Scales (340268)

Keswick [Roundabout A66/A591](264244)

Braithwaite (236236)

Pick ups Braithwaite (236236)

Keswick Coach Station (264234)

Scales (340268)

Required maps OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure

No4 The English Lakes NW -Ennerdale & Derwent

No5 The English Lakes NE -Ulleswater& Haweswater



East end of Blencathra with Sharp Edge in foreground

Suggested Routes**FROM SCALES Route 1 : Blencathra via Sharp Edge** (Approx 15km / 9.5miles)

From Scales Farm (340268) follow the path past Moushwaite Comb (344275) and then turn NE to Scales Tarn (9329281). As you arrive, Sharp Edge is the obvious Ridge on the skyline, this is your next destination- an easy Grade 1 Scramble except that the rock slopes the wrong way! At the top an easy walk takes you to the top of Blencathra. Then continue along the grassy ridge to Knowe Crags (312270). Finally head NW to footbridge over Glenderaterra Beck (296278) and then climb to the path junction of the Cumbria Way (293279). Follow this South past Lonscale Crags and eventually into Keswick.

FROM KESWICK ROUNDABOUT Route 2 : Little Man & Skiddaw + other tops if desired

Follow the road from the roundabout (264244) to Briar Rigg (267241) and follow the Cumbria Way past a car park (283255). Start climbing steeply to the summit of Little Man (266278) continue on a good path to Skiddaw. Descend the very steep West face of Skiddaw to Carlside Tarn (256283) and if time permits walk out to Ullock Pike. Retracing your steps climb to the summit of Carlside and descend south to Millbeck (256262). Follow the road into Applethwaite and follow the Allerdale Ramble (265255) back into Keswick. (Approx 16km-10miles)

FROM BRAITHWAITE Route3 : The Coledale Horseshoe (Approx 17.5km-11miles)

From Braithwaite ascend the long ridge to Grisdale Pike (199226). Descend the ridge to Hobcarton Crag following the edge to Hopegill Head (186222). Descend south and then climb over Sand Hill to Coledale Hause (189211). From here walk SW to the top of Grassmoor. Leave the summit and continue East over Crag Hill, down the Scar and over Sail. At the col (205205) you have two choices depending on the time available, either ascend Causey Pike (219209) then descend to Stoneycroft (233213), this leaves a short road walk into Braithwaite. Alternatively from the col descend via Stile End (221219) back into Braithwaite.

Fares: Members £25, Non members £29, Under 18's & Full time students £12

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.

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MARCH INDOOR EVENING: "SNAKES & LADDERS" given by Tony Emms.

This scrambling / climbing route in Dinorwig Slate Quarry near Llanberis seems to have been of mostly male interested as there was only one lady in the 16 strong audience on 7th March! Tony had done the route with members of his other mountaineering club in Nov 2021 and gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation which intrigued many there on the night; indeed several fancy having a go on the route with its 100+ year old chains & ladders! In its time, Dinorwig was the 2nd largest slate quarry in the world, and was worked from 1787 to July 1969. It contains over 30 galleries, or terraces, each linked to a rubble tip. Each is also linked to one of the inclined railway systems which are a feature at this quarry & were in use almost to the end. The rights to this land were granted to the Assheton Smith (later Duff) family of the Faenol estate by influential friends at Westminster in 1806, and it was their wealth that underpinned development of the quarry, using Welsh labourers who earned 75p/week in 1845 & rarely lived to become 50 year olds. After it's closure in 1969 the site was soon purchased by a company which went on to develop a hydro electricity scheme here. This meant that almost all structures survived, including the huge Australia gallery, with its massive mill building, which is part of the Snakes & Ladders route.

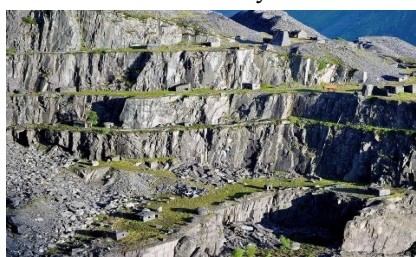
Tony said that the landowners do not allow access but do not discourage it either, even having added a wooden section to the fence that you have to climb over to gain access. The gear that is needed is:- harness, helmet, belay device, 2 ropes, some slings & possibly via ferrata kit and the whole route consists of 5 tunnels, 5 galleries & 6 ladders and runs from Dali's Hole to the Khyber Pass through galleries called California, Tasmania, Australia, the Lost World (valley) & Mordor (see below)



The most off-putting part to many is California at the end of the 1st tunnel, where people see they have to climb up to another tunnel 80 feet up a smooth slate wall with an old chain hanging out of it. This can help once you get up to it but protection with slings and a rope is necessary & at the end of the tunnel is the 1st abseil down into Tasmania. People who don't like the look of California can retreat through the first tunnel and look for a secret short cut close to where a short rusty pipe sticks out of the wall. Here is a vertical hole (a tight squeeze) hidden by boulders one of which has "Os / " scratched on, pointing in the right direction. This leads into Tasmania via a long 3rd tunnel. Tasmania is crossed by a lower

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(loose rock) route or an upper route that uses pipes that can be walked along. The route then curves right and then comes a climb up to Australia via the first (2 part) ladder which goes up onto a terrace from which there is a 2nd ladder further along which arrives at the half way point – an old slate building on a wide terrace. The descent from there into the Lost World involves 2 abseils to get down a 200 ft drop to a tunnel entrance and this leads to Mordor. You have to climb a huge bendy 6th & final ladder to get out of this gallery and up to the Khyber Pass. There used to be a “Bridge of Doom” horizontal suspended railway track across to the Wheelhouse building and safety but this has collapsed so one now has to traverse across a short, loose, exposed gully caused by subsidence of the terrace on which the railway track once stood. A huge inclined plane descends past 3 terraces from the Wheelhouse and it’s then a simple right turn to get back to the starting point. Tony kindly offered to let folk have copies of his presentation if they wanted it & the Editor now has one so contact either if you’d like one. *(Below: Australia & looking out over California from ½ way)*

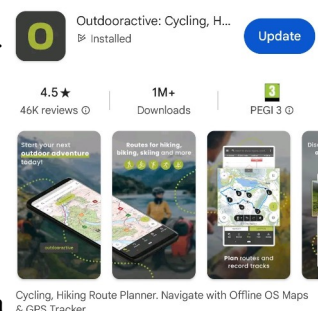


OUTDOOR ACTIVE APP from John Edwards

There are lots of different Apps out there that people can use on their travels or when out exercising - Komoot; Gaia GPS; Strava; OMN Offline OS Maps; All Trails; plus of course OS Maps & OS Locate – some of which are free and some of which you pay for. Having got a complete set of OS Landranger maps for England, Scotland & Wales, plus all the Explorer / Outdoor Leisure maps for the main National Parks & the West Midlands I don’t really feel like paying to get digital maps on my phone. Of course the modern paper Explorer ones have a scratch code that enable one to download a digital version but I often find this takes ages to download & show my position when I am out in the countryside.



On coach meets in particular, when it is important to try and get back in time for the coach’s departure, it is especially important to be able to locate where you are and the fastest routes back so I thought I’d “give a plug” for the App that I find most useful. “Outdoor Active” was first brought to my attention by 2 Wednesday Walkers as the “ViewRanger” App around 6 years ago, but this was superseded in Feb 2022. They pay an annual sub for additional features but I never have, yet it has helped me out numerous times in the country & abroad when I am uncertain where exactly to turn off a path or when I am unsure precisely where I am. Of course, the “OS Locate” App will tell you the latter as a 6 figure grid reference (plus your altitude) but with “Outdoor Active” you can not only see your position on your smart phone but also the nearby paths, tracks, forests and roads – and it downloads in a fraction of the time that the OS App does. I think every WBMC coach passenger should have such an app on their smart phone, assuming they have one, as well as carrying a paper map & compass and knowing how to use these. It still doesn’t guarantee you will not be back late for the coach of course, but it will often be a big help.



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BMC CLUB WEBINAR “DEALING WITH SERIOUS INCIDENTS” 14th March

The first BMC webinar of 2024, chaired by Jane Thompson, saw Paul Justin (Chair of the Club’s Committee) talk about the forward planning for major incidents required by Club committees. His Peak District club lost a member to a fall a few years ago so this wasn’t just a theoretical exercise. Jane commented that here are an average of 2 deaths per year on BMC-affiliated Club meets (due to falls plus heart attacks) and that mountain rescue teams attend ~ 150 incidents per year but, compared to the number of people on the hills, this is a very small percentage. Darren (not ours!) then described a fatal fall that he observed on his first outing with a club. 999 was called & an ambulance attended but couldn’t do anything from the road, which meant a delay of 20+ minutes before a mountain rescue helicopter was alerted, during which time the casualty died. If you call 999 you have to ask for the Police to call Mountain Rescue, otherwise you just get the ‘normal’ rescue services! Then Kirstin described what might need to be done by members at a hut when survivors return from a fatal incident. Her club were on a Torridon winter meet with an experienced member & 2 ‘newbies’ out on Liathach when one of them failed to self arrest and slid off the mountain. She mentioned the need for someone to have a “Mother” role, comforting & helping the returning survivors. Also the need for these people to write out their statements of what happened as soon as possible, including details such as times. Other members present should be given roles (eg putting on the kettle, checking mobile phone charging etc) to help them cope with trauma / give them a feeling of control. Everyone should be told to AVOID PUTTING ANYTHING ON SOCIAL MEDIA and when the general club membership is informed the email should include details of how to contact / email The Samaritans. When it comes to funeral attendance, the Club should always consider the wishes of the next of kin.

The Press & TV may well try to interview members and when speaking to them it was stressed that folk should remember the “3 P’s”:-

PITY *express sorrow to friends and family for the loss of a loved one / friend.*

PRAISE *praise all those involved for their efforts, be that help, first aid, staying calm or comforting*

PROMISE *to get back to them when the picture of what happened gets clearer – don’t speculate!!*

Ian Wyatt from Solihull MC listed some things to think about, saying that when you go out on the hills you automatically do a dynamic risk assessment & the Club should also have a pre-prepared “incident plan” - the aim being to keep an incident minor & not let it become a ‘major’ one. This could be a single laminated sheet / credit card size / a flow chart / notes on a phone but also need to decide who has a copy – just the leader or all on the trip?

Members MUST give contact details (email/mobile/landline) for at least one Next of Kin and should not be allowed to join a club without doing this. Another simple but good idea is for everyone to have a piece of card in the lid of their rucksack with their NoK & contact details on it. Clubs are welcome to set up NoK as an extra field on the BMC’s secure MSO service.

If you are in a party on the hill when an incident happens, in most cases the 1st Priority is to make sure the rest of the group is safe before trying to treat a casualty.

Dr David Hillebrandt, a medical advisor who has been active on the hills for 60 years & can be reached through the BMC, mentioned that doing CPR successfully in the mountains is extremely rare as the duration it will be needed is usually so long. As there is almost zero chance of success, doing it might really be for the comfort / mental well-being of the others in the party. He commented that he has often told folk not to bother doing CPR on him on the hills as “*the last view across the hills is better than dribbling in an old people’s home*”. This is not so for avalanche or drowning cases!

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Other points:- Let the BMC and their insurers know as soon as possible.

www.incidents.thebmc.co.uk & www.howdengroup.com/uk-en/british-mountaineering-council

A 999 call can be made by text. Incident location could be asked for as What 3 Words or postcode, not just grid reference. Consider carrying a personal locator beacon (~£250) or use Garmin 'In Reach'. Recent iPhones have emergency Sat Phone capability. Clubs should maybe consider setting up a dedicated "Club Emergency" WhatsApp group and maybe Incident / Instant Management training for some regulars.

Members should learn DRS ABCDE (danger, response, send for help, airway, breathing, circulation, disability, exposure) & ATMIST handover template (age, time, mechanism of injury, injuries sustained, signs & symptoms, treatment) 1st Aid protocols.



A.T.M.I.S.T. Handover Tool

AGE	Age and sex of casualty (demographic).	5 Seconds
TIME	Estimated time of arrival and the time of incident.	10 Seconds
M.o.i.	Mechanism of injury. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The gross mechanism of injury (e.g. motor vehicle crash or stab wound to the chest) and, Details of other factors known to be associated with major injuries e.g. entrapment, vehicle rollover, occupant ejected from vehicle. 	20 Seconds
Injuries	Seen or suspected.	25 Seconds
Signs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vital signs including heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation and Glasgow Coma Score. An indication as to whether the physiological state of the patient has improved or deteriorated since first seen. 	35 Seconds
Treatment	Treatment given.	45 Seconds

Other useful links www.thebmc.co.uk/membership-services-online & www.protrainings.uk/training_video/abcds-uk

IF YOU COME ON OUR EVENTS PLEASE SEND US YOUR PICTURES & VIDEOS !!

Some of you already do this – and a big “Thank you” if you do – but our Publicity Secretary, Anthenia Dimitriou, has asked me to remind everybody to please post your pictures and videos from our Meets either via Facebook or Instagram or email then to her anthenia91@hotmail.com Or post on your own page tagging them [@westbrom.mountaineeringclub](https://www.instagram.com/westbrom.mountaineeringclub) or, if you wish, you can also invite us, as ‘collaborators’ on your Instagram posts.

This is so we can use the best of them on the new website. Check out the “Events & Latest News Blog” from “Our Adventures” at www.wbmc.org to see the sort of thing eg [Yorkshire Dales Coach Report](#) on the next page

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33 people on the Coach meet to the Yorkshire Dales had a cracking day out with West Bromwich Mountaineering club. The weather stayed good with only one or two quickly passing showers all day and only high winds on the very tops. Some people did the two tops of Ingleton and Pen y Ghent, some did a couple of Tumps, Two people did a big circular bike ride and various other routes were walked. Route 5 of the Newsletter was completed by another group and the Hut Secretary put a brave face on coming back down off the hill with a swollen knee. It was great to see a few new members and non members on the trip who all said they had a good day.



The Crown pub afterwards was the venue for a couple of Drinks and a bite to eat. The lack of heating and a fire meant coats were kept on but this didn't dampen our spirits. At 5.30pm we headed back to the Coach and once under way the Raffle took place for the Bottle of wine prize which was won by Stuart Fellows, who did the customary duty of sharing it with others on the coach.

And **BOOTS 'N BEERS** 27TH MARCH 2024

Congratulations to Annette Cope for organising her first Boots 'n Beers walk from the Waseley Hills Country Park to Clent and back with a nice pub stop at the Swallows Nest in Romsley. Group photo on Walton Hill (right)



VERY ADVANCE NOTICE:
CYCLING WEEKEND FROM THE HUT
Friday 18st – Saturday 20th October

Jonathan Howells (07859 932389) will likely to be hoping to encourage the Club's cyclists to "get on their bikes" & enjoy some spectacular Snowdonia scenery on this autumn weekend which is based at the Hut.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?

Apparently there is now a QR code on Adam & Eve on the top of Tryfan!

There are now more Tik-Tok ers than Top Tickers on Snowdon!

The size of the joint & quality of Oliver's Cheese on Toast at the "Old Timers"!



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2024 AGM (held in the 'Back Room' at The Red Lion) SYNOPSIS

A healthy-ish 33 members turned out to support the Club's AGM, chaired for the first time by David Hellyar, and 12 people sent their apologies. The motion to amend the constitution to make it easier for younger people, especially those more interested in indoor climbing, fell running etc than hill walking, to become Club members was passed with the necessary majority and approval was given to an amended motion which gave to committee permission to raise membership fees next year by whatever amount the BMC might raise theirs by later this year. Officer's reports were received and commented on and a few of the regularly discussed topics surfaced occasionally. Things that might be of interest to those who did not attend:-

- * The club made a surplus of £2,831 but only because gift aid covering 2 years was received.
- * Electricity bills at the Hut are up 41% compared to 2022 prices.
- * 104 different people used the coach in 2023, including 26 new contacts at the special price of £10 for a "Newbie". This could be classed as a gain of £260 - or a loss of £416 if they'd had to pay the full fare. As the year's coach meets 'lost' ~ £575 maybe this 'enticement' should be reconsidered but see below re membership.
- * The Club theoretically has 243 members (20 Life; 13 Veteran; 7 Student; 10 Junior; 7 Prospective & 186 Full Ordinary members). However of the 186 Full members only 124 had renewed so, unless they are very late payers, we have experienced a drop of 62 paying members.
- * During 2023 bednights at the Hut totalled 847, which is still down 25-30% pre Covid.
- * Having Internet at the Hut is costing us some money but it is giving us useful information – weather forecasts, exact electricity usage, access to emergency services etc.

After the new committee were proposed and elected Claire Hammonds & Rob Allen received their certificates and a bottle of wine each for being joint Coach Queens & Kings. Joe Priest was the only nomination received for the Malcolm Collins Award, proposed by John Edwards & Mel Evans "for services to the Club regarding website, Newsletter & OneDrive document resources over almost a decade." but neither he nor Ken were present so Geordie kindly undertook to deliver the silver-plated rosebowl (now complete with artificial roses!) to them.

Andy Brown & Mike Smith 'retired' and were replaced by Dan Bow & Will Holmes as ordinary committee members so your committee for 2024/25 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: Fred Hammonds	07527 744481	hut-secretary@wbmc.org or f.hammonds@btinternet.com
Coach Secretary: Nigel Tarr	07703 345729	tarnigel@gmail.com
Publicity Sec: Anthenia Dimitriou	07449 138283	anthenia91@hotmail.com (co-opted)
Newsletter Editor: John Edwards	07837 198355	jaejed@hotmail.com
Ordinary Members: Rob Allen	07709 827724	allen4082@blueyonder.co.uk
Dan Bow	07969 741112	dan@pinnacle-adventures.co.uk
Darren Groutage	07973 405348	dgroutage10@outlook.com
Will Holmes	07866 516844	will.holmes1@yahoo.co.uk
Jonathan Howells	07859 932389	jhowells42@gmail.com

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SPRING "OLD TIMERS" WEEKEND

by an Old Timer

At last it can be told! On the night of Friday 19/4 a slightly smaller than usual group met up at the Hut in time for a beer outside as the sun set below the hills opposite, before heading inside for the first of Mike T's excellent meals. It was Bob D's 88th birthday so the whisky started circulating earlier than usual and queries about each others ages started to arise. We worked out that 77.2 years was the average age of the 10 present! (BD 88; DS 86; JEa 85; MT 83; NT 81; MS 80; JEd 77; GH 74; PB 63 & OS 55). Later JH (52) turned up ready to kip in his van and the next day ME (80) popped by so the combined age then totalled 904 years for a while! Shame regulars MV (90 in Oct) MH & AB were unable to make it as they'd have tipped it well over 1000 years!!

Mike S got the fire going and soon we were sitting around imbibing, putting the world to right & playing cribbage. As one of the young 'uns commented "That's what this weekend is all about - talking bollocks & whisky" and so it continued into the wee small hours & I can't remember what time I hit the sack.

Saturday dawned beautifully sunny so, after a fried breakfast +/- porridge, some slightly hung-over members set off to enjoy the Welsh countryside while others enjoyed spending time reading and fettling at the Hut. Paul, Oliver, Geoff & Mike went up the South Ridge, almost to Snowdon summit, before descending the Rhyd Ddu path. Jonathan went cycling to Rhyd Ddu via Beddgelert Forest and John Ed drove to Abergynolwyn to climb Tarren y Gesail. Parking all over Snowdonia was insane, so good was the weather & so great were the crowds.

Everyone was back in time for another 'sit in the sun with a beer' before going inside for some delicious soup and the largest chunk of beef I think I've ever seen, followed by apple crumble and sticky toffee puddings, There were the usual toast to the chef, his assistants and, of course, to absent friends. More cribbage & more reminiscences – the ones I can remember were about teachers we'd experienced & their various styles of corporal punishment and recitations of Edward Lear's & 70's rugby songs verses.

'Sobering up Sunday' was spent locally by many but John Ed, John Ea & Don drove a circuit of North Wales that took in Caernarvon, the Rivals & Nant Gwrtheyrn – the deserted village that is now a Welsh Language & Heritage Centre. Back at the Hut, after a roast chicken lunch followed by bread & butter pudding, there was a Mega tidy-up before folks set off back home late in the afternoon, although Mike S continued his holiday with Emily at their Barmouth caravan. Many thanks to Mike Thompson for making it all happen & looking after us so well.



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HISTORY OF MOUNTAIN RESCUE & THE UK'S BUSIEST TEAM

I'm grateful to Mel Evans for sharing the Sunday Times magazine of 17th March with me as he spotted it contained an article on Britain's busiest mountain rescue team by Duncan Craig.

Apparently there are 47 mountain rescue teams in England & Wales and of these, Llanberis MR is by far the busiest even though its area of operation is small, just over 100 sq. miles, less than 1/3rd of the size of patches such as Rossendale & Pendle in East Lancs. The reason is obvious: nearly 4 million people

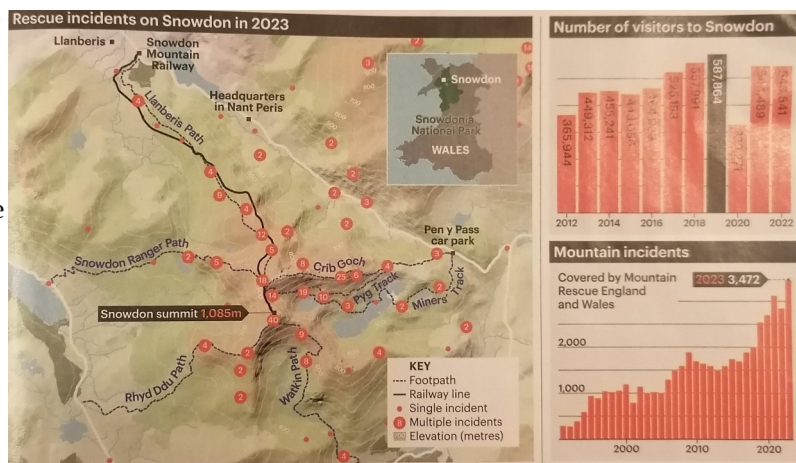
converge on Eryri / Snowdonia National Park each year, with around 600,000 intent on reaching "the park's totemic peak". In 2023 Llanberis MR had 308 callouts, which was 30% higher than any previous year & the trend is continuing - incidents over the first 2 months of 2024 are ~ 30% up on last year's record figures, suggesting the team might have over 400 callouts this year.

"It's definitely getting to the point where we don't have enough people to attend" says Gruff Owen, one of the 12 co-ordinators of the team, which has 57 operational members, a fifth of which are female. Their HQ is a former church hall in Nant Peris and every team member must live within a 25 minute drive of this.

Llanberis MR put in 9,089 hours "on the hill" (i.e. on callouts) in 2023 with an additional 50% spent in preparation & training and "these are people with jobs, with lives and families"! A key condition of the insurance policies that underpin the team's activities is that every volunteer must hit their quota of mandatory training plus 24 callouts over 2 years, something 54 year old Ian Hey who works 3 months of the year as a field guide in Antarctica for the British Antarctic Survey finds tricky to hit. Another of their volunteers is Kes Taylor, Jethro Kiernan (r) & rescue co-ordinator

a 47 year old vet & ultra-runner, who once scaled Snowdon Rich Beech in the Nant Peris Ops Room. 14 times in 72 hours for charity! Annual outgoings for the team are just over £100,000, with kit and travel expenses two of the biggest costs. Andy Simpson, communications director of MREW, says "there is a small government fund that the teams can tap into but it is very limited and comes with restrictions, such as it must be spent on training. So the majority of each team's funding comes from public support:- tin shakes, tins in pubs, bequests & donations etc and this gives the all-volunteer teams a high degree of autonomy." Indeed they receive a 1/6th share of the £10,000 designated by the Welsh government to the N. Wales Mt'n Rescue Ass'n (i.e. just £1,667).

It wasn't until the early 20th C that the concept of hiking & climbing in the mountains for leisure really took off - and it didn't take long for the absence of any form of rescue resource to become painfully apparent. Grabbing a 5-bar gate as a makeshift stretcher on the climb up to an accident scene and hoping for the best was resulting in agonisingly protracted rescues and needless deaths. So mountain towns & villages began placing basic first aid and rescue equipment in popular spots. Embryonic organisations established in the 1930's such as the 'Joint Stretcher Committee' and the 'First Aid Committee of Mountaineering' eventually morphed into "Mountain Rescue England & Wales" (MREW), the charity that oversees the teams' activities today. Scotland has it's own body that oversees the 25 teams there. MREW is a useful



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co-ordinating body that gives advice, lobbies government and helps foster co-operation & consistency of standards across teams. But its chequebook is slim. The purists' vision of mountain rescue as a service for mountaineers & climbers provided by mountaineers & climbers has faced the reality of a 7-fold increase in MREW incidents over the last 30 years to just under 3,500 per year. These days those being rescued are just as likely to be downed paragliders, concussed runners or some bloke who's forgotten his jacket. The quest to replicate summit-conquering shots on Instagram has also spawned a new generation of arrivals, many of whom discovered Snowdon and other mountains during the Covid pandemic.

The crowds are a source of both income and frustration to the locals. As one put it curtly *'This has become the Alton Towers of North Wales'*. The article also mentions the 200m fall of Will Onion from Crib Goch last November (*"It was purely mischance. It could happen to any of us."* said one of the rescuers) and 25 yr old Mollie Nye's attempt to raise £11,000 for the Llanberis team: the amount reflecting the date & time on Will's fall. She is a 23 yr old student paramedic from Bournemouth and was in the party of six that was traumatised by his fall. The article ends by giving 2 online links:- www.mountain.rescue.org.uk & justgiving.com/fundraising/mollie-nye3

ANNA WELLS COMPLETES WINTER MUNRO ROUND

On 13th March Anna Wells successfully finished her winter Munro round on a very windy Cairn Gorm, so becoming only the 4th person - and the first woman - to complete a round of all 282 Scottish 3000-foot peaks in a single winter season. Like forerunners Martin Moran (1985) & Kevin Woods (2020), Anna, who is 34 years old, used a car to access the hills as a series of day trips (albeit giant ones in many cases), usually returning to a base in Inverness to recuperate & regroup overnight. While this approach had the advantage of allowing for flexibility to follow the weather, it was not without its challenges, eg the sheer amount of road travel. She always hoped to equal the 1985 record set by Moran (the first to do the then 277 Munros in one winter) of 83 days and although she fell behind at one stage eventually reached her 282nd & final top on day



83! To do this she had to complete major hill days with multiple summits, day after day, for nearly three months, with comparatively few breaks for rest or weather eg day 78 involved 3780m ascent & 43km distance to complete the 6 south Achnasheen munros. The most she "ticked" in a day was 10 and Ben More on Mull was one of her few "one-munro" days. Whilst this winter has not been consistently cold or particularly snowy, conditions have been challenging and it has often been grim & stormy.

Her Day 83 post:- *"It's hard to write this post, partly because I can't accept it's over and partly because I haven't got a clue what to say!! 😭😭 The finale on Cairngorm was everything I dreamed it could be; wonderful wonderful people coming to support and share the moment, beautiful sunny weather, but craaaazy wind to keep it authentic until the end!! 😊 (Forecasted as 50mph, the weather station clocking 87mph). Some people even travelled far just to meet in the carpark or for a drink after and I am so touched! I feel utterly overwhelmed by the messages I have received overnight (and throughout the whole round!!) I genuinely just feel so so lucky and*

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privileged to have been able to spend three months doing what i love, and i feel so happy when people say its inspired them to get out! I've had the absolute best time zooming around in the mountains and I'm immensely grateful for all the love and support that made it possible! Thank you thank you thank you a million times over to everyone who has been part of the journey; whether it was simply liking a post on Instagram, sending a message, feeding me dinner, giving me a lift, offering me a bed, giving me route-planning advice, sharing a day on the hills... THANK YOU SO MUCH!!! 🍷🥰 "

To see her other posts and photos check out <https://www.facebook.com/anna.wells.58/>

Footnote: Of the previous winter Munroists, only Steve Perry (2006) took on the round as a continuous self-powered journey.

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 22nd February 2024 @The Red Lion 7.30pm

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

1. Apologies for Absence: John Edwards

2. Acceptance of January Minutes proposed by Claire and seconded by Geordie

3. Matters Arising

1. Website - completed and up and running and circulated for the Committee to check. Some current issues with domain ownership as no password or email known. Darren to investigate further. Current www.wbmc.org domain is paid for until the end of this year. A further option is to purchase another domain. There is currently no security on the new website and need a month to consider if this is the best way forward. A few Committee members will report back to Darren, all happy to leave it to him. The hosting costs are currently more than the domain costs and not sure if this is already included in the payment already made.
1. AGM - Club fees are linked to the BMC and the fees for next year will not be known by the AGM date. The running costs of the Club have not been increased whilst website, mailchimp and postage costs have all increased. There was a discussion regarding fees and benefit of Club membership. Agreed that events should be cheaper for Club members to encourage membership. Jan will send out the procedure for nomination of Committee members along with the Calling Notice.
2. Nigel proposed that the fees for 2025 are suggested as £41 pa, seconded by Geordie, all voted "For" apart from one person. Motion carried and membership fees of £41 per annum for 2025 will be presented to the AGM
3. Hut underfloor heating. Fred presented data showing that underfloor heating increased the monthly hut electricity bill by £100 (bills almost doubled). Andy proposed a coin slot meter, seconded by Mike S for the underfloor heating and tumble drier, each installation will cost £160. All voted for apart from one abstention. Motion to install slot meters carried.

4. Officer update Treasurer Club balance is £18,078.28p. Away Dinner and Scottish Week have been paid. BMC yet to be paid. Easyfundraising has so far provided the Club with £144. In addition £30,000 (ringfenced + £105.54 interest).

Membership Secretary As of 22/02/24, 130 members have paid subscriptions. On 9/02/24 120 were submitted to the BMC. If subs not paid by 28/02/24 members will not receive a copy of Summit.

There are 5 new prospective members. Postage for sending membership cards & meet cards is 65p. So far only 20 have been posted.

Newsletter Next newsletter due out end of February.

Website/Publicity New website being evaluated.

Hut Secretary Between 1/1/24 and 15/2/24 there were 72 bednights and £508 in donations. In total 31 persons used the hut. On average the hut is used about 16 nights in every month. Reports of mice. The possibility of individuals block booking the hut midweek for sole occupancy was discussed and rejected. Fred is taking receipt of two loads of wood this weekend.

There was a proposal to increase the hut fees to £8 per night for members and £15 per night for non members. Under 18 costs would remain at £4 per night. Proposed by Jan and seconded by Mike S. All agreed apart from 2 abstentions and one against. Motion carried and hut increases will start in April.

Coach Secretary The January coach made a loss of £76 and there are 19 booked for the Arans meet 7.30pm onwards

5. Meets Tony Emms agreed to perform for the next indoor meet on 7th March. Notice to go in newsletter requesting volunteers to lead outdoor meets.

6. AOB None **Meeting finished** at 21.17pm **Date of next meeting** 14/03/2024 The Red Lion. 7.30 pm onwards

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 14th March 2024 @The Red Lion 7.30pm

Present: Nigel Tarr, Dave Hellyar (Chair), Mike Smith, Fred Hammonds, Jan Cox, Rob Allen, Tony Emms,

1. Apologies for Absence: John Edwards, Claire Hammonds, Geordie Hind, Andy Brown, Darren Groutage,

2. Acceptance of February Minutes proposed by Fred and seconded by Mike

3. Matters Arising 1. Please will Committee members read minutes and make comments before information goes to members. 2. The rationale behind the increase in coach and hut fees was reiterated. 3. The length of the excellent newsletter was discussed - should it contain just up to date information and historical articles be available on the new website? For a later discussion.

4. Officer update: Treasurer Club balance is £18,561.28 on 13/03 as well as £30,000 (ringfenced + £105.54 interest). Some folk have not picked up on coach fare increases.

Membership Secretary 143 members have now paid subscriptions up to 14/03/24. Makes 174 if veterans included. There are 5 prospective members. No BMC invoice until 31/03. List goes to BMC on 23/03 - Tony to send Jan an article reminding folk to pay subs.

Newsletter Apologies for wrong date for Arans coach in last issue.

Website/Publicity New website being evaluated. Thanks to Darren for his perseverance.

Hut Secretary Between 15/02/24 and 14/03/24 a total of 17 folk stayed over 13 nights and £164 in donations was received. Two cubic meters of wood is ordered at a cost of £220. The electric meters for the underfloor heating and dryers have been costed at £450. Darren to check wiring requirements. There are mice in the hut as users are leaving food. Wire wool is being used to plug any gaps found. The use of the hut is increasing 114 bednights over 36 days in 2023 and 123 bednights over 43 days in 2024.

Coach Secretary The March coach to the Arans coach made a loss of £160 and there are 15 booked for the Horton. Another discussion reiterating that the Club has one pot of money and the Committee select where funding is to be allocated.

BMC. Tony confirmed that new members are entered onto the BMC list as soon as they have paid. 5 Meets

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6 AOB Jan went through the AGM agenda The existing hut trustees are Mike S, Mike T, Gary Winton and Dave Jones. Nigel contacted Dave Jones about trustee documents. Meeting finished 20.36 Date of next Committee meeting 18/04/2024 The Red Lion.

MINUTES WBMC COMMITTEE MEETING 18th April 2024 @The Red Lion 7.30pm start

Present: Nigel Tarr, Dave Hellyar (Chair), Fred Hammonds, Claire Hammonds, Jan Cox, Rob Allen, Will Read, Dan Bow, Geordie Hind, John Edwards

1. Apologies for Absence: Received from Darren Groutage, Tony Emms & Jonathan Howells

2. Acceptance of March Minutes: Proposed by Fred and seconded by Geordie

3. Matters Arising None

4. Officer updates Treasurer: As of 17/04 Club balance is £18,154.10. BMC subscription not yet paid (anticipating around £3,400). £14,600 remaining in ordinary account after £164 paid for Away Dinner. Hut Fund is now £30,482.89.

Tony needs to verify payment after checking with Claire. Discussion regarding BMC membership and insurance cover ceasing for the over 80's This to be confirmed. Explore other financial options.

Membership Secretary: Absent Comment that the 2025 membership cards need to be printed before November 2024 and sent to folk as soon as they pay. One member is still awaiting his card having paid some time ago.

Newsletter : Nothing of note Hopefully out for circulation on 28th or 9th inst.

Website/Publicity: There is still some dodgy stuff on the public WBMC Facebook page which is offensive to some. Not everyone can see it but Anthenia & one member at committee could see offensive 'reels'. Suggested that Anthenia investigates logging everybody out of the public site and reset the password. This means everyone (i.e. all 595 followers!) would need to log in again.

Hut Secretary: Between 17/2 and 31/4 there were 51 bednights (17 in Feb and 34 in March) and £302 received in donations. In comparison with 2023 there is an increase of 8 bednights and the hut has been used by 10 more people. The chimney is being swept shortly at a cost of £53 which includes a smoke test. The Old Timers w/e is full.

A response to the recent rises in Hut & Coach prices had been received from Mel. Some committee responses were:- Coach fares have increased due to Robinsons increasing prices. Hut fees increased due to increasing costs of resources. There is an increased differential between members and non members to hopefully increase membership. Although electricity charges have decreased the service charge has increased to £1.07 per day. Electricity cost £2,400 in 2023 and is forecast to be down to £1,200 in 2024 as underfloor heating is now off) Hut finances have been variable over the last 10 years from -£1416 to +£1626 (thanks to John for the spreadsheet).

Coach Secretary: The April coach to Horton coach made a loss of just £65 and so far there are 19 booked for the Long Meet to Seatoller. There were 3 new folk on the April coach. There is a need for more radios and at the end of a discussion it was agreed that Geordie will order 4 more for £146+VAT. He will also give radio training. In response to a request from a non-Midland member it was agreed on a coach fare reduction of £5 for those getting on at Charnock Richard - it costs £15 to park the day there!

5 Meets: Discussion on the need for led walks which was a bit divisive. Some said folk should be able to plan and execute their own walk and there is no need for a led walk as it makes folk complacent about map reading etc, others thought there should be a walk available for newbies. No resolution or conclusion reached.

6 AOB: Dave H asked how people thought the AGM went. Some suggestion that more discussion should have happened via the Chair, as lots of little sub discussions were occurring. All pleased with numbers. Should we be more consultative over changes to fees etc?

Items for 2024 Committee Agendas:-

- * Need a 5 year plan - what do we want to achieve? * What should we be doing with the Hut Fund?
- * Should we be doing more with the triangle of land? * The pricing of coach fees? * Possibility of direct debit membership?
- * 75th Anniversary soon – how to celebrate / commemorate this? * Does Coach meet organisation need to include led walks planned in advance? * Walks and walk leaders ?

Dan is investigating a Hut Climbing w/e as need more climbing activities on the meet card.

John E thanked Geordie for delivering the Malcolm Collins award to Joe Priest's house.

Meeting finished at 21.14pm Date of next Committee meeting 16/05/2024 @ The Red Lion. 7.30pm start

NB The Club Cotswold Code is now AF-BMC-M75

MORE PHOTOS OF THE MUTHU BEN DORAN HOTEL & SCENERY NEAR TYNDRUM PLUS OUR TRIANGLE OF LAND AFTER THE RECENT WORK BY THE ELECTRICITY BOARD FOR PLAS GWYNANT ACTIVITY CENTRE.



N.B. Our Cotswold Discount Code has changed (2024)