

West Bromwich Mountaineering Club Newsletter



October 2019

*This month's double-bill of photos by John Edwards:
Me & Bill on top of Boreray - a really steep climb!*

Me, Andy & Mark on top of Conachair – the highest peak on Hirta, holding up an imaginary flag as I'd forgotten I'd removed it from my rucksack!

2 Noticeboard

3 Coming up

4 Memories of Iris Cooksey
By Richard Cooksey

5 Norway
By Su Goddard

6 Coach meets
Saturday 9th November – The Black Mountains
Sunday 8th December - Hayfield

Hello readers,

Huge thanks as always to this month's contributors: Liz Reynolds, John Edwards, Jonathan Howells, Su Goddard, Nigel Tarr, David Hind, and Richard Cooksey.

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 Member!

A warm welcome to our latest new member, Andy Jones! Members, please make Andy feel welcome.

Slideshows

Thanks to Ken for putting on his Skye slideshow, and apologies for the colour issues! We're sourcing a replacement bulb. The next slideshow (by John Edwards on the Corsica GR20) will be on 7th November.

Annual Away Dinner

The annual Away Dinner will return to the Briery Wood Hotel in Windermere 13th - 14th April 2020. Full details will be in the January newsletter but if you're interested, contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729.

BMC Incident Reporting System

The BMC has launched an Incident and Near-miss reporting system for walkers, climbers and mountaineers in partnership with Mountaineering Scotland and Mountaineering Ireland.

On 18th January 2018 five members of a BMC climbing club were avalanched when a cornice collapsed into a gully on the flanks of Helvellyn. The group was incredibly lucky to walk away with only sprains, bruises and damaged equipment. But the close call led to deep discussions in the hut that night. Why did the incident happen? What mistakes had been made? Could the injuries have been prevented? BMC volunteer Pete Callaghan, who suffered a badly sprained wrist in the slide, began planning a way to share similar incidents with the wider outdoor community. He teamed up with the BMC Training, Youth, and Walls Committee to create this UK and Ireland reporting system.

The form allows reports to be submitted by anyone who has been involved in, or witnessed, an incident or near-miss. These accounts are then approved by moderators before being published onto a free-to-read database. It is hoped the system will allow BMC

members to enjoy the hills in safety by learning from the experiences of others. When the year-long trial ends in April 2020 any important themes that emerge from the reports will be published. Please consider adding a report - or reading and sharing those submitted by others - to benefit the community. The system has been developed by BMC volunteer Pete Callaghan, BMC member Louie Smith, and BMC staff Jon Garside, Dan Middleton and Elfyn Jones. Use this simple-to-use online form if you've been involved in, or witnessed, an incident or near-miss.

Annual Akash Bash

A reminder for the "Akash Bash" Friday 29th November - if interested contact Nigel Tarr on 07703 345729.

Free BMC Club seminar

The BMC are doing a FREE seminar for Club & committee members in Birmingham on Sunday 8th December 2019 from 10.15am - 4pm at Tricorn House, 51-53 Hagley Road, Birmingham B16 8TP.

The training day will cover:

- Running your club - hints and tips for running an effective club
- Insurance - what the BMC insurance will cover you for, management of risk
- Support available from different organisations, including the BMC
- Funding - what is available and how to apply for it
- Supporting your members - both existing members and potential members
- Q&A - on any issues that your club is facing

The afternoon will include a specialist session on 'Club Structures'. This is an essential session for those clubs that are reviewing, or considering a review of their legal status - it will help you to gain an understanding of what structure(s) could be right for your club to enable success and stability.

Refreshments will be available throughout the day, and lunch will be provided. There are more details and a link to book a place at

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/training-for-club-committee-members>

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 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

22nd – 24th November 2019
Skills Weekend - Snowdonia



Venue: Club Hut, Nant Gwynant, Snowdonia

Course Aim: To equip club members and potential members with the skills, confidence and competence to walk in the British hills during summer conditions.

Course content:

- Clothing and equipment
- Navigation skills using map and compass
- Route planning
- Mountain Weather
- Mountain hazards and avoidance
- Dealing with Emergencies and Rescue Teams

So, if you would like to participate in the weekend, learn more and be independent on the mountains, or just want further information, please contact David (Geordie) Hind on either 07505364318 or geordiehind@gmail.com before 10th November 2019.

16th – 22rd 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 Feb to 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.

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

Memories of Iris Cooksey

7th September 2019

By Richard Cooksey



Ray, Richard, Alison and family would like to thank everyone who attended the funeral for the many lovely memories of Iris and what she had done for the club, in particular Iris's part in support for the Woman's Weekend (as shown in the lovely photos). Also a special thanks for organising the ice axe tribute- a fitting tribute as she had used ice axe and crampons in the winter mountaineering she did with the club.

The donations for Action for Children raised over £800 that we know of (some may be online) which she would have been so proud of and will make a difference to children's lives. Also thanks to everyone who was so friendly to us all when we attended the 1st slideshow of the season- Alison was visiting from Jersey and so could see the great slideshow and was able to see what a special club we have been members of as a family and the high esteem Iris was held.



Norway

A taster for the January slideshow

By Su Goddard



Norway – a week walking in the Jotunheimen mountains in August? Norway was a country I'd never visited and I did have a vacant slot in August, and anyone who knows me knows I don't need asking twice.

Now, this is just a brief introduction to whet your appetites prior to our appearance at January's indoor meet for your full delight and delectation.

Rob had, on a previous visit, undertaken a day walk over the Bessegen Ridge and been so delighted with the views and potential for a linked hut to hut walk that he had already had the itinerary planned. Commencing with the Bessegen Ridge we would be following the ridges along the length of the Gjende lake, then off into the wilder interior, to the highest point at Fannaraknosi, before emerging some 60 K away at Turtagro. The start would be very busy as a boat runs along the lake between the huts allowing visitors to complete the crossing in relative ease with day packs. The second part involved a self-service hut and would be much quieter as we walked through high valleys. The highlight would be staying at the Fannarakhytta hut, the highest in Norway. As with all good mountain trips we were dependant on the weather, and we did need Plan B. Hopefully this couple of photographs will encourage you to come along on Thursday 9th January to see and hear more.



Coach Meet – The Black Mountains

Saturday 9th November 2019

Depart

Note the different pickup time at Edward St

07:00 – Penkridge

07:30 – West Brom. Edward St Car Park (B70 8NL)

Drop off

Crickhowell (215190)

Castle Inn (174296)

Pick up

Castle Inn (174296)

Crickhowell (215190)

Required maps

OS 1: 25 000 Outdoor Leisure No 13 – Brecons East



Photo from breconbeacons.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.

Suggested routes

Route 1 (~20.5km / 13 miles)

Crickhowell to Table Mountain (225207) path to Pen Cerrig Calch (217224) NW to Pen Alt - Mawr (206224) Descending steeply N follow ridge over Pen Twyn Glas (213257) and Mynnd Llyiau (202278) and the col (205286) Descend to Cwm Forest (183292) and the coach at Castle Inn.

Route 2 (~12.7km / 8 miles)

From Pungenford (173301) climb the ridge over Y Grib (193310) to Pen y Manllwyn (208311) Follow ridge SE to summit of Waun Fach (215299) Descend over Pen Trumau (204294) to col at (205286) Return as Route 1 to coach via Cwm Forest.

Route 3 (~8.5km / 5.5 miles)

From Castle Inn follow footpath past Heolllgoden climb to summit trig of Mynydd Troed (166293) Follow ridge SE descend to A479 and the footbridge over Rhiangoll (185271) From here follow the track N back to the Castle Inn.

Coach Meet – Hayfield

Sunday 8th December 2019

Depart

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

07:30 – Penkridge

Drop off

Snake Pass (088929)

Hayfield (045880)

Pick up

Hayfield (045880)

Required maps

OS 1:25000 Outdoor Leisure No 1 – Dark Peak



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.

Suggested routes

Route 1 - Snake Pass A57 (~8.9km / 5.5 miles)

Drop off Snake Pass where the Pennine Way crosses the A57. Follow the Pennine Way South through Featherbed Moss, crisscrossing the stakes on a South Westerly heading to Glead Hill then Mill Hill(61904) at 541 metres and turn left SE to the top of Williams Clough. Follow this path to Nab Brow(058885), White Brow and the Shooting Cabin to the path junction at (045880) and follow Snake Path back to Hayfield.

Route 2- Snake Pass A57 (~13.2km / 8.2 miles)

Follow the A57 East past Doctors Gate Colvert to Lady Clough to a path on the right hand side of the road (100928). Follow this path through wooded area -past Lady Clough Moor. Follow this path SE and then South until paths join at(107907) and you cross a footbridge and head West to Saukin Ridge. The path skirts Ashop Clough and the River Ashop to Ashop Head and turns South to the top of William Clough, then descends via routes 1,3,4.

Route 3 - From Hayfield (~15km / 9.3 miles)

From the start of Snake Path (040868) on the Kinder Road follow this North to Middle Moor and keep right towards the Shooting Cabin, skirt the reservoir and climb William Clough. Where it meets the Pennine Way (064901) turn SE, pass Sandy Hays to Kinder Downfall (082889). Turn South, follow the path and pass by Cluther Rocks on the right and Kinder Low Trig point at 633 metres on your left.

Through Edale Rocks (079867) and past Swines Back on the right to the descent path (080861) at a crossroads on the right. Follow this path turning right at the bottom of Caldwell Clough to follow the track and road back to Hayfield

Route 4 - From Hayfield (~28.5km / 17.7 miles)

Follow Route 3 to Edale Rocks . Shortly after there is a path junction (079864). Turn left towards Noe Stool, Pym Chair, Wool Packers and Crowdens Tower. When the path splits take the right hand fork (094871) and turn right again to join a main path East (095872). Follow this to the top of Grindsbrook Clough (105872) and then head North and skirt around the top of the valley by Nether Tor and Ringing Roger. When the path splits at (128874) take the left hand path past Druids Stone. You now walk to the lip of the plateau and once you see Madwomen Stones on your left from the fords (138877), head North and follow the path round left to Blackden Edge with Blackden Moor on your right, then Seal Stones on your left. Carry on hugging the lip of the plateau and it will bring you back to the top of William Clough. You can descend via Snake Path or Kinder Reservoir back to Hayfield Distance 28.54 km / 17.7 miles