

# West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



July 2017

This month's photo: WBMC & YMC members on the exchange weekend, by Graeme Stanford

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Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August - Berwyns  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September - Braithewaite

Hello readers,

Where has the sun gone?! Hopefully it'll return soon, as we've some great events lined up for the "summer", including the two coach meets to Berwyns and Braithewaite in August and September respectively. There's also a Mountain Skills Weekend from 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September for the low low price of free – but spaces are very limited, so get in touch with Geordie quickly!

Huge thanks as always to this month's contributors: Dave Jones, Graeme Stanford, Liz Perks, Nigel Tarr, Geordie Hind, 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 [newsletter@wbmc.org](mailto:newsletter@wbmc.org) (or through our website if it's an article) before the 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.wbmc.org)

Cotswold Discount Code: AF-WBMC -K3

# 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

Hopefully you will have noticed on the new meet card the return of regular club 'climbing nights'... with the demise of Portway we took a while to find another venue that offers a similar deal. High Sports Kidderminster have come to the rescue and we have a discounted price of £5 on any Monday night for club members. So, as before, if you fancy having a go at indoor climbing, bringing family members or guests along for a go, or just fancy joining us for a chat then the last Monday of every month is now a club night. Although Kidderminster is further out than places like Redpoint (Birmingham) it actually takes less time to get there as you're not battling city traffic... come and join us !!

## 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](mailto:andy.finch1@gmail.com)*

## Books for sale

Title	Author	Cover	Condition	Price
Further Modern Rope Techniques	Nigel Sheppherd	Paperback/Vinyl	Excellent	£3
Treading and Cwm Silyn	Mark Pretty	Hardback	Well Used! (Spine loose)	£3
Llanberis Pass	Paul Williams	Paperback/Vinyl	Excellent	£6
Ogwen and Carneddau	Kwan Arfen Jones	Paperback/Vinyl	Good	£6
Medical Handbook for Walkers & Climbers	Peter Steele	Paperback/Vinyl	Excellent	£3
Scrambles in Snowdonia	Steve Ashton	Paperback/Vinyl	Excellent	£7
Rock Climbing in the Peak District	Paul Nunn	Paperback/Vinyl	V/Good	£4
Peak Climbs Staffordshire Gritstone	Gary Gibson	Hardback	V/Good	£6
Rock Climbing in Snowdonia	Paul Williams	Paperback/Vinyl	Well Used Good	£3
A Manual of Modern Rope Techniques	Nigel Sheppherd	Paperback/Vinyl	Excellent	£3

## 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](mailto: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

15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> 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

22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> September

## Women's Weekend

Book with Vanessa on 07709 514 180



3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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



# Yorkshire and West Bromwich come together in North Wales!

by  
Graeme Stanford



In June, a few of the WBMC hosted a visit, at our hut, from members of the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club. The YMC is a club of similar size to ours and they have a similar history. They formed in 1941 and are still going strong today. Ten of their members arrived for the weekend and they turned out to be a mixture of established experienced as well as new and inexperienced members. The intention for the weekend was for both clubs to reach out to like-minded people and broaden all of our horizons a little. As the group slowly formed, with people arriving at various times during the evening, introductions were made and guided tours of the hut conducted. A couple of drinks were quaffed and much conversation was had before we all retired to bed 'relatively' early.



Day broke with good weather which was a positive start. We all did the usual bizarre dance around the kitchen that somehow results in fifteen individuals getting breakfast, making packed lunches and drinking enough Tea to float the Tirpitz (Yorkshire tea of course... what else?). A plan developed to get catch the Snowdon Sherpa up to Pen y

Pass and, as a group, walk the complete Snowdon Horseshoe route, including Gallt y Wenault, then walking back to the hut via the old copper mines. With that decided a briefing was given on Black Country dialect to ensure that everyone was 'singing from the same hymn sheet'. The next step was to "chalk up and nob off" on the "cockin' route".

I'm not sure what the driver, or indeed the other passengers, thought when he picked us up but perhaps large groups aren't all that unusual. The journey up the valley was broken up by various calls of "that rock looks like an elephant" and "they filmed Carry on up the Khyber over there". We soon arrived at Pen y Pass and joined the weekend throng heading up Pyg track. The weather was still with us and, as you know, the views down the Llanberis pass just get better and better as you ascend. We were soon at the col and turning towards Crib Goch. On the climb, a couple of the YMC chaps decided to go back down to Pyg Track and take that route to the top with a view to re-grouping at the ubiquitous 'café'. The rest of us continued the scramble up towards the ridge. Once on the ridge we naturally split into smaller groups moving at various paces according to experience. For a few it was a first and they got to enjoy it in fairly clear conditions. By the time we were on the col approaching the Garnedd Ugain section of the ridge, however, the weather began to close in a little. Windproofs came out but the smiles were still there. More classic scrambling on to the summit where we discovered we were sharing the mountain with a fell race. We also discovered, by various garbled phone, text and WhatsApp messages, that the other small group had turned back and were descending back to Pen y Pass.



## January &amp; February Coach Meets (continued)

As always, the crowds built as we approached the 'finger stone' at the top of the Pyg track and from there to the top it was horrendous. Hordes of people milling along the path like zombies. It was like being in a Merry Hill shopping centre for the boxing day sales... but with rain... I even saw someone wearing a 6-foot banana outfit!! We didn't hang around at the café as it was a ridiculous melee at the door way. We continued down the South Ridge towards the new start of the Watkin Path. Once there another group split off from the main with Pete Poultney taking a couple of the YMC chaps off down the South Ridge route. The rest of us set off down the Watkin to continue the original route. Once at the col the 'splitting up' theme continued with Jonathan and one other from the YMC opting to carry on back to the hut via the Watkin path. The remaining few headed for Lliwedd.

The weather had improved again as soon as we left Snowdon ridiculously crowded summit. By the time stood on Lliwedd we were enjoying spectacular views again. With the easy part of the route left to do we continued on descending to the mines by a pathless route and then following the old miners track back into the valley. We were all soon back at the hut having had a long but great day. Even the party that turned back had a long day as they ended up walking all the way back to the hut along the valley.

After much juggling of kit we were all showered and sitting in the Saracens Head, in Beddgelert, for dinner. A table for the full group had been booked in advance so it was a genial atmosphere. Good food, a few beers, and a good day to waffle about. What more do you need?

Day 2 dawned with a little drizzle in the air but it was expected to clear. The plan today was for everyone to muck in a do the hut chores. Then we would load up and de-camp to the Ogwen Valley, meeting across the road from the mountain rescue HQ. The intention was to spend a few hours climbing on Little Tryfan.

The rain was still with us as we walked up to the crag but soon blew through. The rock was wet so we set up a top rope on one of the easy routes so the less experienced among us could have a go at climbing. While we were doing that the rock soon dried out and we naturally split up into smaller groups. Ken and Jonathan both soon had the novices placing gear all along the crag before starting to lead people up a few routes. Pete and I carried on up the route we'd had a top rope on then had a crack at another 2-pitch route before joining the rest of the group lower down the crag for more banter and sandwiches.

By early afternoon people were starting to think about the traffic on the way home so we packed up and drifted back to the road. The conversation on the walk out, and the laughter and handshakes, spoke of a really good weekend. I think everyone had a really good weekend and it was great to spend the time with new faces. There was lots of talk like "we must do this again" and "how about making this an annual event?".

Yeah... how about that... why don't we?

A few members of the WBMC are heading for Coniston in July for round 2 when the YMC will host us at their hut. I think it's safe to say in advance that they'll have a good time.





# The Oggie 8 Challenge

5<sup>th</sup> August 2017

by  
Liz Perks



I have learnt many things from this amazing experience, the first being that if someone (Dee) says to you, 'It is the hardest physical challenge I have ever done in my life', believe her!

A few months ago, when the Oggie 8 seemed a distant vision, and after another convivial coach meet, Dee and I decided to do the Oggie 8, despite the above comment. Claire was approached and keenly said yes and then our invaluable asset, in so many ways, Hilary, joined the team.

Regrettably Claire's feet rebelled against the impending challenge prior to the event by developing serious blisters during her dedicated training programme, which sadly prohibited her from taking part.

The night before nerves were high. Both Dee and I had gone through the route, but Hilary sat huddled with Ade Shaw, who had very kindly given up his weekend to support us, finely tooth-combing the map again. She had spent several hours studying the route and recce-ing sections of it such that we would hopefully not be impeded by lengthy stops to navigate. Furthermore, eight sheets, each with a section of the route highlighted, were neatly ordered within her map-case. These proved indispensable and we got very excited each time a page could be turned over en route.

Kit was checked again that evening prior to our half five awakening. Ade accompanied us to the start and had all

our extra kit and food with him. We registered (again) and awaited the shooting of the flare signalling the start with a mixture of excitement and trepidation.

There were to be several memorable quotes during the day. Hilary's question, 'How do you eat an elephant?', with the answer being 'One bite at a time', proved to be a good way to tackle the Oggie 8.

Off we went straight up from Bryn Poeth, not on a defined path, but through heather and bog and at that point (I would add with a dog panting at my heels, which was most off-putting as the dog was clearly fitter than myself) I was thinking: 'I want to give up, this is too hard'. This proved to be a common thought. Before we reached the ridge, we were into clag, but on the ridge the going was easier and we greeted our first marshall with delight, getting our first 'punch' in our route card at Carnedd Llewelyn. Yr Elen, Carnedd Dafydd and Pen yr Ole Wen followed and we encountered some interesting people along the way. Hilary was 100% focussed all the way, whilst Dee and I could not resist an occasional chat (to the point of not noticing that it had hailed). Waterproofs had to be donned for much of this section but spirits were high and I got very excited every time we saw a marshal, regularly asking 'Where is the marshal?', 'How many punches have we got on our card?'



The 07:00 start

## January &amp; February Coach Meets (continued)

The descent down Pen yr Ole Wen slowed us down significantly and we spent a lot of time on our bottoms. We even gave some assistance to someone I knew from home (yes, really!) and a daughter who got separated from her father.

Ogwen Cottage was 2km along the lake, but we checked in at 1.35 pm and Ade was patiently waiting with our fresh kit, 'Johnsons' baby powder for our feet and lots and lots of moral support. Thirty minutes later off we set up Y Garn. This had been purported to be the 'worst part of the day'. However, the scree up to Glyder Fawr tested my tired legs more. At Glyder Fawr, majestic Tryfan was in sight and home seemed not so far away.... Or so we thought.

The marshal at the base of Tryfan gave us good advice as sunset was at 21.04 so we needed to get a move on. Off we went, only to confront a really challenging face of Tryfan, which Hilary advised was worse than the north face. Despite our sheer determination to finish, we all had to agree that with failing light, tired legs and scrambled brains, it would have to be our 'Oggie seven and a bit'. Saddened but realistic, we returned to the marshal, who will remain one of our heroes of the day. He had in vain tried to call us back, but now gave us the choice. We asked him to show us the start point and then somehow all got our enthusiasm and determination back and went for it. Reaching the two marshals at the summit is as clear as a bell in my mind. Sy and Tim from mountain rescue were amazing. They were so pleased for us, despite the fact that they had been there all day, and escorted us down to the mountain rescue base, mostly in the dark.

On arrival, at 10.35 pm (fifteen hours and 35 minutes from when we set off) they dropped behind, so we could go through the finish and the reception and cheers we got from the Ogwen valley rescue team and a couple of teams who had waited for us was unbelievable. Ade was waiting too and he was definitely a sight for sore eyes and sore legs. Pizza and hot mugs of tea have never tasted so good. The marshals along the way all hugged us and the marshal at the base of Tryfan said he had seen the grit and determination in our eyes to continue, despite the late hour and our levels of fatigue. Andy Harbach the Chairman, then gave the speeches and we were awarded the annual Oggie 8 'Spirit of the Event' award for the team who had shown the most team spirit, a positive attitude and a cheerful demeanour throughout the event. This acknowledgement, together with Melanie from mountain rescue saying that we started as 'West Bromwich Mountaineering Club' and became 'Our Girls' was extremely emotional. We were the only all-female team and, of the 15 teams/56 starting participants, 12 people dropped out. We were also each given a beautiful framed Snowdonia mountain photograph and a copy of their book 'Risking Life and Limb'.

It was an amazing challenge and our gratitude goes to all the dedicated people in the mountain rescue team, who supported us along the way, and who, as we all know, do invaluable voluntary work, Ade Shaw for his kindness and selflessness, Andy Brown for his encouragement and praise back at the hut and everyone in the WBMC who gave us support.

My own personal thanks go to the two wonderful ladies I had the privilege of sharing this experience with. Without them, I would not be sitting here, typing this, whilst proudly looking at my Oggie 8 Challenge certificate.



P.S.: If you would like to donate to the work of Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue CIO visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/team/WBMCGirls> or send a cheque to OVMRO, Bryn Poeth, Betws-y-Coed LL24 0EU.

The 22:35 finish



# 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, 19<sup>th</sup> March to 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 2018, which means driving up on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and driving back on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 18.

I can be contacted either on my mobile 07846 281878 or e-mail [grim830@virginmedia.com](mailto: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



# Coach Meet – Berwyns

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017

## Depart

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

07:20 – Service Road Junc2 M54

## Drop off

Llangynog (054261)

Milltir Gerrig (019301)

## Pick up

Llangynog (054261)

## Required maps

OS 1:50,000 Landranger Map 125 Bala and Lake Vernwy

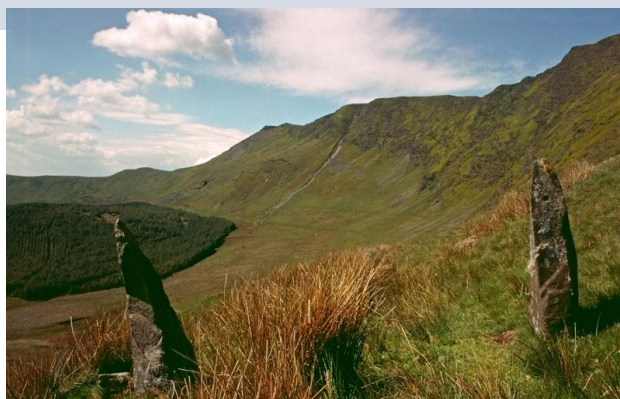


Photo from megalithic.co.uk

## Fares

Members £20.00

Guests £22.00

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

To book ring Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

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 (~6 miles)

Alight Milltir Gerrig (029301) and ascend Moel Sych (066328) and then return to coach as per Route 2.

### Route 2 (~11 miles)

Start Llangynog (054261). Walk W along the road to a quarry. Turn right (North) at 048258. Make your way up on to Y Gribin Walk NW over Pen Cerrig. Carry on N to Milltir Cerrig (019301). Turn E towards Moel Sych (066318). From Moel Sych drop down SE towards Llyn Lluncaws. Follow the path S and take a look at the highest waterfall in Wales, Pistyll Rhaedr (075295). Continue SW back towards Llangynog and the coach.

Cadair Berwyn and Cadair Bronwen can be bagged by this route – this will add another 5 miles.

The area around Llangynog also offers good scope for lower level walks exploring the local valleys – take your pick.

# Coach Meet – Braithwaite

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2017

## Depart

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

07:20 – Penkrigde

(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