



August 2017

This month's photo: WBMC members on the Berwyns coach meet, by John Edwards

2 Noticeboard

Hello!

3 Coming up

Just a quick note: the club climbing nights have been moved to the last Tuesday of the month instead of the last Monday – see Graeme's message on the noticeboard overleaf for more details. Also, Richard Cooksey has given us the details of the Annual Away Dinner in March of next year on pages 7 & 8 – you need to get your deposits to him by November so act quickly if you want a place!

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By John Edwards

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By Graeme Stanford

Huge thanks as always to this month's contributors: Dave Jones, Graeme Stanford, Liz Perks, Nigel Tarr, Geordie Hind, Oliver Stephenson, Vanessa Bidulph, Su Goddard, and Richard Cooksey.

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By Richard Cooksey

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Sunday 8th October - Howgills

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



Horse & Jockey
49 Stoney Ln,
West Bromwich
B71 4EZ

Join us every Thursday night from 9.00pm 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

Noticeboard

New Hut Secretary Number

The new number for the Hut Secretary is 07903 584450.

It might have been listed incorrectly in a previous edition of the newsletter, sorry Alison!

Club Climbing nights

Please note that the club 'climbing nights' listed as 'last Monday of the month' on the meet card will, until further notice, be on the last *Tuesday* of the month instead. This is due to the fact that High Sports are often forced to close on Mondays during school and bank holidays. They are based within the Wyre Forest Leisure Centre who's management have decided this policy so unfortunately it's out of their hands.

WBMC currently enjoys a discounted entry on Monday nights (not just the scheduled climbing nights) and entry is £5 with free gear hire. I will do my best to get this concession moved to Tuesday nights from now on so we do not encounter this problem again. Watch this space.

If you are interested in having a go at indoor climbing... possibly with a view to outdoor climbing and beyond then these climbing nights are for you. If you're already a climber in the club then please come along and see if you can pass your knowledge on to other club members. If nothing else it's a pleasant social evening. No beer I'm afraid but that doesn't stop you from stopping at a pub on your way home!

Details for the climbing wall where we meet in Kidderminster can be found at:

<https://www.high-sports.co.uk/climbing-walls/kidderminster.html>

Thanks

Graeme Stanford

Speed Camera near Porthmadog

A club member has notified that there is a 30mph speed camera when entering Prenteg, on the way towards Porthmadog. The camera is by the turn off Road for the Osprey visitor centre. Be careful out there WBMC members

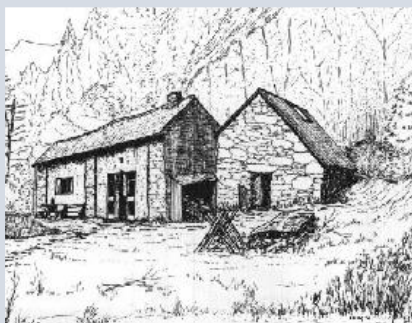
Climbing guides for sale

Andy Finch is selling the following climbing guides and related books in varying conditions but at excellent prices. See the table below for the full list.

Please check with Andy first, as this list may be out of date: andy.finch1@gmail.com

- Further Modern Rope Techniques
- Treading and Cwm Silyn
- Llanberis Pass
- Ogwen and Carneddau
- Medical Handbook for Walkers & Climbers
- Scrambles in Snowdonia
- Rock Climbing in the Peak District
- Peak Climbs Staffordshire Gritstone
- Rock Climbing in Snowdonia
- A Manual of Modern Rope Techniques

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

15th – 17th September

WBMC Mountain Skills Weekend

This is a weekend predominantly for new members and established members who want to develop their mountain skills and knowledge.

Over the action packed weekend, the subjects covered will be mountain equipment, planning a walk, starting from the basics a step by step guide to navigation, mountain skills, environmental issues and emergency procedures. The subjects will be delivered in both a theoretical and practical manner ensuring a progressive, safe and comfortable learning environment. The weekend will not only increase your knowledge but also your independence.

If you were to attend this standard of training from an independent trainer, you would be expected to pay approximately £180 for a weekend course.

However, due to British Mountaineering Council support the weekend is FREE. *Yes you did read: FREE.*

So why not come along, participate, and learn new skills and techniques which will help you enjoy the mountains safely.

There are only 12 places available.

Those who would like to attend, contact Geordie Hind on either 07505364318 or geordiehind@gmail.com



Photo from yha.org.uk

22nd – 24th September

Hostel weekend at Keswick

Youth hostel B/B - £30.25 per person per night. Why not try Ghyll Scrambling with Chase Adventure - £35.00 per person £20.00 deposit (non-refundable)

If interested please contact Nigel Tarr 07703 345 739

Friday 29th September

Women's Weekend

Book with Vanessa on 07709 514 180



3rd – 5th November

November bunkhouse weekend

Broughton Farm bunkhouse, near Bishops Castle, sleeps 12 in two dormitories. Walks, cycling and I am led to believe a decent pub are amongst the highlights of this area.

Cost is £24 per person for the two nights. Deposit of £5 secures your place.

Please contact Su Goddard for reservations.



Photo from broughtonfarm-shropshire.co.uk

Berwyns Coach Meet

Sunday 13th August 2017

Unusually for August, this coach meet was well attended, and this in spite of the Newsletter only arriving in people's 'Inboxes' the day before it happened. *Apologies for the delay folks, however the Berwyns meet was originally advertised in the June newsletter, sent out on 30th June* - ed. It seems that Dave Jones and the committee's perseverance with 'Meetup' online advertising could be paying off as there were 11 'coach virgins' onboard - just under a third of the participants. Or it could be Nigel's magnetic personality!



Those who chose to visit this rarely-visited coach destination (I think the last times were Oct 2002 & Feb 2010) were rewarded with a pleasantly warm, clear day with lovely views across purple heather-clad hills. With so many people unfamiliar with coach meets, it was good that Geordie Hind volunteered to lead Route 1 from the top of Milltir Gerrig to Moel Sych, down to Pistyll Rhaedr & back to Llangynog over the pass to the west of Glanhafon, especially as this was a 'Suggested Route' of 6 miles in the Newsletter, when in reality it was nearer 10! He was ably assisted by Paul B, Dave J & Graeme S and it attracted 25 participants. I think quite a few were surprised by the 'sting in the tail' - thinking they'd done all the uphill once they'd arrived at the waterfall. However all the group got back early and were able to enjoy 30-45 mins supping in The New Inn.



By those who were on it
Photos & collation by John Edwards

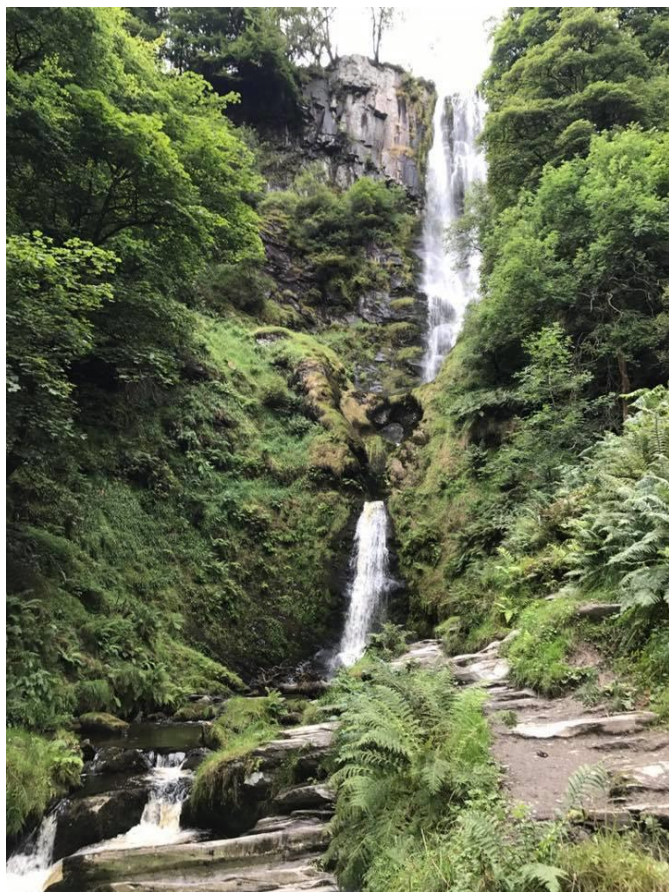


Not so fortunate were the 6 who tackled Route 2 which started at Llangynog. This was supposed to be the first drop off, but ended up being the last one because the intended breakfast / loo stop near M54 services was shut. As a result the coach carried on northwards to Corwen for the break and boot-up and the first person dropped off was Rob Thomas, who was the only one to spot that a 'Berwyns Traverse' from Llandrillo had suddenly become a possibility. With their initial extra ascent from Cwm Pennant to Milltir Gerrig giving them around 16 miles to walk, Mike Smith & Hilary's group eventually got found themselves having to bash through trackless deep heather & bracken, and got delayed so much so that they decided to aim for Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, something that added yet more miles to their route. So it was that the coach left around 45 mins late once Rob was back, picking up from Penybontfawr before 'rescuing' the 6 from near the Tanat Valley bus depot!

The other noteworthy feature of the meet was that Andy Brown managed to finish off his Welsh Nuttalls list by topping out on the heathery outlier, Post Gwyn. Well done Andy!



Berwyns Coach Meet (continued)



Vivienne Barclays Pistyll Rhaeadr

To finish off, here are some quotes from people on the coach:

"A really enjoyable time; stunning waterfall!" Marc Lawton

"As a new member I found it well organised and very enjoyable" Arthur Joyner

"A good walk and a challenge of sorts" Andy Mitchell

"A nice walk" Harpal Panesar

"I want a steward's enquiry as to why Mike Smith was late and all late on the bus should be taken out and summarily executed (or buy a round)" Anon

"Failing to plan is planning to fail!" Anon

"Longest 2 miles in my life!" Rachel Ward.

"Hear, hear" Becky Worrall

"It's never as bad as you think it's going to be" Sir Vivian Fuchs

"Very happy to see new individuals coming along on the coach meet. There was an 11 mile led walk so lots of aching limbs but we look forward to seeing you again on future coach meets. Very well done" Dave Jones (Chairman)



"A really challenging day and my dogs are barking!" Vivienne Barclay

"Well done with the led walk Geordie; thanks for looking after me for a while!" John Edwards

"Another day successfully wasted" Nigel Tarr

"Is Smithy looking for a new compass & map or is he going for a knighthood?" Does he have one that works?" Paul Brindley

"I'm tired; leave me alone!" An ex Chairman

"I wish you'd stop coming around annoying me and asking these silly questions! However, it was a very good coach meet. Lots of people = lots of fun" Andy Brown

"First time & really enjoyed it" Rabs Khanum

"Exhausting but enjoyable" Sophie King

"It had its ups and downs" Laura Northall



Photo by Hilary: "The going was very 'heatherly' as one person put it!"

Cairngorm trip – Feshiebridge Lodge

March 2018

by
Graeme Stanford



Over the last two years club members have visited a bunkhouse just south of Aviemore for a spot of winter climbing, walking, mountain biking etc. in the Cairngorms. The bunkhouse is owned and run by the RAF and can be booked by serving personnel and veterans. As such I have booked all four wings. This gives us exclusive access to the main building, honesty shop, drying rooms etc. Two wings consist of four twin rooms (bunk beds) showers and toilets and a sitting/ dining room with full kitchen. A third wing is identical except one of the twin rooms is a double room. The fourth wing is a family flat and has all the same as the other three i.e. its own kitchen, sitting room, loos and shower etc. but has a twin room and a sofa bed. The facility is called Feshiebridge Lodge and is in a remote spot giving access to all the Cairngorms have to offer. There is a website which gives more info about the facility here: <http://www.feshiebridgelodge.co.uk/>

I have provisionally booked the lodge for 5 nights in March 2018. This equates to 26 places (27 if someone wants to sleep on a sofa bed in the shared area of the family flat) and will take names of those interested in using the lodge on a first come first served basis. The cost per individual (assuming we fill all 26 beds) is £50 each. Unfortunately I will have to make a decision whether to retain the booking for the 'whole lodge' based on the interest it generates. I can't justify bumping up the price for all , to cover the cost of all 4 wings if we only get 10 people interested whereas if we got 24 interested then the price to all would go up slightly if people were willing to pay (I think you get the idea !).

The booking is for 5 nights, 19th March to 24th Mar 2018, which means driving up on Monday 19th and driving back on Saturday 24th. This gives 4 full days on the hills. A bargain at £50 (the place even has free Wi-Fi! Each wing has a TV, DVD player also if you're that way inclined.)

As with our own hut the sleeping and cooking facilities are all provided you just need to bring your own food, drink and bedding. Once you know what wing you're in (and who else is in it) you can get together to make plans about shared cooking, lifts etc. On the last night we will go for a group meal at the Loch Insh centre which is a short walk from the lodge.

A deposit is required to confirm the booking so I will require a £10 deposit per head as soon as possible. Full payment is required on 1st Jan 18.

I can be contacted either on my mobile 07846 281878 or e-mail grim830@virginmedia.com

NB: We were left with a few empty beds last year so, to avoid the same thing happening, I will give priority to WBMC members for the first month. Should the uptake be poor I will open up a few of the beds to the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club just to ensure we fill the place. In other words... get your bid in quick !

For those who book I will get in touch nearer the time to remind you about final payment. Once that's paid I will get in touch again to let you know timings, give you directions, and the door code to the centre etc.

Graeme Stanford

WBMC Annual Away Dinner

Friday 16th – Sunday 18th March 2018

Following very positive feedback from this year's event we are returning to Briery Wood with a similar package. *To get the prices we have agreed deposits must be paid in November 2017 so please book ASAP.*

Moments from the eastern shores of Lake Windermere and set in seven acres of beautiful secluded gardens and woodland lies Briery Wood Country House Hotel. Briery Wood was built at the end of the 19th Century and housed the Earl of Lonsdale's Estates main gardener who developed the stunning grounds that we still enjoy today.

Briery Wood is within easy reach of the popular villages of Ambleside, Bowness and Windermere, so it's a great base for exploring the Lake District. Walking options directly from the hotel include Wansfell, Baystones and Troutbeck. Being close to the A591 also opens up many other walking options and the nearby Brockhole, The Lake District Visitor Centre also offers a wide variety of options for all ages including taking a boat on Windermere giving other options including different walks. As in previous years the weekend therefore offers the opportunity to climb different peaks that you would not be able to do on coach meets.

Here's a link to the hotel's brochure:

lakedistrictcountryhotels.co.uk/briery-wood-hotel

and it has a rating of 4.5 out of 5 on Trip Advisor: tripadvisor.co.uk/Hotel_Review-g186330-d574824

We have a similar deal to previous years – Bed and Breakfast on the Friday night; Dinner, Bed and Breakfast on the Saturday night:

- The price is £130.50 plus disco contribution (see below) per adult for the weekend in a twin or double room.
- The hotel has 43 twin or double rooms including some which can also accommodate families. Children sharing a family room £20.00 per child per night B&B Children in a room with adults would be charged £20 per night Bed and Breakfast and £15 for a half portion of the Saturday meal or £7.50 for a children's meal.
- Dinner only price on application plus share of the disco cost.
- The hotel will give 2 single rooms for £130.50 for the weekend and 3 single rooms for £151 for the weekend. Any further singles would be £199 for the weekend. If people could share where possible that would allow the maximum amount of people to go.

We have to pay for the disco ourselves and this cost would just be divided between everyone who attends the meal.

Please call me to ask for details about the cost of extra nights on 07950 087911. A non-refundable deposit is required (£25 per person) by 11th November, payable to West Bromwich Mountaineering Club, the balance is payable by you before leaving the hotel.

Send the booking form (on the next page) with a deposit cheque to:

Richard Cooksey,
24 Lydford Road,
Bloxwich,
Walsall,
West Midlands,
WS3 3NT

To make things easier please could you put menu choices (also on the next page) in the booking form too.

WBMC Annual Away Dinner

Friday 16th – Sunday 18th March 2018

Menu

Starters

- Veloute Of Wild Mushroom (Soup) - White truffle oil
- Mackerel - Cured tomato, Caramelised olive gel, Tomato essence
- Venison Carpaccio (Sliced Cured Venison) - Goats cheese, beetroot, Smoke oil

Main Courses

- Daube Of Beef (Slow Cooked Braised Beef) - Creamed potato, Balsamic baby onions, Red wine jus
- Roast Loin Of Cod - Wild mushroom, Mussels, tomato coulis
- Homemade Gnocchi - Tomato sauce and pesto

Desserts

- Sticky Toffee Pudding - Butterscotch, Vanilla ice cream.
- Selection Of Cheese & Biscuits
- Lemon Tart - Raspberries and clotted cream



Photos from TripAdvisor

Booking form

Please send the following booking form with a deposit cheque to: Richard Cooksey, 24 Lydford Road, Bloxwich, Walsall, West Midlands, WS3 3NT.

Party leader's name: _____
 Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____
 Type of room: single / twin / double / family

Guest Names	Adult/Child	£	Starter	Main	Dessert
Total					
Deposit (£25 pp)*					

*WBMC takes no financial responsibility for this event

Coach Meet – Braithwaite

Saturday 9th September 2017

Depart

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

07:20 – Penkridge

(Short stop at Charnock Richard M6)

Drop off

Scales (340268)

Keswick (junc a65/a591) (264244)

Braithwaite (236236)

Pick up

Braithwaite (236236)

Keswick Coach Station (264234)

Scales (340268)

Required maps

OS 1:25 000 Outdoor Leisure

No 4 The English Lakes NW - Ennerdale And Derwent Water

No 5 The English Lakes NE - Ullswater And Haweswater



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

Cancel no later than Wednesday prior to the coach meet – any later a charge of £5.00 will be made. Fail to turn up and the full coach fare will be expected.

Suggested routes

Route 1 (~15km – 9.5 miles)

From Scales Farm (340268) follow path past Mousthwaite Comb (344275) then turn NE to Scales Tarn (329281) As you arrive Sharp Edge is the obvious ridge on the skyline and this is your next destination a grade 1 scramble. At the top an easy an easy walk takes you to the top of Blencathra then continue along the grassy ridge to Knowe Crags (312270) Finally head NW to a footbridge over Glenderaterra Beck (296278) then climb to the path junction of the Cumbria Way (293279) Follow this S past Lonscale Crags (312269) and eventually into Keswick.

Route 2 (~16 km – 10 miles)

Follow the road from the roundabout (264244) to Briar Rigg (269242) and follow the Cumbria Way past a car park (283255) start climbing steeply to the summit of Little Man (266278) continue on a good path to Skiddaw (260290) Descend the very steep West face of Skiddaw to Carlside Tarn (256283) and if time permits walk out to Ullock Pike (244287) Retracing your steps climb to the summit of Carlside and descend S to Millbeck (256262) Follow the road into Applethwaite and follow the Allerdale Ramble (265255) back into Keswick.

Alternative: Route 2b

From Carlside Tarn (256283) follow Allerdale Ramble to

path junction (253276) take right hand path to Thornthwaite Forest (250273) follow path (246273) to path junction (243269) and S to A591 at Dancing Gate (244265) cross road at (246263) follow path cross river at High Stock Bridge (243260) along river to path junction (245250) to foot bridge (241248) continue to Bog House (239245) and on to footbridge and join the road at (233241) and into Braithwaite.

Route 3: Coledale Horseshoe (~11.7km – 7.3 miles)

Walk through Braithwaite up hill to car park (226241) climb steps on right hand side and onto the long ridge to Grisdale Pike (199226) Descend the ridge to Hobcarton Crag following the edge to Hopegill Head. Descend S and then climb over Sand Hill to Coledale Hause (189212) from here walk SW to the top of Grassmoor. Leave the summit and continue E over Cragg Hill (193204) down the Scar and over Sail .At the col (204205) you have two choices depending on the time available either ascend Causey Pike (219209) then descend to Stoneycroft (233213) this leaves a short road walk into Braithwaite.

ALTERNATIVELY

From the col (204205) descend over High Moss and Outerside to path junction (217216) take left hand path over Barrow Door and High Coledale on to Braithwaite

Coach Meet – Howgills

Sunday 8th October 2017

Depart

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

07:20 – Penkrige

(Short stop at Charnock Richard M6)

Drop off

Wath (684051)

Sedberg (657922)

Pick up

Sedberg (657922)

Required maps

Outdoor Leisure 19 - Howgill Fells & Upper Eden Valley



Photo from visitcumbria.com

Fares

Members £20.00

Guests £22.00

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

To book ring Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

Cancel no later than Wednesday prior to the coach meet – any later and a charge of £5.00 will be made. Fail to turn up and the full coach fare will be expected.

Suggested routes

From Wath

Route 1

Follow lane turn left at junction to fork, take l/h to path (676046) continue to path junction (669035) follow l/h path along Bowderdale Beck past sheepfold (675018) continue on to more sheepfolds on l/h/s (678002) continue to junction (672975) continue South to join path (668967) bear left to Calders path junction (672961) turn right follow path to sharp left turn at cairns, continue past Swere Gill (664946) at (658937) follow path into Sedberg.

1b Alternative

At (669035) take r/h path over West Fell (669018) Hazel Gill Knot (672996) and The Calf (676970) Bram Rigg top (668964) at Calders (672961) continue as route 1

From Sedberg

Route 2

Leave Lockbank Farm (651924) up Settle Beck Gill (659928) across the southeast flank of Arant Haw (662946) continue to Calders (672961) turn Northwest to Bram Rigg Top (668964) continue to The Calf (667970) descend Northeast to small tarn, turn East via Bowderdale head and track east of Cautley Spout and onto the foot bridge (693968) going South to Beck Side (690955) Fawcett Bank (684939) under bank (668925) and on into Sedberg.