

West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



July 2018

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Member details form
*Please fill this in if you haven't yet given
consent for us to keep your details on record*

Hello readers,

As we're still on a winning streak with the weather, why not join us this Thursday (5th July) for our evening meet around the Compton canal and old railway?

Huge thanks as always to this month's contributors: Dave Jones, Glen Mountford, Graeme Stanford, Carol Atkins, Iris Cooksey, Claire Hammonds, John Edwards, Nigel Tarr, and Ken Priest.

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.

If you've never written an article before, why not give it a go? Also, remember you can submit photos to our website via the members area – email me if you don't have an account!

Cheers,
Joe

The WBMC meeting place

Cricketers Arms
43 Trinity Way,
West Bromwich,
B70 6EA

Join us every Thursday
night from 9pm 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

Cotswold Discount Code: AF-WBMC -K3

Noticeboard

GDPR

Final reminder that following new regulations, the club requires your consent to hold personal data – *if you haven't already provided consent, please fill in and return the attached form at the end of the newsletter.* This is also a good opportunity to provide us with updated address and contact information.

New Hut Fees

From the 1st June 2018 club hut fees will be increased, this has been agreed by the committee, the club has not reviewed hut prices since 2002 and going forward these will be reviewed on a regular basis based on the financial outgoings.

The new price structure will be **Members £6.00** per night, **guests £10.00** per night, **ages 5 -17 £4.00** per night and **under 5s free.**

Anyone staying at the hut from 1st June 2018 - these new prices will apply. These costs are still respectively low based on the cost that other mountaineering clubs charge for their members to use huts.

Anglesey cycling trip

I am thinking of cycling around Anglesey for a few days in the summer, if anyone is interested. Nothing crazy! No date fixed as this can be arranged to suit. Email me on ca_atkins@hotmail.co.uk, if anyone is interested. Carol

Breast Cancer Moonwalk

The wild women of West Bromwich raised £1159 for the breast cancer moonwalk and would like to thank all those who donated. Claire Hammonds.

Climbing nights with the club

Do you hear all the banter about climbing and wonder what the fuss is all about? Do you see people at climbing walls and think you might like a go but don't know where to start?

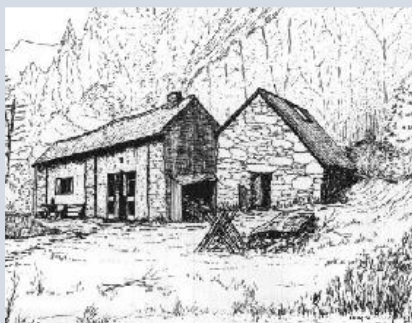
This is a mountaineering club so it stands to reason there are climbers in the club. If truth be told there are not enough climbers in the club. I don't mean that from an elitist point of view. What I mean is that we would welcome other people coming and having a go. That leads to people taking it up and progressing on to traditional climbing (i.e. not climbing indoors but getting out on real rock and being responsible for placing your own protection.) As people progress they become possible climbing partners or leaders and that is the crux. Those that climb are always short of climbing partners and, as a club; we are very short of 'lead climbers'.

I'm in the early stages of this process and still a novice and, apart from a few 'have a go' sessions as a young man, everything I've learnt I've learnt through the club. More experienced club members sharing their time, advice and skills with me has seen me through to the first tentative steps of 'leading' and I've enjoyed (almost) every minute.

So if you read the above and would like to find out what it's all about... come along to the climbing wall at the Wyre Forest Leisure Centre in Kidderminster on the last Tuesday of every month. The club has a discount deal with 'High Sports' so club members get in for £5. All gear is available so you don't need to spend a fortune on gear before you even find out if it's for you or not. Club members who already climb will be there and only too happy to 'show you the ropes', as it were.

The climbing wall's website is here and the address and postcode can be found on the link: <http://www.high-sports.co.uk/climbing-walls/kidderminster.html>

Hut donations



Note the new prices:

Members - £6.00
 Guests - £10.00
 5-17 - £4.00
 Under 5s - Free

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

Thursday 5th July Outdoor Evening Meet



Join us for July's evening walk along the Compton canal and old railway. Meet at 18:30 at the dog-friendly pub, with food and real ale available:

The Swan
Bridgnorth Road
Compton
WV6 8AE

For more details contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

12th – 15th July Gower Weekend



WBMC has a history of visiting the Gower since 1983 from my recollection and it's no wonder why when you see some of the stunning scenery and idyllic beaches. In fact, Rhossili is continually on the list of Britain's best beaches and is seen regularly on both calendar and tourist websites.

We now use an education centre with dormitory accommodation for up to 24 people and there is some camping space for smaller tents, then we will share the cost of the rental amongst the members. The more members we get there the cheaper it will work out.

It gives us easy access to both beach and climbs where club members can join in an array of activities such as rock climbing both trad and bolts; swimming, body boarding, rounders/cricket, coastal path walks and jogging. (Wetsuits that appear to have shrunk since last year are on view unfortunately) What's not to like?

It's a great social weekend with a pub at Worms head within walking distance and a communal fish and chip supper al fresco back at the centre with a chimenea blazing away (there's usually some beer and wine as well) on the Saturday night

For further details email: ken.priest@live.co.uk

21st – 23rd September Lakes Bunkhouse Weekend



Bunkhouse weekend in the lakes at Chapel Stile

£30.00 per person bed and board

Contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729

Isle of Man

May 2018

By Iris Cooksey

This was a first time visit and "Oh" what a pleasant surprise. The island is truly beautiful - wooded glens, castles, many mountains to climb and, of course, moorland roads to drive along and the famous TT race course. Yes, we were extremely impressed.

During our week stay we visited Anne Tandy, widow of late Club Chairman Nev. As you see from the photograph she is looking very well, has a lovely home and escorted us on a scenic drive in the hills and took us on a woodland walk adjacent to her home.



"Snaefell", the highest mountain, can be ascended by tram and the summit is adorned with an excellent cafe/bar where it is possible to book an evening meal. The many mountains in the island are all under 3000ft and not rocky, so, as far as we could tell, do not offer climbing or scrambling, but wonderful opportunities for hill walking. Our O.S. map did not show many tracks to summits, but Ann assured us that most summits are accessible but sometimes one has to ask a land owner for permission to cross their land. There are long distance trails which wend their way through the mountainous terrain and a coastal path circling the entire island.

If you are a railway enthusiast this is a good place to visit with trams (some horse drawn), steam and electric railways. The largest water wheel in the world is here - the Laxey Wheel - quite a spectacle

Our visit preceded the TT Practice Week; it was a joy to drive along the famous route. We were accommodated in a small apartment; part of a barn conversion on a farm camp site. The owners were expecting 250 visitors over the two-week TT period, including 50 from The Netherlands. While we were there two motor cyclists arrived from the Pyrenees in Southern France - an annual trip for them.

Well, Ray and I can certainly recommend a visit to this beautiful island with its varied attractions.

Iris Cooksey

Long meets can be hard!

Coniston Long Coach Meet – 9th June 2018

By John Edwards



The Coniston Long Meet on the second Saturday in June was well attended and very enjoyable but as I climbed into bed at 2:30am on the Sunday morning I reflected on how tough such a long day can be! For me it started 21 hours earlier when I got up in time to snatch a bite to eat & drink before driving to West Brom in time to catch the 7am departing coach. We had an early coffee/toilet stop at Keele, where the new driver took over, and made good time until we hit the narrow roads of the South Lakes. The tops of the Coniston Fells were wreathed in a grey heat-induced haze and it wasn't long until around 11am around half the coach alighted at Torver, most to do the Paul Brindley-led Walk to Brown Pike via the Walna Scar Road, then on to Dow Crag and Coniston Old Man. However, there were a variety of other activities undertaken besides walking: Ian Merther, Laura Caley & Andy Baker went climbing on Dow Crag - much less chance of being caught struggling half way up a route if the coach isn't leaving until 9pm! Tony Emms went scrambling on The Bell near Low Water while Nick & Dominic Piotrowski mountain biked in the Grisedale Forest. Jonathan & Daniel Howells were tempted to do a spot of geocaching by the knowledge that there was a container hidden on a rock in Levers Water that was likely to need a swim or wade to reach, while 5 dog-walker friendly caches on the Boo Tarn path up the Old Man resulted in me taking a route I'd not tried before. In the event it was possible to walk out to the rock pinnacle in Levers Water as the water level was low and the box that was supposed to be hidden there was nowhere to be seen, possibly blown away or "muggled"!

Around a quarter of an hour after leaving Coniston I think we were all caught in a shower of rain heavy enough to make us pull on cagoules, but it stopped after 5 or 10 minutes and from then on it was a fine, pleasant day with good views. Apart from another short, sharp, cag-requiring shower just after 4pm when I was en route from Black Sale to Wetherlam that is. On the way back to Swirl Hause I met the "hardy remnants" of the led walk group who had done the longest route of the day and we all arrived back in Coniston around 7pm in time for a couple of pints at The Sun or Yewdale Hotels, although my favourite is The Black Bull Inn with its great range of Coniston Brewery Ales (Ian M & I both bought some of the 'rarer bottles' to take home. The coach did leave at 9pm as stated in the programme but, alas, the M6 was closed for quite long sections due to overnight roadworks so our driver had to take a longer, slower route in places along 'A' roads. This necessitated another 15 min rest/tachograph stop at Keele Services just after midnight, so it wasn't until 1:40am that we pulled up back at Edward St car park, a tired but happy band of 46.

Postscript: At the half way stage of the coach 'season' it's all to play in the Coach King & Queen stakes with Tony Emms and Mike & Emily Smith being the only members with 100% attendance on all 7 meets to date.

Below: yours truly on the summit of Old Man surrounded by the hoards who were doing charity climbs that day



YMC & WBMC meet once more

YMC Exchange at our club hut, June 2018

By Graeme Stanford



For the second year we're running a pair of 'exchange' visits with the YMC (Yorkshire Mountaineering Club). Last year was a great success, filling both our huts and making new friends, not to mention cementing bonds between two like-minded clubs. Unfortunately, due to a series of small errors (the usual admin vortex) the timings were off this year and we got the dates mixed up. The date we had on our calendar clashed with a YMC Skye expedition and the date they had on their calendar clashed with our coach trip to Coniston. The end result was that only three of our club and three of theirs arrived at our hut on June 8th.



Not to be put off enjoying ourselves we all made our introductions and settled down to an evening of banter and discussing the options for the coming weekend. We soon settled on a format of a mountain day, with ubiquitous scramble, on Saturday and some climbing on Sunday. Phil had brought his lads so decided to play safe and head for Moel Siabod (Daer dhu ridge) on Saturday so as not to 'stretch' the youngsters too much. The rest of us were up bright and early and, after the usual breakfast dance in the kitchen, headed for the Ogwen Valley. We parked in one of the free car parks on the A5 and were quickly gaining height towards Cwm Blochwyd. As we climbed into the Cwm our first objective, Bristly Ridge, came into view. We stopped for a drink and snack and to allow the visitors time to get the "ooh's and aah's" out of their system.



We took the classic Sinister Gully approach to the ridge and discovered just how time and footfall have changed it since my last visit. Easy scrambling low down but the gully exit is very badly eroded now. Best avoided to the left. Once on the ridge proper everything was as solid as I remember. We took our time enjoying scrambling up and down the obstacles and exploring all the route choices. It's a classic ridge and thoroughly recommended. All too soon though we were at the top and heading across the boulder field for the obligatory photo on The Cantilever.



Photo opportunity out of the way, we sat and had a sandwich and re-applied sun cream. It was a beautiful day but very hot. We then headed from Glyder Fach towards Glyder Fawr taking the time to scramble directly over Castell Y Gwynt. On the other side we met Sam Grosvenor and his Dad Andy (and Silo the Jack Russel) half way through their Welsh 3000 day. Hello and goodbye out of the way we headed to the highest point of the day then dropped down to Lyn y Cwn before the long climb up onto Y Garn. We had intended to sit in the sun here and finish our food but the midges had other ideas, so we headed down the ridge an wound our way back to Ogwen cottage for ice cream. Dave Jones and his partner joined us for dinner in the Saracens head in the evening and came back to the hut for the full 'midge experience' before heading off to their digs at the Ogwen Valley Mountain Rescue HQ.

We had a slow start Sunday morning but still managed to find parking on the A5 near Tryfan. We took the easy option and headed up to Little Tryfan to do some climbing. Lawrence, from YMC, headed home early so that left the four of us to pair up. We all tackled a couple of climbs each before finally saying our goodbyes and making our way home.

As before it was a great weekend. Thanks to Phil Mathews and Pete Poultney for helping host the weekend and thanks to Lawrence, Leah and Lee for being such good guests. The reciprocal visit is on the weekend of 20th to 22nd July at the YMC's hut in Coniston. Please, if you can spare the time, go along and support it. I know the YMC will make you welcome and, if last year is anything to go by, you'll have a great weekend.

July Coach Meet – Howgills

Sunday 8th July 2018

Depart

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

07:20 – Penkridge

(Short stop at Charnock Richard Services)

Drop off

Wath (684051)

Sedberg (657922)

Pick up

Sedberg (657922)

Required maps

Outdoor Leisure 19 Howgill Fells and Upper Eden Valley

Suggested routes

FROM WATH

Route 1 (17 km / 10.6 miles)

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) then at (658937) follow path to Sedberg.

Route 1 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) then continue as Route 1.



Photo from visitcumbria.org

Fares

Members £20.00

Guests £22.00

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

To book contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729.

Should you need to cancel do so no later than the Wednesday prior to the coach date or a £5.00 fee will be charged. Fail to turn up and the full coach fare will be expected.

FROM SEDBERG

Route 2 (17 km / 10.6 miles)

Leave Lockbank Farm (651924) up Settle Beck Gill (659928) across the S/E flank of Arant Haw (662946). Continue to Calders (672961), turn N/W to Bram Rigg Top (668964), continue to The Calf (667970). Descend N/E to small tarn turn E via Bowderdale Head and track E of Cautley Spout and onto the foot bridge (693968), going S to Beck Side (690955), Fawcett Bank (684939), Under Bank (668925), and onto Sedberg.

FROM CROSSKEYS

Route 3 (7km / 4 miles)

Leave road at Footbridge (698969) and turn left on A Pennine Journey to footbridge (693967). Head N/W along path to Cautley Spout (681976). From here head to Dales High Way (671975) then go S to The Calf (667970), going S over Bram Rigg Top (668964) and continue on to Calders (672961), following Dales High Way back to Sedberg

August Coach Meet – Moelwyns

AUGUST 2018

Depart

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

07:20 – Service Road Junc 2 M54

(Short stop at Corwen)

Drop off

Tanygrisiau (685448)

Maentwrog (660410)

Pick up

Tanygrisiau (685448)

Required maps

OS 1: 25 Outdoor Leisure

No 17 Snowdon & Conway Valley Area

No 18 Harlech & Bala Area

Suggested routes

FROM MAENTWROG

Route 1 (~7 km / 4.5 miles)

If you're not feeling that energetic a pleasant path leads from Llyn Mair (655413) eastwards through woods and past waterfalls to Dduallt station (679421). It then heads N over the fells alongside the Ffestiniog railway before this disappears underground. Take your pick of the paths past Tanygrisiau Reservoir to the village and the coach the one opposite the west side will enable you to have a look at the hydro-electric power station (679445).

FROM TANYGRISIAU

Route 2 (~12 km / 7.5 miles)

Follow the track to the head of Lyn Cwmorthin (678460) cross a slate bridge and climb to the disused quarry (665462). Head S past the disused Rhosydd quarry and up the North ridge of Moelwyn Mawr (Big White Bare Hill). Its north top has some fine rock teeth (661453) and another 400 ft takes you to the true summit (858448). Descend the south ridge to the minor top of Cragysgafn (658449) from where some easy scrambling leads to Bwlch Stwlan (661441). Traverse the face of Moelwyn Bach and then turn west to its summit (660437). Descend via Carreg Blaen-Llyn to the foot of the reservoir (666441) from where a good path leads back to Tanygrisiau.



Photo from wikipedia.org

Fares

Members £20.00

Guests £22.00

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

To book contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729.

Should you need to cancel do so no later than the Wednesday prior to the coach date or a £5.00 fee will be charged. Fail to turn up and the full coach fare will be expected.

Route 3 (~16 km / 10 miles)

Why not head SW to the Stwlan Dam and then S over Carreg Blaen-Llyn to climb Moelwyn Bach from the south? Then down to Bwlch Stwlan, up over Craigysgafyn and onto Moelwyn Mawr. Descend NE and climb Moel-yr-hydd (672454), then Foel Ddu to the north before dropping down to the ruined Barracks in Rhosydd quarry (665462). Take the path north to Llyn Yr Adar (657477) and then turn east to the main summit of Ysgafell Wan (667481). Drop SE to a col and a line of old fence posts leads past Llyn Terfyn and Llyn Coch, then the ridge ahead swings leftish to the (cainless?) top of Moel Druman (672476). Head east from the summit, taking the path to the left of the little lake to the north of Llyn Congiog (675477) and then veer off right up to the 8th and final top, Allt-Fawr (682475). A broad ridge leads S to the Cwmorthin Quarry with its tips and disused inclines. Pick the right one and you will soon be back at Tanygrisiau.

For the climbers there are many routes on the crags to the W and N of Tanygrisiau

Member Details Form

The West Bromwich Mountaineering Club is committed to safeguarding the personal details of its members. We will store these details securely and will not pass them onto third parties.

By signing this form you provide your consent for West Bromwich Mountaineering Club and the members of its committee to store your details for the purpose of communication. You can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting our Membership Secretary: membership-secretary@wbmc.org.

The BMC recognises that climbing, hill walking 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.

Your Details

Last Name	<input type="text"/>
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Membership no.	<input type="text"/>
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First Name(s)	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>

Address	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>

Date of birth	<input type="text"/>
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Contact Information

Email Address	<input type="text"/>
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Mobile No.	<input type="text"/>
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Landline No.	<input type="text"/>
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Newsletter preference	<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Post
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Emergency Contact

Name	<input type="text"/>
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Relationship to you	<input type="text"/>
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Contact No.	<input type="text"/>
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Address	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/>

Signature & Date

Signature	<input type="text"/>
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Date	<input type="text"/>
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I want to Gift Aid any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to West Bromwich Mountaineering Club. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.