

# THE YORKSHIRE MOUNTAINEER

Issue: 376

Winter 2018 - 2019

Skyl's the limit



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The Yorkshire Mountaineering Club - Founded 1941



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## A Running Start from your YMC Newsletter Editors

**John Beacroft-Mitchell & Philippa Child**

Welcome to the **Bumper Edition of the Yorkshire Mountaineer**

“Bumper Edition?” I hear you cry “Why do you treat us so?”

Well the answer is a simple one — You didn’t get an autumn newsletter because my dayjob intervened and chaos reigned.

So without further ado; feast your eyes on a whole summer and autumn of shenanigans from the Yorkshire Mountaineering Club with all the time critical information edited out.

As ever, email your news and piccies to:

**ymcnewsletter@gmail.com**



*John & Philippa*



## Coppermines Restoration

The restoration work in the coppermines valley is just about complete. They had a £455K grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Half was spent stabilizing the ruins in the Coppermines valley and round at Penny Rigg Mill (Tilberthwaite). The rest was spent on research, surveys and public information signs. As a result the mines site has now been taken off the 'At Risk Register'. It's all very impressive and well worth a look.

Lots more information can be found at [www.conistoncopper.co.uk](http://www.conistoncopper.co.uk)

There's an animated/CGI fly through of the mines site, as it would have appeared in its heyday, lots of material on the mines and miners and some field guides. The guides are for sale in the village but free to download from the link above. I'm sure it will be of interest to many of our members, particularly those who visit the hut.

# Twistleton Walking Meet

**Article and photo by Kath Willis**

Date: 2nd September 2018

Start Point: Twistleton Dale House - .

Grid Ref: GR 717 757

*Attendees: Guest - Bill Cordingley, YMC Meetup Group Members - John Flexen, Bev D'Arcy, Chris & Dog Brian, Joanne Biott & Members Kath and Graham Willis.*

On arrival at Twistleton Dale House we paid the small fee in the honesty box and left the climbing group to walk along Oddie's Lane. At the stile we climbed up past Twistleton Hall and followed the track round and over to Kingsdale. At this stage of the walk we encountered several other walkers (probably doing the Ingleton Waterfalls route), but once into Kingsdale we had the route to ourselves.

At the road we turned left and climbed up to a stile before following a track past the Cheese Press Stone and Marble Steps Pot Hole. Although it was cloudy it was quite warm and the long climb up Ireby Fell called for several stops to take a breather and admire the view as it opened up, revealing the Lakes and Morecambe Bay. It was also a day for spotting wildlife and there were buzzards at this side of the fell.

On reaching the summit trig point of Gragareth, the weather changed, it became cooler and a light drizzly shower meant that it was time for some of us to find a waterproof layer, before continuing on our way. From here we followed the wall until we reached a stile and crossing over we found a suitable spot for something to eat. Fortunately the rain had stopped by this time, so after a well earned lunch; we prepared ourselves for the steep descent down to Yordas Cave.

After exploring the cave and taking some photographs we walked down to the road, which we followed for a kilometre until a stile led us down to a footbridge and diagonally across a cow field up to Braida Garth Farm. Continuing through the farm the track ran parallel with George's Scar and it was here we saw a hare bounding down the hill. Eventually we climbed down Twistleton End Scar to rejoin the masses on the Waterfalls Walk track.

A very unpleasant screeching sound joined us as we descended to the stile at Oddie's Lane and it was here, much to our horror, that we witnessed a rabbit being attacked by a stoat. Quite a day for wildlife in action! Leaving the poor rabbit to its fate, we followed the road back to the starting point and from here we arranged to reconvene at The Marton Arms in Thornton in Lonsdale for liquid refreshments.

The total distance travelled was approximately 17k (10.6m) with 576m (1,889ft) of ascent.

# Ribblehead & Whernside Walking Meet

Article and photo by Kath Willis

Date: Sunday 20th May 2018

Start Point: Roadside car parking  
on Blea Moor Road

Grid Ref: SD 765792

*Present: Eve and Steve Bartlett, Chris Bartlett, Bev Bartlett, Anthony Bartlett, Joanne, Tony, Bev, Angela Moroney, Ann and Laurie Morse, Jennifer & Peter Tennant, Art, Mike, Stephen, John, Laura, Graham & Kathryn Willis.*



The parking area was very busy with several different walking groups and cycle race supporters. With so many people around it took a while to locate all the walk attendees, but we did manage to set off just after 10am.

From the Blea Moor Road we headed for the path at the road junction, which passed the Ribblesdale viaduct. It was a dry warm day, with blue sky and plenty of sunshine and there was a slight breeze which was very welcome for the ascent. After a short stop at the aqueduct to allow the back markers to catch up, we continued up Slack Hill passing Force Gill on our left. Crossing the stile we followed the clear path up onto the slopes of Whernside where the wind picked up, blowing dust into our faces and taking poor Bev's hat with it! As we reached the top it was decided to take lunch and admire the splendid views across to Ingleborough and Penyghent and take a few photographs.

The steep descent to the valley was slow for some, as the deteriorating path was very dry with loose stones and there were many other groups to negotiate our way around. With everyone safely down, we continued our walk avoiding the Three Peaks sign and followed a good track past Bruntscar, and Hodge Hole before reaching a gate at Ellerbeck Farm. Here we waited for the sheep and lambs to be herded into pens from the field, and then we passed through the farm yard and followed the track down to the road at Chapel-le-Dale. The temperature was rising as we crossed the road and climbed over the stile walking through fields of wild primroses on the way up to Great Douk Cave Pasture.

Here we took a break with most of the party opting to go down to see Great Douk Cave (the first time for some), while others enjoyed a welcome rest and another photograph opportunity.

When we eventually managed to drag Art and his camera away from the clints and grykes on the limestone pavement, we followed the wall up to a stile and walked above the scars to a farm track which took us down to the main road. It was agreed that although it was less than 2km along the road back to our starting point, a better option on such a fine day was to take the farm access road to Gunnerfleet Farm passing under the viaduct and rejoining the path taken on our outward journey.

Back at the parking area, some of the party headed off home, while others called at the tea van for refreshments. The newly refurbished Station Inn was the destination for the rest of us, where we enjoyed a well earned drink and a bite to eat.

The total distance travelled was approximately 12.5 miles with 2,821ft of ascent.

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## FREE ROCK CLIMBING LESSONS

### Jonathan Carter

In preparation for my Rock Climbing Instructor assessment I am required to deliver a number of outdoor rock climbing sessions

If you or your friends and family (including children) would like to try outdoor rock climbing for the first time or to develop your existing rock climbing skills please get in touch. I can tailor any sessions to your needs and availability

The venue will most likely be one of the fantastic crags around West Yorkshire or East Lancashire.

All equipment (except climbing shoes, but they are not needed for beginners) will be provided

I am already a qualified indoor climbing instructor and have many years experience climbing outdoors

With a qualified instructor a full day would usually cost around £90 each so grab yourself a bargain and get it for free.

Email: [jonathan.carter](mailto:jonathan.carter)

# Isle of Skye

Article by Jenny Koenig

Date: 26th May – 2nd June, 2018

Start Point: Roadside car parking on Blea Moor Road

Grid Ref: SD 765792

*Present: Nigel Atkinson, Angela Moroney, Jonathan Carter, Sally Harris, Lawrence Farndell, Nicola Fan, Andrew Sugden, Bernadette, Cozi Philips, Mel Shaw, Michel, Graham Smith, Bill Stevenson, Tzvetie Erohina, Andy Summerskill, Toni Rochowski, Sean, Sam, Marie Kelly, Jenny Koenig,.*

A week on Skye often includes sitting around the fire waiting for the rain to stop. Typical weather is two wet days out of every three so to get a whole week of sunshine and warmth was stunning: it was short sleeves and sunscreen every day. In fact it had been so dry and warm on Skye that there were large wildfires that meant some roads were closed and air quality was reduced.



There were three substantial days out during the week with “rest days” in between to recover. The first of the three big days was Pinnacle Ridge up Sgurr nan Gilleann, a favourite of Skye trips and it didn’t disappoint. The second big day out was the Dubh Slabs which entailed an early start and an exciting boat trip from Glen Brittle round to the start at Loch Coruisk. After a short walk on the grass Cozi led up the slabs with those following slowly realising that Cozi had not taken the traditional route. After an intervention with a rope to get the followers onto easier (comparatively) ground progress was steady. It was very hot and thirsty work and a long day was had by all. The third big day out was the Cioch, complete with a swash-buckling, sword-brandishing photo opportunity. There were plenty of people with a deservedly big sense of achievement at the end of the day.



Smaller parties explored independently from the main team. Tzvetie traversed the ridge bivouacking half way. Andrew & Liz did the same as two long days out from the hut. As ever Bill & Graham were seen doing daring deeds on the crags.

“Rest days” included some sea-kayaking around Dunvegan Bay, Fiskavaig Bay and out to Wiay Island. Open water swimming was also popular with parties swimming in Loch Coruisk,

Loch Greshornish, Fiskavaig Bay and off Portnalong jetty. Sally led a team picking up plastic litter off the beach near Portnalong – it appears she inspired David Attenborough to raise the issue in his Blue Planet series.

The accommodation at Glen Brittle Memorial Hut was ideal with good cooking and sitting-about spaces including a relaxing end-of-the-day sunny spot out the back with lovely views of the countryside and a breath of cool-ish air.



The venue for May 2019 is Ratagan Youth Hostel on the shore of Loch Duich near Shiel Bridge at the bottom end of Glen Shiel. A great venue surrounded by big hills and sea lochs. Book your spaces ASAP to avoid disappointment. If it's half as good as this year it will still be fantastic!

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## Proposed Social Events

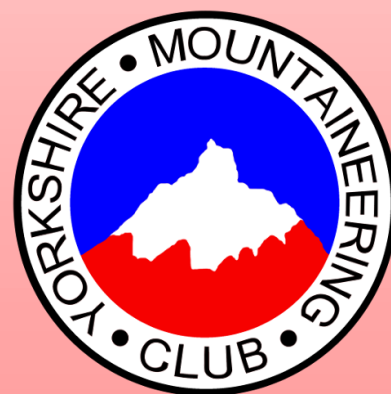
Many members of the YMC will no doubt remember with fondness the active social life of the club.

The YMC committee has recently been asked to consider re-instigating a club annual dinner and a monthly or more frequent meeting in a public house.

Before making any arrangements the committee would like to obtain as many views as possible from the club membership to find out if there is likely to be sufficient support from members.

Can you please let the Meets Secretary Graham Willis on [gcw@dial.pipex.com](mailto:gcw@dial.pipex.com) and copy any comments to the YMC Secretary Peter Stott on [ymcsec2016@gmail.com](mailto:ymcsec2016@gmail.com)

Alternatively please pass any comments on to any committee member



# Committee Meetings 2018

## Peter Stott Honorary Secretary

Circumstances during the year have meant that members have not been regularly informed of the workings of the Committee, so summarised below are the main issues which were discussed.

The Club's finances were monitored during the year, with re-investment regularly made to optimise profit on the various accounts. Steps were also taken to reduce expenditure, with particular reference to the Coniston hut, where negotiations with South Lakeland District Council resulted in a switch from paying Council Tax to business rates, with 80% relief. Considerable savings were

anticipated, along with a two-year rebate, and registration into this scheme has confirmed this. Such economies are welcome and although the hut represents the club's major source of income, expenditure can be quite high. An example of this is the replacement of the two stoves sanctioned during the year, along with installation of flue linings. The old stove in the member's cottage was considered to be a health hazard whilst much discontent had been shown regarding the one in the visitor's lounge. Installation work was to take place during the last week in November.

Further expenditure had to be made on resolving the persistent damp problems experienced in the middle dormitory, where problems with the ventilation needed resolving. Additional measures were also made to prevent any repetition, with extra fans being fitted in toilet and shower areas.

Problems outside the property had to be addressed, particularly the re-construction of the steps close to the bridge over the beck and investigation into water ingress noticed in the coal bunker. This was considered not to be grey water but further testing was to be made to confirm this.

After consultation with all other cottage owners in the Coppermines Cottages, it was agreed that major renovation needed to be made to the access track, and work was finished satisfactorily at the end November.

A broadband connection at the hut was considered, and it was agreed to go ahead with a twelve month trial in an effort to increase publicity of the club. Ancillary additions would be considered at a later date.

Maintenance of any property is an on-going process, and the Coniston hut is no exception. Considerably more work than that specified took place and the committee recognised the contribution of members towards this.



The Meets aspect of the club has been reviewed regularly since this has proved the one problem area in the past. So far this year attendances have been satisfactory, varying according to the meet. Prior notice of the meets using Mailchimp has been worthwhile and the Meetup has had a positive effect. Introduced as a recruiting tool early in 2017, the group has over 750 members but only a small nucleus (12%) of these have been active. Widespread interest in joining the Club proper has not been shown by these newcomers. The possibility of re-structuring the group is being investigated, in an effort to attract only those most likely to have a positive interest in becoming a member. However, of the 100 or so people who had participated in meets, around 20 had joined the club proper as Aspirant Members and three had also taken on administrative roles.

Midweek climbing meets were initially well attended but then tapered off due to difficulties in providing qualified instructors.

Sponsoring members to undertake relevant courses has had limited success in terms of numbers.

A general problem with meets was identified, that of obtaining Meet Co-ordinators, a situation experienced for some time.

Suggestions have been made about re-introducing mid week social meets, initially once per month, but time and place were not identified. The production of club t shirts and sweatshirts, proposed earlier in the year, is now up and running, with further items to follow next year.

A considerable amount of time was consumed by the club's need to conform to the General Data Protection Regulation, with a lengthy preparatory document being drawn up to aid this. Consultation with the Webmaster took place to ensure that the content of the club's website conformed to the GDPR. Issues such as commercial grade security software and password protection of YMC data files formed part of a fairly complex analysis.

An increase in subscription rates was authorised, with members being notified via the newsletter. The last increase had been in 2016 and it was considered reasonable that increases in tariffs made by the BMC should be reflected in the YMC's charges.

Progress with the club's Wired guidebook scheme took place periodically, with reference to obtaining photographs, proof reading etc. and the latest information to hand is that production would be complete by the summer/winter 2019.

In the coming year it is intended to have contact with members on a more regular basis than has been apparent in 2018, when unavoidable circumstances prevented it. Members are reminded that should they feel a need to communicate with the club that this can be done by contacting the Hon Secretary on [www.ymcsec2016@gmail.com](mailto:www.ymcsec2016@gmail.com)

# Tenerife

Article by Jonathan Carter

Date: 13th - 20th October 2018

*Present: Jonathan Carter, Angela Moroney, Chris Chester, Damian Rose, Marie Kelly, Beth Sampson and Lindani Sumaili*

Despite one or two minor hiccups with people booking flights from the wrong airport and to the wrong airport and on the wrong date we finally arrived at the Tenerife Climbing House in Arico. The house was a perfect base for our week and we were comfortably accommodated in a bunk room.

Sunday was our first planned day to be climbing however, unfortunately, it rained so we had to abandon that idea and spent some valuable time doing some rope work in the house. It was then off down to the pub for a few beers and to witness Damian's fluent Spanish!



The next morning we were up bright and early, mainly due to the screaming cockerel and farmers dogs nearby! After breakfast we set off to Tamadaya Gorge climbing area where we spent the morning going through the rope skills we had gone through the previous day. We set our goal of getting everybody lead climbing the end of the week and then we were off!



We spent the rest of the day in the upper section of the gorge named "Apart" climbing various routes graded 4+ - 6b. For some of the group this was their first experience not only of Sport Climbing but also of lead climbing. So we went into it very gently with most of the novices seconding routes to begin with but by the end of the day one or two were starting to lead on the easier grades.

After a fantastic day we all headed back to the house for a BBQ to celebrate my birthday and totally unknown to me the girls had ever so kindly made me the most amazing chocolate cake. So we finished the day off sat around the fire pit drinking cold beer eating cake! Not a bad start to a holiday.

Tuesday saw us up at a more leisurely time as this was the day we had decided to head up to the Volcano Teidi. As we were unable to book into the refuge we had decided to Bivvy on the volcano at around



3000m before finishing our ascent the next morning early enough to watch the sun come up.

We arrived at our starting point in El Portillo around lunchtime. It was the hottest temperatures we had experienced since arriving on the island. We knew we wouldn't be able to fill our water bottles during the walk so we all had to carry enough to last for two days.

The early going was fairly steady but the heat was having a huge impact on some of the group. We reached the foot of the climb proper just before dusk and there was then a huge drop in temperature so we started to add a few layers of clothing. As darkness fell we made the decision to find a Bivvy site which we did quite easily and around 9.30pm, after having a hot drink and food, we got into our bags and tried to get some sleep. The temperature was now into the minuses.

At 4am we were up and packing kit away and after another hot drink we sent off to finish our ascent. Keeping close together with only our headtorches for light we passed by the refuge and then the top of the cable car. One or two people started to feel slightly breathless at this point but we continued and finally reached the summit at around 7am. Sat at 3718meters in the dark above the clouds waiting for the sun to come up was an amazing experience. And at around 08.10 over in the East there it was lighting up the sky and creating the most amazing Atmospheric Optic where the shadow of the mountain appears on the cloud. We had achieved our goal of watching the sun come up from on top of Spain's highest peak.

The descent was relatively straight forward other than the lack of fluids we had left we stopped briefly at the refuge to remove our warm clothing and then off we went. Arriving back at the car around lunchtime very very thirsty! An hour later we were back in the house in Arico telling our heroic stories to anybody that would listen!

Thursday saw us travel up to another climbing area "Arico Arriba" however, after the boys had struggled on two or three of the climbs we decided that this probably wasn't the best place to bring a novice group and we all headed back over to Tamadaya gorge again. This time though we concentrated more on the middle section of the gorge named "Cuarto Largo". The climbs in this section were much longer and a 50m rope wasn't enough but fortunately Chris had brought his 70m which did the job. By the end of the day all of the group had lead at least one route. We had achieved our



group goal with a day of the holiday to go! We returned to the house for take away pizzas and more beer and settled down to watch climbing videos on the big screen in the lounge.

Friday was our last climbing day so we all headed back to Tamadaya again this time to do the routes we had individually been eyeing up all week. Most of these were around the lower section named "Tuberia".

Tenerife is being developed as a climbing venue to compete with the likes of El Chorro and Calpai and if it continues in the way it has started I can see it achieving that. There is a lack of guide-books for the area but we were able to get a pamphlet from the Climbing house that helped us out massively. Food and drink in Arico is cheap as chips with a beer costing around £1 per pint.

All in all a fantastic week away with a great bunch of people. We all came away wanting more and talking about next years plan.....



# Climbing Review

Article by Jonathan Carter

Over the past 11 months the climbing side of the club has grown from strength to strength with the club now having more active climbers than for there has been for a long long time. The club climbing meets are extremely well attended too.

This is due to the club investing in a number of things: equipment ,we have enough kit now to easily run meets and introduce people to top / bottom roping and abseiling. There has been investment in Meetup so we can advertise our meets more and encourage new members to join. We have invested in members to become trained in running climbing meets and also gaining relevant qualifications and putting meets on that people want to attend, rather than going to the same venues all the time we have travelled outside of Yorkshire for our climbing.

The overseas trip has been a huge success too and I intend to arrange another for 2019.

I have personally been out with lots of club members individually, indoors and outdoors, both introducing them to climbing and also developing the skills they already have.

So, if you are interested in getting into climbing or developing the skills you already have please get in touch. This is the best opportunity you will have to do it for FREE. A day with a paid instructor can cost around £90.

As the weather turns we are now heading indoors for our regular meets. The plan is to use both The Big Depot (formerly Leeds Wall) and ROKT at Brighouse but we do use other venues if people want to.

If you have any questions around climbing or Club Climbing meets please do not hesitate to contact me

Hope to see you soon

Jonathan Carter



Photo courtesy of Depot Leeds

# Kilburn Walking Meet

Article by Laurie Morse

Date: 16th September 2018

*Present : Jane Wainwright; David Girt; Graham and Kath Willis; New members Giles and William Drinkall; Laurie and Ann Morse*

The forecast was for showers in the afternoon so we left expecting to get wet. From the car park we descended on the road a short way before turning north into the woods on a bridleway and then on footpaths to the busy A170. Once safely across the road we had a short climb over fields to the secluded Gormire Lake, which suddenly appeared through the trees. Apparently the lake is famous for people 'skinny dipping' but there were no takers from our team today (spoilsports).

Our way was, thankfully, remarkably dry underfoot and passing the few dwellings a couple of miles further on at Tang Hall, crossed several flat fields to arrive for our lunch stop in the quaint little village of Boltby.

Here we were pleased to find the village hall open for refreshments. We courteously took our boots off before we entered, to save on sweeping the floor afterwards. There were cups, tea-bags, coffee and even milk in the fridge for those who want to make a brew. All that is asked is for a small donation. We had a pleasant lunch stop sat on chairs at a table....all very civilised!

It was soon time to get the boots on again and move on. With the visitor book signed and our donations given, we headed up the road to a bend, turned right into a field then after a short descent began the climb up to High Barn and on to the Clevedon Way. We had a rain shower on the way up lasting just long enough for the cags to be donned.

Turning south we walked back along the escarpment to find that a fairly new cycle path has been created that runs parallel to the footpath therefore keeping cyclists off the path. Back to the A170 at the top of Sutton Bank we detour to the visitor centre to use the facilities before the last mile or so back to the car. Passing the end of the runway of the Yorkshire gliding Club, we saw gliders being towed up by winch or by a small plane. We had good views of them as they soared overhead, climbing to just below the clouds before spiralling over the trees below then back to land on the runway.

We finally arrived at the top of the now rather grey looking White Horse of Kilburn, before our descent down fairly steep steps to the car park below.

Apart from the one shower we all felt rather lucky to have had a good fine day out.

# Wainwright Walking Meet

Date: 17 - 18th August 2018

**Article by Angela Moroney**

*Attending: Ken T – Alan M – Andy D – Karen - Angela M*

The intention of the club meet was to take in four of the peaks surrounding the Elterwater area Loughrigg Fell /Black Fell / Holme Fell / Lingmoor Fell.

We met at the club hut in Coniston on the Friday evening. The rain had started to fall however the forecast for Saturday was for clearer skies lunchtime and into the afternoon.

Starting from Hodge Close Quarry we decided to take in Cathedral Cave on the way to Loughrigg Fell unfortunately between myself and Ken T we were unable to locate the entrance. Which was embarrassing as we have both been to the Cave on previous occasions.

Below it looks like but is not the entrance to Cathedral Cave.

Not wanting to waste any more time looking for a cave we were probably stood on we headed of towards Loughrigg taking in Slater Bridge on the way into Little Langdale. Eleven o'clock was a little early to sample the delights of the Three Shires Inn and Alan was refusing to pay the inflated beer prices so we continued upwards. The weather that had started to look promising with a rainbow over Little Langdale Tarn was slowly deteriorating .....



The rain started to get heavier and wind picked up and by the time we reached the ridge on Loughrigg Fell, drowned rats would be a good description. Karen had lost the will to live and Alan wasn't saying much which said more than enough !! Andy D



tried to convince us that we had reached the summit when a cairn came into view but unfortunately there was enough visibility to be able to make out the true summit half km away. We decided to ignore this small detail and claimed the summit.

Having walked in many areas of the UK this was Karen's first trip to the Lake District and I think she saw it at its most natural - wet windy and with limited visibility !!

In unity we retreated down to the car and back to the hut where Alan used his fire lighting skills to build a monster fire and once thawed out we made the only sensible decision available and headed into Coniston to sample the delights of three more landmarks the Yewdale, Crown and Bull - RESULT.

# Thixendale Walking Meet

Date: 12th August 2018

**Article by Angela Moroney**

*Present: Jane - Martin G - Derek - Ken T - Angela M - Mairi F - Neil W – Karen*

This was a walk including the aspects of the Yorkshire Wolds Way and the Centenary Way. The distance covered was approx 14 miles.

Firstly we passed through the ruins of the Medieval Village Wharram Percy which is one of the largest and best preserved deserted medieval villages in the UK. The village was abandoned soon after 1500. Visible today is the outline of many lost houses and the remains of the church and the millpond. Example below .....



We continued onto North Grimston and Birdsall where we met up with Derek who had taken a slightly more direct and shorter yet no less interesting route. The forecast was for heavy rain for most of the day so congratulations to everyone who turned out.

# Stanage Walking Meet

Date: Sunday 29th July 2018

Article by Kath Willis

Start Point: Plantation Car Park GR SK237 837

*Attendees: YMC Members Mairi Farquharson, Kath and Graham Willis. Plus YMC Meetup Group Member Michael Cooper & Guests Donna Johns, David Johns, Gabrielle Johns and Samuel Johns.*


After the glorious weather we have enjoyed for several weeks, this was the day the heavens opened! Heavy rain and blustery winds did their best to deter us, but after a delayed start we all set off up the track behind the car park. With some shelter through the trees, we eventually arrived on Stanage Edge and battled our way up to Stanage Pole. From here the wind and rain were in our faces as we headed for Robin Hood's Cave for a little shelter. However on reaching the trig point our two young guests (7 and 10 year olds) decided it wasn't fun anymore, so they descended onto the road and track with their dad and headed back to the car park for dry socks and the promise of hot chocolate at the cafe in Hathersage.

The rest of the group continued down the path to the main road crossing over Callow Bank and then on the track up to Higger Tor. With no views to entice us to stay up there any longer than needed, we picked our way down through the rocks and followed the path along Hathersage Moor and Millstone Edge. Crossing the road at Surprise View we arrived at Bole Hill Quarry where we were surprised to encounter several groups on a climbing course. Thankfully as we headed down through Bole Hill Wood (which is usually very well populated with walkers – but not today) the rain eased off at last and we found a large boulder under the trees to take lunch.

Continuing our walk, the footpath and steep track, led us down to the village of Upper Padley where we crossed the railway track and several fields before following the riverside path which is part of the Derwent Valley Heritage Way. On reaching the road we continued up to Hathersage passing through the village and meeting up with our three guests who were now dry, warm and in much better spirits.

Out of the village we followed Baulk Lane up past Bronte Cottage and then climbed steeply up to North Lees Hall (Bronte connections). Here we turned right and continued along the path, up through the trees and arrived at the toilet block and road which eventually led us to our starting point. Despite this being the first walk for two of the members recovering from injury, they came through with no ill effects and despite the weather we all enjoyed the walk.

Most called at The Scotsman Pack public house for refreshments.



# Alport Dale Including Alport Castles Meet

Date: Sunday 8th July 2018

Article by Kath Willis

Start Point: Fairholmes Visitor Centre

*Attendees: YMC Members Ben Gilbert, Henry Beevers, Kath and Graham Willis plus 10 YMC Meetup Group Members.*

Although the car park at Fairholmes is very popular on Sundays there are several lay-bys off the main road so everyone managed to find a parking space and gathered in the main car park. It was a really warm sunny day and after brief introductions and an outline of the route, we headed up the path crossing the main road to follow a track up through the trees to Lockerbrook Outdoor Centre.

From here we followed the edge of Rowlee Pasture on a good path and headed for Alport Castles where we took a short break to take photographs and admire the view. Continuing along the path, which was extremely dry due to the prolonged spell of hot weather, we reached the furthest point of our walk - the trig point on Alport Moor - which offered another photographic opportunity.

Heading back from whence we came, we descended down to find a good viewing point for lunch which looked directly at The Tower (an ancient landslip). For those who have never seen this spectacle before, it is quite stunning and after refreshments were taken, most of the group opted to do the short but steep scramble up.

Picking our way across the boulders and through the bracken, we eventually rejoined the path which led us down to a footbridge and then up through a field to Alport Castles Farm. A wide dusty farm track took us down to the busy Snake Road, where we crossed over and continued on to The River Ashop. As we had kept our feet dry all day, it was quite surprising that most people opted to paddle across the ford rather than take the footbridge. (Maybe a real paddle would have been a preferred option to cool us down!)

This short diversion, to avoid walking along the main road, ran parallel with the river and when once again we reached the A57 we crossed over to start the slow climb up past Rowlee Farm and back to Lockerbrook. Descending through the trees we arrived back at the car park where meets cards were handed out and group members headed off for refreshments or back home.

The total distance travelled was approximately 16k (10m) with 617m (2,024ft) of ascent.

# A Tribute to Bryan Church

## Former President and YMC member 1976 – 2018



### 30 years of wonderful friendship

**1976 – 1988 by Mary Waters (nee. Loukes)**

When I moved to Bradford in 1971 for my first teaching job I didn't have any friends or family in the area and I needed something else in my life to meet new people and get me out at weekends. When I saw the YMC Saturday courses for Rock climbing I thought this might just be what I was looking for.

It was the best thing I ever did and I never looked back. I spent most of my weekends and holidays with the YMC after Danny and Swiv taught me to climb and I soon realised that the club was just one big happy family.

Anyway, that's enough about me, what I'm building up to is the fact that the YMC got even bigger and better after the "Churchy" family joined in 1976. Bryan, Marion and their 3 children Susan, Ann and John were a great addition to the Club and all of us who were around at the time will have

many happy memories of fantastic holidays camping in Cornwall, the Dales and Lakes with all the family present, and many rock climbing and winter meets with Bryan without the family.

Bryan was one of the kindest and most generous men I have ever met. He had a heart of gold and would help anyone. He and Marion looked after me at their house in 1978 after a fall at Almscliffe had put me in Harrogate hospital for a week. The hospital would not let me go home as I lived on my own and I had had a head injury. I could never thank them enough for that.

Marion and the children always came first in his plans and he loved his camping trips in the summer, especially the annual YMC trip to Bill Berryman's farm in Cornwall. Here Bryan would organise games for all the children, young and old and would make sure everyone was happy with something to do before he went off for the serious stuff with the climbers. He had boundless energy and after playing games all morning, and climbing until tea time he would entertain everyone with his antics and more games until dark.

Bryan loved the mountains, especially in winter and always went out whatever the weather and enthused everyone else, but making sure everyone was safe. He loved a good rescue and was involved in some serious ones, as well as less serious ones which involved sheep, motor cyclists and damsels in distress, to name but a few.

Bryan also loved his job as a crane engineer and was a most dedicated and reliable worker, never missing a days work, or being late. He proved this after a Welsh meet at Cwm Dyli in December. We had our usual carol singing and raucous night round the fire on Saturday night followed by an ascent of Snowdon on the Sunday. It was snowing in the morning but of course being mountaineers we went ahead with our planned walk and got down in time to get off the hill just before dark. As we set off home from the hut the snow got heavier and heavier but in those days there were no digital devices so we had no idea what the weather was going to do, or what the road conditions were like further along the road, all we did was look out of the car window and make a decision, which was of course to press on. The roads were bad through Wales, but passable very slowly with many hold ups with cars blocking the roads. It got a bit easier once we got on to the M62 until we came to some barriers with notices saying Motorway closed. Bryan wasn't having any of that, so he jumped out of the car, moved the barriers and drove on. How he managed to keep on the road none of us knew, he just kept going in a straight line, remaining cheerful and optimistic as ever, and telling stories to keep us all awake. At least the road was empty so no one got in our way. For sure someone else was looking down on us that night as well as Churchy, and between the two of them they got us safely back to West Yorkshire. We arrived in the early hours of Monday morning with just enough time to get changed and get to work on time. We were all most impressed with Bryan's driving skills and determination that night.

Sadly none of us are getting any younger and our memories fail us a bit, but some memories stick in the mind forever even though they are a little vague.

One of my happiest days with Bryan was climbing the Old Man of Stoer in May 1983. Along with the A and B teams ie Sol/Swiv and Dave Stott/Mick Mason had a wonderful day's climbing and battling with 40 foot waves ( which got bigger every time Bryan recounted the story) in a tiny rubber dinghy supported by the entire YMC who were watching, assisting with the crossing and taking photos from the other side of the water. To put it mildly it was all very exciting, especially the abseil which caused Bryan to stop talking. He made up for this as soon as we got back to dry, horizontal land.

So many happy memories of a wonderful man, but I think I had better stop there. He was a legend, a lovely person, a great husband, father and grandad, and an inspiration to us all. He will be greatly missed by Marion, all the family and his many friends in the YMC.

### **1988 - 2018 by Kevin Garratt**

My first encounter with Bryan was in early 1988, I along with my son were climbing out at Almscliff one Wednesday evening which happened to coincide with the YMC meet. I got talking to various members including Bryan who invited us onto the Borrowdale meet the following weekend. Saturday saw us climbing at Shepherds Crag with the club, when an incident occurred when a climber peeled off leading. He fell a long way ripping some gear out but luckily survived with a few bruises. We were climbing on the next route, so I abbed off and stripped out the remaining gear. That night

in the local bar Bryan who was President at the time thanked me for helping out, and informed me that at the next committee meeting he would propose us for membership to the club. This was our introduction to the YMC and the start of a memorable 30 year association with a dear friend Bryan Church.

As a president of the club he was a great ambassador, always promoting the club to outsiders and helping members where possible, whether they wanted it or not, but always with good intentions.

He always aimed to help new members and make sure they were welcomed, and included them in what ever activity was in their interest, be it climbing or walking.

After his presidency he took up the post of hut warden, and as a builder I was soon co-opted into been part of his works organising team. It did however mean that through this friendship we began to climb more often together. The down side of this was having to hear on more that one occasion the epic stories he was noted for telling. I possibly only have to say Gas Pipe, Crag fast Sheep Rescue, or Trips Abroad in Coles Cranes, to have many of the club members who knew him, smiling at the thought of him telling the stories along with the actions. He could go on for hours telling stories and tales about his climbing or work epics as he called them. They were always slightly different the next time you heard them, but that was Bryan, Epic should have been his middle name.

In fact I can vouch for a few, like the time after climbing at the Cow & Calf he was explaining to a new member in the local bar with a low ceilings, a route he'd climbed. His foot went up onto a chair showing a foothold to the right the left hand reach for the small hold on the left, and then a big reach up for the big hold. At which time his right hand went up, and half the chandelier above his head came crashing down.

A few weeks later we were out in Calpi, we'd had a good day climbing on the south side of the Penon and next day we went to do the Espero Sur Central a 1,200 ft route on the south face of the Puig Campana Mountain. The walk in went well, and the climb, once we found the start was good, but the descent became another of Bryan's epics. From the top of the route the guide says to descend follow the red dots to the gully 30-60 mins. Two hours later after backtracking from sheer drops and crossing steep slabs and chimneys and we were getting a little fed up, however the thought of spending a night out with Bryan on the side of the mountain, and having to hear all them stories again, kept me going. We got back to the car after about another 3 hours just as it was getting dusk.

Bryan was a bit of a prude and a story he used to tell about been stuck in a traffic jam for many hours because of snow on the M62 sums it up. He was in need of a toilet, everybody else was jumping out of their vehicles and sorting it out. No! not Bryan the thought of someone seeing him was too much to bear. Eventually he found a plastic bag, and thought the problem was solved. To his horror as his feet started to get wet he realised the bag was a food bag with holes in the bottom !.

Over the 30 years he did many walks, scrambles and climbs with the YMC in all areas of the UK as well as a few trips abroad. Way too many to list at this time. However, whether it was a day out climbing on the local gritstone, a walk across the lakeland tops, a climb on the Cornwall sea cliffs, a



big route on the Scottish Hills, or a week climbing in Spain, Bryan was always a good partner to be out with, it was always a pleasure.

He did have a quite serious fall while out climbing in Patterdale, I was not with him at the time, but he had to be helicoptered out to hospital, luckily he sustained no major injuries, and they did say at the time it was thanks to wearing a helmet and having a pack on his back that padded the fall that saved him. His helmet was split down the middle and smashed up very badly. Many weeks later Bryan and I walked up to the place where the accident happened, as he could not remember much about the day. I found many fragments from the helmet, which I handed to him, it must have been where he first hit ground after falling some 60 feet, before rolling down the slope to where he was lifted out from.

Bryan was always in his element when out in the hills and mountains, climbing rock, scrambling and walking in wild places, and when you were with him there was never a dull moment. He was a good rock climber and mountaineer, and in the earlier times before I got to know him well, was a good snow and ice climber and did many winter routes in the Scottish Hills. I did manage to get him pot holing on the odd occasion but that's another story. Skiing, I could never get him to join our ski trips, but he told me he did try it once when taking a crane to some east european country, but that's another Bryan Church story.



# Widdop Walking Meet

Article by Kath Willis

Date: Sunday 30th September 2018

Start Point: Widdop Reservoir Car park - SD 937 327

*Attendees: Meetup members John Martin, Imran A. Khan & Sarah Marriott, Guest Donna Johns, and members Giles and William Drinkall, Mike Cooper, Alan Marson, Kath and Graham Willis*

After meeting at the car park we set off down the road towards Clough Foot and took the gate opposite the lay-by, before heading off along the reservoir road to the dam of Gorple Lower Reservoir (completed in 1934). At the end of the dam wall we turned left on the reservoir road to the isolated Gorple Cottages, before reaching the Pennine Way, which we followed on the broad track up to the right over a reservoir drain and onto the moor. When the Pennine Way went off



to the left we remained on the track to rise over the brow of Heptonstall Moor. Passing a quarry site on the right we made a short diversion to the conspicuous Reaps Cross, which possibly dates back to medieval times and stands on an old moorland pack way, but sadly parts of its upper section are missing.

Returning to the track which ran quickly down to a gate, we took a stile on the right and followed the drive to the renovated farm house known as Egypt and dropped down to Rough Hay which is surely beyond redemption! A gap-stile in the corner beneath the ruin gave access to a path down to a foot-bridge in a tiny clough and from the small gate above, a thin but clear path contoured left round the pasture before running on to a crumbling wall. Continuing on the track we crossed another stile and keeping left of the grounds at Hoar Side, we headed for a small gate in the corner and dropped down to a solitary building (once Colden Water Farm) by the beck. The path then continued up between old walls, rising up above the ruined farms of Pad Laithe and Noah Dale. Here we decided to take an early lunch to take advantage of the shelter offered by the buildings.

Above Noah Dale a stile led us onto the rough moor where we continued along the old wall and fence side as far as the wall corner and left to the end of the former dam wall. A path rose gently up the slope to join a grassy ditch taking us up the slopes to gain the watershed on Black Hameldon.

The highest point, at 479m and occupied by an OS trig point, is known as Hoof Stones Height and after a brief stop for photographs, we turned right along a peaty path which led us along a good mile of undulating terrain to the northerly top.

From here the grassy ditch took us down to the saddle and the path took us up past Hare Stones and onto Gorple Gate (not actually a gate but an old name for a track). Turning right, the track led us to the outcrops of Shuttleworth



Moor, before zig-zagging steeply down below the plantation and along the reservoir side. After crossing the dam to the road we turned right for an easy stroll to the start point.

The weather had been mixed throughout the day with wind and showers so the open fire at The Pack Horse Inn was a welcome sight.

The total distance travelled was approximately 12k (8.5m) with 318m (1,043ft) of ascent.

## Upper Barden Walking Meet

**Article by Derek Field**

Date: Sunday 9th December 2018

*Attendees: Jane Wainwright, Sol Lomas, Martin Girt, Sue and Chris Wales, Ben and Derek*

We set off on a cracking day up the track to the Upper Barden reservoir and crossing the dam and following the old railway track which was quite wet to the shooting hut.

We then had a veritable buffet of pies and quiche accompanied by mugs of Gluhwein followed by a selection of dessert items including Janes fabulous truffles, we were so full we were unable to start on Sue's Chocolate log.

It was a slow descent to the lower Barden reservoir, arriving at the cars in time for a coffee break at the Bolton Bridge cafe.

This meet is usually the best attended meet of the year-hopefully next year will see a return to large numbers.

## **The BMC Yorkshire Area Meeting Report**

### **Wheatley Arms in Ben Rhydding, Monday 19 November 2018**

Area meetings are run by volunteers and provide an opportunity for you to discuss issues and influence decisions affecting climbers and walkers locally and nationally.



#### **BMC Strategic Planning process 2018-2020**

The meeting included discussion of a framework for developing the BMC's strategic planning process whilst evaluating and implementing the remaining recommendations made by the Organisational Review Group

#### **Area AGM elections**

It was the Area AGM and included elections for various volunteer roles.

#### **Guest speaker: Steph Dwyer**

Steph is a cave explorer and leader, with her partner Mike Bottomley, of the Ario Caves Project, an expedition famed by the now multi award-winning film, The Ario Dream: the Quest for Europe's Deepest Cave.

Steph has been exploring the fascinating and stunning underworld all her adult life. She loves all things outdoors and is passionate about making the outdoors accessible to everyone, which is why she is so proud to be one of the too few women who run their own outdoor education centre – Yorkshire Dales Guides. She is the first women underground controller for the world's oldest cave rescue team, an open water swimmer and an ultra-endurance fell runner but particularly loves caving as a means to the final frontiers of exploration. Steph is happiest when dangling off a rope, being the first to dip her feet into the unknown abyss, deep underground.

Come to our next gathering of Yorkshire climbers and walkers and get involved in the BMC.

#### **BMC Yorkshire Area Meeting**

**Date: Monday 4 February 2019, starting at 7.00pm**

**Venue: Big Depot Climbing, Leeds, LS12 6BY**

For any further information regarding the BMC please contact Jonathan Carter

## Weekend Meets 2019

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.

Please check [www.theymc.com](http://www.theymc.com) for confirmation of start point details

Month	Date	Location	Coordinator
Jan	13	Blackstone Edge. South Pennines. SE011191.	Graham Willis –
Jan	18/19	Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet.	Booking - <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>
Jan	25/26	Langdale Burns Supper - Rawhead – Joint Fell & Rock Club Meet. (2 nights).	Martin Tetley
Feb	3	Settle. Yorkshire Dales.	Henry Beevers
Feb	15/18	Scottish Winter Meet – SMC Hut Muir Cottage. Braemar. (4 Nights)	Graham Willis –
Feb	24	Thruscross Reservoir. Yorks Dales. SE153574.	Graham Willis –
Mar	10	Ramsgill. Nidderdale.	David Girt -
Mar	24	Dove Stone Reservoir & Saddleworth Moor. Peak District. SE017044.	Graham Willis –
Apr	7	Edale. Peak District.	Laurie Morse
Apr	12/13	Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet.	Booking - <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>
Apr	19/22	Easter Coniston Hut – Club Meet (4 Nights – Bed spaces).	Booking - <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>

Meet Co-ordinators' personal email addresses and phone numbers can be obtained from the website membership list or contact the Meets Secretary.

Month	Date	Location	Coordinator
May	17/18	Keswick Mountain Festival Weekend	Graham Willis -
May	25/01	Scotland – Glenshiel. Ratagan YHA (7 nights).	Sean Kelly -
Jun	9	Kettlewell. Yorkshire Dales	Henry Beevers -
Jun	21/22	Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet.	Booking: ymchut@gmail.com
Jun	28/29	Coniston Hut Club Meet & Club Dinner at The Sun Hotel. Coniston.	Sally Harris & Graham Willis –
Jul	7	Bleaklow. Peak District.	Kath Willis -
Jul	21	Ribblehead. Yorkshire Dales. SD765792.	Steve Bartlett -
Jul	26/27	Robin Hood's Bay Weekend. East Yorkshire.	Kathryn Willis -
Aug	16/17	Lakes Walking & Climbing Meet (3 nights).	Angela Moroney -
Sep	1	Urra Moor & Hasty Bank. North Yorks Moors.	Ben Gilbert & Graham Willis –
Sep	15	Conistone. Wharfedale. Yorks Dales.	David Girt -
Sept	27/28	Wales – Tan-y-garth Hut, Capel Curig. Snowdonia. SH737567.	David Girt - www.gwydyrmc.org.uk
Oct	4/5	Coniston Hut – Housekeeping meet.	Booking: ymchut@gmail.com
Oct	20	Pateley Bridge. Nidderdale.	Steve Bartlett -

Month	Date	Location	Coordinator
Nov	1/2	Coniston Hut Bonfire Meet	Booking - ymchut@gmail.com
Nov	17	Roseberry Topping. North Yorks Moors	Derek Field -
Dec	1	Hebden Bridge. South Pennines. Town centre parking SD993272	Angela Moroney -
Dec	8	Barden Scale. Yorks Dales – Xmas Fuddle – Parking SE051568.	Derek Field -
Dec	20/31	Coniston Hut – Xmas & New Year	Booking - ymchut@gmail.com
Dec	26	Ilkley Cow & Calf – Traditional Boxing Day Meet - Car Park SE130467 Meet Time – 10:30am	Alan Swithenbank or Derek Field -

## Tuesday Lunches 2019

Month	Date	Location
January	8th	Calverley Arms Rodley Lane Calverley
February	12th	Toby Carvery Keighley
March	12th	The Hermit Inn Burley Woodhead
April	9th	Heathfield Farm Heathfield Lane Birkenshaw BD11 2HW
May	14th	Stubbing Wharf King Street Hebden Bridge
June	11th	Calverley Arms
July	9th	The Hermit Inn
August	13th	The White House Blackstone Edge
September	10th	White Horse Inn Well Head Thornton BD 13 3SJ
October	8th	Stubbing Wharf
November	12th	Toby Keighley
December	10th	Christmas Dinner Drop Farm, Moorside Lane Oxenhope

# News from the BMC

## Winter Skills - How to train novice members in your club

It's not too early to start thinking about winter! This popular training event will be returning on 9-10 February 2019 to offer training and support to experienced club members when taking novice club members out in winter conditions.



Costing only £85 for the weekend, this course is for the experienced members of affiliated clubs who support novice members whilst they gain experience, develop skills, and become competent in winter walking and mountaineering skills. The YMC will consider any requests from members wishing to attend this course and MAY pay for your attendance.

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

The course fee includes self-catering accommodation at Plas y Brenin whilst on the course (Friday night to Sunday afternoon), all instruction, group equipment and a three-course meal on the Saturday evening.

### Saturday

- Minimising the risk
- Session structuring for novices
- Teaching movement in winter conditions
- Planning a day out in winter conditions
- Winter navigation
- Avalanche Awareness

### Sunday

- Out on the hills putting the skills covered on Saturday in to practice

To book use the link below.

<https://www.thebmc.co.uk/training-novice-club-members-winter>

## **How to support novice club members weekend, at Plas y Brenin**

This popular training event will be returning in 2019 over the weekend of 18-19 May at Plas y Brenin in Snowdonia. The weekend is aimed at the experienced members of affiliated clubs that support less experienced members whilst they gain experience, develop skills, and become competent climbers, walkers and mountaineers in their own right. The YMC will consider any requests from members wishing to attend this course and MAY pay for your attendance.

The weekend will include theory sessions on the principles of teaching and learning skills in the outdoors, issues around duty of care, insurance implications and good practice all delivered by experts in their field. The majority of the weekend will consist of practical sessions on the teaching of climbing, hill walking, scrambling and navigation skills.

The course fee includes self-catering, shared accommodation at Plas y Brenin for the weekend, three-course meal on the Saturday evening, all group kit and all instruction.

When booking your place you will need to choose which practical sessions you wish to participate in. The four choices are:

1. Saturday afternoon: Single pitch rock climbing, & Sunday: Single pitch rock climbing
2. Saturday afternoon: Single pitch rock climbing, & Sunday: Scrambling
3. Saturday afternoon: Hill walking, & Sunday: Scrambling
4. Saturday afternoon: Hill walking, & Sunday: Hil walking

The content of the practical sessions will be tailored to the needs of the participants, but you can expect it to cover:

### **Saturday (afternoon)**

Single Pitch Rock Climbing – teaching movement skills, footwork, balance, crag safety, wall to rock

Hill-walking – teaching navigation skills

### **Sunday (all day)**

Single Pitch Rock Climbing – teaching safe belaying, supervising lead climbers, crag choice

Hill-walking – more advanced navigation, group management, route choice, safety

Scrambling - route choice, group management, safety

To book use the link below

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

# Last but by no means least....

## CLUB NEWS

The Club's General Data Protection Regulation Privacy Policy accompanies edition 376 of TYM. It has been drawn up to conform to the regulations contained in the 2018 Act. Please read the document fully before indicating your acceptance to it in the appropriate section on your renewal form.

## WELCOME

Our usual welcome article was inadvertently omitted from Issue 375 of TYM and for this we apologise. Listed below are the names of those who have joined as Aspirant Members. We wish them a happy association with the Club.

Damian Rose, Karen Boustead, Stephen Hampshire, Sally Sam, Mark Norman, Chris Chester, Sam Bennett, Henry Beevers, Mike Cooper, Beverley D'Arcy, Giles Drinkall, Hannah Gooch, Patrick Hickie, Rebecca Hole, Raquel Higuera-Castello, Judy Lodge, Joel Blackburn Luke Smith, Lindi-an Smith, Peter Tennant, Jennifer Tennant, Arabella Yerburch.

Mairi Farquharson, Andrew Drury and Natasha Cook have converted to full membership.



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Winter 2018 - 2019

The Yorkshire Mountaineering Club - Founded 1941