



The Yorkshire Mountaineer

Issue 369

November 2016

FORTHCOMING MEETS

December	2/3	Coniston Hut – Club Meet
	11	Christmas Fuddle – Barden Scale. Roadside parking SE 051568: Derek Field
	23/31	Coniston Hut – Xmas and New Year
	26	Ilkley – Cow and Calf car park at 10.30 am SE 130467 Alan Swithenbank
January	15	Hebden Bridge – outside Rohan SD 993272 Derek Field
	27/28	Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet
	27/28	Langdale – Rawhead Cottage – Joint Fell & Rock Club Meet Martin Tetley
February	12	Holmfirth – Ramsden Reservoir Car Park SE 115055 Pete Fenlon
	26	Kettlewell – Car Park SD 968724 Martin Girt

Please contact the Meet Co-Ordinator, preferably the day before or very early on the morning of the meet.
Saturday and Sunday meets start at 10.00am.

Tuesday Lunch Meets

Jan 10th Woodside Carvery, Ring Road, Horsforth

Feb 14th Toby Carvery, Keighley

Mar 14th Angel Carvery, Bruntcliffe Rd Morley

Apr 11th Calverley Arms, Rodley Lane, Calverley

'Meet at noon for an afternoon of gourmet eating and scintillating conversation'.

For more information contact Derek Field

2017 Winter Meet

10 places have been booked in the Scottish Mountaineering Club's Raeburn Hut at Laggan for the 4 nights of 10th – 13th March. The cost will be £10 per person per night.

From January 1st, and NOT BEFORE, Dave Girt will be taking bookings, accepted only with appropriate cheque or cash. Preference will be given to those booking all four nights.

EDITORIAL

The Club's communication in September conveyed to members that newsletters had not been produced since the February issue [368] due to the illness of Editor Tony Crosby. The Committee was hoping that Tony would recover sufficiently to continue in his role. Sadly this was not to be and Tony had to reluctantly tender his resignation. Tony volunteered for the post and after meeting the Secretary at Castleton in March 2014 agreed to take on his duties with immediate effect.

In his final editorial back in March 2014, Neville Hawkin stated that changes were overdue in the way the Newsletter was presented. He was hopeful that someone would come forward and change the way the publication was presented. His hopes turned to reality when Tony took the reins and proceeded to stamp his mark on TYM.

It would be remiss of us not to convey our sincere thanks to Tony for the time and effort he contributed on the Club's behalf.

The format of TYM was changed to the A5 version in June 2009, Issue 331. Members will obviously be aware that this current issue, 369, has reverted to the old A4 type and will remain so for the time being.

The absence of an Editor has necessitated this change but the priority was to return to producing and distributing the Newsletter in its three monthly cycle.

What is needed, apart from an Editor [Applications more than welcome] is a sufficient number of articles in order to compile worthwhile future issues.

Requests to forward material to the Secretary some weeks ago have gone unanswered by members.

All the material received from Tony Crosby appears in this current issue (apart from one or two photographs).

It is possible that some articles may have gone astray in this period of transition; should any member be aware of non-publication, it would be appreciated if they could send a copy to the Secretary. Please accept our apologies if this is the case.

In addition, if members have been discouraged from sending compiled articles as a result of the break in publication since February, we would be grateful to receive them.

Articles are the lifeblood of The Yorkshire Mountaineer, whether they be light-hearted, informative or controversial, so it's time to put fingers to the keyboard if you have not already done so.

Members are reminded of the following vacancies which exist:-

Honorary President

Honorary Vice-President

Honorary Treasurer (after the 2017 AGM)

For the Club to function to its potential, all posts need to be filled, most crucially that of Treasurer.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2017 are due shortly. Membership Renewal Forms are being sent out separately. Please send your completed form promptly to Dave and Audrey Girt. The cut-off date is 31st January 2017 and those who have not paid by then will cease to be members.

This will mean that will not qualify for BMC 3rd Party Liability Insurance cover. This includes insurance for liability claims made by third parties (including other club members) for any club activity or as an individual for mountaineering, climbing, abseiling etc..

Full details are available on the BMC website.

CLUB NOTICE

For many years the Black Bull at Birstall has been the Club meeting ground for committee meetings, the Annual General Meeting and slide shows, but closure fairly recently and an uncertain future there has prompted the need for a more secure venue.

This is: Thornfield House [Masonic Hall].

Bruntcliffe Lane

Morley

LS27 0QG

Website: www.thornfieldhouse.co.uk

One committee meeting has already been held there, along with the November Photo Show and the response has been favourable.

NEW APPOINTMENT

Following the appeal for help which went out to Club members in September, one member has responded in a positive way and agreed to take on a Club role.

Anneka Houston, daughter of former Club President and Secretary Ian Willis, has agreed to become Social Media Secretary.

There has been a need for some time to have a Media Administrator to collate news and information and pass it on to the Webmaster in order to have an up to date and not out of date website. Anneka, who will liaise directly with the Webmaster, has taken the role with immediate effect.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Although the Club's Annual General Meeting does not take place until March 9th 2017, there are time stipulations which apply to certain aspects relating to it.

Proposals to and alteration of Club Rules should be sent to the Secretary to arrive no later than the 10th of January 2017.

Proposals can be made with regard to:

The Rules of the Club Club Regulations and Procedures.

Please submit proposals [all which need to be seconded] to Peter Stott

WELCOME

The disruption in production of The Yorkshire Mountaineer has meant that we have not acknowledged those who have joined our ranks in recent months either as Full or Aspirant Members. We therefore welcome the following:

Graham and Kathryn Willis, Andrew Coleman, Matthew Crawford, Beverley D'Arcy, Ginny Fox, Luke Murley, Paolo Vareschi, Steve and Yvonne Bartlett, Perry and Julie Hewlett, Emily Thompson

We hope they have a long and happy association with the Club and we should endeavour to make them feel at home in our organisation.

CLUB NOTICE

The BMC are to hold a Winter Skills Course at Plas-y-Brenin over the weekend of February 4th/5th 2017.

This is aimed at experienced members of an affiliated club who support novice members whilst they gain experience and become competent in winter walking and mountaineering skills.

The weekend will include theory sessions on the principles of teaching and learning skills in winter conditions and the planning of training days, issues around duty of care and minimising risk, avalanche awareness and winter navigation.

All will be delivered by experts in their field and the majority of sessions will be delivered in a practical setting.

The purpose of this article is to inform members that should they wish to participate in this course, they can take advantage of the Club's offer to pay the cost of the course fee.

Clubs do offer novice instruction on an informal basis but it is not necessary for club members to hold any formal qualifications in order to deliver training to other members of their club, some may wish to be better informed on current good practice.

YMC Members took advantage of a similar Club offer for the summer course at Plas-y-Brenin and considered it a very worthwhile experience.

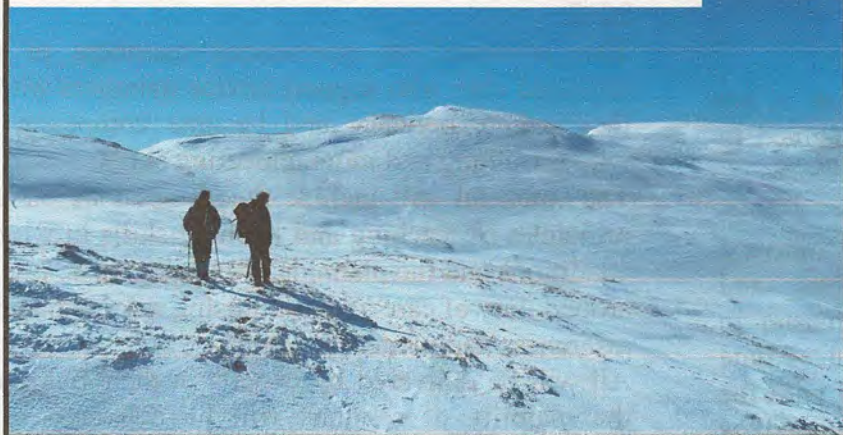
As before, the course fee includes full board accommodation on the Friday and Saturday.

Interested?

If so please contact either Jonathan Carter or Pete Stott

SCOTTISH WINTER MEET

BRAEMAR : March 4th – 7th 2016 by Dave Girt



Present: Caroline (Cozi) Phillips, Jane Wainwright, Emily Thompson, Ralph Crouch, Graham Willis, Bill Stevenson, Malcolm (Sol) Lomas, Dave Girt.

The venue for the 2016 Winter Meet was the Cairngorm Club's Muir Cottage about 5 miles outside Braemar close to Linn of Dee. This proved to be admirable accommodation with excellent facilities all round, our only problem being a mix up by earlier parties of wet with dry wood for the stove in the lounge: but we sorted that! I need not have waterproofed my gear in advance as the weather was perfect, not a drop of rain, and Monday in particular was cloudless with light wind, perfect to be out on the hills.

Temperatures stayed below freezing so the ample snow cover at altitude for the most part remained firm and dry under foot and in the valleys mud was hard to find. So we were blessed with a wide choice of activities and only mountain biking was constrained by deeper snow in some of the glens.

For the weekend only we shared the hut with about seven genial members of the Lochaber Mountaineering Club, but for them it was a predominantly social event and they kept us entertained as we earwigged their slurred conversations! One amazed us all with his ability to fall asleep sitting for hours with large dram in hand without spilling a drop. Is there a special Scottish gene?

Saturday 5th

Jane, Emily, Graham and Dave parked at Baddoch on the Blairgowrie road and followed Baddoch Burn to ascend An Socach via Socach Mor.

Sol cycled into Braemar then back to the hut for refreshment before tackling the track from Linn of Dee via White Bridge to Geldie Burn.

Cozi ascended Carn na Drochaide from Bridge of Quoich descending via Allanmore.

Ralph explored a side glen from Glen Ey ascending Carn Dambaireach and Carn Bhac.

Bill cycled round through Braemar and over Invercauld Bridge to explore Gleann an-t Slugain getting beyond Clach a Cleirich before deep snow stopped him, and he returned by Allanmore and Linn of Dee.

Sunday 6th

Ralph returned to Glen Ey to explore towards Carn Greagach

The rest travelled to the parking area at Spittal of Glen Muick where they encountered YMC Members Ian Willis and Dave Lomas, coincidentally holidaying in Braemar. From there: Bill, Emily, Graham and Dave ascended Lochnagar in a bitter strong wind. Jane and Sol walked via Gelder Shiel to Balmoral.

Cozi ascended Conachcraig and Caisteal na Caillaich and an unnamed 865m top before driving back to Balmoral to pick up Jane and Sol.

Monday 7th

Ralph departed reluctantly for home.

Cozi and Bill cycled to White Bridge and then ascended Sgor Mor and Sgor Dubh.

Sol cycled to Derry Lodge intending to ride up Glen Derry but was stopped by deep snow so returned via Claybokie to Linn of Dee.

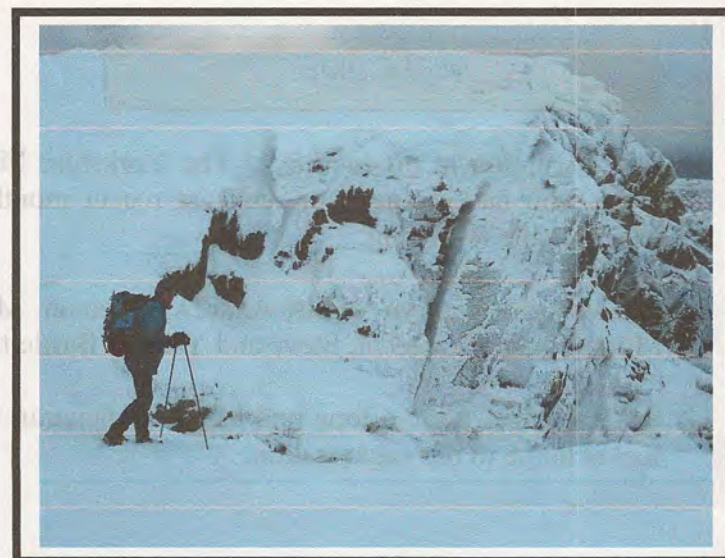
Emily, Jane, Graham and Dave parked at the Glenshee ski centre to ascend Carn Aosda, Carn a Gheoidh, Carn nan Sac and The Cairnwell.

Tuesday 8th

Light snow overnight and more forecast.

Jane and Sol headed on for a few more days but based at Aviemore.

Cozi, Emily, Graham and Dave departed for home.





Bill postponed a trip to the Hutcheson Memorial Hut after hearing the day's forecast. After camping near Muir Cottage he set off on Wednesday and after struggling through deep snow made the hut, which he was pleased to find had been improved since his last visit, though has sleep platforms for 2 only.

Thursday, in good conditions, he ascended Creagan a Choire Etchacan, then back to his tent and away home.

A really enjoyable Meet. Communal evening meals worked really well, and special thanks to Cozi and Jane for preparing delicious fare. And to Graham for persevering to success with the stove. Thanks also to all the rest who willingly got involved in the chores of peeling, washing up and lugging logs etc., and cleaning the hut at the end of our stay. It was a pleasure to be with you.

Present: Graham Willis, Kath Willis, Yvonne (Eve) Bartlett, Stephen (Steve) Bartlett, (both Prospective Members)

Little did we believe when scraping ice off the car windscreen at 8.00am, that within a couple of hours we'd be sweltering in warm sunshine under a clear blue sky. The journey to the Fox House Inn meeting point on the Hathersage Road out of Sheffield was not without interest, as it coincided with what appeared to be a total road

PEAK DISTRICT MEET

BURBAGE: Sunday 10th April - by Graham Willis



closure in the area for the 'Yorkshire Half Marathon', starting at 9.30am that morning. In the end a wide diversion via the village of Dore proved to be a successful route, avoiding the worst of the gridlock.

On arrival at the Fox House Inn we were just in time to witness the cloud inversion below us, filling the Derwent Valley and burning off rapidly as the sun gained elevation and we booted up.

Without the benefit or restriction of any route pre-planning and being few in number, a quick straw poll opted for a downhill finish at the end of the day so after waiting for any late comers and 10.00am having passed, we set off down Burbage Brook into Padley Gorge and spent some time admiring Padley Chapel at the foot of the valley. The river Derwent was followed to Hathersage on a section of the 'Derwent Valley Heritage Way', spending time wildlife spotting and watching the gambolling lambs, everything seemed vigorously alive in the hot sun.

Baulk Lane took us out of Hathersage past Bronte Cottage, where lunch was taken by the footbridge over the stream below Green's House.

After lunch, we climbed up to Dennis Knoll and followed the improved track past Buck Stone and up on to Stanage Edge, which was followed east to the 457 Trig Point. The good weather had brought out many climbers and it was noticeable that the female variety seemed to outnumber the male quite considerably. After spending time observing various antics and contortions we struck out for Burbage Rocks and followed the higher level path along the edge before crossing the open moor to arrive at the roadside a short way above the Fox House Inn.



Refreshment was taken at the Strines Inn, opting for the scenic route back to our home base in West Yorkshire.

Prospective Members Eve and Steve enjoying their second YMC Meet, were impressed by the stunning views and varied landscape that the route offered.

Distance about 18.7km/11.5m
500 metres of ascent.

EN ROUTE TO ASSYNT

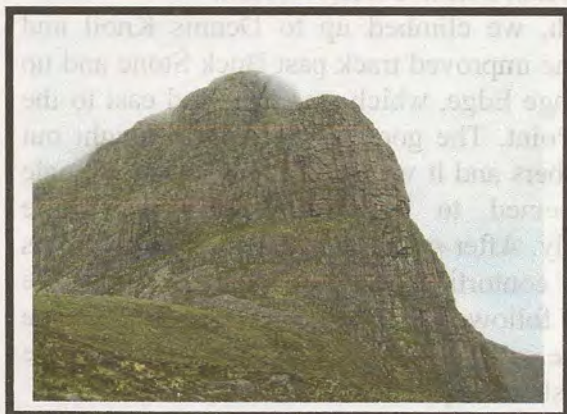
Report by Graham Smith

It would soon be May and I would again be heading for Scotland. Last year we had one day without rain and I felt critical of our eternal doggedness to squander time there every year.

My mountain friend, Bill, immediately replied that we had spent six continuous days in the Pyrenees last year surviving gale force winds and heavy storm. So I quietly concluded that we were British Mountaineers and that such types were obliged to go to Scotland at least once a year.

We were later to stay with Sean Kelly and friends in the Naismith Hut in Assynt - it would therefore be wise to stop off on the way. Skilful manipulation of diaries and we were able to ring fence the week before.

One of our early mountain days was on the Cioch, a massive nose, in the Applecross, subsidiary to the mountain Sgurr A Chaorachain.



The photo to the left is taken on the approach. Ahead is the great craggy mountainside. Our route goes up the gully in the middle of the photo and then after the col, left on the main face.

The route is graded as difficult and is called Cioch Indirect.

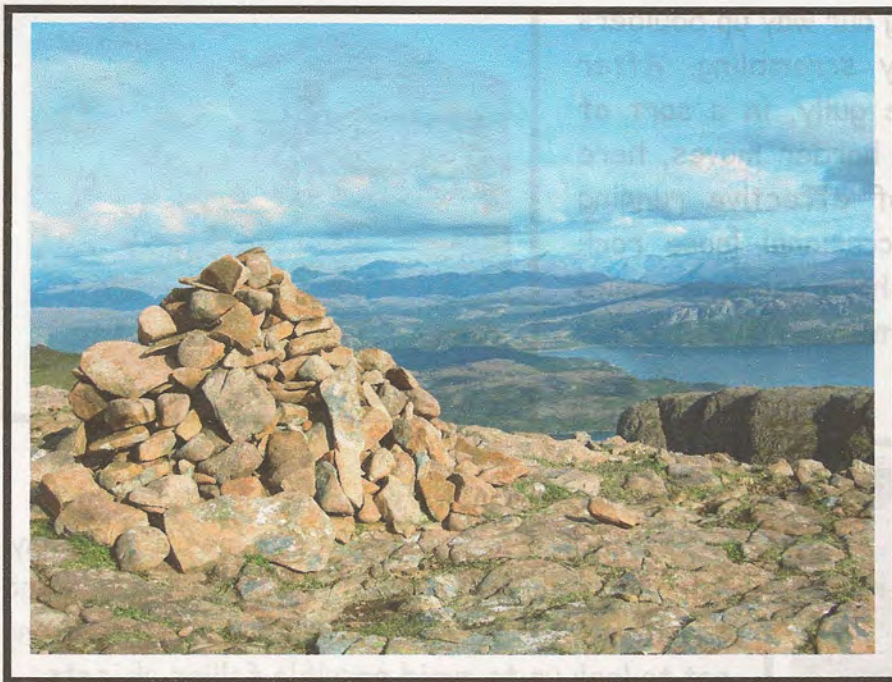
The start of the gully involved making our way up boulders and vegetation; at this stage easy scrambling. After roping up, Bill moved higher up the gully, in a sort of thrutching crack. There were some harder moves, here and there, almost total absence of effective running belays, rock sometimes wet and occasional loose rock sitting patiently for a victim. The photo opposite shows the initial rough climbing on the main buttress after exiting the gully section.



Left is what could be the crux. The holds here were reasonable but are sometimes a bit slimy. The photo shows that Bill has spoilt himself and has been able to place two runners. I'm trying not to look up to avoid possible falling objects. Continuation was then on easy angled rocks, cracks and blocks. There then followed five excellent ridgy towers. These were easy to scramble but the first required an abseil in descent.



I went down first and, unknown to me, a head sized block, teetered above me as the rope brushed against it. Luckily it did not have my name carved on it and so it hesitantly stayed put. When Bill followed he threw the block down into the gully so saving any unsuspecting fellow later on. Progress was then over subsequent towers to the summit (below). There then followed a steep descent down the south east shoulder and back to the car. On the Saturday we drove to Assynt, to join Sean and company at the Naismith Hut.



Our first week had been perfect with really excellent weather conditions. The fine spell continued with the second week as good as the first. This year our dogged devotion to rainy Scotland was more than rewarded with its sun-drenched alternative. Our great thanks go to Sean and companions for including us on their excellent meet and it is with eagerness that we long for the next.

COMMITTEE MATTERS

Summary of Minutes – Committee Meeting September 2016

Main Items Discussed

- Following the closure of the Black Bull at Birstall, an alternative venue for Club activities needed locating and after discussion, the possibility of using the Miners Welfare Club at Garforth was to be investigated.
- The prize money for the Photographic Competition was to be increased by £10 for each category, to now stand at: Overall prize £30, Other prizes £25 and Junior £20.
- Reports of damage [to the stove, furniture] in the letting side was discussed, along with the theft of valuable items. An inventory system was to be set up.
The whole premises were to be re-painted and faulty window units re-glazed.
- The health of the Newsletter Editor was reported as improving but no issue had been produced since February 2016 [Issue 368]. A basic interim document was to be sent out to members without delay.
- Concern was shown at the increasing number of vacant posts which would exist following the 2017 AGM. The membership was to be informed that the future of the Club could be in jeopardy if this situation was to continue.
- The new website was about to be launched but due to the lack of a Social Media Officer would not run as efficiently as a consequence.
- As part of the Club's policy to attract new members, grants had been received from the BMC for the purchase of basic climbing equipment. Further to this, a programme had been compiled for events relating to novice members in 2017.

YORKSHIRE MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

Weekend Meets 2017

All Saturday and Sunday Meets start at 10.00am unless otherwise stated.

Please contact the Meet Co-ordinator if you intend to join a Meet
or require further information.

Meet Co-ordinators' personal email addresses and phone numbers can be obtained from the
Membership List.

- Jan 15 Hebden Bridge – outside Rohan SD993272 Derek Field**
- Jan 27.28 Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet**
- 27.28 Langdale – Rawhead Cottage – joint Fell & Rock Club Meet**
Martin Tetley
- Feb 12 Holmfirth – Ramsden Reservoir Car Park – SE115055**
Pete Fenlon
- 26 Kettlewell – Car park SD968724 – Martin Girt**
- Mar 10.11 Coniston Hut – Club Meet**
- 10/13 Scottish Winter Meet – SMC Raeburn Hut, Dalwhinnie NN636909**
David Girt
- 26 Thruscross – Car Park SE153574 – Graham & Kath Willis**
- Mar 31/Apr Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet -**
- Apr 13/16 Coniston Hut – Easter Meet – Navigation Training – Ken Tilford**
- 22 Cow & Calf, Ilkley – Novice Members Climbing Meet – Car Park**
SE130467 – Jonathan Carter
- 23 Cow & Calf, Ilkley – “Progression to Rock”- Car Park SE130467**
Jonathan Carter
- 28/30 Coniston Hut - May Break**
- May 20 Pen y Ghent - Novice Members – Mountaineering Introduction Meet**
Horton Car Park SD807727 – Jonathan Carter :
- 21 Twistleton Scar (Ingleton) – “Progression to Rock” – Roadside Parking:**
SD717477 – Jonathan Carter
- 26/28 Coniston Hut – Spring Break**
- May27 /Jun3 Scotland - Assynt – Naismith Hut, Elphin NC216118**
Sean Kelly

Jun 2.3 Wales- Beddgelert Hut – Joint Meet with West Bromwich M.C.- SH625502

Jonathan Carter:

Jun 16.17 Coniston Hut – Novice Members/ “Progression to Rock” consolidation weekend
Jonathan Carter

23.24 Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet

Jul 2 Dent – Car Park – SD703871 – Laurie Morse & Graham Willis

16 Stanage - Climb/Walk – Car Park SK245830 – Graham & Kath Willis

21.22 Coniston Hut – Joint Meet with West Bromwich M.C. – Jonathan Carter

Sep 3 Feizor – Climb/Walk - Park Buckhaw Brow SD797658 – Derek Field

17 Meugher – Park at Yarnbury SE014659 - David Girt

Oct 1 Brimham – Climb/Walk – Car Park SE208645 – Derek Field

6.7 Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet

20.21 Wales – Tan-y-garth Hut, Capel Curig – info: www.gwydyrmc.org.uk
SH737567 David Girt

Nov 3.4 Coniston Hut – Bonfire Meet

19 Marsden – Station Car Park SE047118 – Laurie Morse & Jane Wainwright

Dec 10 Barden Scale – Xmas Fuddle – Parking SE051568– Derek Field

22/31 Coniston Hut – Xmas & New Year

26 Ilkley Cow & Calf – Traditional Boxing Day Meet- Car Park
10.30am Alan Swithenbank
SE130467

OBITUARY

I was saddened to hear of the death of Dick Espiner sometime member of the YMC. He was one of the first members that I met when I joined in 1962 and was a couple of days older than me. I had many memorable, happy and carefree trips to the Lakes and Scotland with this once seen never to be forgotten man. Just a few of many of those memories:-

On one occasion he shared my mountain tent which was pitched on deep snow in Langdale. This was the first tent that I owned that had a sewn in groundsheet. It had a tunnel entrance that you tied up, but the first 12 inches of groundsheet could be unclipped and rolled back to permit cooking without having to exit the tunnel. It was bitter outside, so in the middle of the night rather than venture out Dick rolled the groundsheet back and relieved himself into the underlying snow. The next morning I awoke to see that Dick had rolled the groundsheet back and was busily scooping snow from beneath so that we could have a brew before venturing out!

The weekend after he had taken delivery of a new minivan he no longer needed a lift so we arranged to meet up at the dance in the village hall at Threlkeld. He arrived very late. He had already had a few drinks in Keswick and so was driving very slowly and carefully, but John Howard kept urging him to his foot down. Finally Dick shouted "Right you've asked for it", put his foot down to the floor and immediately ran his new motor off the road.

At one time he applied to join the British Antarctic Survey though it was only he that was surprised to discover that his expertise and skills as a refrigeration engineer were not required.

After a couple of years our ways parted. He left the YMC for the Craven Pothole Club of which he eventually became President and I moved to Sheffield. Unfortunately I never saw him again, but for me, and I suspect many others, he is not forgotten.

John Kemp

BOOK REVIEW

"WALKING HOME" by Simon Armitage

By one of those cruel quirks of non-coincidence I didn't come across and read this book until it was just too late to get a review into the last newsletter, alongside the articles about the Pennine Way. Better late than never, here goes. If I start by telling you that Simon writes "the Pennine Way is a pointless exercise, leading from nowhere in particular to nowhere in particular, via no particular route, and for no particular reason" then you'll be guessing he's not much of a fan. How wrong you would be.

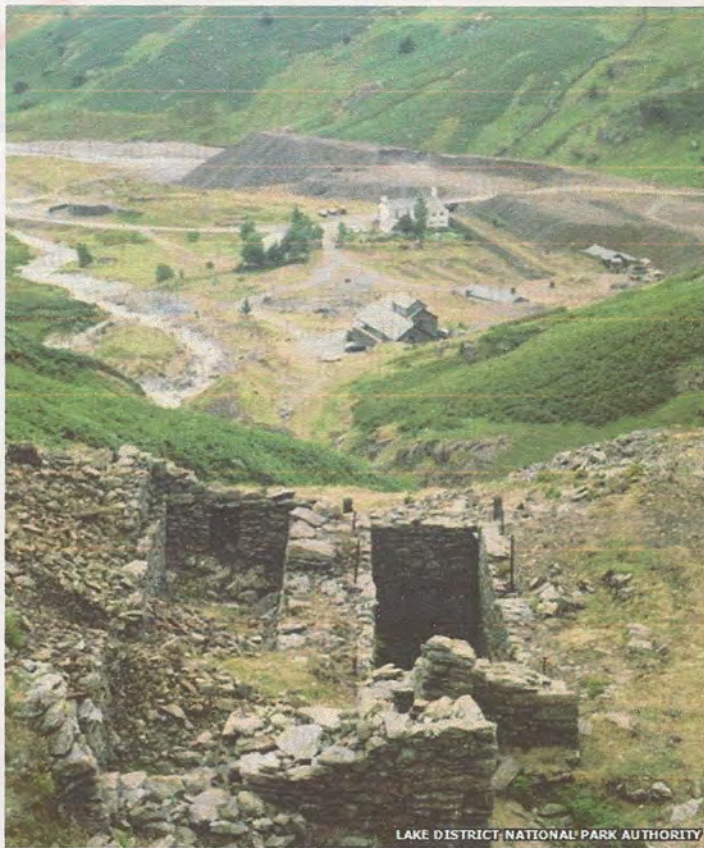
But it is not his enthusiasm which makes this a good read. Nor is it a tale of derring-do. It's his skill as a poet (THE Marsden poet) which shines through every line of the prose with an illumination which will make you see the Pennines with a new perspective. I'm going to tell you nothing of his story of his walk, unique as it is: I don't want to spoil it for you.

But if you have your roots in the West Riding, and like Simon you love the hills and vales the moors and dales of the Pennines, then like me, you'll find you can't put this book down. The Telegraph reviewer said "So observant, so funny and so intensely likeable, you'd leave it wishing he'd picked a longer route", words right out of my mouth. Rush to your local library now!

Dave Girt

P.S. If you find you like "Walking Home" then try the sequel "Walking Away", about his Devon/Cornwall Coastal Path adventure, another good read.

COPPERMINES VALLEY DEVELOPMENTS



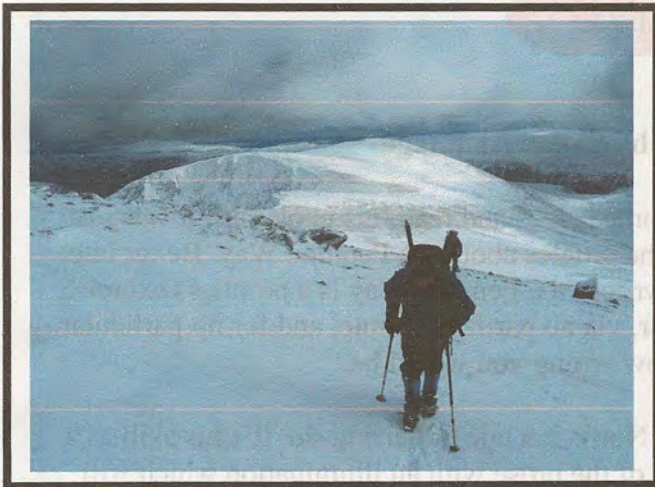
In November 2014 news was released that a mine in the Coppermines Valley had applied for conservation funding. Plans to conserve these workings had passed the first stage of a bid for over £400k from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Copper was mined at this scheduled monument until the 1950s and the Lake District National Park Authority advised that despite the magnitude of their industrial importance, the workings were at risk of dereliction.

The LDNPA was awarded £16k to fund a full grant application and in June 2016 a £450k Heritage Lottery grant helped to secure the future of the 400-year-old mine.

The LDNPA stated that volunteers were needed to help with conservation and archaeological survey work so that people could be given the chance to connect with their heritage.

At its peak in the 19th Century the mine employed 600 people.

Extra shots from Braemar [March] and Applecross [June]



AND FINALLY

- Please pay your subscriptions promptly when you receive your Renewal Form .
- The next Photo Show is on Thursday December 8th 2016 Venue Thornfield House, Morley 8.15pm
- The next Housekeeping Meet takes place on the weekend of January 27th/28th.
- The Annual General Meeting takes place on Thursday March 9th 2017. Further information will be provided in TYM Issue 370. Remember the January 10th deadline for submission of proposals.