

West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



March 2019

This month's photo: WBMC members in Fort William, by Fred Hammonds

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Hello readers,

Welcome from the new committee! Here's to a great year of mountaineering.

Huge thanks as always to this month's contributors: Fred Hammonds, Nigel Tarr, John Edwards, Dave Jones, Ken Priest, Mike Smith, and of course the attendees from the Fort William weekend for their contributions to the article on page 4.

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 6th of the month.

If you've never written an article before, why not give it a go?

Cheers,
Joe

The WBMC meeting place



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

Join us every Thursday night from 9pm for a chat and a drink.

Note that indoor meets are still at The Cricketer's Arms



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

Welcome new member!

A warm welcome to our newest member, Aly Hulme! Members, please do your best to make them feel welcome.

BMC subs rise

At the BMC meeting, 71% of votes (including proxy votes) were for the BMC to increase its subscription to £6 for individual members and £12 for family membership. These increases will be effective from 1st May 2019 for individuals 1st January 2020 for all other clubs.

More space for upcoming meets

A suggestion was made at the AGM that more space in the newsletter should be dedicated to upcoming events. As newsletter editor, I couldn't agree more! Event organisers, please send me as much detail as you can about your upcoming events. If you have any photos (e.g. from previous trips) then please send these in too. If I'm not sent any photos I try to find freely available pictures on the internet, but these aren't as good as photos with our own members in them!

BMC Hills to Oceans Campaign

The BMC have launched a public campaign called *Hills to Oceans (H2O)* which is designed to encourage groups of climbers and walkers to remove as much litter and plastic from our hills and crags as possible so that it doesn't end up in our oceans. We will also be encouraging those that do a litter pick to recycle as much as possible (including any old metal objects as we can turn these into climbing awards).

As well as putting together a list of all of the litter picks that are already arranged across the country (for example the Real3Peaks), the BMC will be providing a resource pack, litter pickers, t-shirts and compostable bin bags to any group interested in organising their own litter pick.

Can anyone from WBMC help? Please contact cath@thebmc.co.uk for more information or to register your interest.

What a difference a year makes!

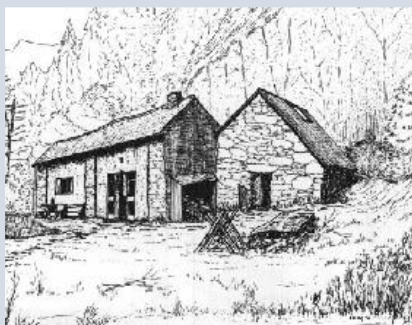
At the 2018 AGM there were no nominations for the Malcolm Collins Award based on activities the previous year, but on March 21st 2019 there were three. After Chris Dean said he didn't feel he had done enough to warrant getting the award again, the members in attendance had to decide whether the rose bowl should be awarded to Richard Cooksey or Pete Poultney and the latter came out narrowly ahead when the voting papers were counted. The nominations for him summarised his achievements in the mountains and work for the club hut.

I have now brought the club's Wikipedia entry up-to-date with respect to this award. Newer members might not realise that WBMC are one of the few mountaineering clubs in the UK to have an entry in Wikipedia and, if they haven't already seen it, they should perhaps visit wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bromwich_Mountaineering_Club (or put WBMC into the search box and follow the instructions.)

If anyone knows of some historical facts that they think should be included please get in touch, preferably with a corroborating reference to a newspaper, book or internet site.



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

Email our new Hut Secretary Pete Poultney:

hut-secretary@wbmc.org

Please contact Pete *before* going to the hut.

WBMC members can purchase a hut key from Pete at a donation of £4

Coming up

Thursday 11th April 2019

Indoor Evening Meet

Come to the Cricketer's Arms (43 Trinity Way, West Bromwich B70 6EA) for a talk by John Edwards entitled *"A mystery night: Looking back on some WBMC trips of the 21st Century"*.



Thursday 9th May 2019

Outdoor Evening Meet

Ken Priest and Mike Smith will be leading a walk over Clent. Meet at 18:30 ready for an 18:45 start:

The Hill Tavern, Adam's Hill, Clent, Stourbridge DY9 9PS

The pub is staying open especially for us, and preparing some cobs, but they need to know numbers in advance.

Please text Ken Priest on 07779 908 708 to let him know how many are coming and how many cobs you would like.

Thursday 14th – 16th June 2019

Note the date is different to the meet card

Gower Weekend

Come along to the annual WBMC trip to the Gower Peninsula for a weekend of climbing, walking, bodyboarding and more. A group of around 25 members will be staying at the Rhossili bunkhouse, with a few camping in the attached garden.

There are only a few places left for this year, and as we can't accommodate that many people, please book now to avoid disappointment!

£15 per person per night (£5 for children and students).

Contact Ken Priest (ken.priest@live.co.uk) to find out more and to book your place.



Highlights of the Scottish Week in Fort William

By the attendees (compiled by John Edwards)
With photos by Fred Hammonds



Around the dinner tables on the final night folk were asked to select the "Best, or Worst, Thing" about their Scottish Week. Here are some of the things they wrote - unexpurgated! - plus some photos courtesy of Fred Hammonds

Rob Cox: An excellent week at Fort William. Although the weather was not ideal, we were out in the mountains every day, testing the waterproofs (they worked admirably!)

Sue Goddard: Excellent breakfasts set you up for a good mountain day, with good company available to join you. Great to catch up with friends in the bar each evening to discuss the day. The value this hotel provides is exceptional with a three-course meal, with three choices for each course. The weather wasn't all it might have been BUT still managed to get out walking every day. A good mountain week which I'll remember especially as I did the Ben for the first time.



Ian Merther: Made the most of the bad weather and got a gully on the Ben, plus did Ben Tee and some lower level walks. Could get used to finishing mountain days with a swim, sauna & steam room ☺ and I made a new friend!!

Hilary Jones: Everything!

Fred Hammonds: Only a short 4-day trip to Fort William this time but managed to fit a couple of Munro's and a Loch walk. Despite the weather not wanting to play, we still did. The best thing was a good old WBMC style summit of Meall na Teanga for Oliver's birthday and, at the age of 50, he was the youngest by far ☺

Mike Edwards: Best thing for me was the good company and photographing the wildlife at Boat of Garten.

John Edwards: Best things: Managing to get 5 new Munros in after a couple of years devoid of any Scottish tops. This despite being very unfit and officially in the 'old mountaineer' bracket! Also accompanying that poseur Ginny on her 1st Munro: "The Hill of the Tongue" - shame the weather wasn't better for photos of Oliver's 50th

Birthday Party on the summit, toasted with tots of Remy Martin cognac. However, there are lots of shots on Facebook of Ginny surveying her pack from the top of various boulders and, in spite the rain, it was a good day with 11/12 humans also bagging a Munro that was new to them, then on the descent enjoying some accidental tomfoolery on a patch of snow below the summit.

Worst things: Not seeing the sun once all week! It was gloriously warm and sunny where my wife was in Exmouth!! Failing to successfully negotiate a crossing of the River Nevis coming back from Binnean Beag and my phone not speaking to me for 4 days after. And the unwarranted 'ribbing' I got for wearing a skeletal T shirt on the last night.

Hardest thing: The ascent of Gulvain, with its long walk long in and out. At least it was a dry day but still no views from the summit.

Weirdest thing: The heat, including Scotland's record February high of +18.3°C (at Aberdeen) on Thursday 21st.



Rob Thomas: Good week. The food was good as usual, but the weather was unseasonably mild i.e. no snow! However, made the most of it with some good walks and 1 3/4 Munros.

Heather Tufts: Another great week with WMBC!! Thank you very much for letting me come again - really appreciate your friendliness and positive, cheerful faces. Mine was a week full of variety - 6 Munros, including the Ledge Route on the Ben, plus lots of good runs and swims...!!! The Scottish Highlands are always beautiful whatever the weather!! This week was supposed to be preparation for my Winter Mountain Leadership assessment, but winter has vanished. Still a great week though and I've been inspired to pursue my ambition to visit St Kilda after seeing Ian's beautiful photos!!

Mike Smith: 3 Munros, even with Ginny the dog. Great hotel, great food, good company!

Emily Smith: We still got out on the hills everyday despite the weather this year!

Highlights of the Scottish Week in Fort William (continued)

Aly Hulme: A fantastic opportunity to explore West Scotland. The WBMC and the organiser - Jonathan - excelled themselves. A great advert for up-and-coming members: keep up the good work!

Nick Piotrowski: As always, a great venue for the price and despite the poor weather. Highlight was Killmartin Stone Circles & the Atlantic Coast and 'Gully4' on the Ben with Ian Merther.

Nigel Tarr: Hotel good as usual. Good crowd but shame about the weather. Wish I could do more.

Oliver Stephenson: Another great week, not improved or spoilt by the weather. Another perfect birthday with mountains, friends and beer!



Bill Douglas: Highlight was my 2nd ascent of Streap, this time from the north. This is an amazing Corbett: great value for money - interesting; steep; remote (-ish) & surrounded by wildlife; the descent down through the mist, down some wet snow runnels, through an interesting mix of little crags & chossy gullies. All great. The hotel is lovely with great food and a sauna.....!!

Geordie Hind (+ 5 other Geordies): Can highly recommend the Stob Coire a Chearcaill circuit - excellent weather, although windy and great views of Ben Nevis. By the way it's on the other side of Loch Linnhe!

Jim Tansey: Adrian's snoring all night. Aha!!!

David Hellyar: Bagging one more Munro

Tony Emms: Climbing Meall na Teanga

Jan Cox: I thought of that first!! And climbing Gulvain was good too.

Archie Wollaston: Best thing: Walk along Loch Ossian from Corrour and getting some sunshine at last. Remember - every day is a good day - it's just that some are 'goodera' than others! Worst thing: John Edwards' Tee shirt on Friday evening!

Vanessa & the kids: Vanessa and Daniel doing the Pap of Glencoe with Nick & Aly. Plus swimming every day! Also

cycling Cow Hill and the Witches Trails in the Nevis Range. And the food, especially the all-you-can-eat breakfasts.



Ken & Bex Scott-Clegg: First time with the club. Made very welcome by everyone. Incredibly good value. Look forward to joining the club on a few trips and stretching ourselves a bit. Thanks

Tristan Coleman: My highlight of the week has to be topping out on Ben Nevis after an ascent of Gardyloo Gully in lean conditions, including a very sketchy ice pitch. I really appreciated how welcoming everyone on the meet was and I enjoyed catching up with known faces and meeting some new ones. Thank you to everyone, and especially Jonathan for doing a fantastic job in organising a great event. Cheers!

Dee Sehdeva: Had a brilliant 4 days in Scotland and managed 4 Munros and a Munro top. Lots of fun and great company - just don't mention water crossings!

(Mike Nicholls, Adrian Bates & Ian Blanch were also at the hotel but left no comments). Anybody else sorry I missed you out!



Cogne Trip Report

Italy ice climbing trip

By Ken Priest



Another successful trip took place in February by West Bromwich members along with Bromsgrove, Worcester and the Vagabond club from Liverpool.

This annual event started 7 years ago when three friends Dave Holland (Bromsgrove), Steve Boote (Vags) and Vic Belshaw started this pilgrimage.

I started going three years ago when Dave asked, so, having visited Rjukan, Norway with Chris Dean three times, thought it was worth trying a different venue.



It has evolved into a multi club event where we all do our own thing and getting together on the evening. It seems many clubs are wanting to join up with events that need larger numbers and this maybe the future for some of our events too.

Cogne is an ideal base for ice climbing with all the waterfalls frozen from December through till March. It is situated in the Aosta valley under the shadow of Gran Paradiso which many of our members ascended some years ago.



The valley is beautiful and is a base for skiing and predominantly cross- country skiing, when at weekends it is crowded with families and athletes donning the lycra and making their way at different speeds across the well-groomed tracks.

Ice climbing has evolved into a discipline of its own with specialist axes and super- efficient ice screws that can be placed into the ice in a matter of seconds. Most of the routes have bolted chains at each stance at approximately 55m intervals, so that double 60m ropes are needed for the climbing but necessary for the abseils, as many of the routes can be descended in this manner, allowing a quicker approach to the pub! Ice screws are best placed as often as needed being mindful of how many you can carry and ensuring you don't run out.



Last year I got Pete, Mel and Graeme to come and have a go at Alpine frozen waterfall climbing for the first time and they caught the bug immediately.

This year, Pete Poultney, Graeme Stanford, newly retired Gary Wilton, Tracy and Guy and I booked our place and flew to Turin.

The routes are well sign posted and map and compass can be left behind, most being accessible with a short walk. None of the routes are for beginners and must be taken seriously.

Again, we were lucky with the weather and managed several routes; some being made into shorter days by abseiling before completing all the pitches as long as you take care to avoid any new parties ascending. I think we all improved our climbing and gained confidence with each route. We all had a great time in Cogne, and Tracy is asking about next year already.

Surprisingly, Pete took one or two photos of this trip!

Anyuk & Ayli Goo Climin

By John Edwards



A photocopied poem John Edwards discovered recently recalls a language no often heard on the coach in these 21st century days. It tells of how 2 Black Country heroes went to the hills with West Brom MC for the first (& last?) time. Can you guess who wrote it? They're still a club member and an 'Old Timers' regular who's very good with wood. Now that's gone an' given the game away!

Ask Nigel if you still ain't got it or go and speak to Malcolm Vaughan.

AYNUK & AYLI GOO CLIMINandSome AYNUK & AYLI JOKES (not by Mal)

Aynuk an Ayli wuz guin on a trip.
Wuz it guin to tha sayside
Ta wulk along that prom?
Nah it wuz tew tha mountins
We a club naermd Wes Brom.

At the Place Stershun
Thay burded that Bus,
Rucsacs an odealls an anbags
All loded on weart eny fus.

"Ay enybody not cum?"

Bus Sec Nige sha'ted aart.

"Nah, we'm allea", which wuz troo

Tew that driva, "Rite away we goo".

Thay wuz gooin to Ogwin
Weart eny stop;
Well a stop at Langolin foar a minit or too,
So az all cud goo to tha loo.

Arivin thear wat a butiful day,
Werter all shinin, the bonks grean an grey.

Thay stud gawpin wi awe –

Hey! an thay day evin av ta pay.

To that top ov Trifun
Wee a grone an a grunt
Aynuk givin Ayli a boot up that rump,
Ta say Adum a Haave,
An thay cudner do that jump.

Back on tha bus

Afta a smashin day

Faet thay wuz akin

An that Bus Sec cum rand

Wha! Afta arl thay did afta pay.

Naw thay pult up at a booza –
This rallyd tha pare,
Til, tha Bus Sec Nige sez "Alf a hour",
Weart turnin an hare.
Aynuk an Ayli sez, "Tha ay fare!"

Thay gorr um ta Wes Brom,

It war all that lairt

An thay fansid a curry

On a Stafudsheer plairt.

Or into a booza
Fowa a few pints or too
But thay wen straert um
Cuz thay fansid sum stu.

Thay thort yo'm a jovial crew,
An ope yo tachas con rade
Propa English, an thay cor wait
Ta see that 'ut.

Aynuk and Ayli are standing in Aynuk's back garden, Aynuk's next door neighbour is running up and down his back garden pretending he's riding a motorbike. Ayli says, "Whats up wi im?" Aynuk says, "Tek no notice he's saft in the yed he thinks he's in the Isle o mon in the TT rerces." Ayli says, "But he ay got a bike; yo orter tell him." "Bugger off!" says Aynuk, "he pays me a fiver a wik to clean it."

Ayli sees Aynuk in a railway cutting sprinting along in front of a train. Ayli sez "Hey Aynuk, why don't yer run up the bonk?" Aynuk replies "If I cor bayt it on the straight, I cor bayt it up the bonk yer eedyet".



Aynuk always thought Ayli was in need of a little ferther education so decided he would tek im to the big city, Bermingham. He took him round the city explainin' what building was what, an the local history attached to them. Eventually they arrived at Victoria Square and by this time Ayli's brain wus in a right spin. Suddenly Ayli turns an sees the large building behind him and sez to Aynuk "Is thet a palace our kid?" "Naa," sez Aynuk, "tha's the Council House." "Kin'ell!!!" sez Ayli, "I've got me name down for one of them!" And the old stand-byes:-

Aynuk & Ayli are spending the day fishing locally. Ayli suddenly yells "Me mates fell in the canal" "Owd tha appen?" sez Aynuk startled. Ayli sez "I jus took a bite ov me sandwich an the mate fell out!"

Aynuk: "Wots the difference between a buffalo and a bison?"

Ayli: "Ah dow now mate"

Aynuk: "Yer cor wash yer onds in a buffalo!"

Long Coach Meet – Buttermere

Saturday 13th April 2019

Depart *Please note the early departure*

06:45 – West Brom. Edward St Car Park (B70 8NL)

07:05 – Penkrige

(Short stop at Charnock Richard Services)

Drop off

Keswick A66 Roundabout (NY263243)

Braithwaite A66/B5292 (NY236236)

Lanthwaite Green Car Park (NY158207)

Buttermere Village Centre (NY173169)

Pick up

Buttermere Village Centre (NY173169)

Keswick Coach Station

Required maps

Os Explorer OI4

Os Landranger 89 90

Harveys Lakeland West

Suggested routes

ROUTE 1 (~14 km / 9 miles)

From Braithwaite follow the ridge SW to Grisedale Pike. Continue on to Hopegill Head before descending to Coledale Hause. Climb SW to Grasmooor before heading Ethen S over Whiteless Pike and descending to Buttermere. Alternatively from Braithwaite, ascend the other side of the valley over Outerside Sail and Eel Crag before dropping S to Whiteless Pike and on to Buttermere. Height gain: 1200m.

ROUTE 2 (~11 km / 7 miles)

From Lanthwaite Green follow path E then NE over Whin Ben and steeply up to Whiteside. Follow the ridge to Hopegill Head then follow route 1 back to Buttermere. Height gain: 1000m.

ROUTE 3 (~22km / 13.75 miles)

The Buttermere Horseshoe Leave Buttermere and walk past the church to a lay-by and grassy track leading over High Snockrigg and up to Robinson. Continue along the ridge to Hindscarth and Dale Head before descending to Honister Pass. Climb by old tramway and turn left along broad track to ease on to Grey Knotts and Brandreth before heading across country to Hay Stacks Descending to Scarth Gap and climb around Seat and up Gamlin End to High Crag. Follow ridge over High Stile to Red Pike. Descend to include Dodd and then through Ling Comb to Scale Wood and return to Buttermere via Scale Bridge. Height gain: 1805m.

This route can be shortened at various points



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 4 (~7 km / 4.5 miles)

Leave Buttermere down a track to the left of the Fish Hotel and continue to reach the lake. Cross a bridge and go through a gate/wall, turning left on forest track and emerging near Horse Close. Continue to sheepfold and gate, cross Warnscale Beck and walk up to Gatesgarth Farm. Turn left along the road to bend and leave it for signposted lakeshore path through Hassness Estate and tunnel finally return to Wilkinskye Farm to Buttermere

ROUTE 5 (14.5 km / 9 miles)

From Buttermere follow the road NW for approx. 1 km until reaching a grassy track climbing behind Hause Point. Descend to car park and follow track around to Cinderdale Common. Go along road to gate on left descend to shoreline and continue through woodland around the lake. When you reach Low Ling Crag (ny156178) follow the path to Scale Force before returning back to the shoreline crossing Buttermere Dubs via Scale Bridge and back to the village.

ROUTE 6 (~19km / 12miles)

Follow route 3 as far as Dale Head and continue E to Dalehead Tarn and then turn N to High Spy follow the path N over Maidem Moor and Cat Bells and drop to Hawse End Outdoor Centre. Follow the Cumbria Way back to Keswick.

Coach Meet – Peak District

Sunday 12th May 2019

Depart

06:45 – West Brom. Edward St Car Park (B70 8NL)

07:05 – Penkridge

(Short stop at Charnock Richard Services)

Drop off

Hayfield (036869)

Pick up

Hayfield (036869)

Edale (124853)

Required maps

OS 1:25.000 Outdoor Leisure Map 1: The Peak District
Dark Peak Area

Suggested routes

ROUTE 1 (~15 km / 9.5 miles)

From Hayfield follow the Snake path starting at (041868) and walk N then NE above the Kinder Reservoir (058885). Continue up the beautiful valley of William Clough to the boggy co; (064901). From here follow the Pennine Way SE and climb steeply to the plateau. Stay on the south edge to Kinder downfall (083889) for an ideal place for a food stop. Stay on the Pennine Way walking southward over rocky outcrops to Kinder Low (079871). Descend to Edale Cross (077861) and follow a path west to Coldwell Clough (856858) and finally follow good paths back into Hayfield.

ROUTE 2 (~15 km / 9 miles)

Follow route 1 to Kinder Low (079871) and then follow your compass east past the shapely rocky outcrops of Crowden Tower (093871). Continue over the head of Crowden Brook (095873) to the top of Grindsbrook Clough (115872). It's all down hill now via Grindsbrook Clough (115872) into Edale to find the coach.



Photo from visitpeakdistrict.com

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.

ROUTES 3 & 4 (~23km / 14 miles)

For those of you who like to stretch your legs why not follow route 1 to the col above Willian Clough (064901) but then descend past Ashop Head (066905) and down Ashop Clough (087905) to the Snake Inn (112905) for a quick drink. Cross the River Ashop at the footbridge (114902) and climb the valley to the plateau (093891). Cross the not so flat plateau to Kinder Downfall (083889) and on to Kinder Low (079871). Descend to the coach as