

West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



December 2016

This month's photo from the Feb 2016 Scottish Week, by Mike Smith

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Hut Availability

As usual weekdays are free.

W/E 5th December - 3 places booked
W/E 9th December - Hut Full
W/E 16th December - 0 places booked
W/E 6th January 2017 - 0 places booked
W/E 13th January 2017 - 0 places booked
W/E 20th January 2017 - 2 places booked for Friday night

Hello readers

WBMC Committee would like to wish all their members, family and loved ones and a Very Merry Christmas & A very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you on the hills in 2017.

Huge thanks as always to this month's contributors: Dave Jones, Alison Whitehead, Mike Smith, Graeme Stanford, Richard Cooksey, Nigel Tarr, and Guy Harris.

If you have anything that you'd like to be featured in next month's newsletter – whether you're selling gear, looking for a climbing or walking partner, you've seen an event that members might be interested in, anything at all – send it to newsletter@wbmc.org (or through our website if it's an article) before the 20th of the month.

Cheers,
Joe

The WBMC meeting place



The Wheatsheaf
379 High Street,
West Bromwich,
B70 9QW

Join us every Thursday
night from 9.00pm in
The Wheatsheaf for a
chat and a drink.



2016 Cotswold
Discount Code:
AF-WBMC-M8



www.wbmc.org

Noticeboard

Membership

The membership secretary would like to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and would like to remind everyone that memberships are due for renewal - perhaps this could be a Christmas present if anyone does not require any gifts. Please contact Jo Cheung on 07808 030577 for any further information.

Projector stand wanted

We are looking for an old projector stand for the evening meet on 12th January. If anyone has one please contact Dave Jones.

Hut Statement

WBMC members, The Committee have received more complaints from members that have recently visited the club hut. It was only in October that I raised the same issues which went into the newsletter, which seems requests are being ignored. Members appear not to be leaving sufficient storage space in the racks downstairs for members/guests to store their equipment on arrival. Members arrive with excitement only to be greeted by a mess created by others.

With immediate effect, bicycles or bicycle parts are not allowed in the hut - new mattresses have been installed in the hut and bicycles and parts have been laid down on mattresses that people have to sleep on. Bicycles should be stored around the back of the hut which is under cover, members can chain their bicycle to the wood cage at the rear (locks are the responsibility of the bicycle owner).

Previously I know that members have stored their bicycles in the shower block, but again this is not very hygienic for members that have to use facilities.

The committee appreciate that bicycles are very expensive, but facilities are available to keep them secure and dry.

Four club members worked tremendously hard some weeks ago to clean the club hut for your convenience. If such incidents keep occurring, members responsible will have to be brought before the committee. The committee are working very hard to improve these facilities for its members and potential future members.

I hope everyone understands this statement, I will not be writing this into the newsletter again.

Thank you.
Chairman

BMC AGM

John Edwards and I attended the BMC West Midlands AGM on Wednesday 22nd November at the Old Edwardians Rugby Club in Solihull. I would like to congratulate John for being appointed secretary for a second term, and I was appointed Hill Walking Representative again. Both John and I always promote WBMC at these area meetings - if any members want any issues raised please contact John or myself.

Talgarth/Black Mountains Meet (27th-29th January 2017) Update

The original hotel does not now have the capacity to take us and so we have tried to get somewhere else. The only similar close options would require payment in advance and so it would be better if people booked their own accommodation. This a great meet with lots of varied walking and also other options and so recommended.

Please contact Richard Cooksey on 07950 087911 for advice on accommodation.

Hut donations

Members - £4.00
Guests - £7.00
(Max. two guests per member)
16 & under - £1.50

Stamped addressed envelopes are provided in the hut for payment.

To book

Phone or email Alison Whitehead:
07530644874
hut-secretary@wbmc.org

Please contact Alison *before* going to the hut.

WBMC members can purchase a hut key from Alison at a donation of £4

Coming up

Thursday 8th December Indoor Meet

Van Greaves will be presenting the last indoor meet of the year on Thursday 8th December 2016 at 8pm titled "*Some of the Hills Do!*"

We would as many as members as possible to come along and show support for Van and the club.

Thursday 15th December Christmas Social

WBMC Members, please join us for our Christmas Social at the Wheatsheaf on Thursday 15th December 2016 (Nigel to confirm time). Always a very enjoyable evening, and a buffet will be available. Please come along and have a great time with fellow members.

Anyone attending please confirm with Nigel Tarr (07703 345729) by 5th December so we know how many we need to cater for on the evening.

20th – 22nd January 2017 Scottish Weekend

The meet next year will be at the Red Squirrel Campsite, Glencoe, PH49 4HX. *Just turn up, no need to book.* £11 per person per night, £2 children, £1 electric per night, shower/toilets, free WiFi, campervans welcome, small campfires allowed, and the Clachaig Inn is just 1/2 mile away.

However, if winter camping is not for you please contact either of the hostels for availability. All 3 venues are along the same stretch of road in Glencoe. Scottish YHA - Glencoe Youth Hostel, PH49 4HX from £15.00 per person per night in a shared room, or private rooms for 3+ persons available

Or Glencoe Independent Hostel, PH49 4HX
01855 811906 info@glencoehostel.co.uk

Any queries please ring Guy Harris on 07967 820002

18th – 25th February 2017 Scottish Week

After another successful visit this year, WBMC will be revisiting the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William next February.

Twin and double rooms are £34 per person per night, and a single supplement is an extra £12 per night. It's half price for under 14s and under 5s go free!. These prices include free usage of the fitness centre facilities.

To book please contact Jonathan:
Mobile: 07821 544407
Email: merapeak@talktalk.net
Twitter: @howellsmerapeak

A deposit of one night is required to secure a place.



Photo from redsquirrelcampsite.co.uk



Photo from strathmorehotels.com

Members' Musings

A new feature for members' opinion pieces

By Mel Evans



Previous newsletters have provided book titles with a mountaineering theme, the suggestion being that should one ever find oneself stranded in a mountain hut then a title or two from the lists would help the passage of time. Some absolutely iconic stories are included but, surely it's 'chat' that encourages time to pass most quickly.

Our former Chairman, together with his *very large wooden spoon*, is always good value when it comes to developing a few hours of heated debate. In recent years if all else has failed to produce a response then the condition and future of the WBMC Hut has been guaranteed to get a discussion started. A new wood burner, more seating, reduced bed space, stairs or ladders, etc., etc., have each received a good airing/stirring. How time passes once the bait is taken, the entertainment value is often off the scale; let's hope Andy's successor also has a large wooden spoon.

The purpose of this article is simply to offer a different topic for debate.

It is acknowledged that 'Alpine Mountaineering' is a category of climbing that involves snow and ice as well as rock. Many of the titles listed by members in the *Stranded at the Hut* articles have described adventures involving this type of climbing and, to many of us, these accounts represent the pinnacle of our chosen sport/pastime. Therefore, the following quotes taken from a recently read mountaineering publication certainly set me thinking and would, I believe, provide the basis for a good few hours of enthusiastic chat.

Enjoy the 'chat' and every success in your chosen adventures for the coming year. Mel.

"Alpine mountaineering demands a high level of physical fortitude but surprisingly little skill."

"The required balance and coordination is minimal."

"Almost any other form of recreation - tennis, basketball, golf - is far harder to master"

"Excellence in mountaineering comes not from technical acumen but mental discipline, a meticulous tempering of fear"

What do you think? Is Alpine Mountaineering more of a mind game than a technical challenge? Feel free to email your thoughts to newsletter@wbmc.org

Coach Meet – Hayfield

Sunday 11th December

Depart

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

07:20 – Penkridge

Drop off

Snake Pass (088929)

Hayfield (045880)

Pick up

Hayfield (The Packhorse)

Required maps

OS 1:25,000 Outdoor Leisure No1 Dark Peak

Suggested routes

Route 1 Snake Pass A57 (8.9km – 5.5miles)

Drop off Snake Pass where the Pennine Way crosses the A57. Follow the Pennine Way South through Featherbed Moss, criss crossing the stakes on a South Westerly heading to Glead Hill then Mill Hill(61904)at 541 metres and turn left SE to the top of Williams Clough. Follow this path to Nab Brow(058885), White Brow and the Shooting Cabin to the path junction at (045880) and follow Snake Path back to Hayfield

Route 2 - Snake Pass A57 (13.2km – 8.2miles)

Follow the A57 East past Doctors Gate Colvert to Lady Clough to a path on the right hand side of the road (100928). Follow this path through wooded area -past Lady Clough Moor. Follow this path SE and then South until paths join at(107907) and you cross a footbridge and head West to Saukin Ridge. The path skirts Ashop Clough and the River Ashop to Ashop Head and turns South to the top of William Clough, then descends via routes 1,3,4.Distance 13.2 km/8.2 miles

Route 3 - From Hayfield (15km – 9.3miles)

From the start of Snake Path (040868) on the Kinder Road follow this North to Middle Moor and keep right towards the Shooting Cabin, skirt the reservoir and climb William Clough. Where it meets the Pennine Way (064901) turn SE,pass Sandy Hays to Kinder Downfall (082889) . Turn South ,follow the path and



Photo from Wikipedia.org

Fares

Members £20.00

Guests £22.00

Under 16's and full-time students – £8.00

To book ring Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

£5.00 pp cancellation charges apply: you must cancel at least 7 days in advance.

pass by Cluther Rocks on the right and Kinder Low Trig point at 633 metres on your left. Through Edale Rocks (079867) and past Swines Back on the right to the descent path (080861) at a crossroads on the right. Follow this path turning right at the bottom of Caldwell Clough to follow the track and road back to Hayfield.

Route 4 - From Hayfield (28.5km – 17.7miles)

Follow Route 3 to Edale Rocks . Shortly after there is a path junction (079864). Turn left towards Noe Stool, Pym Chair, Wool Packers and Crowdens Tower. When the path splits take the right hand fork (094871) and turn right again to join a main path East (095872). Follow this to the top of Grindsbrook Clough (105872) and then head North and skirt around the top of the valley by Nether Tor and Ringing Roger. When the path splits at (128874) take the left hand path past Druids Stone. You now walk to the lip of the plateau and once you see Madwomen Stones on your left from the fords (138877), head North and follow the path round left to Blackden Edge with Blackden Moor on your right, then Seal Stones on your left. Carry on hugging the lip of the plateau and it will bring you back to the top of William Clough. You can descend via Snake Path or Kinder Reservoir back to Hayfield.

Coach Meet – Langdale

Sunday 15th January

Depart

07:00 – West Brom. Edward St Car Park (B70 8HU)
07:20 Penkridge

Drop off

Ambleside, Rothay Manor (373038)
Chapel Stile (321053)
New Dungeon Ghyll Inn (295064)

Pick up

New Dungeon Ghyll Inn

Required maps

OS 1:25000 OL 6 English Lakes SW Area (possibly
Nos. 4, 5 & 7 depending on chosen route)

Suggested routes

From New Dungeon Ghyll

Route 1 (17km – 10 miles)

Walk the tarmac to Stool End then head up Oxendale to climb (all or some of) Pike o' Blisco (272042), Crinkle Crag (248047) and Bowfell (245064) returning to the coach by The Band or Rossett Gill.

Route 2 (17km 10 miles)

To Stoll End and climb Bowfell via The Band or Climber's Traverse and The Great Slab then north to Ore Gap and descend to Angle Tarn ("bag" Esk Pike first?). Then Rossett Pike (249076) and round to Stake Pass (265087), Martcrag Moor and the Langdale Pikes. Descend via Thorn Crag ridge.



Photo from Wikipedia.org

Fares

Members £20.00 Guests £22.00
Under 16's and full-time students – £8.00

To book ring Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

£5.00 pp cancellation charges apply: you must cancel at least 7 days in advance.

Route 3 (13km – 8 miles)

Forget the tarmac and climb NW by Stickle Ghyll to Stickle Tarn (287075), then climb Pavey Ark (285078) via Jack's Rake (as secure a scramble as you're likely to find anywhere) or Easy Gully. Then SW to Harrison Stickle (265087) and left onto the Cumbria Way.

Route 4 (15km – 10 miles)

Try a gorge walk up Dungeon Ghyll to visit its hidden waterfalls then emerge into the sunlight to climb Harrison Stickle (281074). Then as route 3 but head to Rossett Pike (249076) after Stake Pass and either descend Rossett Gill or, if time and energy permit, climb Bowfell from the north and see its Band or Slab.

Mitch's Meet – Malvern Hills

Sunday 8th January 2017

Depart

09:00 – West Brom. Edward St Car Park (B70 8HU)

Drop off

Tank Quarry Car park (Grid Ref SO 771 469)
Farmers Arms Public House (Grid Ref SO 790360)

Pick up

Hayfield (The Packhorse)

The coach, having departed Edward Street at 9am, will drop off the occupants at the three locations of the Tank Quarry then Wyche Cutting and finally British Camp.

For anyone who requires a shorter walk, they can stay on the coach as it will then be travelling to the Farmers Arms where shorter walk options are available.



Photo from Wikipedia.org

Fares

Members **£12.00** Guests **£14.00**
Under 16's and full-time students – £8.00

To book ring Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

£5.00 pp cancellation charges apply: you must cancel at least 7 days in advance.

Suggested routes

The Linear Route (~14.7km - 9.1miles)

This route starts at the Tank Quarry Car park – Grid Ref SO 771 469. Ascends up onto the Malvern Hill ridge with panoramic views of the surrounding Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire countryside. If the weather is favourable views of Wales may be seen.

Once the height is gained onto the ridge, it is followed from North to South until the Gullet is reached. Then a descent is made to Castlemorton Common and the Farmers Arms at GR SO 790 363 to the Pickup point.

Refreshments

Upon the conclusion of the walk, the intention is to attend the Farmers Arms where there is an excellent selection of beers and an option of a carvery at £8.95 or Buffet £7.50 per person.

The Circular Route (~14.2 km - 9miles)

This route starts at the Farmers Arms Public House Grid Ref SO 790360. Ascends up onto the Malvern Hills crossing Hollybed Common with panoramic views eastwards of the surrounding Worcestershire countryside and the Vale of Evesham .

Once the height is gained onto the ridge, it is followed northwards to the Herefordshire Beacon. Then a descent is made back along the ridge to the Obelisk in Eastnor Park where the track is taken to the Gullet and back to the Farmers Arms.

For more information contact Julie at The Farmers Arms on 01684 833308 or visit the pub's website: www.farmersarmsbirtsmorton.co.uk

Mitch's Meet – Pub Menu



Monday to Saturday 11.00 - 2.00 and 6.00 - 9.30
Sunday 12.00 - 2.00 and 6.00 - 9.00

Starters:

Soup & roll 3.95 Pate & toast 4.65 Prawn Cocktail 5.55 Whitebait 4.65

Homemade Sweets:

Apple Pie / Treacle Tart / Crumble 4.50 Spotted Dick 4.50
 Steamed Treacle suet pudding 4.65 Fruit meringue 4.75
 Gateau 4.75 Banana Split 4.75
 Ice cream with a sauce 2.60 Cheese & Biscuits 4.60

Homemade Hot Dishes:

Steak & Kidney Pie 10.70 Hereford Pie 9.50
 Chilli con Carne 8.80
 Chicken and Vegetable Curry 8.95 Chilli $\frac{1}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$ 9.40
 Curry $\frac{1}{2}$ + $\frac{1}{2}$ 9.55 Macaroni Cheese 6.60
 Cauliflower Cheese 7.15 Cheeseburger 5.25
 Burger in a bap 4.95 $\frac{1}{4}$ Chicken 9.25
 Scampi 9.25 Sausages and chips 7.20
 Sausages in a bap 4.65 extra egg 50p
 Cod or Plaice 8.95 Lasagne 9.25

Salads

Cheese 5.10 Prawn 7.15 Ham 5.45
 Tuna 6.50 Beef 6.50 Chicken 6.95

Ploughman's (brown or white roll)

Cheddar 5.00 Stilton 5.25 Ham 5.45 $1/2$ + $1/2$ + 50p

Sandwiches (brown or white bread)

Cheese 2.70 Prawn 4.35 Ham 3.00 Tuna 3.60 Chicken 3.55 Beef 3.95

Vienna Roll (brown or white)

Cheese 3.10 Prawn 4.95 Ham 3.60 Tuna 4.10 Chicken 4.05 Beef 4.50

Children's menu 4.50**Side Dishes**

Portion of chips 2.30 Cheesy chips 2.85 Side salad 2.75
 White or brown roll & butter 0.75 Garlic bread £1.60 Onion rings £1.80

Grills

8oz Rump Steak 10.95 Gammon Steak 9.20
 Sirloin steak 12.95 extra egg 50p
 Trout with Almonds 9.50 Mixed Grill 13.95

www.farmersarmsbirtsmorton.co.uk

