

West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



January 2018

This month's photo: Ken Priest Skiing over Clent Hills, by Pete Poultney

- 2 Noticeboard
- 3 Coming up
- 4 Obituaries and Other Memories
By John Edwards
- 5 November's Coach to Llanberis
By John Edwards
- 6 Coach meets
Sunday 14th January – Patterdale
Saturday 10th February – Ogwen
- 10 Gear for sale
Nigel Tarr
Phil Wood

Dear Readers

Where has the year gone? Not to worry, there's plenty to look forward to with the WBMC in January, including Mitch's Meet, John's talk on his Arctic Wilderness Safari, the Scottish Weekend, and the Hostel Weekend!

Don't forget that subs are now due! The membership fee is £27.50 and can be paid either by cheque or by bank transfer.

Huge thanks as always to this month's contributors: Geordie Hind, Dave Jones, John Edwards, Hillary Jones, Pete Poultney, Jo Cheung, Guy Harris, Richard Cooksey, Nigel Tarr, Tony Emms, and Phil Wood.

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



Cricketers Arms

43 Trinity Way,
West Bromwich,
B70 6EA

Join us every Thursday
night from 9pm for a
chat and a drink.

BMC
AFFILIATED CLUB

The BMC recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions.

www.wbmc.org

Cotswold Discount Code: AF-WBMC -K3

Noticeboard

New premises

The club has moved its base to the Cricketers Arms, 43 Trinity Way, West Bromwich, B70 6EA. All Thursday evening meetings will be held there with immediate effect.



The pub's website is <https://thecricketersarms.pub>. It has a large room that we can use for indoor evening meets, discos, Christmas get togethers etc, is family friendly, and offers a full menu - see <https://thecricketersarms.pub/best-steakhouse>

Its owner is very friendly and welcoming. What's not to like? Please pass the message on...

Oggie 8 Challenge August '17

Thanks again to all those who supported us in any way and to all those, within the club and without, who contributed donations to Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue CIO; the grand total was £500 © - WBMC Girls

Inspiration for the older members!

John Edwards has sent in the following article from the BMC website:

"At the tender age of 78, legendary Spanish mountaineer Carlos Soria is off to Nepal for his second attempt this year on Dhaulagiri. If he succeeds, it will be his 13th 8,000er, with only Shishapangma left to bag before taking the title of the oldest climber to join the 8,000 Club. We got Jules Stewart to catch Carlos for an interview.

"I could in fact make a case for already have been above 8,000m on Shishapangma," he says. "In 2005 I did the 8,008m central pillar, but I still need to reach the main summit at 8,027m to be able to say I climbed the mountain. I like to do things properly. If all goes well after Dhaulagiri, I'd like to attempt the British route on Shishapangma in the spring of next year, the one that Doug Scott and his team opened in 1982."

Soria spent 16 days training at Spain's Centro de Alto Rendimiento (High Performance Centre) in Sierra Nevada, the mountain range near Granada. He said "For me, it's the best place in the world to acquire the fitness you need for an expedition. My training included cycling up and down 2,300m on a mountain bike, trekking for eight hours between the summits of Veleta and Mulhacén, cold mountain baths, lots of stretching, working out with weights and spending the nights above 2,000m."

Soria confesses to having spent a total of some five years of his life sleeping at 5,000m! "Having summited on K2 at 65, I decided I'd like to get to know the rest of the big peaks," he says. "Of course I was concerned that at my age, there might not be time to complete all 14, but I thought it would be worth making the effort."

You can read the full story at <https://www.thebmc.co.uk/carlos-soria-spanish-mountaineer-14-8000ers>

Away Dinner Full

There are no spaces left on the Annual Away Dinner. If those who are going need more information contact Richard Cooksey on 07950 087911

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:

07903 584450

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

19th – 21st January 2018

Scottish Weekend

12 places available for 3 nights in self-catering bunkhouse in the grounds of the Braemar Lodge Hotel.

£17.00 per person per night. One night's payment required as deposit to secure place. More information about the bunkhouse can be found at the lodge's website: www.braemarlodge.co.uk

Please contact Guy Harris on 07967 820002



Photo from booking.com



Photo from braemarlodge.co.uk

26th – 28th January 2018

January Hostel Weekend

YHA Castleton Losehill Hall

After a few years in the Black Mountains this meet is moving to the Peak District as this hostel offers:

- A wide variety of rooms including dorms around £18 a night, singles around £32.50 a night, twins around £39 a night or £49 a night ensuite and also 3, 4, 5 & 6 bed rooms (check exact prices when booking)
- Easily accessible by road and also by train to Hope via Manchester or Sheffield
- Lots of walking options around Castleton, off Snake Pass and around the nearby Derwent Dams taking in centuries of history from Robin Hood to the Dambusters
- Other options some of which can be combined with walks such as Peveril Castle and local caverns.
- Catered or self-catering options and is also licensed and lots of other great pubs around

There are so many different rooms options it is better if people book themselves booking using the club's YHA membership which should give discounted prices. Here are the hostel details:-

<http://www.yha.org.uk/hostel/castleton-losehill-hall>

If you require any further information contact Richard Cooksey on 07950 087911



Photo from thebmc.co.uk

7th February 2018

BMC Midland Area Meeting

8pm at Old Edwardians Sports Club, Streetsbrooke Rd, Solihull B90 3PE

Followed by refreshments and talk by Suzie Imber, the Leicester climber who climbed Denali and became famous last September by winning BBC2's "Astronauts: Have You Got What It Takes?" programme.

Obituaries, and other memories

A double-bill by John

By John Edwards



On my return from holiday early in November, I was shocked to learn that two long-standing club members, Len York and Hugh Rothero, had passed away in the last couple of months. Checking the Newsletters back to April I can find no mention of their deaths, nor any memories or obituaries. Maybe there was an email that went out that I missed but, even if this was the case, I feel that some recognition of their lives and passing should be included in the main WBMC Newsletter so I will try and rectify this omission.

I suspect that many of the newer members of the Club, especially those that use the coach, will not know much about Len York. Equally many of the older members will know him personally much better than I did. In many ways he was a bit of a WBMC legend, summiting the Matterhorn twice and surviving a fall at 12,000 feet on the descent the second time. Despite crippling injuries and being largely wheelchair bound, Len remaining cheerful and ever ready to talk about his love of the mountains, his annual pilgrimages back to Zermatt (where the locals loved him) and his religious faith. I remember him giving a talk about his Matterhorn experiences to the now defunct West Birmingham YHA Local Group in Quinton many, many years ago and he was a frequent speaker on the West Midlands circuit, always maintaining that he had become grateful that his accident happened, for it gave him the opportunity to meet some famous people! It also enabled him to go out and enthral people in his audiences with his determination & fortitude. He always maintained that anything inspirational he might pass on was a divine gift. If you don't know about Len then I suggest you go onto Amazon and see if you can get yourself a copy of "A Long Way

From Clent" by Brian W. Drew which was published in 2001. As Sir Chris Bonington CBE, who wrote the Forward, says on the back cover "this is not a book just about climbing but the story of the fortitude and determination of a very special person".

I'm afraid that I know even less about Hugh Rothero, except that he was always friendly and prepared to have a chat when we met at club nights or on the coach. I hadn't noticed but Hugh's only attendance on a coach this year was to the Malverns on Mitch's Meet, although also went on the December coach in 2016, a year when he travelled on roughly 40% of the monthly meets. I think I only ever walked with him on the hills a couple of times, but he always seemed a steady and competent walker. I also seem to remember he had a bit of a penchant for visiting unusual countries, particularly some of those in North Africa and the Middle East but I have no idea of the cause of either his nor Len's passing. If anyone else can add to (or correct) these impressions please feel free to write these for a future issue.

The committee sends its condolences to the families of Len and Hugh. Readers, if you have any memories you'd like to share with the club of members who are no longer with us, please get in touch.

Quite a week for a 12 year old!

Going through some old papers the other day I came across a sheet of A4 that was given to me by Carol Atkins from the days when I edited the newsletter. With Nev's Scottish Week imminent, I thought it was worth (re?)-printing to inspire members and show what can be accomplished during a week in Scotland....if you get the weather! This is what Richard Atkins (age 12) managed to complete back in 1997:-

Sunday: Aonach Eagach (2 Munros & 5 Munro Tops)
Monday: Full length of Buchaille Etive Mor & return to Glencoe (2 Munros & 2 Munro tops)
Tuesday: Three Sisters of Glencoe (2 Munros & 3 Munro Tops) **Wednesday:** Ballachulish Horseshoe (2 Munros & 1 Munro Top) **Thursday:** Five Sisters of Kintail (3 Munros & 4 Munro Tops) **Friday:** Ben Nevis & the long Crib Goch style ridge to Carn Mor Dearg (2 Munros & 1 Munro Top)

A total of 13 Munros and 16 Munro Tops in 6 days!

Carol ended by saying that she was very pleased with Richard's endurance and that he wanted to do the full Buchaille Etive Beag on the way back to get his total of Munros up to 15 but couldn't as her foot was a bit painful from overuse! She was "not sure whether this was a record for the club", and I don't know either but if my memory serves me right, I don't think this was enough for Richard to be awarded the Malcolm Collins Award! At the next AGM I recall there was quite a debate about whether someone who was not a Full (i.e. over 18) Club Member could be given the award. I think that Richard was given a special award or citation; at least I hope he was!

Lest those going to Fort William next February feel chastened by their failure to emulate Richard Atkins' achievements, I should just mention that his were completed during the Whitsun period.

November's Coach to Llanberis

November 2017

By John Edwards



This was the 2nd time we visited Llanberis in 2017 and the weather was a lot kinder than back in February, although there was still only a 30% change of cloud-free summits according www.mwis.org.uk

All seats on the coach had been booked by the end of Thursday night's slide show and David Jones met the coach at the Pen y Pass drop-off so there were 48 WBMC members and guests roaming Snowdon & the Glyders. Around 2/3rds of passengers, including Geordie Hind's "Led-Walk" contingent, headed up the PYG track to Snowdon but Oliver Stephenson tempted a sizable number of acolytes up the Miners' track on Glyder Fach & Fawr, although I think Tryfan was a peak too far, and Andy Brown went off to a slate mine to 'bag' a nearby Tump.



The morning conditions were cool & calm with very occasional drizzle showers but there was excellent grip on the PYG track rocks in spite of their wetness and the front walkers crested the col between Y Wyddfa & Crib-y-Ddysgl in around 1hr 50m. There were some comments that they'd never seen Snowdon so crowded and when I visited the toposcope it was rammed as a lady & 10 of her friends were celebrating her birthday (plus countless strangers like me who joined in the singing). Those who didn't bother to visit the summit as there wouldn't be views missed all this: alas there was no cake!

Most took the Snowdon Ranger path back to the coach and pubs in Llanberis but I thought there might be a chance of views from Crib Goch and so it proved, although it was a bit slippier than the PYG track had been. I was amused to be asked, at around 3pm, by 3 ill-shod, ill-equipped young men where the nearest flat path was! After letting out a laugh I tried to be as helpful as I could, but they didn't seem to follow my advice and I'd be amazed if they got down before dark. Back at Pen y Pass I bumped into David Jones who was just about to catch the bus back to the hut, so I joined him and, so gained extra drinking time at the Pen-y-Gwryd with the Glyders folk, at the expense of some loss-of-face!



Coach Meet – Patterdale

Sunday 14th January 2018

Depart

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

07:20 – Penkrige (Coffee stop Charnock Richard)

Drop off

Kirkstone Pass (401081)

Patterdale (391161)

Glenridding (386169)

Pick up

Glenridding (386169)

If Required Kirkstone Pass (401081)

Required maps

OS 1.25,000 Outdoor leisure no's 5 & 7 - The English Lakes NE And SE

Winter conditions may prevail if so ice axe and crampons should be part of your gear and in your sack. Also, think about the conditions when choosing your route.

Suggested routes

Route 1 - Approx. 14km (9 miles)

From the Kirkstone pass climb NW up the steep slope to red screes (396087) continue NW first descending into Scandale pass then climb again (following a wall) past Little Hart Crag and onto Dove Crag (375104). From here follow the ridge over Hart Crag and onto Fairfield (359117) leave the summit northwards and descend via the sharp peak of Cofa Pike (358121) and St Sunday Crag (369135) down into Patterdale and a short road walk to the coach in Glenridding.

Route 2 - 15km (9.5 miles)

From Kirkstone pass stay on the east side of the road and follow St Ravens Edge to Stony Cove Pike (417100) descend to Threshwaite Mouth (taking care over finding the direction if visibility is poor) and ascend Thornthwaite Crag (432101) followed by high street (441111) follow the ridge north to the Knott (437127) then descend past the picturesque Angle Tarn (417145) down into Patterdale and a short road walk to the coach in Glenridding.



Photo from lancashirelife.co.uk

Fares

Members £20.00

Guests £22.00

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

To book contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729.

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

Route 2b - 13.5km (8.5 miles)

Route 2 can be shortened by proceeding to Threshwaite Mouth then heading NW down towards Patterdale by Pasture Bottom

Route 3 - 14km (9 miles)

From Patterdale follow a track to where it turns right over Grisedale Beck (383157) climb steeply to the hole in the wall (359155) and traverse the grade 1 ridge of Striding Edge to the summit of Helvellyn (342152) descend via Lower Man (337155) to Whiteside Bank (338166) and then take the lower path down Glenridding Common (352166) a good track leads past the youth hostel (366174) back to the coach in Glenridding.

Coach Rule 7 applies: "Do not go above the snowline without ice-axe and crampons." Please stow your ice-axes and crampons in the side compartment of the coach. Don't leave them in the boot where they could damage rucksacks.

Coach Meet – Ogwen

Saturday 10th February 2018

Depart

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

07:20 – Service Road Junc 2 M54

Drop off

Pont Cyfyng (735572)

Capel Curig (721582)

Ogwen (656603)

Pick up

Ogwen 656603)

Capel Curig (721582)

Required maps

OS 1:25000 OUTDOOR LEISURE NO 17 SNOWDON

Winter conditions may prevail if so ice axe and crampons should be part of your gear and in your sack. Also, think about the conditions when choosing your route.

Suggested routes

FROM PONT CYFYNG

Route 1 - 9.5 km (6 miles)

Follow the track to a disused quarry (717555) then continue to Lyn y Foel (713547) from where you can climb the SE ridge of Moel Siabod (Grade 1 scramble of Dear Ddu) from the summit (705546) descend via the NE ridge to grid reference (713565) continue through the forest to Plas y Brenin and the Capel Curig pick up.

FROM CAPEL CURIG

Route 2 - 9km (6 miles)

Head West and follow the ridge to Galt yr Ogoff (685586) continue over Foel Goch (678582) to Llyn Caseg - Fraith (670584) and find a cairn at the col marking the Miners Track. Follow the track to Bwch Tryfan (662588) and ascend Tryfan (664594) via the South Ridge descend via the West gully to Ogwen

Route 3 - 13km (8 miles)

Follow route 2 to Llyn Caseg - Fraith (670585) and then climb to the summit of Glyder Fach (656583) Continue along the plateau to Glyder Fawr (642579) and descend to Llyn y Cwn (638584) and then take the oath to the right of the Devils Kitchen to Llyn Idwal and back yo Ogwen

Route 4 - 16km / 10mls

Head North to Craig Wen (729602) and on to Creigiau Gleision double summit (729616) and (734623) Then descend to the Llyn Cowlyd Dam and climb Pen Lithrig y Wrach (716624) before returning to Capel Curig If the weather is bad the return could be via the lakeside track



Photo from visitllandudno.org.uk

Fares

Members £20.00

Guests £22.00

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

To book contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729.

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

Route 5 - 16km (10 miles)

Head NNW to Pen Lithrig Wrach (716624) and descend to its West ridge to Pen Yr Heigi Du (699629) Follow the narrow ridge NW onto Carnedd Lleweiyn (684645) Head South and South West and finally West to Carnedd Dafydd (664630) and from here the quickest way back to the coach is to contour round to Pen Ole Wen (655619) and descend the path down its South West ridge to Ogwen Falls (649605) then East along the A5 to the coach

FROM A5 NEAR LLYN OGWEN

Route 6

Follow the road to grid reference (663603) and tackle the North Ridge of Tryfan (*Grade 1 scramble*). At the summit (664594) jump from Adam to Eve and back if you dare! (*weather permitting*) and then descend the South Ridge to Bwch Tryfan (662588) and continue up the Bristly Ridge (*another Grade 1 scramble*) to the summit plateau of Glyder Fach (656583). A less exposed alternative is to climb the scree slope to the East of the ridge and scramble over the Castell Y Gwynt (654582) and follow the plateau edge NW to the top of Y Gribin (651582) Descend this fine ridge back to Ogwen.

This route is very dependent on the weather and conditions

Coach Rule 7 applies: "Do not go above the snowline without ice-axe and crampons." Please stow your ice-axes and crampons in the side compartment of the coach. Don't leave them in the boot where they could damage rucksacks.

Gear For Sale

Contact Nigel Tarr: 07703 345729

For Sale

Trousers

Rohan Bags - Blue	Blue	32" Reg	£15.00
Paramo	Grey	Medium	£15.00
Berghaus Soft Shell	Grey	30"	£15.00
Rab - Fleece Lined	Black	30"	£15.00
Paramo Windproof	Black	Small	£20.00
Paramo Windproof	Grey	Medium	£20.00
Haglofs	Olive	Small	£15.00
Montane	Black	Medium	£15.00

Coat

Paramo Cascada	Black	Medium	£30.00
Marmot	Black	Medium	£20.00
Mountain Hardware	Black	Medium	£20.00
Rab Insulated	Black	Medium	£30.00
Snugpak Insulated	Olive	Medium	£30.00

Fleece

Paramo	Grey	Medium	£20.00
Mountain Equipment	Grey	Medium	£20.00
North Face	Grey	Large	£20.00

Smock

Buffalo Windshirt	Olive	40"	£20.00
Paramo Velez	Black	Medium	£30.00

Windproof

Paramo	Olive	Medium	£15.00
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Over Trousers

Berghaus	Black	Medium	£20.00
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Gilet

Rohan	Olive	Medium	£15.00
North Face Gloves	Black	Medium	£5.00
Tilley Sun Hat	Fawn	7.25"	£10.00

Compasses

Silva Type 4/54	£10.00
Suunto	£10.00
Silva	£5.00

Torches

Petzl Tikka XP	£10.00
Petzl Tikka	£5.00

Contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

Gear For Sale

Contact Phil Wood: 07850 024475

Jackets

Berghaus Pullover	softshell	blue	large	£15
Patagonia jacket		dark brown	medium	£20

Fleeces

Katmandu	half zip	blue	medium	£10
Kathmandu	full zip	blue/grey	medium	£10
Lowe Alpine	full zip	fawn	medium	£10
Lowe Alpine	full zip	thick woolly black	medium	£15
North Face	half zip	orange	medium	£10
North Face	full zip	grey	medium	£10
Karrimor	half zip	black	medium	£5
Karrimor	half zip	blue	medium	£5
Mountain Equipment	half zip	black	medium	£10
ACG	full zip	black	medium	£10

Waterproofs

Low alpine		green	medium	£20
Mountain Equipment		Lovat green	medium	£20
Berghaus		blue	large	£20
ACG Gore-Tex		black	medium	£25
Sprayway		black	large	£15
Berghaus		blue	large	£20

Shirts

Craghopper	Solardry	fawn	medium/large	£8
Craghopper	Euro50	fawn	medium	£5
Stormlite		blue	medium	£5
Lowe Alpine		blue	medium	£5

Gear For Sale

Contact Phil Wood: 07850 024475

Rucksacks

Karrimor Jura	Red	25 litres	£10
Lowe Alpine Attack	black	20 litres	£20
Craghoppers Dri-Pac	red	75 litres	£20
Craghoppers Dri-Pac	blue	75 litres	£20
Craghoppers Dri-Pac	black	100 litres	£20
Victorinox covertable			£40

Miscellaneous

Craghopper Dri-pac	Bumbag	7 litres	£10
Eurohike	Washbag		£5
Lifeventure	Bumbag		£5
Kathmandu	small shoulder bag		£5
Trek mates	pak pillow		£3

Contact: Phil Wood

Mobile: 07850 024475