

# THE YORKSHIRE MOUNTAINEER

Issue: 378

Autumn 2019



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Cover photo:  
Dow Crag (by Bill Stevenson)



## From the Editor.

You have a new, albeit temporary, Newsletter Editor. Due to other pressures on his time, John Beacroft-Mitchell has decided to stand down as editor. However, I'd like to thank John (and Phillippa Child – his former co-editor) for having put things in place (such as the attractive template) that should make the task of producing the newsletter less onerous. I have agreed to produce a further edition in the current club year, to be published before the AGM in March - **copy deadline 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2020**.

Having mentioned the AGM, there are vacancies on the committee, so if there is anyone out there who is interested in helping the club by joining the committee, then complete the nomination papers that have gone out with this edition of the newsletter. Completed nomination forms must be returned to the Honorary Secretary by Jan 15<sup>th</sup>.

Whilst most of the serving committee are happy to continue in their roles for 2020, there are vacancies for Honorary President, Honorary Vice President, Newsletter Editor and for a Committee Member.

I'd like to thank everyone who has sent in articles for this edition. I've enjoyed reading them and I hope you will, too. As well as the regular meets reports there are a couple of articles from members 'doing their own thing' - including Sam Kelly's write up of his 20 day tour of the Wainwrights - the lot of them!

Articles for the next newsletter are needed, so can any meet leaders or, indeed, any of the participants let me have a meet report. Any other news of members' activities that would be of interest are also welcome. Whilst the gmail email address is still active and monitored, can any material for future editions of the newsletter be sent to:

**[newsletter@theymc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@theymc.org.uk)**

When writing articles, any text editor can be used - you don't need to use MS Word; a basic text editor, such as Notepad, is fine. Photos are most welcome, but if submitting photos with the article either send them as individual files or embed them within a text document. File types such as PNG, JPEG, GIF, TIFF and BMP are all OK. However, do not send photos as PDF documents though, as I can't use them.

*Andy Summerskill*

# Blackstone Edge Meet.

**Article by:** Kath Willis

**Date:** Sunday 13th January 2019

**Start Point:** Baitings Reservoir Car Park – GR SE 011 191

**Attendees:** John Macdonald (YMC Meetup Group), Eve & Steve Bartlett, Andrew Coleman, Martin Hirst, Laurie Morse, Malcolm Lomas, Peter & Jennifer Tennant, Alan Marson and Kath & Graham Willis (YMC Members).

Despite the very poor weather forecast this was a well attended walk by any standards; the high winds tried their best to literally throw us off the tracks, but we all survived to tell the tale. With only brief spells of rain free skies and the odd break in the clouds to give us a hint of blue, this felt more like a route march as we battled against the wind and rain all day making for little conversation on the way.

However we set off from the car park and crossed the dam wall to walk up the path to join the minor road which led us to a gate onto Greystone Height. Following the clearly marked sunken track we continued up onto Rishworth Moor. There was little to see here due to the low cloud but as we traversed round Warm Withens Hill and Flint Hill the spectacle down below at Green Withens Reservoir was a sight to behold, as the wind lashed the water onto and over the dam wall that we were heading for! Needless to say we could not escape another soaking before we arrived at the West Yorkshire Scouts Water Sports Centre. It was decided to take an early lunch here as we had some shelter from the wind.

Continuing on our way we followed the access track running parallel with the water leat towards the M62 motorway, where we joined the Pennine Way path climbing up to our destination – Blackstone Edge. With no protection, this was a difficult section with the strong wind gusting from the west, blowing us off our feet, so when we all eventually arrived at the trig point we took a few photographs (Steve was the only one brave enough to climb up to the trig), before heading down towards the Aiggin Stone. Here we left the Pennine Way path and followed the Old Packhorse Road descending down to a footbridge which we crossed before continuing down Rag Sapling Clough which was quite boggy in sections.

With the A58 in sight we continued downhill, crossing a stream before climbing up Fairy Hill to the road. A short section of road walking led us towards Baitings Reservoir and on reaching the minor road to the viaduct we continued down to reach a waterside path. Although this was a muddy section it was preferable to the winds which had hampered us all day on the open moorland.

Most of the group headed home on arrival at the car park as they were cold and wet but some of us took refreshments at The Beehive Inn just above Ripponden, which had a welcoming open fire.

The total distance travelled was approximately 15.8k (9.8m) with 348m (1,142ft) of ascent.



# (One day of the) Glen Shiel Meet.

**Article by:** GOMJ (AKA Steve Bostock)

**Date:** 25<sup>th</sup> May - 1<sup>st</sup> June

**Ailments:** Dodgy knees - at least four, dodgy backs - two, dodgy hips - two, dodgy ankles - unknown, Jaundiced view of life - three

**Present:** Grumpy Old Man Senior, Grumpy Old Man Junior and, on work experience, Trainee Grumpy Old Man.

Combined age:194.

Of course, the Membership gathered in the dining room at Ratagan scoffed when the Grumpy Old Men explained they were off for a bumble around Glenelg followed by a trip to the pub. It was clear that the vast majority considered this to be a feeble excuse to justify a few bevies and that walking would be minimised to a trip from the car to the bar!

Well! Scoff they might, but we had a brill day out in fine weather and a couple of pints at the end of it all.

We did indeed park up at the pub in Glenelg and then set off towards the ruined barracks (it must have been a grim existence when these were first built). Crossing the river we turned right on the road and then left up the hill, passing a couple a houses and, in our case, a dead pine marten on the way. Senior set off up the hill setting a steady rather than a cracking pace but was soon pulling away from Junior and Proby. However being the gent he is, he waited patiently (and frequently) for us to catch up as we followed on up the increasingly muddy



Photo by Trainee GOM (AKA Lawrence Farndell)

track. As we gained height we had fine views back to Rhum, Eigg and Kyle Rhea. After about a mile and a half of undulating terrain we reached a FC plantation where the path becomes a little indistinct but a few yards further on we reached the forestry track we were looking for. More undulations on a well made forestry track, followed by a steep descent that tested our ailments to their limits, led after a couple of miles or so to Ardintoul Bay and a lunch stop.

Finding a suitable place to sit near the water's edge, a curse was heard to disturb the peace as nosh was unpacked. Junior sat there with  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a chewy bar in his hand and  $\frac{2}{3}$  on the floor. The broken bar remained on the floor for a while until Senior and Proby realised the curse was not about dropping some food, but rather having to bend down to pick it up!

Suitably refreshed the three intrepid GOM set off again cutting across Ardintoul Point to avoid some fenced off land to arrive at the coastal path with fine views towards Kyle of Lochalsh. After a couple of miles a steep climb that sorted the men from the boys led up into the other side of the plantation and a high level path that clings to the cliff edge for much of the 2+ miles to the ferry port. The walk through the woods was splendid, with only bird song and butterflies for company, plus two GOM. By the time we reached the ferry port, all three of us were feeling our age and ailments with Proby suffering the worst from Sciatica. Determined to see the expedition through, he declined the offer of waiting with the bags whilst Junior fetched the car. What a guy!

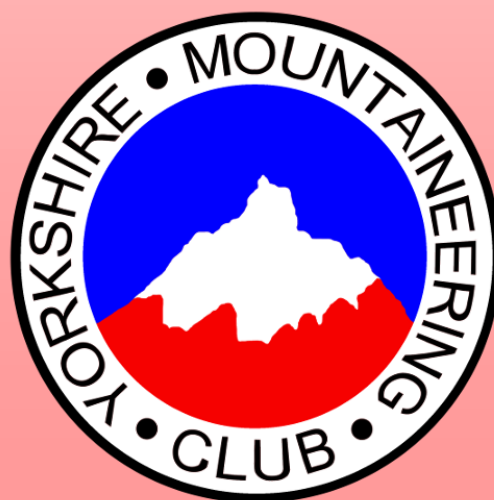
From the ferry there only remains a tramp of a mile or so on tarmac and across the sand of Glenelg Bay back to the bridge over the river, the path past the barracks and the pub. However, this final leg of the trip did for Proby's legs and Junior and Senior were well into their pints by the time he got back to the car.

A local couple informed us that three circuits of most of this route constitutes a local fell race called the Dirty Thirty. It is therefore with confidence that on measuring our trip we arrived at a distance exceeding 10 miles. Somewhat more than the sceptics at Ratagan gave us credit for planning.

The route circumnavigates Glas Bheinn (394m) but never gets much above about 200m, we saw a wide variety of butterflies, birds and wild flowers and the stretch through the forest above Kyle Rhea is particularly pleasant. We also spotted the odd floating gin palace tracking up Kyle Rhea into Loch Alsh.

The pub is worth a visit but the local brew, although very good, is exorbitantly priced given it only travels a couple of miles from the brewery. Even the imported Italian lager was cheaper!

I would recommend this walk to anyone who enjoys good days out with fine views and the draw of a pint at the end. But don't save it for a dreich day when the hills are clagged in, it's far too good for that.



# Bleaklow Head Meet.

**Article by:** Kath Willis

**Date:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Start Point:** Shepley Street, Old Glossop -Grid Ref: OSGB SK 045 947

**Attendees:** John Waltier, Jan S, Sam & Friend (Meet Up) , Natasha Cook & Guest, Steve Buxton Nabeela Hafiz, Mike Cooper, Jennifer & Peter Tennent, Ben Gilbert, Ken Tilford and Kath & Graham Willis (members)

The walk started on the road adjacent to the Arconic Factory where there are plenty of parking spaces. From the turning circle at the end of Shepley Street, we walked up Hope Street keeping the mill buildings on our left. Taking a right turn on Charles Lane we arrived at a wooden gate and a sunken lane between two walls, which led to a second gate at the edge of a forest plantation. With Blake-moor Plantation on our left we continued up the sunken lane to a second forest plantation and eventually a gate led us up the hillside to a tumble down wall. After crossing the wall, the path turned right through a wooden gate and headed out across open moorland to the old quarries ahead. Arriving at the trig point on Cock Hill we took a long break to allow time for everyone to catch up and take in the splendid views.

With the recent prolonged spell of relatively dry weather, the conditions underfoot were good as we proceeded across Glossop Low to join Clough Edge, where Torside Reservoir came into view far below. Turning right we followed the Pennine Way up Torside Clough before turning left down to Wildboar Grain. After crossing the streams, we followed the footpath on the left hand side of Wildboar Grain, winding its way this way and that uphill before reaching the cairn at Bleaklow Head. It was decided that this was to be the spot for a much needed and well deserved lunch break in the sunshine!

Keeping on the Pennine Way path we continued our walk heading south across Hearn Clough and Devils Dike Drain, which was once a boundary trench. Before reaching the A57, we left the ridge to descend the Doctor's Gate path, named after Dr John Talbot – a vicar from Glossop 1494-1550. The dry, steep track zigzagged its way down Urchin Clough and provided us with some impressive scenery. However several boggy stretches had to be negotiated alongside Shelf Brook before the roughly surfaced track led us back to the lane into Old Glossop.

The total distance travelled was approximately 16k (9.9m) with 509m (1,669ft) of ascent.

Refreshments were taken at The Queens Arms Hotel at the end of Shepley Street.

# Ribblehead Meet.

**Article by:** Kath Willis

**Date:** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2019

**Start Point:** Ribblehead - Grid Ref: SD 765 792

**Attendees:** Jennifer & Peter Tennant, Laurie & Anne Morse, Mike Cooper, Jan S, Kath & Graham Willis, Tony Raithby, Steve Bartlett (members) Anthony Bartlett (guest)

After meeting at the parking area on Blea Moor road we headed along the track to the Ribblehead viaduct where we took a left turn under the arches towards Gunnerfleet Farm. After crossing the bridge and several fields we arrived at Ivescar and continued along the path running parallel with the slopes of Whernside. Although the day had started dry and warm as we arrived at junction of the Three Peaks of Yorkshire path, the heavens opened and we sought refuge under the trees to retrieve waterproofs from our rucksacks.

Continuing along the track in a south easterly direction we passed Bruntscar and Ellerbeck before descending to Chapel-le-Dale, where we paid a visit to the tiny church and its grounds. Re-joining the minor road through the village we headed up to Low Sleights Road and across to Souther Scales. From here it was all uphill following the path up the lower slopes of Ingleborough and just after Humphrey Bottom where the ground became much steeper we decided to take lunch and recharge the batteries.

As always it was busy going up to the summit (we encountered friends from another walking group on their way down) and after touching the trig point and taking photographs we headed back down the same path. However instead of taking a steep left down the slopes we took the minor footpath on the right just after the gate and continued in a north easterly direction, with Simon Fell on our right and the slopes of Souther Scales Fell on our left. After passing Park Fell (Mike did a short detour to touch the trig point) it was all downhill until we eventually reached the disused quarry and the track running parallel with the railway track. Passing under the viaduct at the main road a short walk took us back to our starting point.

The showers were few and far between and despite some low cloud there were some very good (at times quite atmospheric) views for the biggest part of the day.

Refreshments were taken in The Station pub before the drive home.



# Swim-Hike – or should that be Hike-Swim?

**Article and photos by:** Jenny Koenig

If you had told me a few years ago that I would swim the length of Wastwater or Coniston Water I would have said you were mad. I've always quite liked swimming but never thought I would enjoy such cold water and such long distances. I discovered a swimming technique called Total Immersion which has really changed the way I swim to make it much more efficient and means that longer distances are now quite enjoyable. The idea is to be very streamlined and to use balance and body rotation to move cleanly through the water. It has taken a lot of practice and I've still got improvements to make but I can now swim 3 miles at what feels like a steady pace.

This summer I combined swimming with some hikes to make very satisfying day trips. What made it possible was a rucksack/tow float – when swimming it was tied to a waistbelt with a lead and could hold shoes, towel, snacks and water and then when hiking it converted to a water-proof rucksack so I could put my wet swimming kit in it. It's not really designed for long hikes and I think next year I'll be looking to improve upon the rucksack design to get a more comfortable version but it did the trick.



Wastwater from the Youth Hostel

Starting from Wasdale Hall YHA I swam up the road side of Wastwater to keep in the slightly warmer and shallower water. The front ridge of Yewbarrow dominated my field of view for the first half of the swim. As it was the hottest day of the year I wore thinnish neoprene surf/dive pants (1.5mm), neoprene gloves and thermal rashvest rather than a wetsuit. After about 45 min, my fingers and toes were starting to get very cold and I was worried that I should have worn a full wetsuit. So I stopped to sit in the sun, have a drink and a snack and warmed up. Then I got back in and kept going and, again after about 45 min I needed a little rest and the warmth of the sun to counteract the cold water. When I got back in I realised that Yewbarrow was now out of sight and I was looking up at Great Gable at the end of the lake. The last part seemed very much easier, the water was warmer nearer the top



end. The problem then became working out where to get out. I swam almost to the end and it was getting shallower and weedier so I swam back a little to where I could get out and scramble up the bank onto the road.

The National Trust campsite has a little shop to buy an ice cream and tap to refill my water bottle and rinse my kit. After a little rest I walked back via Illgill Head and Whin Rigg. Altogether it was a ~3 miles swim and ~8 mile walk – very cold in the water and very hot up on the hills.

Biosecurity is a real concern so being able to rinse swimming kit is really important. Derwent Water, Bassenthwaite, Grasmere and Rydal Water all have an invasive weed called New Zealand Pigmy Weed and there are reports it is in Coniston Water too. Rinsing kit in clean water and allowing it to dry stops the spread of this weed.

Other nice swim-hike circuits included:

Buttermere – starting from the village (and café) walk out to the far side of Buttermere and along the path towards the far end – swam across and back.

Derwent Water – started from Borrowdale Youth Hostel – walked up to High Spy, Maiden Moor, Cat Bells then down to the waterside at Hawes End then swam to High Brandelhow. Take care to watch out for the water cruisers as they don't hang about and expect you to get out of their way!



Angle Tarn

Angle Tarn above Ullswater – this is a gentle 1.5h uphill from Patterdale youth hostel to Angle Tarn which is a fairly small tarn but sheltered from the wind in a little hollow.

Much of the fun with these circuits is in the planning. Working out what would be a nice walk with good views and finding places suitable for

getting in and out of the water. My wishlist for next year includes the Old Man of Coniston from the hut, down via Torver to Sunny Bank, swim up the west side of Coniston Water to the Bluebird Café then walk back to the hut. I've also been looking at a few circuits around Ullswater – with walks either on the west side from Glendridding north or on the eastern side from Place Fell. If there are other YMC members interested in swim hikes do let me know!

# Weekend Meet at Robin Hood's Bay.

**Article by:** Kath Willis

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**Attendees:** Bill Cordingley, Freda Williamson, Ann Dowling and Malcolm Hepple (all guests), Pete Stott, Peter & Jennifer Tennant, Eve & Steve Bartlett, Kath & Graham Willis and Steve Buxton (members)

Nine of the group stayed at The Old School House and took advantage of the dinner, bed and breakfast option whilst others stayed in alternative BnB accommodation in the village and at the campsite.

## Saturday

Despite it being a rather dull blustery day on the Saturday, we enjoyed fantastic views walking along the Cleveland Way coastal path from Robin Hood's Bay to Whitby. On reaching Whitestone point we were delighted to find a newly opened café housed next to the Whitby Fog Signal house and a welcome cup of coffee was enjoyed by all.

Arriving at Whitby we were intrigued to find people walking around in various forms of fancy dress and we were informed that it was a Steam Punk weekend. Naturally fish and chips were the order of the day for lunch after a pint of craft ale at the local brewery. As we had planned an early evening meal we made our way back via bus and taxis.

With a short walk around the village after our respective evening meals we congregated at The Dolphin Hotel and discussed the plans for the next day.

## Sunday

A walk in the opposite direction starting on the beach at Robin Hood's Bay brought us to Boggle Hole where we climbed up steeply to the Cleveland Way path, with our destination in view high on the cliffs at Ravenscar. It was a much warmer and brighter day and after exploring the disused Alum Works, we continued up to The Raven Hall Hotel. Keeping to the perimeter of the golf course we eventually found the footpath which descended steeply to the beach at Old Peak/South Cheek where the grey seals were basking in the shallow water and seemed unperturbed by our presence. After a slow climb back up the badly eroded footpath we congregated in the hotel where lunch was taken.

Our return journey followed the disused railway track, where we passed Browside Farm and Allison Wood before crossing Bridge Holme Lane and Middlewood Lane. With the campsite on our left a short walk brought us to the Fylingthorpe road where we turned right towards Robin Hood's Bay. As luck would have it, we arrived back at our cars just as the forecasted rain arrived. The general consensus was that a good time was had by all!

# It Seemed Like a Good Idea at the Time!

**Article by:** Sam Kelly.

I don't quite know how I got the idea of walking all the Wainwrights in one go, I assumed it would be a sunny walk-in-the-park, something to fill a summer holiday with. But oh boy was I wrong.

When I started sixth-form last year, we were offered to do an 'Extended Project Qualification' for AS level, which is essentially: do a project and write it up for a year. After not much consideration of the challenge at all, I said I could walk the Wainwrights in twenty days, because there's 214 hills and, 'if I push myself', I'll do 11 a day making it a twenty day walk. I had several months to plan the route, the first draft only came out to 360 miles long and, being stupid, I assumed it was perfect. It's a good thing I checked the route again just before I left as it had quite a few flaws (and by 'quite a few' I mean a lot), the following draft was about 50 miles longer.

I also had to train for this silly mountain extravaganza... in Cambridge, an area not known for its mountainous terrain. Admittedly, I didn't take the training very seriously until I did a two day practise hike with an overly heavy rucksack, at which point I realised I should probably do some proper training. Or, you can be smart and change the route to, conveniently, detour round some Youth-Hostels, where I could leave the heavy rucksack, and force your poor mother to spend three weeks hopping around the Lake District with a month's worth of food in the car boot.

We loaded up the car with supplies and set off for Conistone to start off from the hut on 25<sup>th</sup> July. I'll confess that buying a month's worth of granola, SuperNoodles and snacks was fun. We bought enough chocolate raisins for me to eat a kilogram a week and salami in wraps was a daily lunch: I have not touched either of these since finishing the walk.

I didn't get much luck while walking the route. The first day was planned to be easy, I had already done this section in the practise and knew exactly where to go. However, we arrived on a night of intense rain, and the stepping stones that were so obvious in the practise, were now 2 feet under gushing water, creating a five mile detour to find a bridge. The second day left my right knee in tatters stomping along the whole Scafell ridge with a backpack that was not only full with unnecessary gear, but wet unnecessary gear. I spent the next 18 days hobbling around using walking sticks like crutches, and I have a new-found respect for just how painful walking downhill can be. Another miserable highlight involves an area between High Seat and High Tove, this bog is the bog to out-bog all bogs, a graveyard of lost shoes and snapped wooden planks poking out of the sludge, a bog so boggy that everyone was too scared to do the run-and-jump approach over a gap you could practically step over for fear of losing their legs to the same fate as those poor mismatched shoes.

Although most days I couldn't see my own feet under scores of bracken, bog and fog. There were actually some really good days out. One being day 11 starting in YHA Skiddaw, where by midday I was eating a chocaholic crepe in Keswick, instead of the typical salami wrap, and by evening I was camping on Catbells snuggled up in my sleeping bag with a view of the whole Skiddaw range to the

north and several hills dominating the view near Braithwaite baked in the sunset, all of which I had walked that day, and everything to the west of me I had walked in the past week. It was also interesting to learn that there are parts of the Lake District that aren't within a day's walk of the hut.

Admittedly, had I have known what I was doing the whole time it would have gone a lot smoother, but that would have ruined the fun. The most common issues were planning mistakes: as, apparently, cliffs, walls and rivers are always bigger in real life than they are on a map, and no you can't just 'walk carefully' down cliffs, as my route plan suggested. There were also many 'permissive' footpaths that were no-longer permissive, and a fair few that had been eaten by the bracken. Even after 20 days of navigating, I never quite got the hang of measuring distances and resorted to sizing up whether or not a hill is a Wainwright by how painful it looks. The logic being: if I'm not tired yet, the

next hill must personify death, and if I am tired, the next hill probably also personifies death. This led to several mistakes: like walking up Fairfield instead of the tiny Seat Sandal and some hills (like Fairfield) I summited three times, because there obviously weren't enough hills in the route already. All in all the actual route was another fifty miles longer than the refined plan, which was also 50 miles longer than the original plan.

Overall, I walked about 460 miles in 20 days and ascended over 150,000 feet (5.2 Everests). This is roughly the same as walking from Dover to Glasgow and then ascending Everest 5 times, or doing the Pennine way and C2C back to back, plus the ascent of 3 Everests afterwards.

I left the two hardest days to the end of the walk, together being 67 miles and 18,000ft of ascent, covering the entire Far Eastern Fells book. I cannot understate how much food I managed to get down me in those 20 days, I was easily eating a week's food every couple days and would regularly demolish 3 stacked plates of food and then a large cake for supper. Aside from the Youth Hostels saving my knees from the heavy bag, and being a place to dry everything out now and then, they were a huge morale boost as so many people were

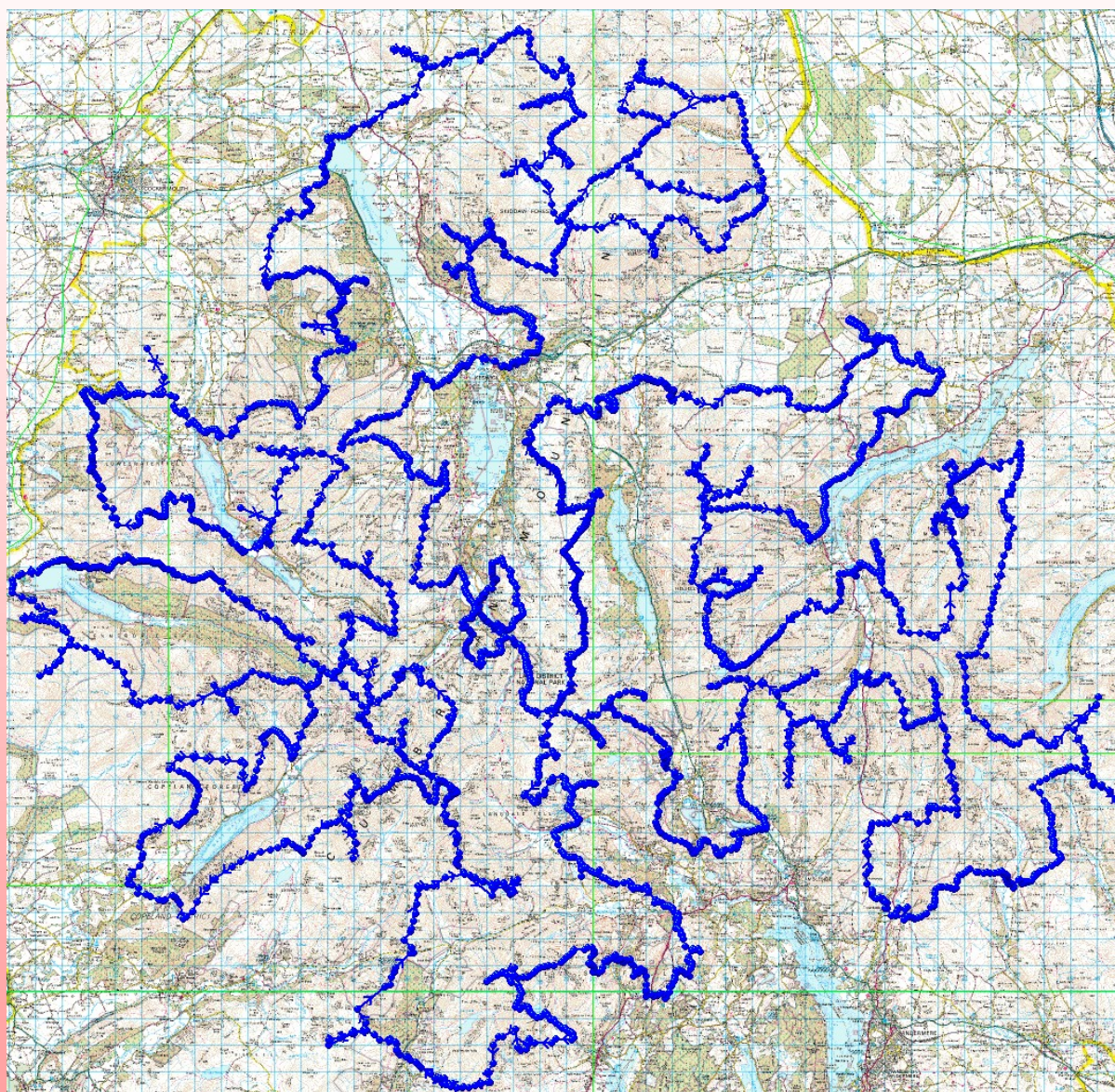


Three Meals – for two people!



interested in the challenge and they suggested that I do it for a charity. About halfway through the walk, I created a JustGiving page in support of MIND, during the walk we raised over £600 pounds and I would like to give a massive thank you to everyone who donated as it really kept me going during the tough moments.

In the end, it was a great experience and I am amazed I actually completed it. I would definitely do something similar again, only probably a more relaxed walk next time.



Sam's route around the Lake District



# Urra Moor and Hasty Bank Meet.

**Article and photo by:** Ben Gilbert.

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019.

**Attendees:** Samantha Brazier (new member), Tony Raithby, Steve Buxton, Mike Cooper, Kath Willis, Graham Willis, Ben Gilbert.

Seven walkers started out promptly at 10.00am from the car park at the southern end of Chop Gate, initially crossing fields before turning uphill to begin the climb to Urra Moor. The top of Urra Moor was reached by walking uphill through the woods at East Bank Plantation, and from there by a good track past a line of shooting boxes. Pretty soon the Trig Point at the summit of Urra Moor was reached. This is the highest point in the North Yorkshire Moors with extensive views across the flat tops of the Moors in all directions. However by this stage it was impossible not to notice distant showers heading in our direction from the West, despite the weather forecast having predicted it would stay dry until at least 3 o'clock in the afternoon.



View from Urra Moor - looking towards Hasty Bank

From the summit of Urra Moor the group headed west on the Cleveland Way descending gradually. Fairly soon, however, the shower we had seen was upon us, but fortunately this proved to be pretty brief and we were able to take our waterproofs off again almost as soon as they were on.

After a final descent from Urra Moor the group ascended the short but steep climb up Hasty Bank. From the top of Hasty Bank there were contrasting views across the North Yorkshire Moors to the South and the much lower lying farmland to the North, with (from West to East) the Pennines, the Vale of York, the industrial complexes of Teeside and the sea also all visible in the northerly distance.

After a brief walk along the flat top of Hasty Bank we stopped for lunch in a sheltered spot amongst the Wianstones; one of the few Rocky outcrops in this area. The arrival of a second shower put paid to any thoughts of taking a leisurely break after lunch however, and we soon set off again down through the Wainstones towards Cold Moor.

Having ascended Cold Moor we turned south to walk along the rounded ridge and then downhill to eventually lead us back to the starting point.

The group made short work of the 9 – 10 mile walk and so there was ample time for everyone to enjoy a well-earned rest and a drink in the Buck Inn in Chop Gate before leaving.

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## Scottish Meet 2020

Despite having had a very enjoyable week based at the Ratagan Youth Hostel at the bottom of Glen Shiel in 2019, the decision has been made to go back to the Isle of Skye in 2020.

As in previous years, we will be using the Scottish Mountaineering Club's hut in Glenbrittle. For those who have not visited the Glen Brittle Memorial Hut, it is perfectly located for accessing the Cuillin ridge. Indeed, the parking area for those heading up to Sgurr Dearg and the Inaccessible Pinnacle is directly opposite the Hut!

The dates for the meet are 23rd to 31st May, which corresponds to schools' Spring half term week. And whilst nothing is guaranteed, especially off the West Coast of Scotland, the weather can often be favourable at this time of year. As well as the attractions of the mountains in the area, those on the meet have been known to undertake kayaking activities and open-water swimming.

If interested then please contact the meet co-ordinator, Sean Kelly.

# Conistone Meet.

**Article by:** Kath Willis

**Date:** Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Start Point:** Conistone Bridge - Grid Ref: SD 978 675

**Attendees:** Rosie & Matt Biggins (guests), Mike Cooper, Kath & Graham Willis (members).

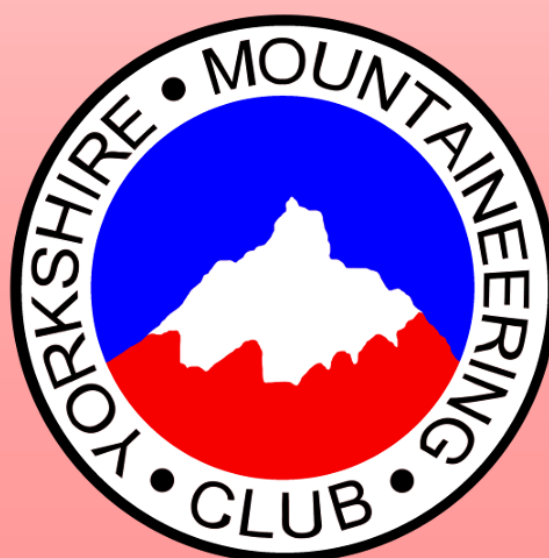
After retrieving two members who almost joined up with another walking group doing a similar circuit, we set off towards the hamlet of Conistone taking the road bridge over the river Wharfe. Following the dry watercourse of Conistone Dibb we scrambled up to join the Bycliffe Road (track) until a left turn took us on the Conistone Turf Road (track) and Capplestone Gate.

From here we headed up and over a wet and boggy Conistone Moor to the summit of Sweet Hill before a level section led us to our destination – Great Whernside summit. As it was very windy on the top we found some shelter between the rocks so we could have lunch.

Leaving the summit we travelled west and down past Hag Dyke (Scout bunkhouse) before descending to Providence Pot. Although the footpath following Dowber Beck to Kettlewell is eroded we eventually reached the road and a stile across a field following The Dales Way footpath. This continued down to the road past the entrance to Scargill House then ascended Highgate Leys Lane (track) before levelling off across Swineber Scar. In the distance we could see the prominent cairn on Conistone Pie, which we climbed up to take in the views before heading for Scott Gate Lane and the road back to Conistone.

The distance travelled was approximately 19.3km (11.9 miles) with about 699m (2,293ft) of ascent.

Refreshments were taken at The Tennants Arms pub below Kilnsey Crag.





# Observations on a dirty weekend.

(Or, if you prefer; the housekeeping meet).

**Article by:** Ken Tilford

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Present:** Ken Tilford, Pete Stott, Alan Marson, Bill Stevenson, Mike Cooper and Sam Brazier

This is a regular event, usually attended by the same “regulars” but this time it was so elitist we had a dorm each for bedtime.

My first observation as I skidded down the final bit of track was the scythe of the “Grim Reaper” but then I realised it was only Bill doing his usual task of clearing any vegetation within 50 metres of the hut.

As I splashed through the ford, my thoughts turned to the possibility of being swept down the hillside, after all, I remembered the old car that was part of the ramparts. The hazard of this crossing has now been eliminated by the same Bill having barrowed 20 loads of rubble to restore damage to the ford. I know this because I counted them as I drank tea.

The tea was of course free, provided by the club, as is the evening meal, traditionally Cumberland sausage with trimmings. On this occasion cooked and supervised by Mike who also tested the emergency lighting.

With the hut in darkness, I saw in the gloom a Bob Cratchet type figure counting out the money collected in the fees box. This was of course Peter.

Myself, I found a good hidey hole in the wood-store but this is becoming crowded with kindling provided by Alan, he informed me he intends to have a good clear out at the bonfire meet. Is Alan related to an arsonist? Whenever a fire needs lighting who is the first person there it's Alan Alan Alan.

Most of these jobs were done to avoid doing the work list, provided by John. Fortunately, we had a prospective member on the meet, “Sam”, who worked her way through the list of cleaning bunks, showers, etc.

Bill and I went for a walk with her on Sunday. Not only did she uncomplainingly climb walls that I kept coming across, but having cleaned up the cottage, then cleared up the fell-side, even picking up a safety pin! If we had to nominate prospective members, she'd get my vote.

Just a reminder for next meet, it was suggested that the new outdoor seating would look good treated in Teak oil. (We don't have any.)

Could somebody bring a pump to inflate tyres on wheelbarrows.

We could do with a book of regular things to check and how to do them, e.g. check fire escape lighting, location of instruction books, etc.

# Pateley Bridge Meet

**Article by:** Kath Willis

**Date:** Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Start Point:** Southlands CP Pateley Bridge

**Attendees:** Laurie & Anne Morse, Steve Buxton, Nabeela Hafiz, Jennifer & Peter Tennant, Ken Tilford, Kath & Graham Willis, Chris Pullan & Brian the dog (members)

After a delayed start we headed across the bridge and followed the riverside path north upstream before taking a left turn and crossing the road to follow Foster Beck. This took us up a winding track passing Smelt Mill Hill and numerous caravan sites joining the Nidderdale Way path. With Ashfield Beck on our left, we continued up to Ashfield Side Plantation before descending to cross the beck and continue up to Providence Mine.

After passing Providence House we left the Nidderdale Way path and continued in a south westerly direction towards Cockhill Lead Mine. Lunch was taken at Low Side by a track where a van and car were parked and Ken went over to investigate. It appears the occupants were gearing up ready to go down one of the many disused shafts in the area. There was plenty of evidence to show it was a popular spot for Clay Pigeon Shooting also.

After crossing the beck safely, we continued south around Greenhow Hill Top and Galloway Pasture before crossing the road towards Tewit Farm. A very boggy path through a field led us to a stile and a small bridge over a beck, where an unfortunate ewe had fallen, head first. Not a pretty sight! From here we traversed the perimeter of Coldstones Quarry before taking the path up to the Coldstones Cut Sculpture. This was well worth a visit with stunning views of the quarry and the surrounding area – Ken could almost see his house in Harrogate!

Boggy paths, farm tracks and several small squeeze stiles took us down to Fish Pond Wood and from here we continued towards Bridgehouse Gate and the road taking us back to our starting point over the bridge.

The total distance travelled was approximately 16.6k (10.3miles) with 449m (1,474ft) of ascent.

Refreshments were taken at The Crown on the main street at Pateley Bridge.

## Club Dinner Meet - Coniston

**Article by:** Kath Willis

**Date** 28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> July 2019

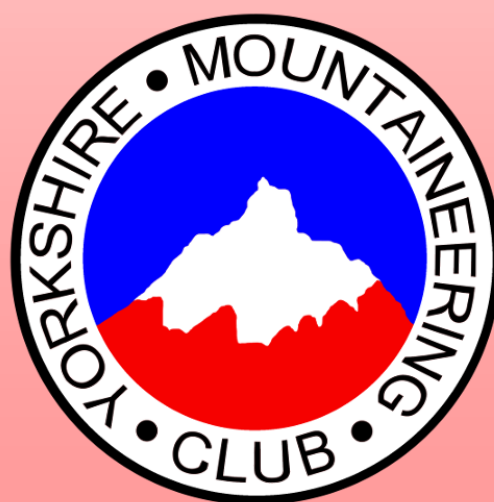
**Attendees:** 20 Attendees: Graham Exley, David & Diane Campbell, Eve & Steve Bartlett, Sam Kelly, Jenny Koenig & Sean Kelly, Julian Brown, Lawrence Farndell, Sally Harris, Pete Stott, Bethany Sampson, Steve Bostock, Karen, David & Daniel Lomas, Alan Marson, Kath & Graham Willis.

After much discussion it was decided to resurrect the Annual Yorkshire Mountaineering Club Dinner with the general consensus favouring a venue in Coniston. This enabled members to 'make a week-end of it' with the option to stay at the Club Hut or find alternative accommodation in the village.

With dry and sunny weather forecast during the day on Saturday, members took advantage opting to climb, walk, swim, and cycle or partake in some retail therapy.

The group reconvened for drinks outside The Sun Hotel in the early evening sunshine until the rain forced us inside. Here we took our places in the large conservatory where a two/three course pre-booked meal was served. This was always meant to be an informal dinner so there were no speeches but plenty of convivial conversation. With the meal finished and the rain at bay, those who were staying at the Club Hut returned for a night-cap or two while the rest retired to their B&B's.

Good food, good service and good company, helped to make this a very successful dinner and plans are afoot to do it again maybe next year. Thanks go to Sally for making the original booking at the Sun Hotel and to Graham who coordinated the event.



# Reminiscences of classic rocking.

**Article by:** Steve Bostock

Hard Rock, compiled by Ken Wilson, was first published in 1974 and for many it changed their climbing outlook. They now had a ready-made tick list of the best routes in the country, with route descriptions and photos and without having to beg, steal, borrow, or as a last resort purchase, the appropriate local guidebook. And it looked good on the coffee table.

This was about the time I first started climbing and most of the routes were spoken of in awe amongst my peers, something to aspire to but very unlikely to be climbed. Consequently, I didn't buy a copy, which was a big mistake as 1st Editions are quite valuable now. In my case the unlikely to be climbed part has largely proved to be the case over the years, quite frankly most of the routes in Hard Rock are just too hard for my limited abilities, strength and neck. I've done a few of them but that was all a long time ago now (July 1989 was a particularly fruitful month), when I was fitter, thinner, younger and had more time for climbing.

Four years later Ken Wilson released another 'coffee table' tome but this time my mates and I had a reasonable chance of getting up any of the routes. The hardest grade in the original Classic Rock was Mild VS, although some of the routes have since been up-graded and by 1978 I was climbing at about that grade, so whoopee! Let's get going.

I started quite well and got a dozen routes ticked off in the first two years, ranging from North Wales, to the Peak and Cornwall. Not bad considering I was living in Essex at the time. Unfortunately, I have little recollection of those early climbs as I had very few definitive Guidebooks and this was before I started keeping good records of my climbing. Since then I've climbed getting on for half of the routes and can't recall any that I wouldn't happily repeat, they're all bril. Indeed many of the routes that I have done I've repeated several times. One of the best trips is, in fact four routes that you string together to get you from Llyn Idwal to the top of Glyder Fawr, these being Hope, Lazarus, The Arete and Grey Slab (collectively known as the Continuation Route) and it took me three attempts to complete them all as a continuous outing. On the first occasion I was waylaid by some crag swag on a route near The Arete and, having retrieved it, had run out of time to continue. (There was an unwritten rule amongst my mates that you never passed up the chance of nabbing some crag swag). Second time around the weather intervened at the top of The Arete and given that Grey Slab is obviously a slab we decided that trying it in the rain was a no-no. I eventually did all four routes in succession in May 1997 some 20 years after my first attempt!

As I said, some of the routes have been up-graded over the years and perhaps the most drastic of these up-grades was for Nea on Clogwyn y Grochan. Originally graded Severe when I first did it in 1978/9, it's been upped to VS following a substantial rock fall in the late 80's. I re-climbed it in 1988 and it was unrecognisable from the original. Many others have suffered different erosion as a result of being included in the book, the most notably perhaps being Hope on the Idwal Slabs. Last time I did it the first few moves at the start were so polished I can't imagine any regular V Diff leader getting



off the ground.

I've been rained off a couple of times, on the Continuation Route and Tophet Wall and have climbed in all weathers. Rain, on Napes Needle, high wind, on Sou'wester Slabs, cold on Creagh Dhu Wall and scorching heat on Bowfell Buttress. I've even done one of the routes in full winter conditions although the grading of Tower Ridge in winter is somewhat different from the summer grade of Diff. quoted in Classic Rock and I've climbed with thirteen different partners over the years including a few from the YMC.

It's hard to pick a favourite but of the 30 or so routes that I've done I'd probably plump for Crackstone Rib on Carreg Wasted. It's near the road so doesn't involve a prolonged slog to get to it, but once on the front face of the crag it has a real mountain feel with plenty of exposure. A 175 ft Severe, most Guide Books quote 3 pitches although I've always strung the first two together to give 110 ft of superb Severe climbing. It starts at the foot of a groove (Erosion Groove) near the centre of the crag. A short crack leads after 30 feet to a ledge where you can belay on the left or continue leftwards on a well worn rising traverse with good pro to the arete. The move onto the arete is a bit blind and therefore somewhat bold, once on the arete you're very exposed and wonder what you've let yourself in for. But good holds lead to a ledge with pro, a short wall and a better ledge where you can take a belay and a breather. If you have the presence of mind to look down as you climb the arete, you'll see a fine view down the Pass with the impression that if you fell you wouldn't stop until you reached Nant Peris, tremendous exposure! The final pitch of 65 feet is much less exposed and follows an easy groove to a leftwards traverse, finishing up a short steep crack. If you've not already done it then I urge you to give it a go, one of the best routes in Wales at any grade.

One of the joys with a book like Classic Rock is the discussions to be had in the pub regarding the merits of a route's inclusion together with whinges about those not included. After all, Hope is in but Tennis Shoe is not, a better route in my view. Many will argue that Grooved Arete should have been included at the expense of Agag's Groove. All I can say is buy me a pint and I'd be happy to discuss this and all the other idiosyncrasies around Ken Wilson's choice of routes. He does include a list of other worthwhile routes in the vicinity of those listed together with a list of good routes at other locations not covered in the book.

It's unlikely now that I'll achieve my original aspiration of doing all the routes in the book, particularly as most of those left involve considerable mileage, not to mention a few lengthy walk-ins. Also I would need a committed partner, happy to do most of the leading and therefore drag me up the more difficult stuff. I'd still like to knock off a few more, perhaps on Skye this year. Anyone interested?

The book is still available, although a tad more expensive than the £12 I paid for my first edition, but one benefit of the later re-prints is the extensive use of glorious technicolour as opposed to the original largely monochrome photo's. The book has 55 Chapters all written by different authors with a total of 80 routes, plus the traverse of the Cuillin Ridge, described. The Chapters are split into different areas with 18 in Scotland, 12 in the Lakes, 13 in Wales, 6 in the Peak and 6 in South-West England. If you're just starting out or an established a mid grade climber and want some inspiration then

this could be the book for you. Without checking I'm confident in saying that the vast majority, if not all, of the routes in Classic Rock get three stars in their respective Definitive Guidebooks, so they are the creme de la creme of the easier grades.

Ken Wilson realised he was on to a good thing and produced several other books on a similar theme, e.g. Extreme Rock and Cold Climbs. However, one glaring omission is VS Rock! Hard Rock is essentially HVS and above, Classic Rock is Hard Severe and below, therefore all the stonking VS routes around the country are crying out for a similar volume. The Preface to Classic Rock says, quite rightly, that "many excellent Very Severe climbs (with a few exceptions) clearly belong to a class of their own". And "The Very Severs ..... are being reserved for future volumes". I'm still waiting!

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## Photo shows - 2019 / 20.

All member are welcome.

If you've any rock-climbing or mountaineering photographs that you want show then please contact the Photoshow Co-ordinator - Natasha Cook \_\_\_\_\_

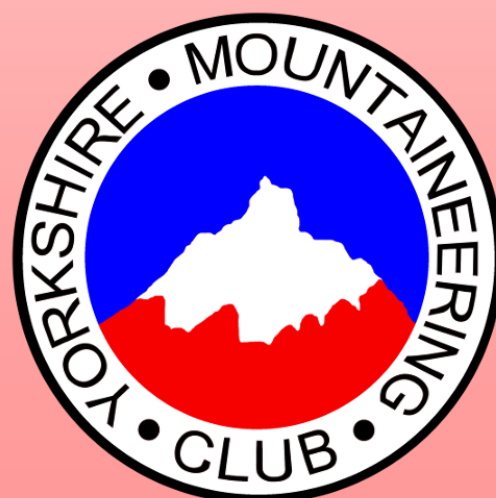
Food provided!

Month	Date	Location
December	12	Thornfield House, Bruntcliffe Rd, Morley, Leeds LS27 0QG
January	9	Thornfield House
February	13	Thornfield House
October	15	Thornfield House
November	12	Thornfield House
December	10	Thornfield House

## Tuesday Lunches 2019 / 20

Derek Field is the meets co-ordinator for all the lunch meets - [derek-field@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:derek-field@hotmail.co.uk)

Month	Date	Location
December	10	Christmas Dinner. Drop Farm, Moorside Lane, Oxenhope, BD22 9RE.
January	14	Calverley Arms, Rodley Lane, Calverley, LS28 5QQ.
February	11	Stubbing Wharf, King Street, Hebden Bridge, HX76LU.
March	10	Toby Carvery, Bradford Road, Keighley, BD21 4BB.
April	14	White Horse Inn, Well Head, Thornton. BD13 3SJ.
May	12	Hermit Inn, Moor Road, Burley Woodhead, LS29 7AS.
June	9	Calverley Arms, Rodley Lane, Calverley, LS28 5QQ.
July	14	Stubbing Wharf, Hebden Bridge, HX76LU.
August	11	The White House (Blackstone Edge), Halifax Road, Littleborough, OL15 0LG.
September	8	Heathfield Farm, Heathfield Lane, Birkenshaw, BD11 2DP.
October	13	Hermit Inn, Moor Road, Burley Woodhead, LS29 7AS.
November	10	Toby Carvery, Bradford Road, Keighley, BD21 4BB.
December	8	Christmas Dinner, Drop Farm, Moorside Lane, Oxenhope, BD22 9RE.



## Weekend Meets 2019/20

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.org.uk](http://www.theymc.org.uk) for confirmation of start point details

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

Month	Date	Location	Coordinator
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 Club Meet - Xmas & New Year	Booking - <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>
Dec	26	Ilkley Cow and Calf - Traditional Boxing Day Meet. Car park SE130467	Derek Field
Jan	5	Blackstone Edge / Windy Hill - South Pennines. Car park SD968178, OL15 0LG	Kath & Graham Willis
Jan	17/18	Coniston Hut - Housekeeping meet	Booking - <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>
Jan	26	Simon's Seat, Yorks Dales.	Angela Moroney
Feb	2	Horsehead Moor - Yorks Dales. Road-side parking. SD880764, BD23 5QN	Steve & Eve Bartlett
Feb	14/17	Winter Meet, Glencoe. Lagangarbh Hut (10 spaces)	Kath & Graham Willis
Feb	23	Scammonden Reservoir / Clock Face Quarry Environs - South Pennines. Car Park SE055164, HD3 3FR	Kath & Graham Willis



Month	Date	Location	Coordinator
Mar	1	Goredale Scar & Malham , Yorkshire Dales. Car park SD900427, BD23 4DG	Natasha Cook
Mar	15	Fountains Fell / Darnbrook Fell, Yorkshire Dales. Roadside parking. SD898742, BD23 5QJ	Eve & Steve Bartlett
Mar	29	Alderman Hill / Pots & Pans / Cotton Famine Road, Peak District. Car park SE017044, OL3 7NN	Eve & Steve Bartlett
Apr	10/13	Easter Coniston Hut Club Meet (4 Nights)	Booking - <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>
Apr	17/18	Coniston Hut – Housekeeping meet.	Booking: <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>
Apr	26	Thixendale / Yorks Wolds. Roadside parking. SE841611, YO17 9TJ	Ben Gilbert and Graham Willis
May	17	Kinder Scout – Seal & Ashop Edges / Snake Path, Peak District, Roadside parking SK109914, S33 0AB	Eve & Steve Bartlett
May	23/30	Spring Bank Holiday - Skye / Glen Brittle Hut. (7 Nights).	Sean Kelly
Jun	7	Crookrise Crag / Embsay Moor, Yorks Dales. Car park. SE009538, BD23 6RE	Derek Field
Jun	14	Black Hill, Peak District. Car park SE109067, HD9 2RX	Jennifer & Peter Tennant -
Jun	21	Cam Fell / Cam High Road / Dodd Fell, Yorks Dales. Roadside parking SD859837, BD23 5JR.	Kath & Graham Willis
Jun	26/27	Coniston Hut – Housekeeping meet.	Booking: <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>

## Use of the Coniston cottage.

It has been reported on more than one occasion this year by members arriving at the cottage that the electricity had not been turned off by the previous occupants. Amongst other things this maintains power to the immersion heater in the hot water tank. Whilst the new arrivals get the benefit of instant hot water, it does waste electricity.

It has also been noticed that some members are using the hut without having booked a bunk through the Hut Booking Secretary. With limited bunk space it is inevitable that the time will come when more people arrive at the hut than there are bunk spaces to accommodate them. Those who have booked a bunk will always have priority, even if they are last to arrive!

With this in mind, it is probably time for everyone to be reminded of the hut rules and hut procedures.

The complete set of hut rules can be viewed on the club website, but below is a summary of the expectations of hut users.

1. All members are required to reserve bed spaces, in advance of any visit to the hut, although specific bunks cannot be reserved. This should be done by contacting the Hut Booking Secretary ([ymchut@gmail.com](mailto:ymchut@gmail.com)).
2. Full members can obtain and hold, on loan, a key to the "Members area" upon payment of a £20 deposit. The Treasurer ([treasurer@theymc.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@theymc.org.uk)) administers hut keys.
3. Only full members are permitted to take guests to stay at the hut (a maximum of two guests per member), provided that a booking has been made.
4. All visitors to the hut (members and guests) are required to enter appropriate details in the log-book upon their arrival and ensure that the correct payment is made upon departure. Online payments can be made, indeed are encouraged, by transfer to the club bank account. Please use a reference advising what the payment is for. Members must ensure that their guests' hut fees are paid.
5. The whole of the Hut is a non-smoking area.
6. Pets are not permitted in the Hut.
7. All children must be in the charge of a responsible adult whilst at the Hut.
8. All users are expected to treat the Hut and its facilities with due care.
9. Users are expected to abide by current official notices posted in the Hut.
10. All users are expected to communicate any problems or defects with appropriate urgency to the Hut Warden(s) ([ymchutwarden@gmail.com](mailto:ymchutwarden@gmail.com)) or a Committee member.
11. All users are required to give due consideration to other hut users and our neighbours (this includes no noise between 23.00 and 07.00).

### Coniston cottage procedures.

1. On arrival the electricity will need turning on. The consumer unit is above the shelf near the door to the visitor's end.
2. On arrival the hut logbook entry should be completed (see rule 4 above).
3. Dirty outdoors footwear should not be worn upstairs.
4. All cooking equipment, crockery and cutlery must be washed up after use.
5. At the end of your stay, ensure the hut is left in a clean and tidy state and ready for the next users. This should include:

Emptying all rubbish bins and taking the rubbish from the hut. For recyclable waste there is a recycling centre in the village – just past the shops on Lake Road.

Cleaning all work surfaces and the table.

Sweeping / mopping / hoovering all floors, as appropriate – upstairs and downstairs.

Cleaning the shower and shower room.

Cleaning sinks and toilets.

Emptying and cleaning the fridge. Please leave the door open.

Refilling the coal bucket.

Turning off all lights.

Finally, turn off the electricity supply at the consumer unit.

6. Complete the payment slip and put it in the envelope with the cash / cheque. If paying online, put the loose slip in the fees box. Due to the poor mobile signal in the area those paying online probably won't be able to make the payment until they get home – please don't forget! If paying online please use a payment ref. that makes it clear what the payment is for—e.g. "hut fees dd/mm".

### Current Coniston cottage hut fees.

Adult members (Aspirant members included)	£4.00 per night.
Adult guests	£8.00 per night.
Children of family members and single parent family members	£2.00 per night.
Children of guests	£4.00 per night.
Children of members who are not family members	£4.00 per night.
Student members	£2.00 per night.
Junior members	£2.00 per night.
'Commercial' rate (for Hut bookings)	£10 per night.

N.B. members who are not family members and bring their children to the hut must pay hut fees of £4.00 per night for their children.

## Club News

The club has produced a photographic policy, which can be found on the club website. It is recommended that all members read this policy, but it is particularly important that meet co-ordinators and those who are submitting articles for publication in the newsletter have read it.

If you don't want your photo to be published on the club website, in the club's newsletter or in the club's social media feeds, please make sure that the other participants are aware so that they can ensure that any such photographs are not submitted for publication.

## Welcome

We welcome the following as Aspirant members and wish them a happy association with the club:

Samantha Brazier and Angela Jackson.

Also, Steve Buxton, Robert Dracup, Damian Rose and Henry Beevers have now converted to full membership.

And we welcome back Oliver Bale as a student member.

## And finally.....

If there's anything more that you think the club should be doing please let the committee know: by speaking to a committee member or email the club Secretary - [ymcsec2016@gmail.com](mailto:ymcsec2016@gmail.com)



*Save your club money and  
get the newsletter delivered  
straight to your inbox.  
Email us to get you added  
to the mailing lists  
**newsletter@theymc.org.uk***

Issue: 378

Autumn 2019

The Yorkshire Mountaineering Club - Founded 1941