

West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



January 2020

This month's photo: John Edwards walking in Spitzbergen

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Hello readers,

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Huge thanks as always to this month's contributors: John Edwards, Liz Reynolds, Graeme Stanford, Jonathan Howells, and Nigel Tarr.

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

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

Welcome New Members!

A warm welcome to our newest members: Andy Morley, Andy Jones, Ethan Kirk and Tracy Wallace. The club would also like to welcome back two members who have re-joined: Wesley Marks and Jamie Thompson.

Membership Subs

By Liz Reynolds

Just a reminder that membership subs will be due in January 2020. These new rates reflect the increases from the BMC.

Adult: £36.00
 Junior: £15.00
 Student: £17.50
 Under 16's: £6.00

If you pay your subs by direct bank transfer they should be paid into the bank account number ending 2159. If you need the full details of the account please contact Treasurer Liz Reynolds on 07906 351167.

If you want to pay by cheque contact Wendy Morris on 07950836862. donations from Life and Veteran members would be gratefully received.

To all members who gave donations as well as or in lieu of membership subscriptions

By John Edwards

As many of you will know people who are Veteran or Life Members no longer have to pay annual subscription fees to remain members of WBMC. However, around 8 or 9 members continue to give amounts - sometimes small, sometimes equivalent to what would be the current membership fee - as voluntary donations when the new membership year comes around.

Rather than email everyone personally, this note is to thank these individuals publicly for their generosity and to say how useful these donations have been recently - and will be in the future - in connection with WBMC's gift aid claims to the HMRC.

In the past, preparing these claims has taken several days work by the Treasurer, going through all membership and hut lists. However, thanks to a new small donation scheme introduced by HMRC a couple of years ago, it is now possible to claim around £550 of gift aid very easily from the hut donations, providing we can itemise a total of around £200 of other donations from named donors who have agreed to gift aid.

Because of these "donations-in-lieu-of-having-to-pay-a-membership-fee" the necessary forms to claim Gift Aid for 2018 were completed in a couple of hours as opposed to several days, and this has enabled monies collected as Hut Donations to also be used for gift aid, regardless of whether these came from tax payers or non-tax payers, with or without gift aid consent.

This system obviously works, for the club accounts received around £475 from HMRC Charities just before Christmas.

So the generosity of a few has been a big help to the club's finances and will continue to be for Gift Aid claims to be made for 2019 and beyond.

All members of West Brom MC Committee would like to thank the individuals concerned (you know who you are) for their thoughtful generosity.

Newsletter costs

As the cost of sending out postal newsletters has increased, as is currently being borne by the club, a *voluntary* contribution of £12-£15 is being requested from those members who would like to continue receiving a hard copy.

Hut donations



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 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 6th February 2020

A Cheap, Long Weekend in Longyearbyen (Spitzbergen)



John Edwards will re-live some of the memories he has of a weekend spent camping at the northernmost 'official' campsite in the world a few years back, prior to a "Remote East Greenland" trip that never materialised.

During the 3 days or so he spent there he managed to climb *Nordenskjoldtoppen* (1,050 m) the highest peak in the region, get out to EISCAT – the world's most advanced ionospheric research radar – and visited the roof of the Global Seed Vault, plus other walks and climbs closer to the town.

16th – 22nd February 2020

Scottish Week

Jonathan Howells: I have secured the Ben Nevis Inn hotel and leisure club for 2020 in Fortwilliam, but I could only get Sunday to Sunday 16th – 23rd Feb.

Prices

- £35 pppn for twin/double
- £14 extra pn single room supplement.
- Children aged up to 4 are free.
- Children between the ages of 5 to 14 are half price when sharing with 2 full paying adults.

Unfortunately the hotel is not allowing dogs to stay over.

To secure a place I require 1 nights stay deposit.

You can pay me several ways:

PayPal: my email is Jhowells42@gmail.com.

Cheque: made payable to J. Howells

Because now I can scan cheques on my mobile phone, this will make it easier for me. This year I handed back used cheques to the original owners so they could destroy the cheques themselves if anyone is worried about this method.

17th – 19th April 2020

Eskdale Bunkhouse Weekend



Photo from eskdale.info

Or you can pay with online banking – please text me and I will give you my bank details.

If you want to share a room I will try and help you and pair you up with someone but I can't guarantee I will be able to. You will need to find someone before paying a deposit.

If you are new members and unsure about what to expect please don't hesitate to contact me:

07821544407 – Jhowells42@gmail.com



Photo by Mike Smith

As the club has three big meets up to Scotland in Jan, Feb and March I thought it would be good to get up to the back of the Lakes to look at the Eskdale and Wasdale valleys which have not been officially been covered by the club for a decade or more.

A bunkhouse weekend in Eskdale will be announced in the next newsletter.

Coach Kings & Queens 2019 revealed

By "Statsman"

By John Edwards



Welcome to possibly the last in this series for, unless someone else takes over the spreadsheet, after 10 years or so this person is no longer going to be keeping totals for the coach passengers. This year there is data for 13 coaches, and it doesn't matter if you include or exclude the Mitch's Meet coach, the 'regal' positions would be the same. The news is that last year's Coach King & Queen retain their titles, only this year they have to share!

Nigel Tarr, our coach sec, was the only one to go on all 13 coaches but that's his job, so Andy Brown & Gary Coates join Phil Williams as the "We Three Coach Kings": the only members to have 12 attendances each!! Are they the Three Wise Men we ask ourselves?! Commiserations to Bill Douglas & Mike Smith who just miss out with 10 attendances each.

Last year's Coach Queen, Emily Smith is joined by Hilary Jones, each with 10 coach meets attended. Three gents also went on 9 coaches: Robert Allen, Dave Coates and Tony Emms, so well done them for making up the 10 people who went on more than 75% of our coach meets. Appropriately 8 members went on 8 coaches: Julie Atkinson, Anthenia Dimitrou, Claire & Fred Hammonds, David Kirk, John O'Neill, Oliver Stephenson and Lynn Wainwright.

The trio that enjoyed 7 coaches were Martin Conway, Geordie Hind & Phil Smith. How do we know they enjoyed the meets? Well they wouldn't have kept booking seats if they hadn't enjoyed cracking days out on the hills, would they?!

The spooky numbers continue with half a dozen members going on 6 coach meets. These 6 were Greg Drzymalski, John Harris, David Hellyar, Will Holmes, Mark Stevens & Hannes Truter. Another 6 went on 5 coaches and they were Charles Brecknell, Paul Brindley, John Dale, John Edwards, Melanie Glass & Dee Sehdeva. And more spookily still 4 people went on 4 coaches! The three 'committee' ladies, Wendy Morris, Liz Reynolds & Hazel Webb, being joined on 4 by Mel Evans.

16 passengers travelled on 3 of our coaches, but there are only 13 surnames – John & Linda Howells, Evita, Mark, Oliver & Toby Hussey, Adrian & Stuart Shaw, plus Esta Costa, Jan Cox, Jill Haynes, Andy Morley, Nick Piotrowski, Pat Potter, Mike Reynolds & Andy Wright.

19 folk went on a couple of coach meets, their names being Vivienne Barclay, Joanna Cheung, Cardella Curley, David Doherty, Stuart Fellows, Dave Hill, Mel Jones, Suki Kaur, Mark Lawton, Nic Marney, Susan McNally, Ian Merther, Dominic Piotrowski, Pete

Poultney, Lewis Reynolds, Simon Shrewsbury, Graeme Stanford, Rob Thomas & Marcela Vega.

Amin Ali, Amy Allen, Simon Backhouse, Matt Baker, Laura Caley, Loui, Mark & Reg Charles, Teresa Chilles, Iris, Ray & Richard Cooksey, Rob Cox, Charles & Martin Day, Suzanne Fahy, Quinn Feliw, Matt Gallon, Ntde Gil, Sue Goddard, Darren Groutage, Craig Hand, Harold Harris, David Hough, Aly Hulme, Andy Jones, David Jones, Peter Kane, Sophie Kellaway, Ethan Kirk, Mayya Konovalova, John Lee, R. Lejina, David Lu, Sally McGlen, Andrew Mitchell, Jolene Mitchell, Cindy Morley, Dave Nock, Liz Perks, Jessica & Ken Priest, Tim Ratcliffe, Bella Reynolds, James Roberts, Andy Robinson, Annette Smith, Paul Tomlinson, Paul Treadwell, Amy Wakefield, Wayne Whitehouse & Clayton Williams were the 52 "One-coach Wonders".

And the "No-show-on-coach-meets nobodies" are the rest of you whose names don't appear in print above!! Give it a go in 2020 and maybe you'll re-discover what you're missing.

So to summarize, 125 different passengers used our 13 Robinsons' coaches in 2019 with 419 seats being taken. That's a relatively low average of 32.2 per coach (down from 35.3 in 2018 & 37.7 in 2017). The lowest was 24 for the Nantle Ridge in June and the highest was 42 to Braithwaite in September, which saw the highest number of whisky bottles in a summit ever recorded on a WBMC coach meet (Causey Pike was Andy Brown's last Nuttall!) 28 people went on at least 6 coaches (29 the previous year & 34 in 2017) and average seat occupancy was down to 66% (72% in 2018 & 77% in 2017).

Finally, a grateful thanks to Robinsons Coaches and all their drivers for getting us safely to and from the mountains every month.



The "celebration debris" on the summit of Causey Pike

Cairngorms Trip

9th – 14th March 2020

By Graeme Stanford



Photo by Pete Poultney

It's a bit of a late announcement for this trip I'm afraid. We were holding out for prices and availability of the newly rebuilt Feshiebridge Lodge. Sadly, the RAF have completed the work but handed the admin over to the RAF Central Lottery fund as they stumped up the cash. In the usual short-sighted manner they have priced the accommodation into a new dimension more than trebling the cost of hiring the place. For that reason, we have decided to look elsewhere. Last year we used the Army bunkhouse at Rothiemurchus but sadly it's remote location and forest track access was a problem.

For that reason, we have decided to base the trip at Aviemore Youth Hostel. This gives access to the flesh pots of Aviemore itself with its bustling nightlife (sort of) but the hostel itself has a varied range of catering and accommodation to choose from while giving quick access to all the outdoor activities you can shake a stick walking pole at. The variation makes this a difficult one to administer so it's much easier if everyone sorts out their booking individually. If you're in a small group, then get together and make your own decisions about what kind of room you want. N.B. we have not got exclusive access to the hostel but it has 91 beds and there's usually a good amount of space in the winter during the week.

The dates for booking are 5 nights from 9th March 2020. We drive down on Monday 9th and drive home on Saturday 14th. Any variation on that is entirely up to each person.

Prices range from £22 to £25 per person per night and rooms range from small private rooms to larger shared rooms. There's a bar, large self-catering

kitchen, common rooms, drying rooms etc, all the stuff you'd expect. You can add a continental breakfast for £5.95 a day and a packed lunch for £6.50 a day to simplify things.

All details of the hostel are available at this link: <https://www.hostellingscotland.org.uk/hostels/aviemore/>

Direct e-mail: aviemore@hostellingscotland.org.uk
Phone: +44 (0) 1479 810 345
Address: 25 Grampian road, Aviemore, PH22 1PR

As always this is a trip for all club members. The area is obviously a great location for walking, Climbing, cycling, Kayaking and there's something for everyone. As in previous years we're also inviting members of Bromsgrove, Banbury and Worcester Mountaineering clubs so the trip always has a great atmosphere.

If you do decide to join us, please let me know so I can add you to our WhatsApp group. This will give you access to everyone who's going if you need to sort out shared driving, rooms, cooking or any other admin. Or if you have any other questions about the trip please get in touch.

Graeme Stanford
Grim830@virginmedia.com
07846 281878

Coach Meet – Langdale

Saturday 8th February 2020

Depart

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

07:30 – PenkrIDGE (ST19 5AS)

Brief stop at Charnock Richard Services

Drop off

Ambleside Rothay Manor (373038)

Chapel Stile (321053)

New Dungeon Ghyll (295064)

Pick up

New Dungeon Ghyll (295064) *Leaving 17:30*

Chapel Stile (321053)

Ambleside (373038)

Required maps

OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure No 6 - Lakes SW area

Possibly No's 4, 5, 7 – depending on chosen route

Suggested routes

FROM NDG

ROUTE 1 (~17km / 10 miles)

Walk the tarmac to Stool End and then head up Oxendale to climb (all or some of) Pike o Blisko (272042) Crinkle Crag(248047) and Bowfell (245064) returning to the coach by The Band or Rossett Gyll.

ROUTE 2 (~17km / 10 miles)

To Stool End and climb Bowfell via The Band or Climbers Traverse and The Great Slab then head N to Ore Gap and descend to Angle Tarn ("bag Esk Pike first). Then Rossett Pike (249076) and round to Stake Pass (265087) Martcrag Moor and The Langdale Pikes. Descend via Thorn Crag ridge.

ROUTE 3 (13km / 8 miles)

Forget the tarmac and climb NW by Stickle Ghyll to Stickle Tarn (287075) then climb Pavay Ark (285079) forget Jacks Rake under winter conditions use Easy Gully. Then SW to Harrison Stickle(281074) Loft Crag (277071) and NE to Pike o Stickle (274074) and Martcrag Moor to Stake Pass(265087) and left onto the Cumbria Way.

From Ambleside and Chapel Stile there are many walks for you to consider!



Photo from walkthelakes.co.uk

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.

Coach Meet – Patterdale

Sunday 8th March 2020

Depart

07:00 – West Brom. Edward St Car Park (B70 8NL)
 07:30 – PenkrIDGE (ST19 5AS)
Brief stop at Charnock Richard Services

Drop off

Kirkstone Inn (401081)
 Patterdale (391161)
 Glenridding (386169)

Pick up

Glenridding (386169)
 Kirkstone Inn (401081)

Required maps

OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure
 No 5 Lakes NE
 No 7 Lakes SE

Suggested routes

FROM KIRKSTONE INN

Route 1 (~14km / 9 miles)

Climb NW up the steep slope to Red Screes (396087). Continue NW first descending into Scandale Pass then climb again (following a wall) past Little Hart Crag and onto Dove Crag (375104). From here follow the ridge over Hart Crag and onto Fairfield (359117). Leave the summit N and descend via the sharp peak of Cofa Pike (358121) and St Sunday Crag (369135) down into Patterdale and a short road walk to the coach in Glenridding

Route 2 (~15km / 9.5 miles)

Stay on the East side of the road and follow St Ravens Edge to Stony Cove Pike (417100). Descend to Theshthwaite Mouth (taking care over finding direction if visibility is poor) and ascend Thornthwaite Crag (432101) followed by High Street (441111) Follow the ridge N to the Knott (437127) then descend past the picturesque Angle Tarn (417145) down in to Patterdale and a short road walk to the coach in Glenridding



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 2b (~13.5km / 8.5 miles)

Route 2 can be shortened by proceeding to Theshthwaite Mouth then head NW down towards Patterdale via Pasture Bottom.

FROM PATTERDALE

Route 3 (~14km / 9 miles)

From Patterdale follow a track to where it turns right over Grisedale Beck (383157) Climb steeply to the Hole In the Wall (359155) and traverse the grade 1 ridge of Striding Edge to the summit of Helvellyn (342152) Descend via Lower Man (337155) to Whiteside Bank (338166) and then take the lower path down Glenridding Common (352166) a good track leads you past the Youth Hostel (366174) back to the coach in Glenridding.

Coach Rule 7 may apply: *Do not go above the snowline without ice-axe and crampons.*

Should winter conditions prevail, give your route selection some careful thought. Please stow your ice-axes and crampons in the side compartment of the coach. Don't leave them in the boot where they could damage rucksacks.

WBMC Annual Away Dinner

A non-refundable deposit* is required (£25 per person).
Send the following booking form by Friday 7th February 2020 to:

Nigel Tarr,
46 Camberly,
Beaconview Road,
West Bromwich,
B70 3PE

Menu

Starters

LEEK & POTATO VELOUTE-cheese croute
CUMBERLAND SMOKED CHEDDAR-soufflé, tomato
chutney, glazed parmesan
HAM HOCK TERRINE-pineapple relish, quail egg,
seasonal leaves

Main Courses

SEABASS-pine nut crust, creamed leeks, fish cream,
potato terrine
FEATHER BLADE OF BEEF-pomme puree, bourgeon
garnish, red wine gravy
CAULIFLOWER STEAK-quinoa, cauliflower pure,
butternut squash fondant, vegetable sauce

Desserts

STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING-vanilla ice cream, butterscotch
sauce
CHOCOLATE TART-raspberry gel, fresh raspberries
APPLE CRUMBLE TART-caramel ice-cream, sauce
anglaise

WBMC Annual Away Dinner Booking Form

13th – 15th March 2020

Party leader's name: _____

| <u>Guest name</u> | <u>Room Type</u> (twin/ double or single) | <u>Guest Contact Details</u> (Email or Phone) | <u>Menu Choice</u> | | | <u>Data Protection Consent**</u> (Every person must clearly select 'Yes' to enable booking) |
|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|-------------|----------------|--|
| | | | <u>Starter</u> | <u>Main</u> | <u>Dessert</u> | |
| | | | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | | | Yes / No |
| | | | | | | Yes / No |
| Total | | | | | | |
| Deposit (£25 per person)* | | | | | | |

*WBMC takes no financial responsibility or liability for this event

**I consent WBMC to share my name, whether Adult or Child, menu choices, any other requirements and any deposit cheque with Briery Wood Hotel to arrange this event.

If consent is not given the WBMC would not be able to book for you. Any personal information specific to this event will be held securely and will not continue to be held when no longer needed to arrange or analyse the WBMC Away Dinner.