

West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



May 2015

This month's photo by Graeme Stanford

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Hello readers

In the absence of an official Newsletter Editor I have tentatively taken up the baton. Apologies in advance for all misspellings, incorrect dates, and poor stabs at humour.

I'd like to start by saying thank you to our previous editor, Mark Wood, for working tirelessly to provide us with an excellent newsletter every month for the last few years. These are some rather big shoes to fill! Thus in a vain attempt to distract readers from the subsequent decline in editing quality I've changed the design a bit.

I'd also like to thank this month's contributors: Graeme Stanford, John Edwards, Pete Poultney and Ken Priest.

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 me at joe.priest@live.co.uk (or through our website if it's an article) before Friday 15th May.

Cheers,
Joe Priest

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.


AFFILIATED CLUB

Noticeboard

Club membership for 2015

Following the AGM there are still around **50** members reading this who still haven't paid their subs!

Membership – £26.00

Students – £11.50

Junior members (16 – 18 years) – £9.00

Young members (under 16) – £2.50

Subscriptions should be paid to the Membership Secretary, Joanna Cheung, by cash or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to: "West Bromwich mountaineering Club" and should be given to Jo on Thursday evening at the Wheatsheaf, or posted to:

Jo Cheung,
551a Walsall Road,
Great Barr,
Birmingham
B42 1LS

You can also pay online using the following information (please let Jo know if you do this)

Name: WBMC
Sort Code: 40 23 03
A/C No: 41139827

For anybody wishing to join the West Bromwich Mountaineering Club please contact Jo and she can provide you with an information pack which details the requirements for membership.

jo.cheung@hotmail.co.uk
07808 030577

Timber!

The large oak tree just outside the hut was blown over by strong winds in April, leaving a considerably different view:



Photo by Pete Poultney

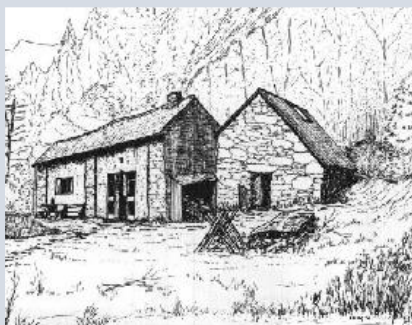
Due to the large number of large boughs, the tree is in an unstable position. As a safety precaution, Plas Gwynant have asked everybody to stay away from it - to maintain good relations with our landlord, please comply with this request. We have asked for permission to have a bough or two but on no account must anybody try taking any of the wood.

Change to the Scottish Corbett Weekend (1st – 4th May)

Unfortunately the planned stay in Tyndrum is not possible so the location has been changed to the Roybridge Hotel Hostel. Roybridge is situated 3 miles east of Spean Bridge on the A86 and in a good location to explore the Grey Corries, Creag Meagaidh and Glen Spean hills. Accommodation is £15.00 a night, bedding included. Transport will be by cars leaving on Friday 1st and returning on bank holiday Monday 4th.

For more information speak to Andy Brown on 07870 145026 or in person at the Wheatsheaf.

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 £4.50

The 2015 AGM

A mini-report from the departing Chairman of Vice.

By
John Edwards



Chairman Andy Brown is to be congratulated in getting through the 2015 AGM in what is probably a record time of 53 minutes; possibly less as we didn't start spot on 7.30pm. Last year's finished at 8.36pm but this one was 13 minutes shorter!



There was little controversy until the final AOB when there was some discussion whether plans for a mezzanine extension / modification to the hut should be approved by the Club or the Council first. Otherwise everything went smoothly, with the Treasurer reporting that the Club continued to be in a very healthy financial position but that the 2014 surplus, excluding extra-ordinary receipts, only just kept our savings in line with inflation. The motion to increase membership fees for 2016 by £1.50, to match the first rise in BMC affiliation for about 6 years, was carried with just one abstention. It was pointed out that WBMC membership, if the BMC affiliation component (which gives the club valuable insurance cover) is excluded, costs members just 3.9p per day. Fantastic value!

There was general agreement that the price of a seat on the coach was just about right, but that it was also just about the maximum that members might stand when one considers the cost of petrol if one went to the hills as a carload. If income needed to be raised in future, other avenues would have to be explored. The membership total before the meeting stood at 200 plus 12 prospective members, meaning that around 78 individuals had not yet re-joined. By the end of the meeting several more subs had been paid but there must still be around 50 people out there reading this who still haven't sent Jo Cheung a cheque! As the immortal bard once said "Extractum digitum"!

When it came to item 9 it was gratifying to see the Laird of Leintwardine's long association with the

group rewarded with John Eadon being honoured with a 5 year term as WBMC President. There were only a few changes to other committee places but it was rather worrying to see nobody stepping forward to take over the role of Newsletter Editor from Mark Wood, who has done such a great job at producing a high quality, monthly read since early 2011, the same year Andy became Chairman.

For the time being, send news and articles to Joe Priest (joe.priest@live.co.uk) or submit them via the website.

The Malcolm Collins Award went jointly to Andy Brown & Chris Dean for "completing the Munros in a relatively short space of time for Sassenachs living south of the Border". They were the only nomination and the photo below shows them receiving the trophy from outgoing President, Mike Smith.



Other things requested in AOB were a regular climbing night at one of the local leisure centres (watch the newsletter for details later in the year!) and that members give greater publicity to the club by buying and wearing logo'd apparel. New items can be ordered from our special mini website (link below) or you can take your existing gear and have our logo added to it for a couple of ££. The company's main website is www.acorn-printing.co.uk and they are based in Coventry.

WBMC Apparel

Visit www.tshirtuk.com and click 'West Bromwich MC' on the left.

Every purchase will not only help you look great but will also help to publicize the club.



Coming up

7th May

Evening Meet – Walk over Clent



Photo by The Hill Tavern

This month's evening meet is a leisurely walk over Clent led by Pete Poultney and Ken Priest, lasting about 1.5 hours, and ending with food and drinks at the Hill Tavern.

The pub is putting on a selection of cobs just for us, and serves, amongst others, the excellent Envile Ale.

We'll be meeting at the pub (postcode DY9 9PS, plenty of parking available) at 6:45pm ready to start walking at 7. No need to book – just turn up if you're interested in joining us, or get in touch with Ken.

3rd June

BMC Meeting



Photo by Mick Ryan, UKClimbing.com

The BMC are holding their quarterly gathering of walkers and climbers from the Midlands at the Old Edwardian's Sports Club (postcode B90 3PE). The evening – starting at 8:00pm – will include a discussion of local and national issues, a slideshow, a bar and food.

Entertainment will be provided by the prolific, sometimes controversial (but never dull) Gary Gibson, who has climbed over 4,000 new routes over the course of over 30 years.

All are welcome; entry is free. Food will be provided, and the club has a licensed bar. More information: <http://community.thebmc.co.uk/Event.aspx?id=3390>

19th – 21st June

Club Challenge Walk– National Three Peaks

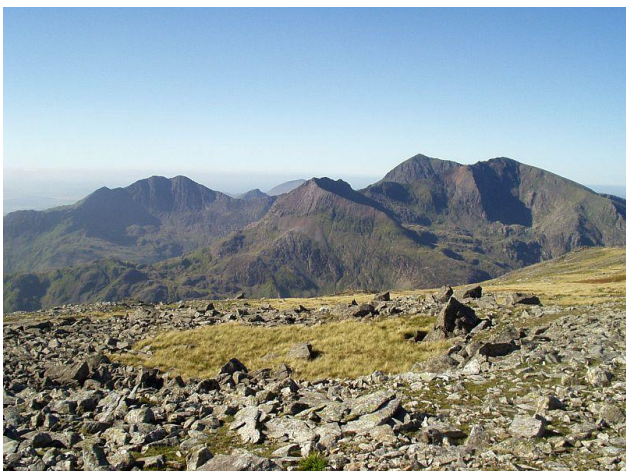


Photo by Chris Dixon, Wikipedia.org

The club challenge walk this year will be an attempt at climbing Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in 24 hours.

We will be leaving the Midlands area on Friday morning (8:00am) to drive to Fort William in order to start the challenge at 6:00pm on Friday. After doing Ben Nevis we will drive overnight to Seathwaite to climb Scafell Pike before driving to Pen Y Pass for the climb of Snowdon. Saturday night will be spent in the hut before driving back home on Sunday.

If you feel you would like to take up the challenge please speak to Andy Brown (07870 145 026) as soon as possible so all the logistics can be finalised.

WBMC go Three Peaks Crazy

April coach meet report

By
John Edwards



The April coach certainly cocked a snook at the idea reported in the last Newsletter to make WBMC the premier rambling club in the West Midlands, with 20 out of the 45 passengers completing the Yorkshire Three Peaks – a ramble in nobody's books!



"...in spite of spending 30 mins in The Old Hill Inn over cups of tea!"

Eleven people attempted & completed the 'Classic' route from Horton-in-Ribblesdale back to Horton. Chris Dean, Mark Stevens & Graeme Stanford ran much of the 25 mile route (with 7,522 feet of ascent) to finish in 7 hrs 28 mins, in spite of spending 30 mins in The Old Hill Inn over cups of tea! Dave & Sheila Nock and Wayne Whitehouse took 8½ hours to complete the same route while Simon Grove, Adrian Shaw & Phil Smith, Geordie Hind & David Jones made up an "over 50's" team (all bar one!) that finished in 9 hrs 2 mins (av. speed 2.9 mph).



9 members with a combined age of 485 years completed the challenge by the slightly shorter 'linear' route, alighting from the coach at Ribbleshead Viaduct at 11.05am and getting back to the pub in Horton at 7.50pm.

In decreasing age order, the people who made this 8¾ hours completion were Mike Smith, John Edwards, Emily Smith, Hilary Jones, Dee Sehdeva, Liz Perks, Mark Edwards, Neil Parsons & David Doherty. Dave Hellyar, Sanjay Choughan, Nick Akers & James Lambert (on his first meet) did most of the route with them but decided to give Penyghent a miss, along with John Wagstaffe who had to get back to his car at the Viaduct to head back east.



WBMC go Three Peaks crazy

continued...

Elsewhere Andy Brown did a long route out to Darnbrook Fell via Penyghent & Plover Hill & Rpb Thomas, John Harris, Pat Potter, Bob Jackson, Dave Hough, John Dale and John & Linda Howells did various routes involving Penyghent. Good to see *E/Presidente* John Eadon back on the coach again and able to summit Ingleborough with Nigel Tarr after 12 months of hip problems. John Harris, Alison Whitehead & John Lowe walked from Ingleton to Horton over "the big hill" while Hazel Webb, Andy Wright & Chan Webster walked over it from Ribbleshead to Gaping Ghyll. I can't recall what route Helen Fisher, Tony Emms & Tony Clukton took but Mark Wood used the fine day to get some photographs.



Oh! and Alison W (Hut Sec) & Nick A respectively won the seat & Grand National raffles so you know who to go to if you feel like 'blagging' a drink. Thanks to Nigel for organising the day (and for going home to fetch the route book - ooops!) and our 2 Yorkshire drivers who got us back to Edward St at 20 mins past midnight. A very successful and memorable day on the hills.



Would you like to see your article in the newsletter? You can now submit articles and photos through the club's website! Log in to the members' area and click "Submit an Article".

Accessing the website

If you haven't had an email from the club with your password, contact Joe and he'll sort you out – it might be that the club doesn't have your current email address.

National 3 peaks challenge

As mentioned in the "Coming up" section, we're taking part in the national Three Peaks Challenge at the end of June, attempting to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in 24 hours.

If you feel you would like to take up the challenge please speak to Andy Brown (07870 145 026) as soon as possible so all the logistics can be finalised.

Seatoller Coach Meet

Saturday 9th May

Depart

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

07:20 - Penkridge (ST42 4EB)

(Brief toilet stop at the M6 Services)

Drop off

Keswick (264235)

Shepherds Crag (262184)

Seatoller (246137)

Pick up

Seatoller

Shepherds Crag

Keswick (Coach st)

Required maps

OS. 1:25 000 Outdoor leisure maps

No 4 The English Lakes - NW area

No 6 The English Lakes - SW areaAreas

Suggested routes

Route 1 (15.5km- 9.5 miles)

From Keswick head West to Stormwater bridge (255239) into Portinscale. Following part of the Cumbria Way south to the foot of Catbells, and then climb steeply to the summit (244198). Continue south along the ridge over Maiden Moor to High Spy (235162, enjoying the views back over Keswick to Skiddaw. Descend to Dale Head tarn (230152) and turn west to the summit of Dale Head (223153). Make the most of the view as its all down hill from now on back to Seatoller via Tongue Gill and the Rigghead quarries (240152)

Route 2 (10.5km- 6.5 miles)

Leave the coach at Seatoller and follow the road east to Strands Bridge (252137). From here follow the path up to Thornythwaite Fell (245118) and on to Glaramara (245105). From the rocky summit head north east to Comb Head and Combe Door (252109). Now you'll have to pick your way through the rocky outcrops and small tarns to Rosthwaite Cam (256118) and the trig point of Bessy Boot (258125). Finally descend west into Combe Gill to retrace your steps back to the coach.



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 by 7pm on the 6th May.

Route 3 (19km - 12 miles)

From Seatoller follow the road to Seathwaite (235121). Ascend Green Gable (215107) via Sour Milk Gill and continue to Great Gable (211104). Leave NW to Beckhead tarn (205107) and onto the summit shelter of Kirk Fell (195105) revealing good views of the Scafells and your recently visited summit Great Gable. Retrace your steps to Beckhead tarn and traverse below Green Gable to Brandreth (215119). From here tick off Grey Knott (217126) and walk down to Honister Pass (225135), where a short road walk leads back to Seatoller.

Route 4 (15.5km - 9.5 miles)

Reach the summit cairn of Great Gable as route 3, then descend to Styhead (220095). Continue past Sprinkling Tarn (226091) to the Esk Hause shelter (235083) and onto Allen Crag (235085). Following the undulating ridge to Glaramara (247104) and continuing north over Thornythwaite Fell (245118) back into Seatoller.