



THE YORKSHIRE MOUNTAINEER

Issue 372

August 2017

FORTHCOMING MEETS

September	3	Feizor – Climb/Walk – Park Buckhaw Brow SD797658 – Derek Field
	17	Meugher – Park at Yarnbury SE014659 – David Girt
October	1	Brimham – Climb/Walk – Car Park SE208645 – Derek Field
	6/7	Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet – Booking: ymchut@gmail.com
	20/21	Wales – Tan-y-Garth Hut, Capel Curig SH737567 – info: www.gwydyrmc.org.uk David Girt:
November	3/4	Coniston Hut – Bonfire Meet – Booking: ymchut@gmail.com
	19	Marsden – Station Car Park SE047118 – Laurie Morse & Jane Wainwright
December	10	Barden Scale – Xmas Fuddle – Parking SE051568 – Derek Field
	22/31	Coniston Hut – Xmas & new Year – Booking: ymchut@gmail.com
	26	Ilkley Cow & Calf – Traditional Boxing Day Meet - Car Park SE130467 <u>10.30am</u> Alan Swithenbank

TUESDAY LUNCH MEETS

Aug 8 - The White House, Blackstone Edge
Sept 12 - Hare and Hounds Menston
Oct 10 - Woodside Carvery, Ring Road Horsforth
Nov 14 - Toby Carvery, Keighley
Dec 10 - Xmas Dinner, Drop Farm, Moorside Lane Oxenhope

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

For further information, please contact Derek Field 2

EDITORIAL

Members may remember that after an absence of 8 months, production of the newsletter recommenced in November 2016 under temporary editorship. Now this is all set to change, with three members showing willingness to take over the role on a permanent basis. An appointment has not yet been finalised but we are confident that the production of TYM 373, due out in November, will be undertaken by a new Editor.

Whilst progress has been made in recruiting a new Editor, the Club is set to lose two officials during the course of the next few months. Laurie Morse and Pete Fenlon have announced their intention to stand down from the general committee. Pete has also stated that he will not be continuing in his role

as Slide Show Organiser. The Club needs replacements and would welcome members to come forward and fill the vacancies.

The YMC Meetup Group continues to expand, recruiting new members on a regular basis and club meets have been more successful as a result. In addition, Meetup members have made a valuable contribution to meet reports, with four of the seven appearing in this issue being submitted by them. Also, another of the reports was compiled by a member of another club with which we had a joint meet. It is difficult to remember such an occurrence in the past. But the moral is, send in meet reports so that we can produce interesting editions. They need not relate to club meets, so keep them coming.

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL

Since the appointment of a new Editor has not yet been made, please send any articles to the Club Secretary to either:

ymcsec2016@gmail.com

REMINDER



Members are reminded that the Club's Wales Meet will take place on October 20/21. This will be at the Tan y Garth hut (above) in the Capel Curig area and as previously notified, 10 places have been booked in this well-appointed hut, with the fee being £10 p.p.p.n.

Bookings will **not** be taken before September 8th.

WELCOME

Since the last issue of The Yorkshire Mountaineer several more people have joined the Club as Aspirant members. They are listed below and we would like to give them a warm welcome:-

Phillippa Child
Keith Sewell
Edwin Long
Patrick Needham
Leah Thompson
Alan Marson

We hope they enjoy their association with the club.

WEBSITE ACCESS

Members have been experiencing difficulty in gaining access to the club website. The problem has now been solved but members need to change their password to do so. Back in July, only 41 had taken this step. Mobile phone access should also now be compatible.

In the last edition of the newsletter it was reported that the membership of the group was 244. Now, at the beginning of August, this has risen to 294.

The Meetup environment has had beneficial effects to both individual members of that group and to the YMC itself. Meetup members are provided with the opportunity to develop their outdoor skills whilst contributing to the club. Hut meets, particularly Coniston, are much more vibrant affairs and there is a good nucleus of people attending outdoor climbing meets now that summer is upon us. It is good to see the variety of crags chosen for these midweek visits, with a sensible flexibility provided by having different nights for climbing. It was also good to see the choice of a crag not visited for many a year included on the list [Pule Hill].

The club currently has 24 Aspirant members on its books, and of these 16 are members of the Meetup Group and they contribute more than their membership alone: there are eight meet reports in this issue of the newsletter and of those, five have been provided by Meetup members and most of the photographs incorporated into this issue have Meetup connections. Furthermore, interest has been shown in assisting the club with administrative duties.

Jonathan deserves a great deal of credit for making the project a success and we hope the benefits enjoyed by all concerned will continue.

NOVICE MEMBERS and PROGRESSION TO ROCK PROGRAMMES – SUMMARY

Novice Members Programme

This programme was put together with the aim of getting new members into the club and giving them a taste of what is available. Thanks to the recent purchase of club equipment, due partly to a grant from the BMC, we were able to put on three events. These were advertised on Meetup, Facebook, Twitter and the Club Website.

The first event was an introduction to Rock Climbing at the Cow and Calf quarry in Ilkley. Special thanks have to go to Will Houston for his help setting this day up and providing even more kit for use. 29 people attended this meet. A number of bottom ropes were set up along with an abseil and a couple of the more experienced did some lead climbing. We stayed for the whole day and thankfully the weather was kind to us too. A very successful day indeed.

The second event was an introduction to mountaineering.. The original plan for this was a day walking up Pen y Ghent, but somehow this turned into a full weekend event and ‘bi eck it were a good un’! Tom Thompson deserves special thanks for this weekend since he was able to get us into the Craven Pothole Club cottage in Horton in Ribblesdale for the weekend. So Friday night 14 of us arrived and Tom took a small group of us caving, down ‘Upper Long Churn’. Something not many had experienced previously. So, needless to say, we were all a little giddy when we got to the cottage at about 10.30 pm.

Saturday morning I gave an input into the kind of kit and equipment you should carry in your rucksack for a day in the hills of the UK, and then we split into two groups and went up on to Pen y Ghent practicing various map reading skills and hill skills. All this before returning to the cottage for a slap up curry very kindly paid for by the YMC.

Sunday saw us take the short drive over to Twistleton Scar and we met up with other members of the YMC who were off walking for the day whilst the rest of us went about climbing various routes on the Scar. It is many years since I last climbed on there and I had forgotten how good it was. Others also commented on it and have asked for a further visit there soon.

Event three was the consolidation weekend at the YMC Club Cottage in Coniston. Again a great attendance with 22 turning up for this one. The aim of the weekend was to practice everything we had done on the previous events. We achieved this and a whole lot more. An amazing tour of the caves was provided by Sean Kelly, as well as an informative visit from the Coniston Mountain Rescue Team. All rounded off with another meal provided by the YMC. Thanks to Sean for his patience and guidance and to John and Phillipa for sorting the food.

Overall, the programme has been a massive success. We have recruited approximately 20 new [Aspirant] members to the club as a result and I expect more to join soon (more than we have recruited in the last two or three years combined). These are also very active members who have continued to climb with us on midweek evenings and also attend further club meets. I will be more than happy to run the programme again next year and thanks to some great feedback should be able to tweak a few things to make it more appealing. So if you can help out at all, even if it's just on one of the days, it would be greatly appreciated.

Progression to Rock Programme

This programme was designed to get existing club members out climbing. Unfortunately, this was not to be anywhere near as successful as the Novice Members Programme. Whilst all the meets were well attended, it was mostly the new and novice members that attended.

Once again there were three events. The first was programmed for Ilkley Cow and Calf but when only four people from the previous day turned up, we decided to drive over to Almscliff for a bit of change.

Event two was the Twistleton Scar meet. Once again the only people that attended were the people present from the previous day.

Event three was the consolidation weekend at the club cottage and yet again it was only new and novice members that came.

As you can appreciate, I put a lot of my own time and effort into organising these events and since there was no uptake on this programme, I will not be running it again next year. Sorry!

With that said, if anyone would like to get into climbing, we are running very successful midweek evening climbing meets which are very well attended, very sociable and with the added bonus of having all the kit we need thanks to the YMC.

Once again a massive thanks to all those who have helped on the various meets, the club for letting us buy the kit and paying for the food on two of the meets. And also to the BMC for the generous they gave us towards the kit purchase.

Hopefully all of this has been worthwhile in reviving this great club. I look forward to seeing you in the near future.

Best wishes

Jonathan Carter

CONISTON HUT MEET

Weekend of March 10th/11th – by Angela Moroney

Present: Jonathan Carter, Nicola Fan, Mark & Freddie Pedlar, Angela Moroney, Matt Crawford, Bernadette Cook, Ken Tilford, Ben Wardleworth (guest), Vicky Carter (guest), Jo Raine (guest), James Smirthwaite (guest), Sean Kelly, Sally Harris, Pete Stott, Andy Summerskill.

A mix of regular and a few new members attended this hut meet which was well supported. A range of activities were planned: scrambling/hill walking with navigation training/mountain biking and cave exploration.

Saturday started out misty and damp weather wise but spirits were high to make the most of time on the One group which included the new members headed out onto Rascal Howe and Mouldry Bank scrambles

and then to Kitty Crag for some navigation training. The low visibility meant skills were used quite quickly to navigate around lower Levers Water and back down to the cottage via the Coppermines to dry out and have a brew.

The decision was then made to try Low Water Beck which is a grade 3 scramble in summer and if the conditions are cold enough, a grade 3 winter climb. We were already wet and the climb is essentially up a waterfall so it appeared to be a good plan. The first pitch was avoided as the waterfall was in full flow. Due to slimy rock conditions, the rope was used in a few places. Good wet fun topping out straight through the upper waterfalls. Continued onto Low Water and finally onto the Old Man.

The evening meal was provided by the YMC and with no expense spared, we all tucked into bangers and mash (Cumberland of course). Entertainment for the evening was provided by Cards Against Humanity..... with the winner being Ken No comment!

Sunday was a walk from Glenridding over Striding Edge onto Helvellyn and back down Swirral Edge. Weather was more favourable on the way up but the mist descended as we headed over Striding Edge, which can be a blessing if you don't want to see the drop off on either side. What was not anticipated was the snow and slush on the way down from Swirral Edge, making for a slippery descent. Some members had had enough of the rain and cold at this point and Jonathan was unable to persuade them to bag the Wainwright Catstycam so we descended back into the valley and warm sunshine.

CONISTON HUT MEET

Easter, April 14th to 17th 2017

Present : Tom Thompson, Alex and Anton Sharp, Matt Crawford, Amy Fulford, guests Anna and Mike, Ani, Will, George and Eva Houston, Nicola Fan, Ken Tilford, Angela Jackson, Kevin and Judith Helme, Graham, Helen and Chris Helme, Soraya Homayoonpoor, Chris Marshall, Jonathan, Nicole, Abigail and Luke Carter, John, Jo, Ferdie and Tilly Beacroft-Mitchell [29 in total].



*Reports for meets with large attendances and varied activities are difficult to compile but **Nicola Fan** has kindly sent in the following account of her experiences on one of the days of her visit.*

As a fellow Millennial, I fit the stereotype of being over reliant on technology, guilty of being glued to my smartphone, a few taps and hey presto, Google has found the answer for you. This spilled into my sense of direction too, always using my satnav for the most simple of routes.

Here I was embarking on a navigation meet with Ken Tilford, prime reason being if I wanted to take my outdoor adventures further, I need to be able to read a map. There will always be the heated discussion on paper map vs GPS devices, each with their positives and negatives. However, it doesn't matter what you use if you don't know how to use it, you will always end up being stumped. As the saying goes, a poor craftsman blames his tools.

We started with the basics, such as the deciding which type of map would be most effective for mountaineering. The OS with a scale of 1:25000 would be sufficient as it shows the heights and steepness of the mountains. Understanding basic features on a map such as roads, footpaths, woods, buildings, rivers and streams, this will later assist if we needed to pinpoint our location.

My new best friend my compass, to help me orient myself on a map, as Ken listed the compass features. We were confused, why two compasses gave different readings. At first I blamed my £2 purchase from eBay, as we moved away from the kitchen bench, the steel frame along with a steel ruler had skewered the readings.

We rattled through the 4 Ds of navigation: Direction / Distance / Duration / Description.

The biggest test of all, to put theory into practice, being handed over some orienteering instructions and map make it to the top of Wetherlam. These instructions started from Miners Bridge and to follow Hole Rakes path. Ken had a smirk on his face as we walked down to the bridge to the start point. My morning coffee hadn't kicked in, as I realised that I could have started from behind the cottage and traced the path up. I think Ken knew he was going to be in for a long day. The next intersection was at Hole Rakes path, it becomes indistinct as it descends into a grassy fell at 500m after a small tarn. This was where pacing was crucial, I picked a stone for every 100m that I counted. With a bit of luck I had found the correct turn, for the summit of Wetherlam.

Upon approach, the weather had taken a turn, whilst it was sunny the wind had picked up. A few walkers descending, advised that it wasn't ideal to be scaling up and to call it a day. I was cowering behind large crags, my eyes watering. I thought I was going to be swept away, and not by a dark handsome stranger. Also a note to myself, as part of my mountaineering bag/kit, I should pack goggles or sunglasses at least.

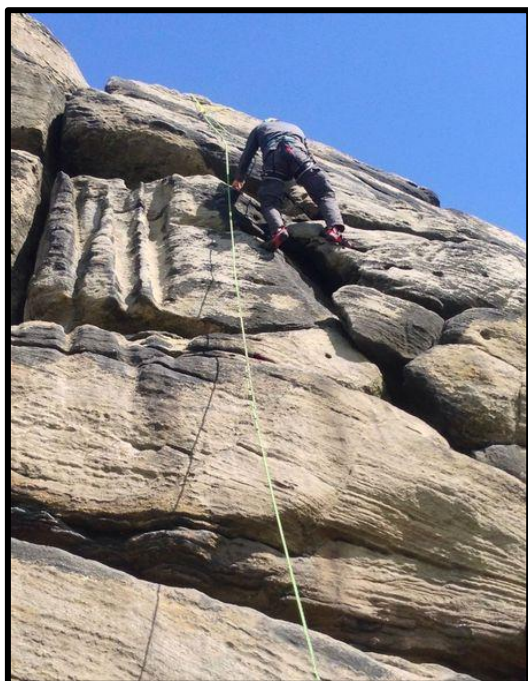
It would be unwise to continue to follow the orienteering instructions as it would be too exposed and unsafe. We decided to assess the area first but to go round to the back of Wetherlam where it would be shielded by the wind. Another lesson learnt, when pre-planning a route, to always look for other possible routes as viable options. As we scrambled to the summit, I had bagged my first Wainwright, a sense of achievement washed over me.

To sum up the meet, I would like to thank Ken for his patience, and teaching me the foundations of navigation to which I hope to build upon. You wouldn't be trusting me navigating in the dark, not just yet.

ALMSCLIFF MEET

Sunday April 23rd – by Amit Shah

Present: Jonathan Carter, Angela Moroney, Keith Sewell, Amit Shah and Alan Swithenbank



After a day at Ilkley Cow and Calf, a day that saw plenty of current-new and old (maybe long-standing is a better word) members and many potential members, Sunday 23rd April saw Keith, Angela, Jonathan and myself gather at the Cow & Calf car park only to decide to head to the Almscliff crag for a bit more outdoor adventure. Our convoy arrived at Almscliff around 11am and we made the short approach up to the Low Man section, where we met a handful of other climbers. The atmosphere couldn't have been better: warm and sunny with an incredible view. Not only that, but we had some beautiful red kites flying around nearby too. Anyway, back to the climbing! That's what we were there for. There was just one problem. We didn't have enough gear to actually do any trad climbing. Seeing a bunch of gear at Ilkley the day before, I think we all thought there was going to be plenty at this crag. A moment of face palms later, we decided soloing up all the routes wasn't

the safest idea and so Jonathan began to set up anchors at the top for some bottom-roping. Just before we got going with the climbing, Alan Swithenbank (aka Swiv) turned up to offer some moral support and, like something from *Only fools and Horses*, opened up a bag with copies of the YMC's Gritstone Guidebook going for a good price. After a successful day's work, Swiv relaxes and watched Keith and I struggle up Square Chimney & Whisky Crack, while Angela and Jonathan flew up Fluted Columns and Pinnacle Flake. Following a well-deserved breather, we swopped ropes and there was a definite consensus: Fluted Columns and Pinnacle Flake were much nicer climbs than the chimney!

Overall, Almscliff is a place with great trad (I've been back since so there's some reason behind that opinion) and the routes on Low Man seem pretty well protected. Having only bottom-roped and seconded these climbs, I can't wait to go back and lead them!

TWISTLETON MEET

Sunday May 21st - by Perry Hewlett

Present were: Perry Hewlett, Jonathan and Luke Carter, Nicola Fan, Angela Moroney, John and Ferdie Beacroft-Mitchell, Bernadette Cook, Beth Sampson, Keith Sewell and Amy Fulford [11 in total].

The Craven Pothole Club hut at Horton-in-Ribblesdale was made available for the weekend of May 19th/20th which meant that extra activities were included in the itinerary. As mentioned elsewhere in this issue, a party were introduced to caving by Tom Thompson who took a number of adventurous souls down Upper Long Churn on the Friday night and their resulting euphoria has also been documented.

On the Saturday two separate parties practised their mountaineering skills on the 2277ft Pen-y-Ghent before enjoying the communal curry and evening festivities at the CPC hut.

Climbing on Twistleton Scar provided the Sunday activity and below is a report of that from Perry.



Perry and Jonathan in Upper Long Churn



The CPC hut

A cold, damp and wet Sunday morning in the darkest depths of the Yorkshire Dales (well, that was what the weatherman had predicted all week!). But he was so wrong. The sun was shining, unlike the previous day's exploration and navigation exercises on Pen Y Ghent; everyone was getting up or sobering up from the Saturday evening social and getting ready for a full day climbing at the beautiful Twistleton Scar.

A little ashamed to admit it was my first outing to this wonderful lump of Yorkshire limestone rising out of the ground like, well, a pretty big lump of rock actually! After meeting up with the walking group and sorting out someone's pretty tangled ropes [I mention no names JC], we headed up to the face to pick some routes for setting up top ropes for the group. The walk in from the car park was not far but the approach to the face felt like an ascent of Kilimanjaro with some grade 3 scrambling (I'm sure it was not, but perhaps my head was a little fuzzy from Saturday night's revelries).

After checking several guide books and plenty of discussion, a few of the more experienced climbers took a gentle stroll to the top and set up an initial two routes. Mud In Your Eyes (D), an 18m ascent heads straight up for about 5m which is encroached upon by what seems the world's gnarliest Yew tree (only a few times did we manage to get ropes caught in it) after traversing left of the flake the rest of the ascent is a very enjoyable climb. The climb itself had some nice problems and everyone managed the route without too many issues. The second route was Cold Feet (VD), another 18m climb just to the left of Mud In Your Eyes, and in my opinion a lot nicer climb, following a shattered groove and crack to the top again, causing little problem to any of the group.

After everyone had cycled through the two routes, a further route, Evening Star, an 18m Severe marked as two star in the guide book, was set up. The best top rope of the day by far, this climb had everything you could want: some challenging moves, a few cracks following the flakes to the top (only a cup of coffee half way up could have improved it). Only one route was led by myself at Twistleton, Zero Wall graded at HS which I think is on the steep side of the grading system, more like HVD/S. A pleasant 10m ascent of a large crack finishing out on a ledge, seconded and cleared by Beth, followed up by Amy and Bernadette.

This was altogether a fantastic meet with some pretty amazing people. A good day was had by all and the weather stayed beautiful which is pretty astonishing as it is Yorkshire.

SCOTTISH ASSYNT MEET

Saturday May 27th to Friday June 2nd



Taigh nam Fahm, Grampian Speological Group hut at Elphin



SMC Naismith hut at Elphin

Present at the above: Steve Bostock, Andrew Sugden, Andy Summerskill, Toni Rochowski, Cozi Phillips, Lawrence Farndell, Matt Crawford, Amy Fulford, Bill Stevenson, Jonathan Carter, Angela Moroney, Bernadette Cook plus guests Frank and Peter F.
Campervan – Pete Stott.

Present at the above: Sean, Jenny, Marie and Sam Kelly, Graham and Kath Willis, Nigel Atkinson, Sally Harris.
Campervan – Patrick and Tom

For the second successive year this Scottish meet was based at Elphin, Assynt. The demand for places was such that two separate huts were needed to accommodate those who made the long haul north. The distance between the two was about a ten minute road walk so exchange visits were not prohibitive.

The meet at the same venue in 2016 had experienced almost permanent sunshine so it was a big disappointment for those who had not been present year for the weather to be mixed. This term also referred to the activities : climbing, walking, running, cycling, sea kayaking, cave visits and even open water swimming. There was even an occasion when a visit to Ullapool for a "full Scottish" breakfast was made, the weather being far from appealing!

Compiling a meet report when there is a large attendance is difficult, and on this occasion, with two huts to cover, no specific information has been forthcoming. However, quite a number of photos have been made available and a selection of these are displayed below so that readers can be made aware of what and where activities took place. Some of the locations may be recognisable for those with experience of the area. Not all the locations can be specified since your scribe was not in attendance for the whole week and the photos came without any information.



Suilven, taken from the front door of the Grampian hut



Socialising in the Grampian hut

Most of the climbing took place on coastal crags, which did not seem to suffer the brunt of the weather, as can be seen from the photos.



And of course, no trip to Assynt would be complete without an assault on The Old Man of Stoer. First climbed, one is told, by a party of six YMC members during the Clachtol meet in 1983 That day saw a support team of many marching along the clifftops transporting the means of access to the stack with them. Back in those days there was no Tyrolean Traverse to enjoy, just the choppy waves to navigate across in borrowed inflatable!

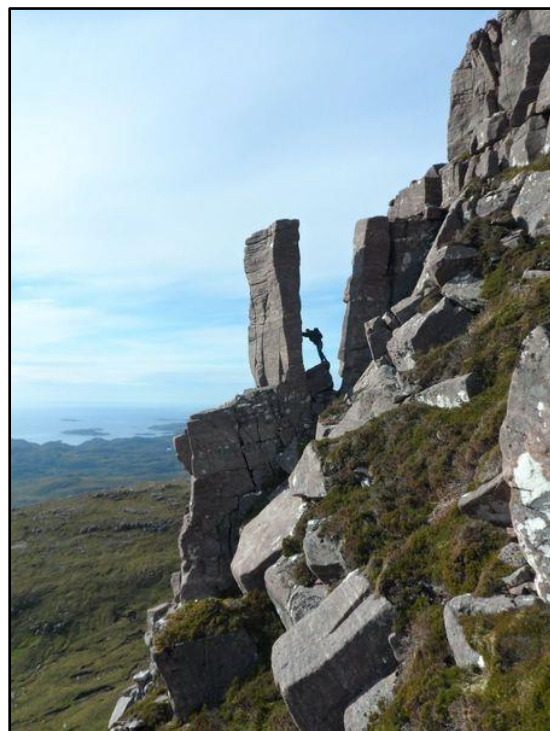
Photographs aplenty were taken from the clifftop to record the successful climb, but the photograph below is the only one we have that is taken from the top of the stack. And the ascent is probably the only one completed (or reported) by a YMC member since that day in 1983.



Didn't we do well!



JC posing on Suilven Of course!



Present were: Jonathan Carter, Nicola Fan, Angela Moroney, Mark and Freddie Pedlar, Ali and Soraya Homayoonpoor, Chris Marshall, Keri Bunnel.

Yorkshire and West Bromwich come together in North Wales !



The West Bromwich MC club hut



The YMC party plus WBMC members

In June a few of the WBMC hosted a visit, at our hut [close to the foot of the Watkin path], from members of the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club. The YMC is a club of similar size to ours and they have a similar history. They formed in 1941 and are still going strong today. Ten of their members arrived for the weekend and they turned out to be a mixture of established experienced as well as new and inexperienced members. The intention for the weekend was for both clubs to reach out to like-minded people and broaden all of our horizons a little. As the group slowly formed, with people arriving at various times during the evening, introductions were made and guided tours of the hut conducted. A couple of drinks were quaffed and much conversation was had before we all retired to bed ‘relatively’ early.

Day broke with good weather, which was a positive start. We all did the usual bizarre dance around the kitchen tat somehow results in fifteen individuals getting breakfast, making packed lunches and drinking enough tea to float the Tirpitz (Yorkshire tea of course... what else?). A plan developed to catch the Snowden Sherpa up to Pen y Pass and, as a group, walk the complete Snowden Horseshoe route, including Gallt y Wenault, then walking back to the hut via the old copper mines. With that decided, a briefing was given on Black Country dialect to ensure that everyone was ‘singing from the same hymn sheet’. The next step was to “chalk up and nob off” on the “cockin route”.

I’m not sure what the driver, or indeed the other passengers, thought when he picked us up but perhaps large groups aren’t all that unusual. The journey up the valley was broken up by various calls of “that rock looks like an elephant” and “they filmed *Carry on up the Khyber* over there”. We soon arrived at Pen y Pas and joined the weekend throng heading up the Pyg track. The weather was still with us and, as you know, the views down the Llanberis pass just get better and better as you ascend. We were soon at the col and turning towards Crib Goch. On the climb a couple of the YMC chaps decided to go back down the col and turning towards Crib Goch. On the climb a couple of the YMC chaps decided to go back down the Pyg track and take that route to the top with a view to re-grouping at the ubiquitous ‘café’. The rest of us continued the scramble up towards the ridge. Once on the ridge we naturally split into smaller groups moving at various paces according to experience. For a few it was a first and they got to enjoy it in fairly clear conditions.

By the time we were on the col approaching the Garnedd Ugain section of the ridge, however, the weather began to close in a little. Windproofs came out but the smiles were still there. More classic scrambling on to the summit where we discovered we were sharing the mountain with a fell race. We also discovered, by various garbled phone, text and whatsapp messages, that the other small group had turned back and

were descending back to Pen y Pas. As always, the crowds built as we approached the 'finger stone' at the top of the Pyg track and from there to the top it was horrendous. Hordes of people milling along the path like zombies. It was like being in a Merry Hill shopping for the Boxing Day sales... but with rain... I even saw someone wearing a 6 foot banana outfit!! We didn't hang around at the café as it was a ridiculous melee at the door way. We continued down the South Ridge towards the new start of



the Watkin Path. Once there another group split off from the main with Pete Poultney taking a couple of the YMC chaps off down the South Ridge route. The rest of us set off down the Watkin to continue the original route. Once at the col, the 'splitting up' theme continued with Jonathan leading Keri back to the hut via the Watkin path. The remaining few headed for Lliwedd.

The weather had improved again as soon as we left Snowdon's ridiculously crowded summit. By the time we were stood on Lliwedd, spectacular views were enjoyed again. With the easy part of the route left to do, we continued on descending to the mines by a pathless route and then following the old miners track back into the valley. We were all soon back at the hut having had a long but great day. Even the party that turned back had a long day as they ended up walking all the way back to the hut along the valley.

After much juggling of kit we were all showered and sitting in the Saracens Head, in Beddgelert, for dinner. A table for the full group had been booked in advance so it was a great genial atmosphere. Good food, a few beers, and a good day to waffle about. What more do you need?



Day 2 dawned with a little drizzle in the air but it was expected to clear. The plan for today was for everyone to muck in and do the hut chores. Then we would load up and de-camp to the Ogwen Valley, meeting across the road from the mountain rescue HQ. The intention was to spend a few hours climbing on Little Tryfan.

The rain was still with us as we walked up to the crag but soon blew through. The rock was wet so we set up a top rope on one of the easy routes so the less experienced among us could have a go at climbing. While we were doing that the rock soon dried out and we naturally split up into smaller groups.

Ken and Jonathan both soon had the novices placing gear all along the crag before starting to lead people up a few routes. Pete and I carried on up the route we'd had a top rope on, then had a crack at another two pitch route before joining the rest of the group lower down the crag for more banter and sandwiches.

Jonathan both soon had the novices placing gear all along the crag before starting to lead people up a few routes. Pete and I carried on up the route we'd had a top rope on, then had a crack at another two pitch route before joining the rest of the group lower down the crag for more banter and sandwiches.

By early afternoon people were starting to think about the traffic on the way home so we packed up and drifted back to the road.

The conversation on the walk out, and the laughter and handshakes, spoke of a really good weekend. I think everyone had a really good time, and it was great to spend the time with new faces. There was lots of talk like “we must do this again” and “how about making this an annual event?”

Yeah... how about that... why don't we?

A few members of the WBMC are heading for Coniston in July for round 2 when the YMC will host us at their hut. I think it's safe to say in advance that they'll have a good time.

Graham Stanford **West Bromwich Mountaineering Club**

CONISTON MEET

June 16th/17th 2017 – by Angela Moroney

Present: Sean and Marie Kelly, Jonathan Carter, Angela Moroney, Phillipa Child, John Beacroft-Mitchell, Bernadette Cook, Keith Sewell, Edwin Long, Lawrence Farndell, Leah, Leo and Olivia Thompson, Soraya Homayoonpoor, Chris, Poppy and Blake Marshall, Pete Stott, Nicola Fan, Sally Sam, Allan Stelmach, Tony Fisher, Shoaib.

A mixed group of YMC and Meetup members with a nearly full house at the cottage.

Saturday morning was abseil practice at Hodge Close in preparation for caving in the Coniston mines during the afternoon. Later we visited the very impressive Cathedral Quarry with the resident goldfish .. yes, it's true. And there was of course the customary visit to the Three Shires Inn.

In the afternoon, Marie, Leah, Edwin, Nicola and Sean went into the caves at Simon's Nick, under Sean's expert guidance. No one was prepared to hear the words 'just step out into the black void, everything will be fine, honestly'. Despite the accompanying fear, horror and exhilaration, everyone managed three long abseils to get to the bottom and back out into the sunshine at the 'Hospital level'. Sean, you have the patience of a saint and a very determined daughter. THANK YOU.

Meanwhile, the remainder of the group had a visit from the Coniston Mountain Rescue Team who very generously came down to the cottage for a demonstration and insight into the work they do ... this visit was brought even closer to home as most of the rescue team were out on the fell assisting with a very serious incident near Low Water tarn. Everyone got to look in the rescue vehicle and play with the equipment. There was also a first aid demonstration by team member Janice ... a practical demonstration on how to splint a leg in place left Allan with more than he had bargained for !!??



John B-M provided the BBQ in the evening and took over the role as head chef AKA alpha male. In his own words 'Man .. Fire .. Meat'. It was felt that in the interest of safety it was best to leave him to it. Special mention and thanks has to go to Phillipa for two magnificent cakes and keeping John B-Ms testosterone levels under control during cooking 😊).

Sunday was once again bathed in sunshine – it was an early start for Sean, Allan, Keith, Sally and myself who went into the caves again to do the same route as the group the previous afternoon. It got us out of the clean up operation at the cottage too! Afterwards, most of the group set out to Pavey Ark and had much fun scrambling up Mill Gill from Stickle Tarn, taking in all the waterfalls which was most welcome in the heat of the day. Edwin, Keith, Allan and Bernadette tackled Crescent Climb on Pavey while the rest made their way up Jacks Rake on a Grade 1 scramble.



Some of the guys got more than they bargained for as apparently naked swimming is all the rage in Pavey Ark Tarn .. OH MY!

A fantastic weekend with fantastic weather. Thank you to the YMC for their very kind donation towards the food on Saturday night. A great bunch of people with a very mixed range of experience and abilities made for a thoroughly enjoyable weekend for everybody.

Here's to the next one.



Jack's Rake

New Members Climbing Meet Cow and Calf Quarry Ilkley

Present: Anneka and Will Houston and children, Jonathan Carter, John Beacroft-Mitchell, Phillippa Child, Angela Moroney, Edwin, John Flaxen, Jacque Watkinson, Joe Carroll, Jacob Oakley, Keith Sewell, Matt Crawford, Amy Fulford, Liz Osbourn, Helen Webster, Annie, John Hunt, Liam Mitchell, Tom Thompson, Chris Marshall and children, Soraya Homayoonpoor, Nicola Fan, Amit Shah, Damian (29)

A fantastic turnout of old, new and prospective members met in the Cow and Calf car park, to get ready for a day of climbing on a lovely sunny Saturday morning. The meet leaders had arrived bright and early to set up some climbs in the quarry to give everyone lots of challenges to overcome. Some fared better than others but everyone persevered and there were lots of happy faces as people over came the various problems.

The day also gave people the chance to both learn from scratch and practice belaying. Everyone also got to watch some fantastic, experienced climbers lead climbing and seconding. This gave us all a glimpse of what we were working towards.

Will also very kindly set up an abseil for people to try. He was very patient as he guided and instructed everyone, particularly as some people were taking on their first abseil. There were some great faces made as Will tested peoples nerve part way down the rock face.

Later in the afternoon, after the adults had played about abseiling, Will set up a climb for the kids who were on the meet. All four kids did a brilliant job pushing themselves out of their comfort zone, especially when they had a go at abseiling back down.

A great meet and introduction to outdoor climbing. Definitely some budding climbers in the making, both amongst the adults and the kids!

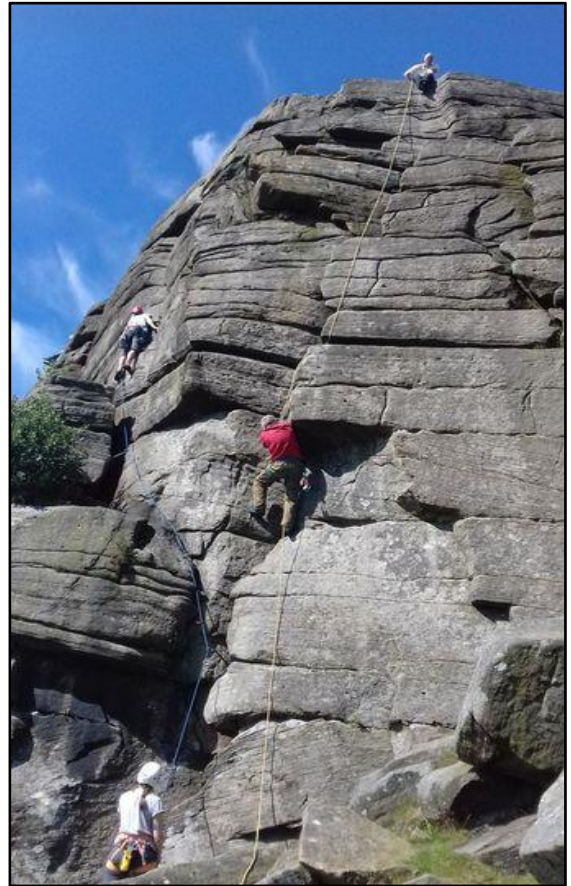
COMMITTEE MATTERS**Extracts from the July 2017 meeting**

- The handover of the Treasurer post from Ann Morse to Andy Summerskill had now been completed, with Andy now in full control of financial matters.
- The Spring Bank meet for 2018 had been booked, with the venue reverting back to Skye. The hut at Glenbrittle is available for booking for the week commencing 28th May.
- Progress had been made with the website: the refreshing of the home page was improved and the problem with member log-in had now been resolved.
- Discussion regarding the Meetup Group took place, with Jonathan Carter stating that he intended to continue as organiser.
- Laurie Morse announced his intention to resign from the committee with effect from the November Meeting. Jonathan Carter agreed to replace him as the Club's BMC representative.
- Pete Fenlon announced he would be resigning from the committee at the 2018 AGM. He would also stand down as Photo Show Co-Ordinator in March 2018.
- The annual donation to the Coniston Mountain Rescue Team was to be increased to £250 for 2018. In addition, a review of this donation was to be made annually.
- Production of the Wired Guide was hoped to be completed in time to go to print between October and December 2018.
- It was agreed that UK Climbing would be used to advertise club climbing meets.

Earlier in this issue mention was made of the glut of photographs taken on meets. It was not possible to include them all with the relative meet reports, but with space available on this page, a further display is possible. Included is another caving shot because I don't recall any appearing in TYM before.



Pule Hill July 13th



Stanage July 16th



Hodge Close June 17th



Coniston mines June 17th