

West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



May 2016

This month's photo: The WBMC on the Braithwaite coach meet, by Peter Kane

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Hello all,

Hope you're all doing well. This month's with have a new feature by Dave Jones bringing us up-to-date on what members have been up to this month, along with John's Braithwaite report, and a write-up of the away dinner by guest Matt Dillon.

Our first outdoor meet of the year is coming up this month, with Bob Duncan leading a walk around Wren's Nest. I've included a menu from the pub – the Park Inn – at the end of the newsletter.

Huge thanks to this month's contributors: Peter Kane, Dave Jones, John Edwards, Nigel Tarr, Graeme Stanford, Andy Brown, Alison Whitehead, and Oliver Stephenson.

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 May.

Cheers,
Joe

Appendix
Park Inn Menu

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

Obituary for David Burnett

By Sarah Wheatcroft



David Burnett was born on the 15th March 1950 at Hales Cres, Smethwick. He moved to Kelvin Way, West Bromwich where he attended school, joined the scouts and later took his first job at Salter Springworks. He worked throughout his life in Engineering and gained his Masters Degree.

David had many interests, he loved playing football, Karate, fishing, but the most enduring of them was his love of the mountains, he joined WMBC in 1981 where he met his future wife Chrissy.

He was an active member of the club for many years, he loved the Away Dinner in the Lake District, made many friendships through the club that have endured through the decades, he would have loved to retire and do the Old Timers Weekends, sadly, this was not to be.

David became ill at Christmas time and sadly passed away on April 6th 2016 aged 66. Chrissy, Debbie, Sarah and John would like to thank the WMBC for the great times, and all of you for your support and friendship.

WBMC Hut

The committee would like to thank everyone that carries out work whilst staying at the club hut and without this support the standards would not be as good as everyone encounters, however it has come to the attention of the committee that certain modifications are being made within and around the hut without the consent of the committee.

Whilst modifications can be advantageous to the hut, it can be disadvantageous if incorrect materials are being used and therefore not ensuring the safety of all visitors to the hut.

If anyone would like to make any changes internally or externally please contact a member of the committee who will raise this at a committee meeting. The committee will discuss and respond directly to the member updating them on the outcome.

Hut Stove



It has become apparent that certain individuals are not using the correct materials whilst the fire is in use at the club hut. Under no circumstances should food packaging, cardboard, plastic, blue roll, be used on the fire.

The committee have been informed that this is occurring and this is strictly against what the manufacturer recommends. If individuals think that burning the above materials is better than it going to landfill please think again. In fact it is not, it may seem harmless enough, but by burning such materials it is damaging to the environment that we love (the mountains) and also our members/families and not good for community health (Plas Gwynant) and this will affect the life span of the wood burning stove.

The committee are working very hard to improve standards at the hut. Please respect this request.

Thank You.
WBMC Committee.

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

News

Tell Someone Your Plans, Urge Police and MCoFS

Since Easter falls early this year and winter conditions are still hanging in there, police and the MCoFS have teamed up to remind walkers to stay safe. With six people currently missing in the Scottish hills, their key message is to let someone know your plans.

Young climbers Tim Newton and Rachel Slater have been missing on Ben Nevis since February, while a couple of weeks ago walker Jim Robertson went missing in the Cairngorms. In addition, still missing from the summer of 2015 are three hill walkers lost in separate incidents in the Lochaber/Glencoe area: Tom Brown, Eric Cyl and Robin Garton.

You can read the full article on the UKH website at ukhillwalking.com/news/item.php?id=70342



Photo from ukhillwalking.com

Ann Parrott reaches Everest Base Camp

Club member Ann Parrott got to Everest Base Camp on her recent trip to the Himalayas.

She went out on 23rd March to 11th April, en route taking in Gokyo Ri - 5360m, Cho La Pass - 5330m (which in Ann's own words was a killer) Base Camp - 5364m and Kala Pattar - 5545m.

On behalf of WBMC I'm sure everyone would like to congratulate Ann on this achievement.



April slide evening a success

The year's Indoor Meet programme drew to a close on 7th April with an excellent slideshow by Nick Piotrowski on the WBMC trip to the Carpathians in March last year to climb Rysy (2499 metres), Poland's highest mountain, where he met a fellow countryman who invited him later in the year to Georgia to have a go at its third highest peak, Mount Khazbegi (5047 metres) in the Caucasus.

He succeeded on both climbs, although they were very different and not without incident. For the second month in a row there was an amusing impromptu strip at the start of the presentation and the photo shows Nick demonstrating some of the gear he claims to take with him to the mountains.



Photo by John Edwards

What we've been up to

The Chairman's report

Words by Dave Jones
with pictures by club members



I thought it would be good to update members on various activities/events that have occurred since the last newsletter was produced. Not everyone has time to send information in to the newsletter editor (Joe Priest) but if you are doing anything please inform him so we can place something in the newsletter, the newsletter can only be successful based on the information that is received from the members.

Below is a list of activities that club members have been doing:

A big well done to Ann Parrot on achieving Everest Base Camp on her recent trip to the Himalayas.



A good coach meet was had to Braithwaite in April, a little disappointing with only 38 members, however weather was very good and it was good to see some new individuals on the coach. As always we need your support to make the coach meets successful.



Photo by Peter Kane

I attended the British Mountaineering Council AGM on Saturday 16th April at the YHA Castleton in the Peak District. This was scheduled for the entire weekend, but I travelled up early on the Saturday Morning. It consisted of the AGM in the morning and a club seminar in the afternoon.

Special thanks to Fred Hammond & Mike Thompson for arranging wood to be taken to WBMC hut. Without this support there would be no supplies.

There have been two high powered torches supplied at the club hut; these have been issued in the event of a power failure.

Club member Peter Kane has been busy moving home, we hope the move went well and that you are both happy in your new home. Peter has been missing his daily walks and cycling.

Lee Grainger looks to be having a good time dirt bugging in Fuerteventura.

Andrew Wright has recently been to Llanwddyn in North Wales, I can only presume that Andy visited Lake Vyrnwy.

Dave Jones

Coming up

6:30pm 5th May

Evening Meet – Wrens Nest Walk

The first Thursday in May sees our first outdoor meet of the year. Bob Duncan has offered to lead a walk around Wrens Nest. Meeting at the Park Inn, Sedgeley Road, Woodsetton at 18:15 ready to set off at 18:30.

You can find out more information about the pub at [fb.com/pages/The-Park-Inn/139105929477592](https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Park-Inn/139105929477592)

Anyone wishing to attend please let Dave Jones know on 07759259163 or email davejones840@gmail.com. The pub's menu is available at the end of this newsletter, and Dave will need to know people's choices by Sunday 1st May.



Photo from whatpub.com

17th – 19th June

National 3 Peaks Challenge

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

We will be leaving the Midlands area on Friday morning (8:00ish) to drive to Fort William in order to start the challenge at 6:00pm on Friday night. 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 (07870145026) as soon as possible so all the logistics can be finalised.



Photo from threepeakschallenge.uk

Hut Weekends

13th - 15th May

Family Weekend

With the weather getting better and the temperature slowly rising, now's a great time to spend a weekend at the hut.

Anyone wishing to book please contact Alison Whitehead on 07530644874

20th - 22nd May

Skills Weekend

Oliver Stephenson is carrying out a skills weekend at the hut on 20th – 22nd May at the club hut. Oliver will teach skills based upon the needs/requirements of the attendees, so do get in touch soon if you'd like to go.

If anyone is interested in booking, please contact Oliver on 07805418027

Braithwaite coach report

Saturday 9th April

Words and pictures
by John Edwards



Saturday 9th April was an excellent day out in the hills thanks to Nick Piotrowski ably deputising for Nigel Tarr as Coach Grippenführer at short notice and our visit coinciding with the first decent weather the area had experienced in a fortnight.



It was blue skies, warmth and sunshine as Rob Thomas was dropped off at Scales to tackle Blencathra via Sharp Edge. He had the Northern Fells to himself (or rather there were no other WBMC passengers on them) as, apart from 3 who got off at the Keswick roundabout, everybody else carried on to Braithwaite, with most intent on completing Route 3. There was a fell race on but the masses setting off at 11:45 to climb Grisedale Pike didn't see any of them for by that time in the morning the runners were heading in the opposite direction to me over Barrow, down to the finish. I thought how great it was for their cardio-vascular fitness but wondered if they'd regret it in their 50's when their knees had gone! The folk doing an anticlockwise circuit of the Coledale Horseshoe became strung out, especially when 10 diverted off to claim the summit of Grasmooor, and I joined their circuit after crossing NW to the summit of Force Crag.

Alas as we passed over the summits of Eel Crag and Sail, we could see rain blotting out Bassenthwaite & Skiddaw and the last hour of the descent was accompanied by a steady gentle rain so the Royal Oak proved to be a haven of shelter as well as refreshment. At 7pm the coach ferried us into Keswick where those who wanted could buy a meal and have another drink before the coach set off again at 9:00.

The journey back was enlivened by the prize giving for the Grand National sweepstake and it turned out that Colin Talbot had picked the winner. There was also a short fashion show as the WBMC mannequins paraded down the centre of the coach demonstrating the logo'd gear that is available at tshirtuk.com. Hillary went first wearing a royal blue hoodie & swigging from a WBMC mug. Then Geordie showed off a scarf and matching beanie hat & chairman David a purple T-shirt. Next came Fred looking divine in an orange polo shirt and Jo displayed a cosy burgundy sweatshirt, before I donned the candy pink ladies polo shirt that nobody else seemed to want to model. Finally Andy expertly showed off my red fleece (with a non-WBMC logo) and the Irish green barrel bag.



Thanks to everybody who put in orders, or who have already bought gear, that will publicise the club and maybe act as a conversation starter. You know the one... "*I didn't know there were any mountains in West Bromwich!*" to which the correct response is of course "*Wow, I've never heard that before*".

We arrived back in the mountainous town around half past midnight and most of us were home in bed by 1:30am. A long but successful day out.

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.



The Away Dinner

A guest's report

Words and pictures
by Matt Gallon

The Away Dinner weekend has become a regular feature in my walking calendar and each year I've joined a group of friends (members and non-members) on the road to Lake Windermere. The weekend suits all tastes, being located close to a variety of challenging and easier walks and excursions, plus a very comfortable hotel - for the second year, Briery Wood Country House. As a guest of the club, I've always been made very welcome and the weekend is a great introduction to the club.

Andrew Mitchell was our driver for the weekend and we arrived in Lakeland with plenty of time for a short lakeside afternoon walk with views over the distant peaks, whetting our appetite for the walks ahead. We also had time to visit the Lake District Visitor Centre at Brockhole and also White Cross Bay, where some thirty five Sunderland Flying Boats were built during World War II.

Saturday's walk was led by Richard Cooksey and took us to Troutbeck, via "Gregg's" at Ambleside to stock up on supplies. Our walk began near Troutbeck church, unusually named "Jesus Church" - if you are in the area, do call in and view the noted stained glass, which includes a large east window, for such a small building.

The walk included two Wainwrights, Sallows (516m) and Sour Howes (483m) - these are apparently little known beyond Wainwright collectors, but were included in Wainwright's Far Eastern Fells book. Once you reach the top, you can see why, and we admired the 360-degree vista - research later verified that we might have been viewing to the west, Wansfell Pike, to the north, the Yoke, Ill Bell, Froswick and to the north-east, Kentmere Pike.

Following Saturday evening's dinner of excellent food, drink and company, we were joined for the third year, by DJ Lee MacGregor from Blackpool, who was all too happy to play our musical requests, with music from the 60s to the present day.

After a busy Saturday on the fells and dance floor, we opted for a shorter walk on Sunday and the plan was to walk around Whitbarrow, but sadly a safe parking space wasn't available, so we decided to save this hill for another time and headed for Arnside Knott (159m) instead. This is a small limestone fell perched on the coast and in fact, the lowest English Marilyn. There are still outstanding views though - to the Grange-over Sands estuary and railway (part of the Furness Line), the southern Lakeland fells and Morecambe Bay.

Thank you to all for another memorable Away Dinner weekend and especially to Richard for his organisation. If you've not attended before, I'd recommend it, especially as the weather is invariably good!



Richard Cooksey: *Thanks to everyone who attended and also the hotel staff and the DJ for making it such a memorable weekend again. Staying for the weekend gives you a chance to do walks you can't do on the coach and also take advantage of being able to make an early start. I am hoping to finalise the details and so we can hopefully return to the same hotel next year.*



Coach Meet – Brecon Beacons

Sunday 8th May

Depart

07:00 – Penkridge

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

Drop off

Pencelli (094250)

Storey Arms (983203)

Pick up

Storey Arms (983203)

Tair Bull (995260)

Required maps

OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure No. 12 – Brecon Beacons

Western Area

Suggested routes

Route 1 (18km – 11miles)

From Pencelli follow the road West, then turn left at the second road junction (090251) Follow this a while then leave the road (081245) & start the steady climb SW over Gist Wen (064218) to Bwlch Ddwyalit (055203) The path now follows the cliff edge to Fan y Big (036206). A steep descent West to Bwlch ar y Fan is followed by a steep ascent to Cribyn (024213). Another descent and climb takes you to the highest summit in the National Park, Pen y Fan (012216) From the summit a short walk leads over Corn Du (007213) to Bwlch Duwynt (006210) before dropping to Storey Arms and the coach. Alternatively after Corn Du descend to the Lyn Cwm Llwh and head North until reaching the road and Tair Bull.

Route2 (23km – 14miles)

Nuttall Baggers might like to follow Route1 but where the ridge narrows at Rhiw Bwlch y Ddw Yallt (057206) veer off left to climb to the summit of Waun Rydd (062206) then head SE for just over a mile to Alt Lwyd (079189) Retrace your steps to the Bwlch then left to Bwlch y Ddwyalit (055203) and onto Tair Bull again. After Corn Du (007213), head NW to Tommy Jones Obelisk (000218) then follow bearing 260 to Y Gyrn (989216) then follow a fence South to a path junction (990211) which descends gradually to Storey Arms.



Photo from breconbeacons.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.

Route3 (9km – 5.5miles)

From Storey Arms walk down the road to a carpark and find the start of the path (988198) .The path climbs to the col of Bwlch uwynt then a short steep section takes you onto Corn Du (007213) and finally Pen y Fan (012216). Retrace your steps to Corn Du and descend to Storey Arms.

Route4 (14km – 8.5miles)

From Storey Arms head SW to climb the ridge of Fan Fawr (970193) The summit is a small pile of sandstone blocks not the trig point half a mile to the East!!! Then head NNE over bleak moorland to a depression from where a path leads to the impressive cliff of Craig Cerrig- Gleisiad. The summit is at the left hand side of this (961218) Continue North to the trig point on Fan Frynych (958228) then off down the track on the NE ridge. At a wall junction a permissive path goes South and then East to a picnic spot by the A470 .the road will get you quickly back to the Storey Arms or take the path to your right on the opposite side of the road and climb to Y Gyrn (989216) then follow a fence South to a path junction (990211) which descends gradually to Storey Arms.

Coach Meet – Yorkshire 3 Peaks

Saturday 11th June

Depart

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

07:20 – Penkridge

Drop off

Ingleton (695730)

Ribblehead Viaduct (765793)

Horton in Ribblesdale (807726)

Pick up

Horton in Ribblesdale (807726)

Ribblehead Viaduct (765793)

Ingleton (695730)

Required maps

OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure

No2 Yorkshire Dales Southern and Western Areas



Photo from threepeakschallenge.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 (9.5km – 6 miles)

Head east on the Crina Bottom and climb Ingleborough. Descend to Sulber Nick and Horton.

You can also combine routes 1 and 4 – Distance 20km (13 miles)

Route 2 (32.5km – 20 miles)

Less classic 3 Peaks route from Ribblehead Viaduct

Follow route 3 from the viaduct, then follow route 4 from Horton.

Route 3 (40km – 25 miles)

Classic 3 Peaks route from Horton

Clock in at the Pen-y-ghent cafe to register your time, climb up to Pen-y-ghent (838734) via Brackenbottom then down via the Pennine Way before, near Hull Pot, heading West over boggy ground to rejoin the Pennine Way at Sell Gill Holes (813744). Choose the Pennine or Ribble Way to reach the Blea Moor Road then take the tarmac to the Ribblehead Viaduct (765793). Follow the track North before crossing it, heading NW to a wall which you follow West then South to the summit of Whernside (738814).

Continue South to Philpin Farm. Head up the road *past* The Hill Inn and take the path South to Ingleborough (741746) from where you have a simple 6 miles eastwards to Horton. *Don't forget to clock off!*

Route 4 (10.5km – 7 miles)

If you fancy a shorter day head for Brackenbottom and pick up the path through Brackehbottom Scar to the ridge which leads to Pen-y-Ghent. Return to Horton by heading north and picking up the Pennine Way.

Route 5 (15.5km – 9.5 miles)

Head South out of Horton along the Ribble Way to Helwith Bridge (812695). Cross over the river using the road then take a left. When the road turns North go straight on at a track signposted Dale Head. At a path junction take the left path which climbs to the summit of Pen-y-Ghent (838734). Head North then West off the summit on the Pennine Way. A short diversion will take you to impressive Hull Pot (824745) before heading South on the Pennine Way to Horton.

Park Inn Pub Menu

menu

*Homemade

Fresh 10oz cod, hand battered £6.50

Whitby whole tail scampi £5.75

2 tinned roe, £4.95

With chips and peas or mash, peas & parsley sauce

Giant Yorkshire pudding

filled with 3 Cumberland sausages, seasoned mash,

peas & gravy £5.65

Sticky pulled pork bap served with

seasoned wedges, coleslaw & BBQ dip £5.60

1/4 lb bacon cheeseburger, chips & salad
£5.25

*Steak & Holden's Ale pie (new recipe)

*Beef and ale stew & dumpling

*Faggots butcher's homemade recipe

All served with chips or mash, peas and gravy

Tandoori or Tikka chicken platter.

Served with rice, pakora fritters, cucumber salad & mint yoghurt

*Lasagne chips & salad or peas

*Chilli con carne rice & chips

*Chicken curry, rice, chips & naan

All day breakfast 2 bacon, 2 sausage, egg,

tomatoes, mushrooms, beans with chips or toast

1/4 lb cheeseburger, chips & salad

Chicken burger, chips & salad

with lettuce & mayo

All at £4.95 each

Lighter bitesEat in or take out

Steak & onion sandwich £3.10

with mushrooms £3.30

Roast Chicken or Pork, stuffing

& gravy £2.40

Sausage sandwich £2.20

Bacon sandwich £2.40

B.L.T with mayo £2.50

Ham salad £2.20

Cheese & onion or pickle £2.00

Grey peas & bacon with bread £1.90

Bowl of chips £1.90

add chips 85p add egg 45p

Peppered chicken wrap or baguette

Peppered steak baguette

Chicken, bacon and cheese wrap with mayo

Chicken tikka wrap

Wraps served with salad or chips £3.50 each

Toasted sandwiches and loaded chips

cheese & ham £2.20

Cheese & onion or tomato £2.00

Cheese & mushrooms or beans £2.20

Ham & tomato £2.10

B.E.S.T £3.20

Cheesy chips £2.10

Cheesy chips and gravy £2.20

Cheesy chips and beans £2.30

Cheesy chips and bacon £2.45

Cheesy chips and chilli £2.6

0

Park Inn Pub Menu

Jacket potatoes

Plain with butter & salad	£2.95
Cheese or beans or coleslaw	£3.40
With 2 fillings	£3.90
Chicken curry	£3.95
Chilli con carne	£3.95
Chilli & cheese	£4.20

All served with butter & salad garnish

Omelettes

Choose your fillings from:

Ham, cheese, mushroom, tomato,
onion, peppers.
from £4.30, With salad or chips

Little darlings

6 chicken nuggets, 2 sausages,
2 fishfingers or 2 eggs.

All served with chips & beans or peas
£2.95 each

Dessert

Apple pie, Chocolate fudge cake,
Jam sponge, Sticky toffee pudding,
Spotted dick

With cream or custard £2.65

With ice cream £3.15

Ice cream

vanilla, strawberry or mint choc chip

3 scoops with wafers & sauce £2.35

Sunday lunch

Sunday lunch is available by
prior booking only.

Lamb. A whole tender lamb shank with a
hint of mint served with roast and boiled
potatoes and fresh vegetables. £6.25

Beef. Delicious topside served with roast
and boiled potatoes, fresh vegetables,
yorkie and gravy. £5.15 children £4.15

Pork. Succulent leg served with roast and
boiled potatoes, fresh vegetables, stuffing
and gravy. £4.75 children £3.75

Chicken. Roasted breast served with
roast and boiled potatoes, fresh vegetables,
stuffing and gravy. £4.65 children £3.65

Gluten Free

Breaded chicken steak
Mexican beanbakes
Fishcakes
vegetable lasagne
Beef chilli and rice
Beef lasagne

All served with chips or mashed potatoes
And either salad, garden peas, mushy peas or beans
£5.25 each

Allergen information

Please speak to a member of staff
before ordering if you have any
allergen concerns.