

West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



March 2016

This month's photo: The WBMC on the Scottish Weekend Feb 2016, by Guy Harris

Hello readers,

A quick note from the committee regarding the AGM:

The 2016 AGM of the WBMC will be held at the Wheatsheaf Public House on Thursday 17th March 2016 at 7.30pm. Most officers of the Club are elected annually and nominations, in writing, should be with the Secretary at least 7 days before the AGM. Nominations should be proposed and seconded by a full club member and indicate the willingness of the person to serve, if elected. Please note that the President is elected for a 5 year term and is not due for election this year.

You'll find more information and the nomination form at the end of this newsletter.

My thanks to this month's contributors: John Edwards, Nigel Tarr, and Dave Jones.

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 20th March.

Cheers,
Joe



2016 Cotswold
Discount Code:
AF-WBMC-M8



www.wbmc.org

- Noticeboard
- 2 Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue appeal
Free winter kit
Your photos wanted!
- Coming up
- 3 "Antarctica Then & Now" by John Edwards
St Kilda
- 4 Coach Kings & Queen John Edwards
- 5 Glencoe Weekend Dave Jones
- 8 Scottish Winter 'Week' John Edwards
- 10 Stranded at the Hut John Edwards
- 11 Coach meets
Sunday 13th March - Arrans
Saturday 9th April - Braithwaite

Appendix

AGM Information

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.

Noticeboard

Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue appeal

OVMRO are asking for used stamps to be collected to raise funds and Nigel Tarr has taken on the task. If you have any used stamps on your mail he'd be grateful if you could save them up and pass them to him when you get the opportunity, on the coach or in the pub. Thanks in advance.

Free winter kit

If anyone has not got 'winter kit' and needs some to try heading into the hills in wilder weather I have the items below. They are free of charge and to help with the cost of kitting yourself out. More experienced members who just need more kit need not apply but newer less experienced members who need it certainly can. Just contact me via normal methods or on grim830@virginmedia.com. Obviously this is 'first come first served'.

- 7 pairs of Grivel G10 (C1) crampons - all hardly used and look new
- 6 standard walking axes (basic) - all well used and slightly old style but perfect as a first axe.

Graeme Stanford

Oggie 8 taking a break in 2016

Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue Team have made the following announcement:

After running the Oggie 8 for 8 years we have decided to take a break in 2016. We are grateful to all the competitors who have supported the event for the last 8 years, and if there is sufficient demand we are likely to run the event again in 2017.

This obviously means you will all be spared the 'tin rattling' that normally accompanies the event (until next year of course)

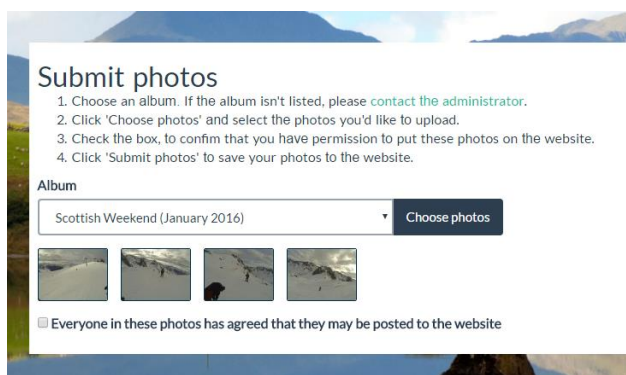
Your photos wanted!

If you take any good photos on the coach meets this year please don't hesitate to add them to the club website. Not only does it let other club members see what you've been up to, it also helps show prospective members the diverse range of activities we offer and how regularly we get out and about.

Adding photos is very simple: once you're logged in, go to the member's area (the link on the top right of every page) then click "Submit photos". Choose the correct album, choose your photos, then click "Submit photos". Done!

If you don't yet have a password for the website, email me (joe.priest@live.co.uk) and I'll sort it out.

Many thanks,
Joe



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

Coming up

8PM 10th March 2016

“Antarctica Then & Now”

John Edwards will reflect on changes that have occurred since he worked as a young scientist for the British Antarctic Survey in the 1960's, which he noted when he revisited the Antarctic Peninsula region (including the Falklands & South Georgia) as a tourist on the “South 2015: A Voyage to Remember” cruise organised by ex-Fids (people who worked for B.A.S.)

As well as maps, photos & artifacts, you will be able to check out the sort of clothing that was issued to polar researchers 45 years ago.



2016

St Kilda

Ian Merther is hoping to organise a trip to St Kilda in 2016. This is no ordinary day excursion, it is a week long trip of a lifetime, and does not come cheap, so I am putting out feelers to see if there would be any interest from club members.

Here's a link to give you an idea of what it's about. Have a look, and if you are interested, contact Ian.
<http://clearwaterpaddling.com/trips/Tall-Ship-to-St.-Kilda>



Photo from clearwaterpaddling.com

Your ad here

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.

Coach kings and queen 2015

The Annual Review of the WBMC Coach Year

By John Edwards



The figures for the 2015 Coach Meets reported below are different to any previous year because they are the summary of only 11 meets. The reason for this is that, for the first time in living memory, one of the coach meets (you guessed it...August!) had to be cancelled due to lack of bookings. In addition I lost the data for the very successful Mitch's Meet in January at the Peckforton Hills due to a motherboard failure.

120 different people used the coach, a similar number to 2012 and the total number of seats filled was 406, not dissimilar to 2013. The fewest passengers were carried in July and the most in February, with the monthly average being 37. Approximately one third were female.

Hilary Jones kept coach secretary Nigel Tarr company on all 11 meets so she retains her title as *WBMC Coach Queen* and there was a 3-way tie for Coach King, with John Dale, David Doherty & Mike Smith all missing just one meet.

Adrian Shaw & Graeme Stanford both went on 9 meets while Pat Potter, Emily Smith, Paul Brindley, Andy Brown & Phil Williams were passengers 8 times.

John Harris, Dave Hellyar, Geordie Hind, Bob Jackson, David Jones, Neil Parsons, Hugh Rothero, Phil Smith & Colin Talbot were the 9 men who went on 7 coach meets.

The 8 who attended 6 coach meets were Simon Grove, David Hough, Ann Parrot, Liz Perks, Nick Piotrowski, Dee Sehdeva, Oliver Stephenson & Mark Stevens.

It was Joanna Cheung, Christopher Dean, Tony Emms, Mel Evans, Bob Franklin, Claire Hammonds, Linda & John Howells and Rob Thomas who managed to make 5 meets while half a dozen went on 4 coaches. They were Richard Cooksey, Phil Cox, Fred Hammonds, Peter Kane, Indhu Prabakar and Mel Sutton.

The "Three Coach 10" were Tony Cluxton, Noah Cox, Janet Dawes, John Edwards, Geraldine Evans, Wendy Morris, Angie Murdoch, Stu Shaw, Mark Smith and Andy Wright.

21 people went on a couple of coaches, namely Nick Akers, Teresa Chilles, Sanjay Choughan, Annie & Mike Claridge, Matt Coleman-Hamilton, Iris & Ray Cooksey, Mark Edwards, Sue Goddard, Geoff Hill, Jonathan Howells, Rachel Jelfs, Ian Merther, Magda

Murray, Andy Nock, Pete Poultney, Ken Priest, Chris Scrivens, Pat Thorneycroft & Hazel Webb.

And finally here are the 45 who went to the hills just once on a club coach during 2015 (although some might also have been on Mitch's Meet): Vanessa Biddulph, Sharron Blake, Leon Brindley, Prem Choughan, St Jean Cooper, John Eadon, Pam Emms, Helen Fisher, Sue Fownes, Sue Goddard, Darren Groutage, Billy & Katie Hammonds, Mandy Harrison, Amanda & Denise Jarvis, Andy & Jason Jones, Tom Keeling, James Lambert, John Lowe, Andrew Mitchell, Dave, Shelly & Billy Nock, Maxwell Park-Davies, Neil Parsons, Goske Popiel, D (Preb) Prabakar, Jess & Joe Priest, Paul Reid, Lee Rogers, Angus Scott, Sue Shrimpton, Tracey Skidmore, Karen Smith, Phil Stevens, Rachel Ward, Chan Webster, Alison Whitehead, Wayne Whitehouse, Phil Witcherley, Joe Wood & Mark Wood.

The destinations of the individual meets in 2015 (& the number of passengers on them) were as follows:

January	Ogwen	32
February	Patterdale	50
March	Tarrens/Cader	31
April	Horton/3 Peaks	45
May	Seatoller	44
June	Coniston	27
July	Nantlle Ridge	19
August	Howgills	<i>Cancelled</i>
September	Keswick	34
October	Rhinogs	39
November	Llanberis	41
December	Edale	46

As always the committee hopes that everyone enjoyed their days out on the hills regardless of the weather and hope that most members will try and come on the coach at least once in 2016. If you know someone likes the countryside please tell them about our coaches and mention that they are open to general public as well as West Brom MC members.

Glencoe Weekend

A report of the "Advance Party's" activities

Words and pictures
by Dave Jones



Always a favourite weekend by many WBMC members, hence the reason that this weekend becomes booked up very quickly. Lagangarbh hut is owned by the National Trust for Scotland and has been occupied and maintained by the Scottish Mountaineering Council since 1946. It was recently refurbished in 1994.

The hut is situated north of Buachaille Etive Mor near the River Coupall, the hut was originally a crofting home typically with a central entrance hall and stairs ahead, two rooms up and two down, left and right. The roofing is still the local Ballachulish slate which covered much of Scottish housing. The walls are of thick stone, built to withstand the battering of gales.

Choose the right side upstairs dormitory (which I did) and you are rewarded with a unique view of one of Scotland's best mountains – Buachaille Etive Mor.

Most members decided to travel up on the Friday (15th January) some had decided to go the day previous (Neil Easter) who had spent a very pleasant evening by all accounts on the Thursday evening at the Clachaig Inn & Kings House Hotel prior to kipping down in his well equipped van to the side of the of the buckle on the Glen Etive road. Guy Harris & Tracey Cook had also done a part journey up on the same day.

I was travelling up on the Friday morning with Andy Brown & Fred Hammonds, the Midlands had seen a good covering of snow and ice on the Thursday evening and Scottish conditions were a little closer than expected. We began our journey at 08.30am and travelled to Bloxwich to pick Fred up, prior to travelling north.

We stayed at Carlisle for fuel and a rather nice little fry up for me and Fred, Andy opted for Liver & onions, we witnessed a numerous houses that had encountered flood damage in previous weeks in the area, due to the river bursting its banks. It becomes reality when you see such conditions in real life. ☹️

As we travelled through Loch Lomond, the snow capped mountains started to appear, on what can only be described as "picture post card" We arrived at the hut and parked down the small layby were we met Neil & Guy. I think at first they need not see me in the back of the car due to looking quite relaxed between numerous sleeping bags and pillows, guy commented that I looked "cocooned" in the back seat.

The only negative side of staying at this location is the amount of times you have to keep going forwards and backwards between your vehicle and the hut, you have to walk over the footbridge and up a path, before gaining access and in wintry conditions it can get a little slippery, but still enjoyable.

We then met up with other individuals present, Tracey Cook, Sam Grosvenor, Pete Poutney, Mike & Marcus Smith arrived virtually at the same time we did. There was then a slight issue for our Chairman, Andy realised that he had forgotten his clothing bag. (This was the First Mishap of the Weekend more to follow) He had his walking jacket and boots with him, but everything else had been left at home. Without hesitation Andy got in his car and drove back to the "Green Welly Shop" in Tyndrum to purchase required items.

Fred and I came up with clothing that we would supply, but obviously it would be tight on Andy (Lol)

Tracey by now had started to get the wall heaters switched on within the hut, and in the other room the gas fire had started to get the seating area nice and cosy. The usual good conversation was being had and tea and coffee was in abundance, even though Tracey kept thinking it was "Wine o Clock"



Neil had kindly brought up the Mountain Weather Information Service report up on his laptop, which stated that it was going to be a little cloudy, but also cold, by now everyone had a general idea of what they was going to do on the Saturday morning, the climbers knew exactly where they was going. Myself and Fred decided to attempt Bidean nam Bian lying to the south of Glen Coe lying on the Glen Etive road.

Continued overleaf...

Glencoe Weekend

continued...

Early Friday evening "No kit Brown" arrived back with waterproof trousers, underwear, socks, base layer, toothbrush to name a few. Fred Hammond had kindly made a curry at home that the three of us was going to have, Phil Matthews had brought along a large one man pizza, and Mike Smith was preparing chilli & rice, with everyone warm and either preparing to eat or had already eaten the scene was set for an enjoyable sociable evening.

Later on in the evening the last person to arrive was Nick Pitrowski, Nick had set off a little later departing the Midlands at around 13.00 hours.

So the whole WBMC team consisted of: Guy Harris, Tracey Cook, Neil Easter, Fred Hammond, Andrew Brown, Sam Grosvenor, Mike & Marcus Smith, Nick Pitrowski, Phil Matthews, Pete Poultney.



Photo by Guy Harris

The Saturday morning arrived and everyone had started to wake relatively early, one person in particular Nick Pitrowski had got up very early and stated that he was going to attempt the Aon Eagech, Andy was going to do a Corbett Beinn Maol Chalium. Guy, Tracey, Neil, Mike and Marcus opted to go to Glen Orchy, they done an ice gully on Coire Daimh which later turned out to be an eleven hour epic (well done, everyone at base was a little concerned) Mike Smith opted for a change of mind and attempted a Corbett, Beinn Udlaidh but was snowed off even though he stated that it was a good day.

Andy, Fred and I started our walk, we all walked together then Andy was going to head to the left to do Beinn aol Chalium and me and Fred would go straight on for Bidean nam Bian

At ground level there was a layering of soft snow, and it was boggy as we started to walk upwards following the stream, we had to skirt around the forest, we soon found a half decent path, but as we progressed, the snow became thicker and deeper but very soft.

We had to keep taking it in turns to try and tread a path, extremely hard work for the front person that was doing the hard work, the other two just trod in the footsteps that had been made. We got extra layers on and I and Fred looked at the Gully we had to attempt, Fred was becoming cautious stating that the snow could avalanche in the Gully and he did not feel comfortable with one ice axe. Visibility was very poor; we could still see Andy applying his touring skis, so we made a team decision to head up to Beinn Maol Chalium and accompany him.

We started to head up, Andy was having a few issues with the bindings, and so as he was trying to adjust Fred and I became cold, the weather was bleak with zero visibility and driving snow starting to hit us head on. I have not done many Corbetts but believe me by the time we had got to the top they felt as difficult as a Munro.

We had a brief photo at the top (see below) and we started to head down. Again snow very difficult, thigh high in places and Fred even commented that it had been harder work than his recent trip to Kilimanjaro!



Continued overleaf...

Glencoe Weekend

continued...

At one stage we came to an edge and started to head down and the top layering of snow started to move, believe you had never seen three individuals virtually run back onto the ridge.

Considerably hard graft coming down trying to locate a good descent, at one stage Fred was leading and the next he had slid and fell down a very steep ridge, fortunately he was ok, he did slide a good way which I think did startle him to a degree.

We had to make a brief stop to put head torches on, and we eventually got back down to the forest which we had to crawl under, over, up, down etc. Each time helping each other through fallen trees branches with twigs swinging back and hitting and trying to avoid taking your eyes out. When we got back to the car we realised that if we had have skirted to the left of the forest we could have actually avoided going through it.

A four hour Corbett, had actually taken twelve hours due to the snow conditions, we got back to the car and started heading back down the Glen Etive road, but this is where we had the second mishap, due to wintry road conditions, we lost control of the car and ended up in a ditch. After numerous attempts and the front wheels spinning and trying to place bricks under the tyres to try and get traction, we realised that we would have to come back the following morning and have another attempt at getting the car out of the ditch. We left all the gear in the car and started to walk down the Glen Etive road. Mobile phone signal was very intermittent, I had made a couple of calls to various individuals, but they were either still out on the hills or they had not got their phones at hand. When in the Lagangarbh you can only get phone signal when at the top of the staircase, so the chances of getting through to someone was going to be a little difficult.

Head torches on we plodded on and eventually I got through to Mike Smith and I explained the situation. He said that Phil Matthews would head out to come and pick us up, after about thirty minutes we saw headlights coming down the track, and we found an area where it would be better for Phil to turn the car

around, bearing in mind that the road is a single track and turning around can be a little difficult to say the least.

We got into the car and headed back to the hut. When we got back we realised that not everyone had returned and some were still out in the hills, I went straight for a hot shower and then prepared some food. By the end of the evening everyone had returned a little weary, all with a good story to tell around the gas fire with a drink.

Sunday morning arrived and some was stating that there had been a lot of snoring coming from one dormitory; we won't mention names Neil Easter ☺



Photo by Tracey Cook

After breakfast it was decided that Guy would go down to Glen Etive with his van to try and pull the car out of the ditch, along with Fred, Andy, Phil, & Nick, the outcome was the car tyres had to be deflated to get the car out and Guy put a tow line on between his van and the car. The team got back at around 13.00 hours.

Tyre pressures were checked and the car was loaded and we started our journey back. Some individuals were staying an extra night, Mike, Marcus, Pete, Neil, Guy, Tracey, Sam

So that's how Glencoe went for January 2016, everyone had a very enjoyable time, snow was very soft which could have done with freezing, but this is the chance that you take. Many thanks to Guy & Tracey for organising the weekend and we look forward to next year.

Scottish Winter 'Week'

A report of the "Advance Party's" activities

Words and pictures
by John Edwards



At 2pm on 8th Feb I picked up Nick Piotrowski - not sure if it was the 'man' or the 'fiction' (you'll have to ask him) - in Harbourne and 7 hours later we were having a drink in The Crianlarich Hotel, opposite the community parking area by the A82, where we'd decided to spend our first night in the Edwards' motorhome.

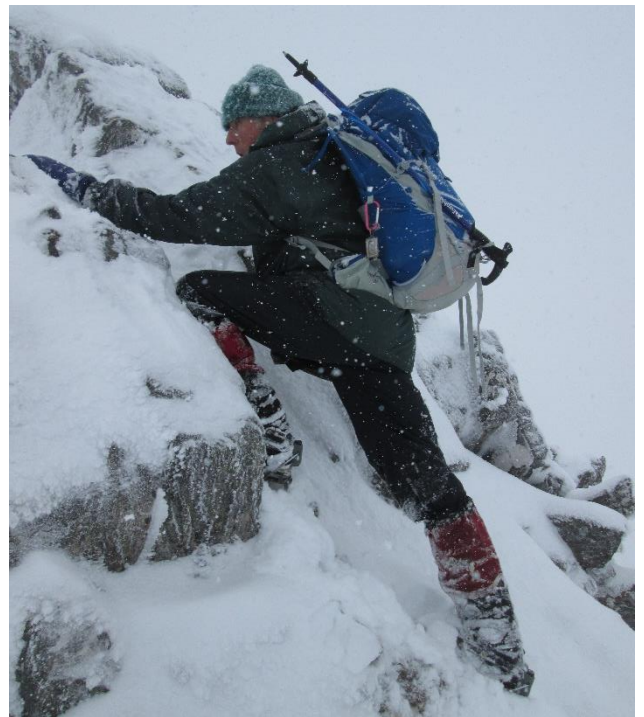


Tuesday dawned much less windy than it had been at the weekend so it was a short drive south to Keilator Farm where a new hydro road gave relatively easy access to Grey Height and up onto Cruach Ardrain (3432ft) & Beinn Tulaichean (3104ft). We hit the snow line at around 1,500ft and it was soon on with the crampons & out with the ice axes (as it was every day at around this altitude). Alas no views from the first Munro but a sudden clearing of the clouds & a fogbow as we headed towards the second made the climb rewarding. We were back at the 'van by 4.30pm, having done 1067m of ascent. After a quick brew, we headed north to The Cluanie Inn in Glen Shiel. After cooking a meal in the car park we went for a drink, only to find the place locked up even though it was only around 8.30pm! So we shared a can of cider before getting out our sleeping bags for an early night seemed a good idea with our plans to tackle The Saddle the next day.

The summits of the South Shiel Ridge were clear of cloud as dawn broke so we drove down the glen and headed up the obvious stalkers path to the base of the Forcan Ridge, a great scrambling route with some spectacular drops, especially when descending from the Sgurr nan Forcan top. We ignored the 2 abseil loops frozen in at the top of this and turned the cliff to the south, soon arriving at the east top (the true summit @ 3314ft) and a little father on the trig column. It was 1.30pm so we didn't hang around, but dropped down SE in whiteout to the col and decided to give Sgurr na Sgine a go. It was a totally different

sort of climb, less exciting but we got better views when we reached the 3104ft summit at 4pm. A long ridge walk N then NW saw us still at 2,800ft on top of Faochag at 5pm but by dropping down steep slopes we were just off the snow as it got dark 45 mins later. When we got back to the Inn it was 7.30 so we went straight in for a beer & meal and were able to stay in the warm until 10pm that night. A memorable winter's day on a classic route with 1430m of ascent.

We decided on an easier route on the Thursday, taking the old road from the Inn round the south side of Loch Cluanie to climb Creag a Mhaim (3107ft) at the eastern end of the South Glen Shiel Ridge. Cloud descended and wind rose so after crossing the narrow ridge to the next Munro, 3238ft Druim Shionnach, (making it a total of 860m ascent on the day) we dropped off north, had a brew in the 'van and then drove off to Foyers and the "Loch Ness Shores" CCC site, where we were able to enjoy showers, battery recharge & water top up, before paying a visit to the local pub.



Friday was (correctly) forecast to be the best day of the week so we changed plans and drove to Loch Shiel to attempt the Glenfinnan Horseshoe. After a long walk in it was good to climb the ridge up to Sgurr Thuilm (3159ft) and get great views of Streap

Continued overleaf...

to the east and the Knoydart hills to the north. The other Munro, Sgurr nan Coireachan (3136ft), was visible 2.5 miles away beyond a broad knobbly ridge with 3 minor tops and it took almost one and a half hours to reach this in mixed snow conditions. As the book says "this Peak of the Corries is slightly lower than Sgurr Thuilm but is a much better summit" with superb views of the Cuillins of Rhum & Skye, as well as the island of Eigg and faintly in the distance the Outer Hebrides. Alas somewhere on the descent, partly with head torches, a slip caused my mobile phone to fall out of my pocket. As we were off track in the dark it would have taken a miracle to go back up and find it. Still an excellent day with 1219m ascent.



We were booked in to The Ben Nevis Hotel the next night so a slightly easier Saturday seemed a good idea and we were both tempted by the wonderful Corbetts to the south of the A830 Mallaig road.

In the event, the ascent of Sgurr Ghiubhsachain (2784ft) via its NNE ridge with its steep rocky outcrops was trickier than most of the Munros we'd done, especially in the icy, blustery wind. We thought we might have to be content with just the one peak but at the col to the east things were calmer and the SW ridge up to Sgorr Craobh a Chaorainn (2543ft) rose only 175 m at a gentle angle so we went for it, ending up with 1025m ascent on the day. A long boggy descent to Callop and 35 minutes driving saw

us in Morrisons at Fort William just as it got dark. An hour or so later we were checked in and swimming in the hotel pool, before dinner at 8pm with 48 other WBMC members who'd just driven up that day.

Sunday was another good weather day so many groups aimed high & Gulvain seemed a popular choice. We drove to Kinlochleven to try for 3 of the Mamores I hadn't done. We parked up below Mamore Lodge from where an excellent tarmac road, then graded stone track, took us high above Loch Eilde Mor and the Blackwater Reservoir, where we caught up another pair intent on the same peaks. Crampons on, we soon left them trailing on the fine southern ridge up Sgurr Eilde Beag (3135ft). Then it was up to the South Top of Binnein Mor and along a fine ridge to the blade-like highest summit in the Mamores (3707ft). Conditions were now deteriorating rapidly but the easiest way back was to cross over the twin summits of Na Gruagaichean (3465ft) and down into Coire na Ba. We were back at the 'van at 5.30pm having completed 1735m of ascent & descent in just under 8hrs. We headed to 'The Grog & Gruel' for their Stag Pie and excellent ales before re-joining the main party at the Ben Nevis Hotel.

Having had 6 good days walking our ankles were slightly chafed so we took it easy on the Sunday, catching the train to Mallaig with Simon Grove before setting off for the Midlands at 6pm. The week, stopping mostly in the motorhome, had worked out well, costing each of us only £42 in overnights and £83 in fuel, plus beers and a couple of meals out. Maybe it wouldn't have been so comfortable if we'd arrived back at the van soaking wet every day, but we were lucky and had no rain & only one snow squall all week.

Summary:- 7 days; 10 Munros; 2 Corbetts, 24,000ft of ascent; 1093 miles travelled; 166 litres fuel used, 2 showers taken (per person!); 3 nights self-catering; 1 night of luxury; 0 arguments 😊 We hope the main week was as successful & enjoyable! For the record the Edwards' Munro count now stands at 134 (94 done in winter) so still not half way to doing the lot, but at least I've done over 2/3rds of the 5***** & 54% of the 4**** ones). I'm more disappointed that my Marilyns total is still only 466!

Stranded at the Hut

A shameless rip-off of Desert Island Discs

Following a request from the Editor, asking if I'd be able to write a version of "Stranded at the Hut" or if I knew anyone who could, I've been coerced into putting fingers to the keyboard again because there are obviously people out there who have forgotten that I triggered the whole thing off (I think) with "If I Could Only Keep 5 Books" published in the January 2014 Newsletter! To save you delving through your precious collection of old newsletters (you surely don't throw them away do you!) I'll give a quick recap of what my choices were, before trying to start another thread. In no particular order my best mountain reads / photo books were:

- Gordon Stainforth "The Cuillin"
- Colin Prior "Highland Wilderness"
- Van Greaves "Mountain Magic"
- W.A. Poucher "Wales"
- Eric Ashby "Great Ascents: a Narrative History of Mountaineering"
- Ken Wilson & Richard Gilbert "The Big Walks"
- Galen Rowell "Poles Apart: Parallel Visions of the Arctic & Antarctic"
- Reader's Digest "Antarctica: Great Stories of the Frozen Continent"

I know there are more than 5 books there but the idea morphed into a kind of "Desert Island Reads", which Ken Priest turned into "Stranded at the Hut" in the October 2015 Newsletter.

So if I can't do the books again, what other possibilities are there? Two immediately spring to mind. If I were stranded in deep snow at the Hut, unable to get out to either Beddgelert or Capel Curig, what 10 beers would I like to have with me for comfort and delectation? My taste buds are salivating as I think of the prospect! Well here they are:-

- McEwan's "Champion" [7.3%]
- Bathams "Best Bitter" [4.3%]
- Brew Dog "Punk I.P.A." [5.6%]
- Badger "Golden Glory" Blonde Ale [5%]
- Aecht Schlenkeria "Rauchbier" [5.1%]
- Chimay Trappistes "Bleue" [9%]
- Cottage Brewery "Norman's Conquest" [7%]
- Theakson "Old Perculier" [5.6%]
- Young's "Double Chocolate Stout" [5.2%]
- Thornbridge "Jaipur India Pale Ale" [5.9%]

"But that's got nothing to do with mountaineering" I hear some of you murmuring! Maybe not, but have you got any better suggestions that I should try?

By John Edwards



The 2nd list is very much to do with the hills, however. It's reflecting on what to climb if you had your time over again! Imagine you were young and fit again – you hopefully are at the very minute, but it maybe, like me you are getting older & more decrepit ;-)

Which 10 mountaineering trips or expeditions that you have done in your life would you repeat if you were given the chance to do just ten? Hard, isn't it?! Well I've struggled for all of 30 minutes and here is my "Must Do Again Ten".

1. Ben Nevis via Carn Mor Dearg arête – ideally in sunny winter conditions like we've just had.
2. The Snowdon Horseshoe – obvious choice really!
3. Braeriach to The Devil's Point and back to the Sugarbowl car park via the Lairig Ghru.
4. The Skye Ridge - I've never done all of this in one go and I'm still not sure I'd want to; it's just too good to have to rush!
5. Suilven - great walk in, great on the top - & I could check on the geocache I placed on its summit.
6. Elbrus – I keep coming back to this as probably the best (most enjoyable?) major WBMC trip I've been on.
7. Kilimanjaro – for the fantastic African guides & porters and the amazing vegetation zones.
8. N. Ridge of Tryfan, Bristly Ridge & across the Glyders to finish on Y Garn.
9. I've not done much in the Alps but a great solo day I remember was from Seefeld in Austria when I did the traverse of the Hohe Munde. Very narrow in places with hard hanging snowfields in places and I hadn't got crampons or ice axe. I discovered later someone had died on it the previous week.
10. For an isolated Scottish Munro I can't make my mind up between Ben Alligin & its Horns, the Slioch and its NE Top, An Teallach or Conival to Ben More Assynt South Top.

No room for the Nantlle Ridge, nothing in the Lakes either! Maybe I need to think more deeply!

And a 3rd list now springs to mind! What is your "Mountaineering Bucket List" – your final mountaineering 'must-do's' or targets. You can be as ambitious, or over-ambitious, as you like I suppose.... but Mount Everest? Really! I'll have to go away, drink those beers and start my mind dreaming. Perhaps you'll read about these wistful dreams in another Newsletter.

Could you face being stranded at the hut? Which books would you take? Do you have a *Must Do Again Ten*? Send your answers on the back of a postcard via email to joe.priest@live.co.uk

Coach Meet – Arrans

Sunday 13th March

Depart

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

07:20 – Service road just off M54 Junct. 2 island

Drop off

Llanuwchllyn 880299 (Arran Traverse Only)

Patterdale (391161)

Car Park on A470 (Top of Dinas Mamddy Hill)

Please note that the drop off at the top of Dinas Maddwy Hill is several road miles from the hill.

Please enquire with Nigel for any other drop offs between Bala amd Dinas Mawddy

Pick up

Minllyn 858142 (about 1km S/SE of Dinas Maddwy)

Required maps

Land Ranger Sheet 125 - Bala and Lake Vrnwy

Explorer OL23 - Cader Idris and Llyn Tegrid



Photo from cambrianway.org.uk

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.

Suggested routes

Route 1

The traverse from Llanuwchllyn head south out of town towards Garth-Fawr and follow path to Moel Ddu and Moel Ffenigl over Craig-Llyn to top of Aran Benllyn(866242) from there due south path leads to Aran Fawddy (8626 2239) trig point. Descents then may be made via Glasgwm or Drysgol (869213) and path to road at(853187) with a 4.5km walk to pick up

The traverse is a long day, if you are not sure of your ability check with someone on the coach first for advice and do not attempt on your own! Thank you

Route 2

From the carpark on the A470 (803170) you can probably work a route to take in Waun-Oer (7856 1478) Cribin Fawr (801151) and Maen Du (822152) and may descend into Dinas via Foel Dinas (842143) and then to Minllyn for the pick up

Coach Meet – Braithwaite

Saturday 9th April

Depart

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

07:20 – Penkridge

Drop off

Scales (340268)

Keswick [Roundabout A66/A591] (264244)

Braithwaite (236236)

Pick up

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



Photo from cambrianway.org.uk

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.

Suggested routes

Route 1 (15km - 9.5 miles)

From Scales Farm (340268) follow the path past Mousthwaite 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 a Grade 1 Scramble. 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) then climb to the path junction of the Cumbria Way (293279). Follow this South past Lonscale Crags and eventually into Keswick Distance Approx 15km / 9.5 miles

Route 2 (16km - 10miles)

Follow the road from the roundabout (264244) to Briar Rigg (267241) and follow the Cumbria Way past a carpark 9283255). 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.

Route 3 (17.5km - 11 miles)

The Coledale Horseshoe. From Braithwaite ascend the long ridge to Gridale 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 walkSW 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 Stonecroft (233213), this leaves a short road walk into Braithwaite.

Alternatively from the col descend via Stile End (221219) back into Braithwaite (approx. 16km - 10 miles)

As from the Honorary Secretary (Barbara Challinor)
c/o 9 Holly Drive
Walton-on-the-Hill
Stafford
ST17 0NH

Dear Member

**West Bromwich Mountaineering Club (“WBMC”) Annual General Meeting
Calling Notice: Thursday 17th March 2016
Wheatsheaf Public House, 379 High Street, West Bromwich at 7.30pm**

The 2016 AGM of the WBMC will be held at the Wheatsheaf Public House on Thursday 17th March 2016 at 7.30pm. Most officers of the Club are elected annually and nominations, in writing, should be with the Secretary at least 7 days before the AGM. Nominations should be proposed and seconded by a full club member and indicate the willingness of the person to serve, if elected. Please note that the President is elected for a 5 year term and is not due for election this year.

The positions are:

- President
- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Honorary Treasurer
- Honorary Secretary
- Coach Secretary
- Hut Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Newsletter Editor

Nominations for the 5 elected seats of the Management Committee may also be proposed in the same way, or may be proposed from the floor at the AGM. In the latter case the nominee must be present in person and express their willingness to serve, if elected. Alternatively, a written expression of such willingness may be produced to the Chair prior to the AGM.

All of the above positions are open to any full member.

The Malcolm Collins Award may be awarded each year for “outstanding endeavour in mountaineering or service to the Club”. Nominations for the Award should be in writing, and seconded, and forwarded to the Secretary prior to the AGM.

Honorary Secretary (Barbara Challinor)

Nomination form for the AGM – 17th March 2016

Nominee: _____

Committee Position: _____

Proposed by: _____

Seconded by: _____

Form to be with the Honorary Secretary (Barbara Challinor) before 10 March 2016