



This month's photos:

New WBMC Chair Leads

Dramatic Rescue on Kinder Scout!

and below the group at the highest point on the plateau Both taken by John Edwards



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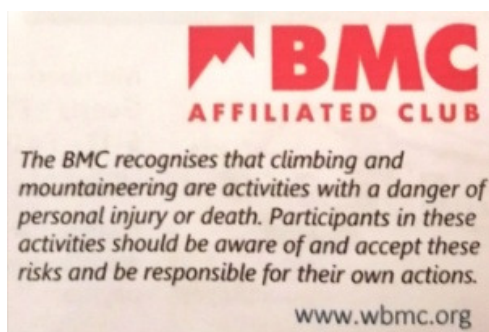
EDITORIAL:

Hello readers and festive greetings!
Welcome to this slightly late and different-looking newsletter. Joe Priest has done a fantastic job at compiling the Newsletter for the club since 2015 but, unlike retired 'old lags' like me, during the coronavirus pandemic young people like him have been struggling to keep their jobs and an income coming in. At last I have developed sufficient computing skills to help him out and produce a fully word processed issue – unlike the ones I used to put together in the early 2000's which were 'cut & paste' on paper and then photocopied! Hope you enjoy reading the first Newsletter since the May/June issue .
John Edwards

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER:

On behalf of all the committee I'd like to wish every WBMC member as happy and as memorable Christmas as is possible to enjoy during this strange & disrupted year. Here's hoping we'll get back to normality of some sort in 2021.

Mel Evans



NOTICEBOARD

WBMC 2021 MEMBERSHIP FEES: From the Membership Secretary

Dear Member,

2020 has been a strange year for the club and members with only 3 coach meets, a couple of car meets as well as the hut being closed for 5 months of the year.

It has been a difficult time for us all especially those who have lost loved ones to the Coronavirus. Our sympathy goes out to any family who has suffered this sadness. Members have also been furloughed and some unfortunately have lost their jobs.

We should also not forget all our key worker members that have worked throughout this pandemic. A huge thank you goes out to all of you.

[Ed: And a special word of praise for member Chris White who retired on 2nd Nov after 50 years of unbroken service for the N.H.S. A fantastic achievement which shows her fabulous commitment to patients in the UK!]

Taking all this into consideration the committee has decided for our current members **the subscription fee for 2021 will be £10 for adults and no fee for students and children.**

Veterans and Life membership conditions remain unchanged. Any new members joining in 2021 will be required to pay the full subscription fee of £36.

Unfortunately the BMC have advised they will not be reducing our insurance/membership fee of £20.25 per person, therefore the WBMC funds will be used to make up the difference.

If any member can afford and wishes to pay more than the £10 to cover the BMC fees, it will be greatly appreciated. 2020 fees for an adult were £36.

Please note that subscriptions MUST be paid by end of January 2021.

Methods of payment either bank transfer A/C 93802159 Sort Code 404711 or cheque made payable to WBMC and post to Wendy Morris, 32 Essex Drive, Rugeley, WS15 1JX

New membership cards will not be issued this year. Instead you will receive a sticker with your name, number & new date. Please peel and place this on your old card. If you have misplaced your card contact me, Wendy Morris, at membership-secretary@wbmc.org and a replacement will be sent out to you.

On behalf of all the committee, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support through this difficult time and hopefully we can meet once again on the hills in 2021.

HUT REMINDER: Unfortunately there was another issue at hut concerning dogs during the period it was open in 2020. The Club hut rules (in log book) must be read and acted on.

As in **“dogs outside of the hut must be on a lead and not free to wander and do whatever!”**

The Headmaster of Plas Gwynant reported the latest incident to his line manager, so it is important in future that we do not upset our Landlord further! I hope common sense prevails when the hut is allowed to reopen. Pete Poultney

COACH MEETS: Nigel reports that Robinsons are managing to stay afloat largely due to the work they do with schools. As with so many businesses, the period from March onwards next year will be critical for their survival.

BMC NEWS: The Midlands Area hosted the first ever ‘Clubs Forum’ (online via Zoom) on 19th October. This is a new venture and sadly only 3 out of the 29 Clubs in the area logged in, including Mel Evans & Dave Jones from WBMC. As this becomes a regular information-sharing & direction-influencing event, other groups will hopefully want to attend.

John Edwards has now left the BMC Midlands Area Committee having served his maximum term (6 years) as Secretary but WBMC still has influence as Dave Jones is the Hill-walking Rep and also one of the 2 National Council Representatives for the Midland Area.

COMMITTEE NEWS:

Throughout COVID your committee has been meeting regularly, initially via 'ZOOM' and 'Whereby' but more recently at a top secret location at the foot of the Clent Hills. Phil Matthews' photo shows them hard at work at the August meeting during which a programme for September and October was finalised. Alas this was then disrupted by the 'Rule of 6' and the West Midlands being put in Tier 2 of restrictions so it has proved difficult to get much off the ground in the way of group outdoor activities since then and committee meetings have had to return to being online. One of the decisions taken has been to try and keep members more in touch by circulating the committee minutes to everyone via Mailchimp or as addition to posted Newsletters. Secretary Jan & Membership Sec. Wendy have been working hard to ensure that everyone's contact details are up to date and



accurate so that in future we will hopefully not be hearing that individuals "never received that email". To simplify matters it was also agreed to bring the ages for our membership categories into line with those of the BMC. Very few people will be affected by this so we hope a simple motion at the next AGM will gain the necessary majority.

The future programme in 2021 tentatively looks like :-

Car / coach Meets: Sat 9th Jan, Sunday 7th Feb, Saturday 13th March, Sunday 11th April Saturday 8th May, Sunday 13th June and Saturday alternating with Sunday from then on. Mel will be sending updates regarding venues as and when.

Nev's Scottish Winter Week 13th - 20th Feb with a choice of Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, £36 for Dinner, B & B in a twin or double room or £51 for a single room (contact Jonathan Howells 07821 544407 if interested) or camping in the Far NW Highlands, initially at Port a Bhaigh campsite at £10/night - electric hook-ups available! (contact John Edwards 07837 198355 for more details – so far 10 people are interested)

Away Dinner: 19th - 23rd March Nigel is hoping this will still be able to run.

AGM: 25th March : Online or socially-distanced depending on rules at the time.

Gower Camping: 18th - 20th June (contact Pete Poultney 07779 366905) nearer the time

As the national and local situation is certain to change unexpectedly, please keep a look out for Mailchimp messages from the Club which will notify you of any changes or updates. We will try to contact those not on email by other means periodically to try and keep them informed. If any member wants to propose an event please tell Mel Evans (07845 060043)

NEWS OF MEMBERS:

At the time of writing there are 2 members that I know of that have tested positive for COVID-19 and I know everyone will want to join me in wishing Nigel Tarr and Paul Brindley (& any other WBMC members so affected) speedy and full recoveries. Sadly news that several of our long-standing members have passed away filtered through during the first lockdown and it's aftermath :- Janet Dawes, John Jackson, Owen Tandy, David Tart & Jack Dodd. Here are tributes to the first two of these.

JANET DAWES (28 July 1945 – 2 September 2020)



Janet (right) & friends on Scafell Pike in May 2015

Janet joined WBMC in 1968 and it was here that she met the love of her life, Keith. They married a couple of years later with Nigel being the Best Man at the wedding. Walking was one of her great passions, whether it be in the hills, mountains, at the coast or just around the local countryside. She had completed most of the long distance paths including the Pennine Way, Coast to Coast, West Highland Way & Offas Dyke. She & Keith had completed 75% of S W Coast Path (both ways) and she loved the coach meets, often being picked up at Dobbies Garden World nr Shrewsbury if the coach was going to Wales - her favourite walking area.

As well as being a very keen, strong walker, Janet was also an accomplished sportswoman & long-time member of Alveley Tennis Club who commented online that Janet "was well known & loved by many people across Shropshire, and her enthusiasm & enjoyment of working with young people was self evident at both club and county level." Another friend commented she was "a damn good tennis partner"! Keith told me that for many years she was a LTA coach both for Shropshire as well as for her local club and many, many children will have benefitted from her positivity and unique way of teaching. Many of her pupils went on to do well in later life. Janet also loved horse-riding, having her own horse for many years. She did a lot for the Diamond Riding School for the Disabled and took great delight in seeing the benefits it gave to severely handicapped children, who loved her to bits. She was also a Riding for Disabled Association coach, teaching many other instructors.

Janet loved all animals and for many years she & Keith had a small herd of milking goats, selling the milk & making cheese. They also had hens, ducks and a dog. She also liked gardening, cycling & running and regularly competed in The Bridgenorth Walk Seniors event, winning this 22 mile hilly event for 8 consecutive years. The last time she competed she was undergoing chemotherapy and was annoyed when she 'only' finished 3rd behind a lady felt she should have beaten! As Hilary said "she really hid her many talents" At the top of her list of interests was her family, who were all very close. The grandchildren adored her and nothing gave her greater delight than a family get together.

She was diagnosed with cancer in 2011 but remained extraordinarily fit & positive throughout her illness, never once complaining, even during the last 2 particularly tough

years. Hilary Jones commented "if you didn't know, you wouldn't know- she was always so cheerful and she never lost her bubbly personality or big smile. She was lovely company & an inspirational person to many - a wonderful friend & a regular attendee of The Womens' Weekend at the Hut.

'Ovarian Cancer Action' and 'Severn Hospice', who latterly provided care for Janet, have benefited by over £2,570 as a result of donations made in her memory. For a chance to read the many tributes left in her memory or if you'd like to make a donate to these worthy charities, log onto <https://janetdawes.muchloved.com>

Keith said she kept a little card on her desk which said :

*"YESTERDAY IS HISTORY;
TODAY IS A MYSTERY;
TOMORROW IS A GIFT"*

and that this very much summed up Jan's approach to life. Our condolences to Keith and the rest of the family.



JOHN JACKSON (12 November 1943 – 29 June 2020)

John died in hospital in late June aged 76. An old heart condition of cardiomyopathy finally caught up with him. He joined WBMC around 1995 so was already a member when I joined in 1997. He used to compete in long - distance walking and he took part in Nev Tandy's challenge walks for many years, especially The Reservoir Roundabout. We had been unable to be active members of the club over the past few years, as John had started to struggle with breathing & stamina but we always enjoyed meeting up with old friends at the Away Dinners each year and John managed to do low-level walks, right up until this year's dinner in March, prior to lockdown. Donations in memory of John were made to the British Heart Foundation.



John & Chris at the Away Dinner in 2019

Remembered by Chris White

If anyone could send me their memories or tributes of David Tart, Owen Tandy &/or Jack Dodd, hopefully with a photo, I would be pleased to include these in a future Newsletter.

CHRIS DEAN (10 December 1975 - very much alive!)

Chris decided he wanted a challenge for Lockdown 2 and so is aiming to run (plus a bit of walking) to the 10 trigpoints nearest his house, raising money for the Teenage Cancer Trust by so doing.

<https://uk.virignmoneygiving.com/ChrisDean9> is the place to go if you want to encourage him by giving some sponsorship.



EDALE CAR MEET : THE "NEW NORMAL"?

by John Edwards

According to the old pre-COVID Meet Card, Sunday 9th August should have seen members on the coach to Horton in Ribblesdale. Instead, after 4 months without a weekend meet, WBMC tried to get back onto the hills as best we could within Government guidelines with a trip to Edale to walk on Kinder Scout, travelling in our own cars. This meant an early start as is usual for, even at £6 a day, the car park at the foot of the village would be full by 9.30am. There we split into 2 main parties, one intent on going up onto the edges & tops, the other group of 6 following more gentle paths in the Hope valley. Andy Brown had kindly 'sussed out' the parking and an 11 mile route the previous weekend.

Almost everyone turned up wearing clothes suitable for the expected scorching day, only to find we were setting off with overcast skies and a chill wind. Out came the fleeces as we set off walking the paths as best we could in 4 groups of 5 or 6 that intermittently met up at various scenic spots on the edges of the gritstone plateau. There were lots of other people out enjoying the scenery too and everybody seemed to be trying their best to stick to 1-2 metres separation when they overtook or passed in the opposite direction. As we climbed up Grindsbrook Clough along the Pennine Way off came the fleeces and we caught glimpses of the first signs that the mist would eventually burn off. Andy led the short diversion to the top of Grindsbrook Knoll, which he claimed was a top on some list or other, then we headed over to Kinder Low via Crowden Tower and the Woolpacks.

It was somewhere along this section that one of our number took slightly different route from the rest and suddenly found themselves stuck fast in knee-deep glutinous black peat. Fortunately their cries for help were heard and the Chairman and several others back-tracked to see if they could help.

The problem of "Relative Risk" once again raised its head, as it has so often during this Coronavirus pandemic. Do we stick to Government guidelines, maintain our distance and watch the unfortunate individual slowly struggle / sink / possibly die or do we risk catching / spreading the virus and help extricate them from the mire? Do we take a middle course and try to help him by lightening his load, removing his rucksack or, as someone

suggested, his wallet! and see if that helps? Of course we took the sensible option and after 5 or 10 minutes with 4 people helping, a tired and rather muddy and relieved figure emerged onto terra firma. As someone said, "it's a



good job it's not a coach meet as you'd never be allowed on with trousers in such a state!

"Rescue in progress" & "Rescued"

The excitement over, we stopped around noon not far from the trig point, before most of the groups followed Andy's lead to the nondescript point 0.7 km to the NE that was 3 metres higher than the trig - the true summit of the Kinder plateau that some had never visited before. To me it was a revelation! The changes since I was last there in 2003! Gone were the 6-8 foot deep peat groughs wending their way across the black, peaty morass. I would never have believed it possible.



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Checking my Hill-bagging log of 6th Jan 1973 when I first reckoned I reached this point - perhaps only approximately as those were pre-GPS days - I read that when I revisited in Dec 2003, "the top was marked with a stake - a harsh and elemental place but great fun if you are wearing gaiters!" Today there is a decent little cairn on solid well-vegetated ground with hardly any naked peat in sight. Well done the authorities for stopping the erosion with small dams and changing the practice of sheep grazing & grouse moor management! There was no need for gaiters any more and you could almost get here without a GPS as there were few peat groughs that you had to cross.

Socially distanced near Kinder Low

Summit photo taken we returned to Kinder Low and around the Swine's Back to Edale Cross where we descended, some via Jacob's Ladder and others by the slightly longer bypass, and reached Edale by the Pennine Way Alternative Route. Sitting in the sunshine at the tables outside 'The Ramblers' Rest' it was great to catch up with folk and their cancelled / postponed / future plans after what was a very successful first 'away' meet since March, before setting off to drive back to the Midlands around 5pm.

SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER CYCLING & PIZZA DAY

Facebook followers will have seen that Phil Matthews organised a successful day's cycling shortly after the "Rule of Six" had been introduced. Jo Cheung, Anthenia Dimitriou, Hazel Webb, & Richard Baynton joined him on an 80km (50 mile) circuit of the countryside around Kidderminster and Stourport. The photos & video show that they all had fun, especially Anthenia crossing the ford at Neen Savage. Her STRAVA record shows that they cycled for around 5hrs 20 minutes, burning 1676 calories on the undulating route (1,153m of climbing!) at an average speed of 15km/hr.



WMBC CLIMBING AND RUNNING DURING COVID-19

by Pete Poultney

Because Wales was out of bounds during some of the spring months, a few of us ventured to Symonds Yat for our climbing trips. Initially we all travelled in our own cars. We had several weeks on the trot of being able to have the opportunity with the weather staying dry.



Some of the climbs were intimidating so we set up top ropes for those, while others were led. Later various club members joined us for these sessions and others are waiting now for the weather and lockdown restrictions to change so we can restart such outdoor trips. In the meantime we still meet most Tuesday nights at Kiddy Indoor Wall (when we can that is!) For photos of the walking and climbing at the Gower week at the end of September you'll have to go and look at Peter Poultney Facebook page!

Mel Evans topping out above the River Wye



L to R Mel, Ken, Pete & Graeme at Symonds Yat

We also have a Running Section in the Club and most Saturdays at 9am folk meet up at Nimmings Car Park on the Clent Hills. Our runs up and over Clent usually last about an hour, but we have occasionally done much longer runs. Any interested parties are welcome to join us – you do not have to be 'super-fit'. It's more just a process of building up your confidence and stamina. And you sometimes need gloves! We also try and enter local and Snowdonia races every year and this year 2 teams ran the Snowdonia Marathon 'virtually' in October, Chris Dean & Pete Poultney each running 13 miles while Graeme Stanford, Jess & Ken Priest ran 9 miles each.





The Fearsome Fivesome before the 'Virtual' Marathon on Clent

THE GOWER WEEK: CAMPING AT PITTON CROSS 24th-29th SEPTEMBER

The annual trip to Rhossili went ahead and was enjoyed by climbers, walkers & body boarders alike as you can see from Peter Poultney's photo. You can view more photos of the 12 WBMC members who went if you scroll down on his Facebook page, where you'll also find others of a climbing trip he and Ken made to Woolacombe in mid October, plus some great links to Alpine mountain websites.



APRIL'S " OLD" PHOTOS FROM THE LATE KEN WINKETT

The virtual prize for being the first to correctly identify the people in the April edition collage goes to El Presidente, Mike Thompson, who identified folk as follows (l to r & top to bottom): Vilma Mitchell, Francis Rogers, Nigel Tarr, Pat Mullett, Pauline Tarr & Pete Henk at Pat Mullet's cottage Christmas-time, Hut photos of himself, Alf Parkin, John Mitchell, Pat Tweedale, Ron Ralphs (drying a pan) & Peter Woodward and in the main group photo John Mitchell, Pat Mullett, Mike Thompson, Betty Boss, Carol Thompson, Iris Cooksey, Ray Cooksey, Jane Hughes, Mervyn Hughes, Janet Vaughan, Malcolm Vaughan , Francis Rogers , Pauline Tarr, Nigel Tarr & Pete Henk with John Mitchell in the bottom right corner.

The Timeline on page 9 also brought back some memories for Mike, as he was one of the pupils that went on the Sandwell Schools camps set up by Bert Wright. He recalls "I was a friend of Jack Dodd and his dad was Headmaster at Lyng Junior School when 6 pupils dropped out of the camp that had been organised. He told the school that the first 6 to show up at his office would get the places." Mike normally turned up at the school around 8.30am but that next morning he was sitting on the step at 6.45am when the caretaker arrived and enquired "what the hell are you doing here at this time?!" He let him in and 8 year old Mike became the youngest to go on the trip. Mike commented "We slept in old American Army tents, no groundsheets and cooked over an open fire. Health & Safety eat your heart out! I recall our first meal there was a block of dates, a chunk of cheese and an apple! Later, around 1962 I went climbing with Jack Dodd before joining WBMC as a member in 1964."

Any other WBMC member with (accurate) memories or facts that they would like to see in future parts of the timeline, please send them to jaejed@hotmail.com.

TABLE MANNERS

Some more shots of 'classic WBMC members' mostly seated at tables this time. All bar one taken by Ken Winkett. Spotting the odd one out is easy - it's the late John Churchill in front of a massive summit cairn! But which summit and who else is 'on the rocks'? The bottom left photo is much more recent than the others and was taken at Fort William I think.



Below are the Correct Answers to a quiz you've not come to yet !!

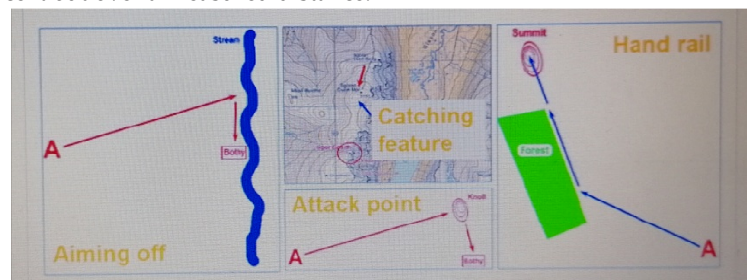
- 1: A 2: B 3: B 4: B 5: B 6: B 7: A 8: A 9: A 10: B 11: A 12: B 13: A 14: A 15: A 16: B 17: B
18: A 19: B 20: A 21: A 22: B 23: A 24: B 25: A

ANSWERS TO LAST ISSUE'S QUIZ ON MOUNTAIN NAVIGATION

Apologies that these were omitted from the last Newsletter along with a map that was needed for one of the questions!!

Answers to Quiz (which came courtesy of the Mountaineering Scotland website):

- 1) c) Everyone should be paying attention to the navigation, either to advise or to learn
- 2) c) Providing you've taken the trouble to learn how to use them, of course the map & compass is best. The path might lead anywhere, it could be hours before anyone else visits the summit and an easy-looking slope might be hiding some crags or a cliff lower down the hill.
- 3) b) Both OS & Harvey maps use the same grid system, each square represents 1km² regardless of the scale
- 4) d) The others might be factors in your choice but the route distance & complexity is the main determining reason for choosing a map.
- 5) a) Horizontal is always quoted first. A Romer scale is handy for measuring the 3rd and 6th digits.
- 6) b) Remember it's "along the corridor and then up the stairs".
- 7) b) It's every 10 metres (approx 30 ft) on OS maps but a few 1:25000 maps have had 5 metre contours introduced, while Harvey maps always have 15 m contours
- 8) d) This is the foundation to understanding navigation and learning how to relate the map to the ground and vice versa. In good visibility you may be able to do this by eye but if identifiable features are not visible, you can set the map by using the compass – use the magnetic needle to find N and line up N on the map with this.
- 9) c) Grid N is vertical, Magnetic N slightly to the right and True N further right still, however in 2020 in Scotland the magnetic variation is so small it's just not worth bothering about, so take a bearing off the map and walk on it.
- 10) a) It's an hour to walk 4 km plus 1 minute for every 10 metres of ascent. This can be a great help in navigation, especially if visibility is poor.
- 11) d) In poor visibility counting your steps may be the only way of judging how far you have walked on a bearing (unless you have a GPS)
- 12) d) Obviously it varies with terrain and individual physique but it is likely to be within the 55 – 65 double paces. To work out your own average you need to pace it out over a measured distance.
- 13) b) Always keep your compass away from metal objects, batteries or any electronic source.
- 14) f) Aiming off means aiming for a feature eg a river and then following it up/down stream to ensure you hit the place you want eg a bothy. An attack point is somewhere to aim for from where you should be able to see your intended destination. A hand rail is something like the edge of a wood which, when followed (& maybe continued) will lead you to your destination.



How did you do?

All 14 Correct: Wow, you're good! You are confident with a map and compass and you have the skills & experience to use it! Make sure you share your skills with friends & family when you are out walking and don't just hog the map, eh? Alternatively, why not think about a career in mountain leadership or join a club to pass on your knowledge to others?

11 to 13 Correct: Leader of the pack! Great job... You know your way around a map and compass, but might find a bit of refresher training useful?

7-10 Correct: Not bad but you should stick with others on the hills! You could do with some more training on how to use a map and compass to be totally safe on your own.

4-6 Correct: You've got some way to go but don't worry, you could have done worse! You probably prefer to walk with someone more experienced and leave them to look after the navigation? We can guarantee you'll get more enjoyment and a sense of achievement if you have a go yourself though.

3 Correct or less: Hmm, you're a bit of a sheep...Might be best if you don't head to the hills alone, or stick to very small ones with very wide paths! Everyone has to start somewhere though, so don't worry, there's still hope for you. Check out WBMC navigation skills weekends at the hut, a low cost and great fun way to gain confidence in the hills! Or check out Mountaineering Scotland website by following this link:-

<https://www.mountaineering.scot/safety-and-skills/essential-skills/navigation/planning-and-following-a-route>

1961: July: The Club managed to get an article "*Mountaineering and West Bromwich*" published in the Schools Association Magazine. It starts with what we've all probably heard many times as a jocular remark: "*It may be surprising to find the existence of a mountaineering club in the Town, so remote from mountaineering regions*" and goes on to say WBMC has been active for 10 successful years before describing its origins and activities. "*The heart of the club pulsed from a group, which in the early days was assumed by the general public and the majority of present members, to be fanatics: How far from the truth those impressions were! The nucleus of the group were a responsible section of the teaching profession....*". It mentions that "*a hut is envisaged for the use at a very reasonable fee*" and concluded "*Membership at present costs 10 shillings, with an annual subscription of 10/-; thus even with a limited income the sport may be enjoyed amidst good company, for the cost of equipment is negligible compared with the infinite pleasure and beauty to be found in mountain areas.*"

2nd October: Committee notes that "*much work would be needed*" if conversion of John Watson's Dutch barn was to go ahead

11th November: Away Dinner held at Prince Llewelyn Hotel, Bedgellert.

1962: 15th March: A letter to Central Council of Physical Recreation at Plas-y-Brenin mentions that Life Membership of WBMC is available at £5/5/- as an alternative to 10/- annually and says that membership stands at approximately 80, with a maximum membership of 100.

Fri 23rd March: 11th Anniversary Dinner Dance organised at The Castle Hotel, Tamworth. Again around 100 were expected and guest invitations sent to Messrs Turner, Barlow & Reynolds and also J. Jackson (CCPR Warden at Plas y Brenin) and H. Hughes (surely not the Howard Hughes!). For dancing a quartet was booked at a cost of 10 guineas.

April: A letter tells an enquirer that we couldn't offer direct training facilities for boys doing DoE as '*we only organise 1-day meets in the mountains once a month*'. It mentioned the possibility of Junior Membership for a "*limited number of youngsters from the immediate vicinity of West Brom*".

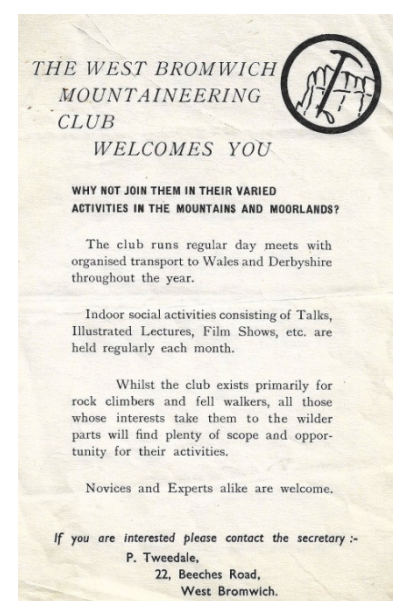
18/20 May: Club asks if it could use The Mountaineering Association's Llanberis hut and possibly others in the Lakes or North Wales later in the year.

28th June: Letter sent asking if the Club could use Oread Club Hut at Tan-y-Wyddfa, Rhyd Ddu because "*we have no premises of our own*". However, it seems that much work behind the scenes must have been going on during the 1962 summer and autumn to acquire the Dutch barn at Plas Gwynant for use as a Club hut. Accounts in the Club book quote widely differing years but Jack Dodd's account of rock-bashing to create a concrete base for the hut during a winter that was "*the coldest in history in North Wales*" places it as the "Big Freeze" of 1962/3. At that time Harry Barlow, the first Chairman of the Club, was also Chairman of the Further Education Committee and Bert Wright was the organiser of PE for the LEA. Page 86 states "*It was due to the efforts of Harry, Bert and Joe Turner (West Brom's Director of Education) that the hut was provided for the use of WBMC*" and p 88 says "*The West Brom Authority drew up plans for the hut, and provided workmen for its construction from its Public Works Dept. A 3 year lease was granted to the club and club members fitted out the interior.*"

24th July A letter from Mike Powell indicates that Club leaflets made available at City Camp & Sports Ltd in Broad Street resulted in several new members joining.

1st Aug: Club offers its services to Snowdonia National Park Voluntary Warden Scheme to try and help prevent vandalism by having 5 members available as a team, so that one would be available to volunteer any weekend.

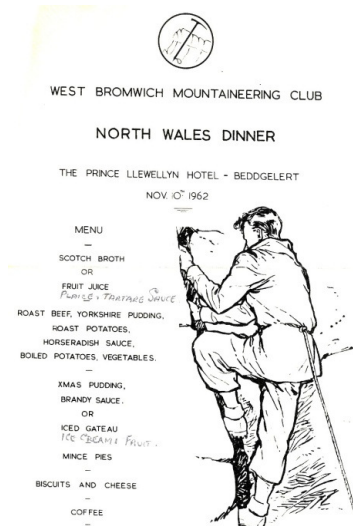
25th September: A letter to The Mountaineering Association (forerunner of the BMC) states "*I believe our club has a small affiliation with your organisation. We now wish to enquire if it is possible for WBMC to obtain full membership?*" It



mentions that the Club has 85 members. Two days later came the reply that "I'm afraid we are unable to trace any affiliation of your club to our Association"!

25th October: Having received a general outline of duties allocated to persons from outlying areas in the Voluntary Warden scheme from Caernarvonshire County Council, a reply giving the names & addresses, ages & occupations, marital status & mountaineering experience of 8 WBMC members who were interested in volunteering was sent. The names of those willing to give their assistance were Mr F.R. Purcell; Mr G. Hughes; Mr A.W, Cheesbrough; Mr B. Hartshorne; Mr P. Tweedale; Mr T. Offa; Mr N. Tarr & Mr M. Powell.

10th Nov: North Wales Dinner at The Prince Llewelyn : see menu



27th Nov: Club hosts a free public lecture with films of "British Mountaineering" by F.H. Restall in the small hall at Chapelfields School.

7th Dec: Club Xmas social at 'Grant Hall', Five Ways, West Bromwich.

1963: Minutes of 18th Feb: Preparatory work was in progress at the Barn in readiness for the builders. Jack Dodd's account recalls that at a time when the thermometer failed to get above 32°F for 2 whole weeks and Llyn Gwynant froze 2 feet deep, 5 club members at a time slept in Pat Tweedale's van which was made from a "heavy grade of tinfoil, but it did have a gas heater" on their rock-beating, floor-levelling weekends.

Fri 20th March: Club ordered "one gross of enamel badges" at £17/15/-, inclusive of the die which remained WBMC property. (Where did that end up I wonder?)

22nd March: Annual Dinner Dance again held at The Castle Hotel, Tamworth.

Around Whitsun: At short notice the club advertises a Don Williams (sic) Lecture which attracted "some 300 people, though there were plenty of vacant seats on a very warm evening." Don Whillans gave another lecture for the Club on 3rd Dec 1963 and a letter from Accles & Pollock Ltd indicates they were hoping to get him and Chris Bonington to come back to the Midlands to give other talks in early 1964.

17th June: Minutes stated that the floor needed sealing and beams & floorboards needed to be treated, so during the previous 3 months the Hut foundations must have been finished and the builders reconstructed the old wall-less barn. Page 89 states "iron bedsteads were moved from the lodge into the ground floor and mattresses were purchased. A chemical toilet was installed in a small shed at the back of the hut and washing facilities consisted of the sink in the kitchen area and the river by the bridge. Lighting was by candles and Tilley lamps, cooking by primus stove and heating by an open fire." At that time invitations were being drawn up for the official opening of the hut.

8th July: The committee had drawn up a set of Hut Rules & was thinking about a possible name for the building.

18th Dec: Club receives draft copies of its first lease "for the use of a hut at Plas Gwynant"

1964: ca 28th Jan: Club returns the signed lease.

20th April: CCPR requests info. from Club to include in their "Sport For You" regional brochure.

7th June: In reply to a letter of congratulations on his appointment at Head of Plas Gwynant, Murray Waterson writes "I am sure that the Adventure School and the Club will have the happiest of relations and I shall always be delighted to welcome members to the school."

11th June: Committee agrees to investigate the possibility of getting electricity supplied to the hut.

23rd June: MANWEB enquires what electrical load would be required and states that "the proposed mains of the original scheme (up the Nant Gwynant valley) did not cover this property".

7th Nov: Member Mr I. Pickard fell while leading a climb on Moel Hebog which necessitated calling out a team from PYG for a rescue in the dark and, because of his injuries, transfer to Bangor Hospital. Four days later a letter from A.J. Piggott of Stockport Mountain Rescue Committee saying "glad to hear

that the rather mixed rescue team proved to be of service" and hoping "that Mr Pickard's injuries are not too severe and that he will soon recover."

1st Dec: Murray Waterson asks Club for help as he has a school wanting to send 35 children each week between 5th March & 2nd April next year and he could only accommodate 22 at Plas Gwynant.*To be continued.....* If you know the date of any climb, trip or event that you think should be included in the timeline please email jaejed@hotmail.com

PLACE NAMES QUIZ

To amuse people during Coronavirus shutdown, the Ordnance Survey created this challenging place names quiz to see how easily you can be tricked with made up locations. For each pair of place names, one is real and the other is either fictional and completely made up. They used the place name search in OS Maps online to verify these & you can use it to find more or even create your own unique names. Make your choice as to which is the REAL ONE and see how many you get correct.

- 1 A : World's End B : HellonEarth
- 2 A : Bargodbraichbriwbryncyncarrogloddiaucrifollynwynysgwydd
B : Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlillantysiliogogoch
- 3 A : Ouch B : Pity Me
- 4 A : Bopeafield B : Greensplat To what man does the King take his hat off?
- 5 A : Tittleshill B : Boobery When is a Scotsman like a donkey?
- 6 A : Salt Earth B : Greedy Gut Why is a good orange happier than a cheap one?
- 7 A : Nomansland B : Merry England What did one eye say to the other?
- 8 A : Great Snoring B : Wokenwell
- 9 A : Three Legged Cross B : Four Hand Crossing
- 10 A : Cows Dance B : Cattle Wood
- 11 A : Sheepwash Pond B : Fleecewell Lakes
- 12 A : Barrons Hill B : Biggleswade
- 13 A : Crackpot B : Ficklefigs
- 14 A : Roger Moor B : Connery Hill
- 15 A : Zennor B : Bree
- 16 A : Yield Hill B : Mercy in the Bottom
- 17 A : Koom Valley B : Glen Cune
- 18 A : Egypt B : Persia
- 19 A : Pretty Hill B : Ugley
- 20 A : Sargent's Coppice B : Corporal Woods
- 21 A : Barton in the Beans B : Mudchester in the Whey
- 22 A : Ringando B : Knockando
- 23 A : Coffee Pot B : Tea Station
- 24 A : Knockturn Lake B : Knockburn Loch
- 25 A : Jumpers Common B : Leapers Lake



The barber!
When he wanders along the
banks & braes (brays)!!
Because it rarely has the pip !!!
There's something between us that smells!!

(Answers at the foot of page 10)

Three men die in a car accident on Christmas Eve & they all find themselves at the Pearly Gates waiting to enter Heaven. They're told they must present something relating to or associated with Christmas to get in. The first man searches his pocket, finds some mistletoe and so is allowed in. The second man presents a cracker, so he is also allowed in. The third delves into his pockets & pulls out a pair of knickers. Confused at this last gesture, St Peter asks, "How on earth do these represent Christmas?" The man answers, "They're Carol's!"