



July 2015

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This month's photo from Rhossili Bay, by Gary Winton

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Hi folks,

Rather shot myself in the foot with last month's extra large four-article newsletter didn't I... but "quality not quantity", as I always say when I'm lacking in quantity.

Another busy month for the club! The climbing night at Portway went well, and as planned we're going to be holding another on the last Thursday of every month (that's the 30<sup>th</sup> this month) so feel free to come along and join us.

My thanks to this month's contributors: Gary Winton, Paul Brindley, Stu Shaw, Pete Poultney and Sara Winton. 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](mailto:joe.priest@live.co.uk) (or through our website if it's an article) before 15th June.

Cheers,  
Joe Priest

## The WBMC meeting place



The Wheatsheaf  
379 High Street,  
West Bromwich,  
B70 9QW

Join us every Thursday  
night from 9.00pm in  
The Wheatsheaf for a  
chat and a drink.

**BMC**  
AFFILIATED CLUB

Cotswold Discount Code:  
**AF-WBMC-K3**

# Noticeboard

## Welcome to new club member

Please welcome new member Andy Jones to the club.

## Congratulations to the 3 peakers!

Congratulations to all those who completed the 3 peaks challenge last weekend - it's not easy is it?

## Problem with the hut phone

Bear with us please, there's a problem with the hut phone - it will accept incoming calls but can't make outgoing calls! BT/we are on the case. Problems have also been reported at the phone box down the lane.

## Your help is needed...

On Sunday 30th and Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August the club is manning a climbing wall/tower at the Sandwell Show, with Sandwell Council, giving kids free climbs and abseils. We need upwards of 6 members at all times between 11am and 5pm on both days to belay the kids, hand out leaflets and talk to parents/potential new members.

You don't have to have SPA or similar accreditation to belay, but it would help, just bring your harness/belay kit. And if you can't belay because you don't climb, come along anyway - *your help is needed to talk to potential new members.*

To book in to help email Paul at paulbrindley@aol.com or text or call on 07813 102 014, telling him what you can do and when. All help, even if only for an hour or two, will be much appreciated!

## Change to Saturday's coach meet

As mentioned in the email earlier this week, this Saturday's coach meet has been changed to being a normal meet - it is no longer a 'long meet'. There is still some room on the coach - please book via Nigel as normal.

## Climbing Night - a reminder

The last Thursday of every month is climbing night at the Portway, where to all intents and purposes we have exclusive use of the wall. All are welcome, whether you are an expert, a novice, or have never climbed before - this is the perfect chance to get some practice in before the Summer really starts!

These nights are suitable for members of all abilities so don't be afraid to come along if you have never climbed before. Equipment is available from the centre if you don't have any.

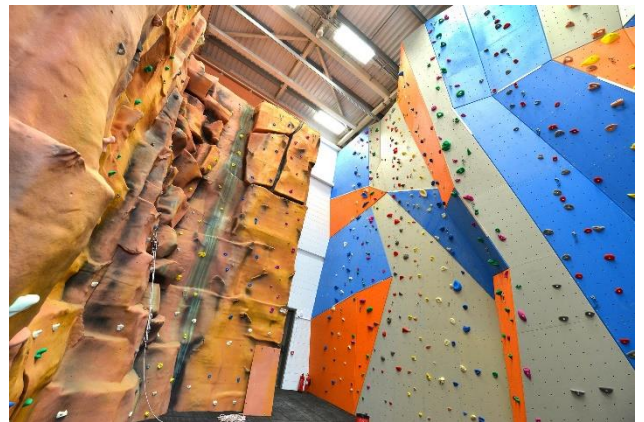
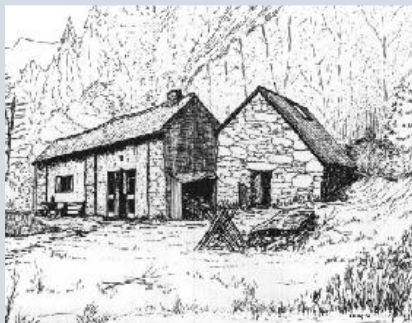


Photo by Portway Lifestyle Centre

Their address is: Portway Lifestyle Centre,  
Oldbury,  
West Midlands,  
B69 1HE

## 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 this month

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July, 6:30pm

## Outdoor Evening Meet – Sandwell Valley



Photo from Tripadvisor

July's evening meet will be a walk in Sandwell Valley lead by Nigeel Tarr. Meeting at the Maltshovel at 6:30pm ready to start walking at 7.

To book please contact Nigel on 07703 345 729.

The Maltshovel,  
Newton Road,  
Great Barr,  
B43 6HN

## BMC Clubs Workshops 2015



Photo by the BMC

There are a few places still available on courses later this year – Mountain Skills (July), Climbing Self Rescue (September), First Aid (September). These courses are subsidised by a grant the BMC receives from Sport England and are specifically designed to support members of BMC affiliated clubs.

Find out more and book your place at:  
[thebmc.co.uk/clubsourses](http://thebmc.co.uk/clubsourses)

## Friday 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August Ennerdale Youth Hostel Weekend

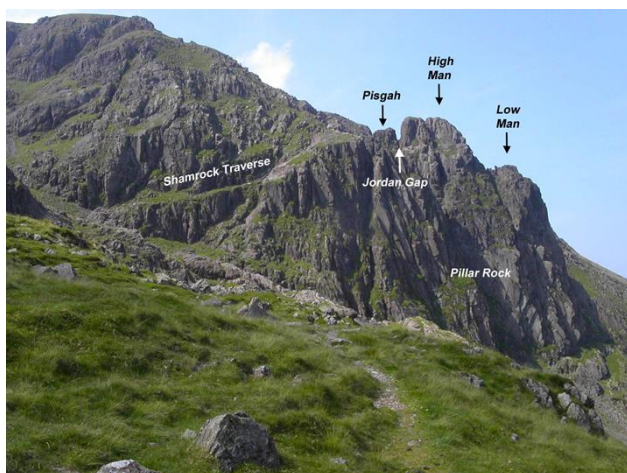


Photo from Wikipedia

Another visit to stay at one of the best youth hostels in the country. Ennerdale Youth Hostel is tucked away in the north west of the Lake District accessible by a private road alongside Ennerdale Water.

The hostel is ideally placed to reach some of the northern Nuttalls and also opens up the opportunity to get to Pillar Rock, the only Nuttall in England and Wales which you have to climb to the top of.

Protected by a classic moderate climb called the Slab and Notch route the mountain summit belongs to climbers with many walkers unable to complete the Nuttalls because of it. Rumours that the climb is hard to find are greatly exaggerated with a team of 4 members successfully finding and climbing it on this meet last year.

Anybody interested in coming along this year or for more details please speak to Andy Brown on: 07870 145 026.

# Lundy

May 2015

Words and pictures by  
Stu Shaw



## Day 1

Getting to Lundy is an adventure in itself, with the graceful MS Oldenburg ferry, from Ilfracombe. Unfortunately it wasn't so graceful for our crossing as the sea was well choppy. Some of the group were to be found below deck talking down the big white telephone.

*"... you are transported back to earlier times with no roads, no cars, only fresh air and wildlife to enjoy, oh and there's some climbing too!..."*

Once on the island you are transported back to earlier times with no roads, no cars, only fresh air and wildlife to enjoy, oh and there's some climbing too!

A short walk from the harbour and we found the local pub, shop and our accommodation, however this would have to wait as the weather was good and some climbing to be done. A mile walk up the Island and we came across Jenny's Cove, a very picturesque part of the island with guillemots, razorbills and various gulls flying nearby.

Ken, Pete and Joe set up the top ropes and abseil line before belaying down to check the routes. Meanwhile Jo Cheung, Jo Tansey, Adrian and I got kitted out and Wendy found a suitable place in the sun, content just to relax and unwind.



A few hours were spent climbing the rocks of Jenny's Cove and some suitable routes were found for me being a novice climber.

A great days climbing was had by all and stories to be told later in the pub.

## Day 2

The morning started off with a bracing jog along the East coast, past the lighthouse, we headed off towards the north, and the stop off point was the fantastic view of Devils Slide. The climbing would have to wait as breakfast was calling, so the group jogged back to the Barn for bacon, eggs, toast and a welcome cup of tea.

The weather was good so armed with a map of the Island and letterbox clues to hand, half the group headed off in search of some hidden boxes. This was also a great excuse to see the Island and explore its hidden coves and hopefully see some wildlife, birds and mammals.



We weren't disappointed, Sika deer, Soay sheep, goats, guillemots, razorbills, swallows, skylarks giving it their all and lots of grey seals but no puffins.

Once we reached the three quarter wall we headed off east to the Devils Slide where five of the group were climbing. They were  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way up and enjoying the climb as well as the magnificent views and excellent weather, although a chilly breeze. We spent a while relaxing on the cliffs before heading off to Jennys Cove in search of Puffins. Only one was spotted emerging from a hole, the rest must have been out fishing.

The evening was spent in the Marisco Tavern, good food and excellent local ales helped pass the evening along with tales of the day's activities.

Continued overleaf...

### Day 3

Awoken by the sound of the rain and wind, a look outside the door was met by very poor visibility. A look across the camp site saw the tents taking a bit of a battering; glad we opted to stay in the Barn. No run this morning....breakfast, a cup of tea and another meeting were the order for now till the weather cleared up. A plan was hatched, a group would go in search of some climbing on the East coast, hopefully out of the wind, while Wendy and I headed for the North coast to see the top of the Island and take a gentle walk down the East coast. The sun came out again but a strong wind blew as we headed for the furthest point the Northern Lighthouse.

A small cove was found where about 40 grey seals were relaxing on the rocks just off the shore line. This was a good spot for lunch as we spent an hour watching the seals and taking a few photos. One was balanced precariously on a tall rock, but seemed quite relaxed, maybe waiting for the tide to come back in.



The walk continued down the coast line where we met the climbers, looking a little disappointed as no suitable climbing venues had been found. However they were also enjoying the very picturesque views and the sun was giving us all a very healthy glow to our faces.

A short walk later and we were by the harbour, followed by a brisk walk up the steps to the southern lighthouse in search of a few more letterbox clues. Hopefully a few more ticks on the card. Back down the steps and off to the Barn for another well earned cup of tea.

The evening was again spent in the Tavern, consuming the local ale and stories of the day's adventures, along with a very unusual version of Jenga, much to the amusement of us all.

### Day 4

Today was the last day; the sun was shining again however a strong wind blew. There would be no ferry crossing today, thankfully said a few of the group, with memories of the choppy crossing over. The helicopter had been summoned, an exciting experience for those who hadn't flown in one before. We were allocated into groups and given our flight times.

The group headed off to the harbour and rat island to enjoy the last few hours, maybe a few more letterbox clues would be found. It was also a chance to reflect on the last few days and how much enjoyment had been had.

Some good climbing and walking, picturesque views along the coastline, an abundance of wildlife and excellent company made the stay on Lundy a very pleasurable experience.

The sound of the helicopter rotor blades indicated it was time to depart the island, was it worth the trip, it sure was, would we come back, probably not, too much of the world still to see, but glad of the opportunity to see a small but beautiful part of our Country.



# The Gower weekend

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Words by Joe Priest

With pictures by club members



On Friday morning a whole host of WBMC members made their way down to South Wales for a weekend of walking, climbing and body boarding on the beautiful Gower peninsula. Not wanting to break from tradition and alarm anyone by arriving at the time we said we would, the Priest family turned up around 9pm or so. There was a little light rain just after we'd pitched the tent, but no sign of the storm that was forecast. That evening was spent catching up around the outdoor fire and talking about our plans for tomorrow.



Photo by Pete P

Saturday morning started with a quick climbers meeting to confirm our plans; we had heard about a recently developed sport climbing crag in Rhossili Bay called Shipwreck Cove and decided that's where we would be climbing today, partly out of a curiosity to try out the new crag, but mainly to save carrying all our trad gear down to the beach. This is quite a departure for our Ken, who has climbed almost exclusively on trad in all the years I've known him. No complaints here though, as the rucksack felt considerably lighter as a result. Sam drove our rucksacks down to the National Trust carpark in his newly outfitted climbing van, we met him there and walked down to the beach.

The tide was still just too high to get over to the rocks, so while Ken, Neil and Mel went to have a recce from afar, the rest of us decided to pass the time by getting some practice in on the body boards. When the tide had receded enough (and we had dried out in the sun) we headed over to the climbs, lifting our trousers up to keep them dry - or just not changing out of our beach shorts.



Photo by Joe

In the short time it took us to reach the foot of the crag there were already a few keen climbers half way up, with more and more starting to arrive; clearly this had already become a popular area! We each had a go at a few good little routes, with very grippy rock providing sure footholds.

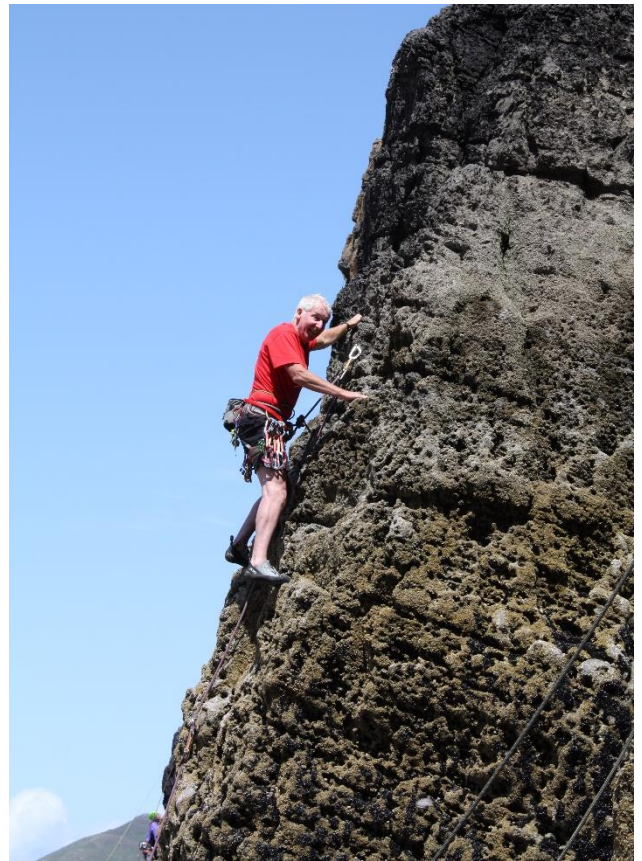


Photo by Gary W

Continued overleaf...

*The Gower weekend*

continued...

Once the sea had travelled further out we moved around the corner. Here we were greeted with a long wall filled with fantastic climbs of all grades.



Photo by Gary W

A few hours later we met the walkers, who had walked over the top to the campsite and back – a good 8 or 9 miles. With the tide starting to make its way back to us, we all returned to exchange the climbing gear and walking boots for wetsuits and body boards. The waves weren't the best they've been, but Ade as always outshone us all and managed to catch a few good waves all the way to shore. A long slog back up the hill took us to the Worm's Head for a well-earned pint with cracking views over Rhossili bay.



Photo by Sara W

Just before we left the pub, we placed quite possibly the largest order local chip shop Chips Ahoy had seen since the club last came here a year ago. Saves cooking for 20! After dinner we passed the evening chatting, sitting around the fire, and playing Absolute Balderdash, a board game that we discovered works much better if everyone involved has a different interpretation of the rules...



Photo by Gary W

Sunday morning started out bright and clear so we took our time to enjoy a leisurely breakfast, some of the group nursing sunburn while the previous day's more sensible members watched on smugly. Talk turned to our plans for the day and a return trip to Rhossili Bay was on the cards, but as the morning went on the dark clouds began to draw in. Before too long it was absolutely pouring down, meaning that all hopes of a second day at the beach were dashed. So we packed everything into our cars, said our goodbyes, and headed home.

As is always the case on a WBMC meet the company was excellent. So much so that there is already talk of booking the bunkhouse for the same time next year! It'll be a significant birthday for Ade's (I won't say how significant) so lots of people will be going – get in touch with Jo Cheung if you'd like to join us. Thanks to everyone who came, see you next time!

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

# Coach Meet – Nantlle Ridge

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July

## Depart

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

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

(Brief toilet stop at Llangollen or Corwen)

## Drop off

A487 (for Nebo) (467508)

Beddgelert (591481)

Nant Gwynant (629508)

## Pick up

Rhyd Ddu (571526)

Beddgelert (591481)

## Required maps

OS. 1:25 000 Outdoor Leisure Map No.17 Snowdonia

OS. 1:50 000 Landranger No.115 (for Nebo drop off)



## Fares

Members £20.00

Guests £22.00

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

To book ring Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

£5.00 pp cancellation charges apply: You must cancel by 7pm on the 8<sup>th</sup> July.

## Suggested routes

### Route 1 (8km – 5 miles)

For a relatively easy walk from the drop off by the club hut; start up the Watkin path opposite. Where this forks right (622520) through the quarry towards Snowdon, stay on the left side of the stream and continue on up to Bwlch Cwm Llan (605522). Cross this col between Snowdon and Yr Aran then keep heading West down into Rhyd Ddu.

### Route 2 (12km – 7.5 miles)

From Beddgelert, follow the path leading SW to Moel Hebog (566470.) Leave the summit along the NW ridge and take in Moel yr Ogof (55479) and Moel Lefn (553485) before descending via Bwlch-y-Ddwy-elor to a track through a forest to Rhhd Ddu.

### Route 3 (13.5km – 8.5 miles)

The feature walk of this meet is a linear traverse of the Nantlle Ridge. From the drop off, walk through Nebo and head for Garnedd Goch (512495.) This is the start of an interesting ridge offering a variety of terrains (quite narrow and impressive in places) leading NE over Craig Cwm Silyn (526503,) Mynydd Taly-mignedd (536514) and ending up on Ygarn (552526.) Descend to Rhyd Ddu.

## August Coach Meet

Next month's coach meet will be to Howgills on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August. More info – pick up times and suggested routes – will be in the next newsletter.