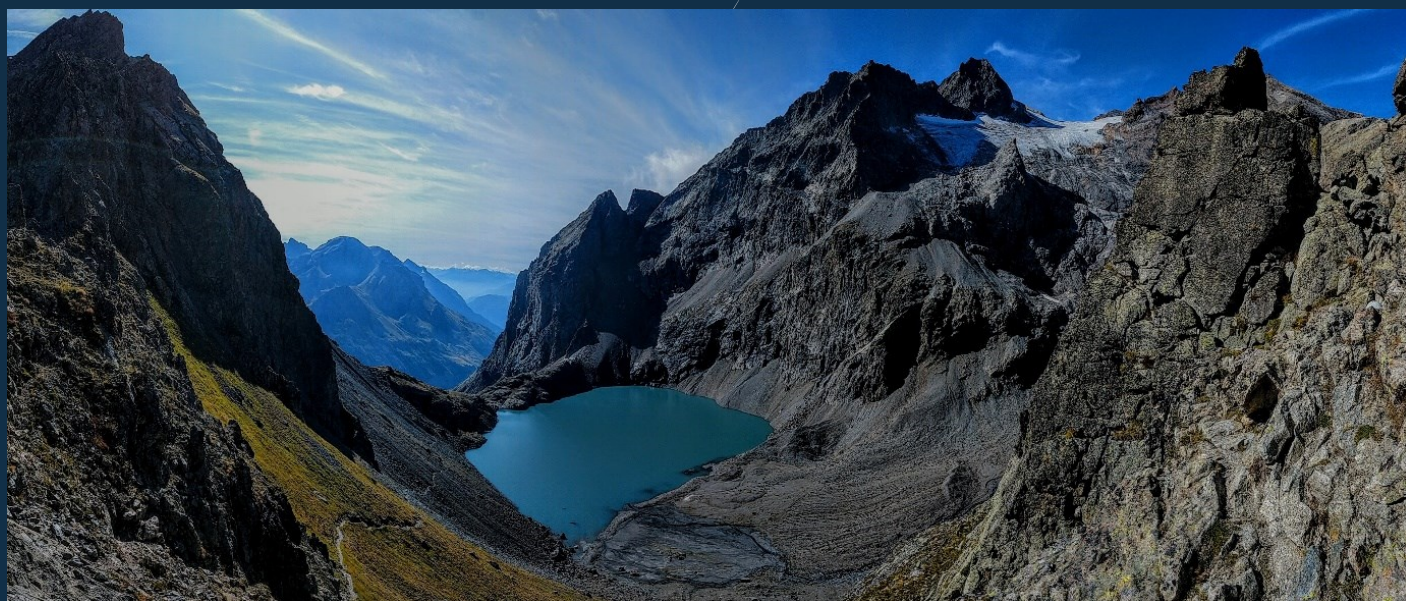


# THE YORKSHIRE MOUNTAINEER

Issue: 379

Winter 2020



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The Yorkshire Mountaineering Club - Founded 1941



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Cover photo:

Best landscape, 2019 photo comp.  
Lac de L'Eychauda (Peter Tennant)



## From the Editor.

First of all, I want to thank everyone who has made contributions to this newsletter. Without you putting pen to paper (well, tapping away on the keyboard) the newsletter would be a very slim affair indeed. The newsletter acts as a record of the activities of the club so, whilst not wanting to burden anyone who volunteers as a meet co-ordinator with the task, a write up of club meets is most definitely to be encouraged. Just as important though, members are always interested in reading about the exploits of others outside of a club meet, such as the articles by Caroline Philips and Steve Bostock in this newsletter. Please keep them coming. I am not setting a copy deadline for the next newsletter; I will leave that decision for a new Newsletter Editor, maybe. However, any meet reports, articles and news for the next newsletter should be sent to:

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

This newsletter should arrive along with the notice of the AGM, which is to be held at Thornfield House on 12th March. This is an opportunity for members to hear about the running of the club, as well as being able to stand for any vacant committee posts (including that of Newsletter Editor). Whilst the Committee functions adequately there is always a need for new committee members to get involved, to bring in new ideas and to share the workload. Please can as members as possible attend the AGM.

*Andy Summerskill*

# Mont Blanc

**Article and photos by:** Caroline Philips

After so enjoying the last YMC newsletter, I felt urged to put fingers to laptop when I read articles were needed for the next edition.

I must admit, I've been remiss at attending YMC meets, though as I live in Inverness I feel that's a pretty good excuse. So here's a little tale of my alpine dash of last summer. I say dash as in my youth we would drive to the Alps and camp for 3 weeks, acclimatising on lesser peaks, getting knackered then having rest days and culminating in the hope of finally getting up the big one (whatever peak/s that may be).

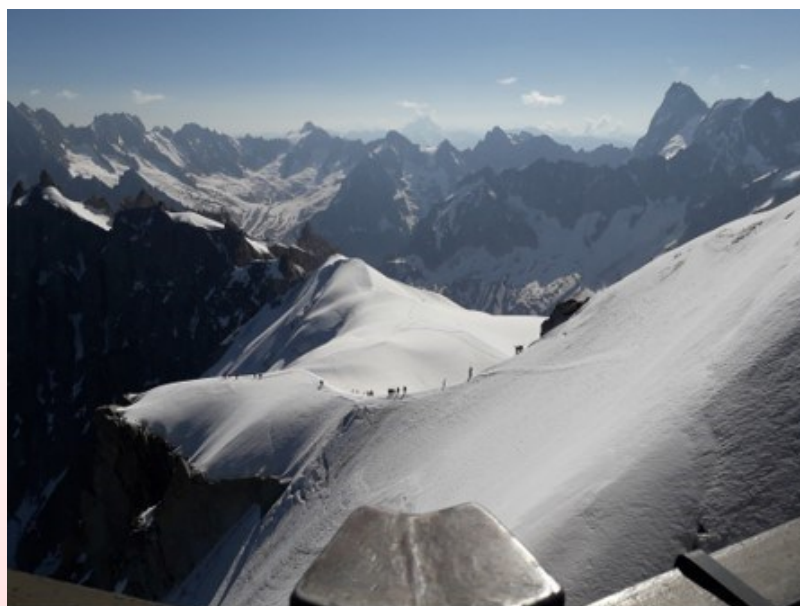
So on a wet trip to Ullapool, as we watched the rain lash against the windows, my mate Jamie mentioned his need to do Mont Blanc. I say need as this man is a driven mountain bagger, having recently finished the 7 highest volcanoes on each continent. He'd attempted Mont Blanc before with a guide, but the weather had driven them back high on the mountain. Well, I'd never done it and it was always something I thought I should do, so I said yes please.

Now Jamie is a brilliant planner, and he made sure we were booked into the top hut on the mountain on specific dates, to make the final day a shorter affair, (not an easy job, as there are very few beds allotted to Joe Public). My training in the month before the trip just consisted of walking up steep hillsides of Loch Ness as fast as I could for at least half an hour and then running down them (though the knees only allow trotting these days). Jamie had proposed a guide, but I've never used one and they cost a fortune, so being a tight Yorkshire person said NO. Jamie knew the way and I could do the ropes etc, so no probs. Getting to Chamonix was smooth and our hostel relaxed. No roughing it now! And acclimatising I'd decided was to be a gentle affair. There has been so much written about it,

and going high in Nepal last year I thought I'd worked out a good regimen. So we packed up and headed for the Aiguille de Midi telepherique, (3,842m). From there we roped up and traversed the head of the Geant glacier to the Torino hut (3,375m). Nice easy day so far. We stayed there for 2 nights enjoying lovely food and deck chairs on



the sun terrace outside. I'd only brought a short rope for the glacier crossings so the tempting rock surrounding us wasn't on the menu, sadly. We scrambled up the shattered peaklet of Aiguille de Toule nearby and wandered over the snows a little, but I had the idea that saving my energy for the big one would be good. We retraced our steps towards the Midi planning to go back to the valley, but seeing the Cosmiques hut nearby we capitalised on staying high and booked in for a night. What a delightful place! Recently done out, we had a front row seat watching people ascending



the 3 peaks route up Mont Blanc. This route can be very dodgy with seracs abounding, but this year they were snowed well into the mountain, and the guides were busy as a result.

Next day we went down, and after a quick spruce up we were heading down to Les Houches to catch the uplift to the Eagles Nest (Nid d'Aigle hut). Strangely there was no one here except an old chap and his young grandson. Newly built, it's curved into the rocky hillside with glorious views over the Bionnassay glacier. It allowed us an early start and to cross the dangerous gully above the Tete Rousse hut. Our hut was at the ridge summit, another new build (2015), and very sumptuous it was. Teetering on the corrie lip at 3815m and looking like it had landed from space, it provides relative luxury for the mountaineer!



One thing though is no water. And a 2 litre bottle costs £9!!! And it's over £100 per night to stay, but thankfully, gone are the days of frugal youth. The clouds surrounded us as we went to bed, with a forecast that was not the best.

Woken at 2am for our breakfast, we fought in the gear room to get ready...jacket tucked well into the harness, crampons, head torch, rope,

axe. Then we became part of the string of bobbing lights cheerily strung across the snow....and into the cloud. Going well, we passed panting groups and still cloud bound, we popped into the Vallot hut (4362m) to warm up. Tired, I wrapped the blankets around me then ate and drank. It's not a grand place, just a large metal box strapped to a rocky patch in the snow, but good spot if the weather gets rough.

Still in the clouds, but thankfully little wind, we continued along the narrowing ridge. The cloud thinning, giving us our first views to the glaciers below. There was a well trod path here, though careful footwork and balance was needed passing other climbers. Some of the exposure was exhilarating and I was in my element! And then there was no more and we were looking across to Italy, the Matterhorn giving us the thumbs up in the distance.



Jamie had his big camera, so with a Yorkshire flag thrust in my hand, I posed for all his shots. I was so cold I struggled to get my phone out and take my gloves off, but just loved the views! We were so lucky to have the clouds in a sea beneath us. But...what, no cross or cairn? Only a bit of wood with plastic tape tied to it. Sad for such a noble mountain.



Freezing, we descended, kipping at the Vallot then back for tea at the hut. It all seemed too easy, but we had been fortunate with the weather, and I say "merci beaucoup" to the French Alpine Club for making their mountains so accessible.

# Tan y Garth (Snowdonia) Meet.

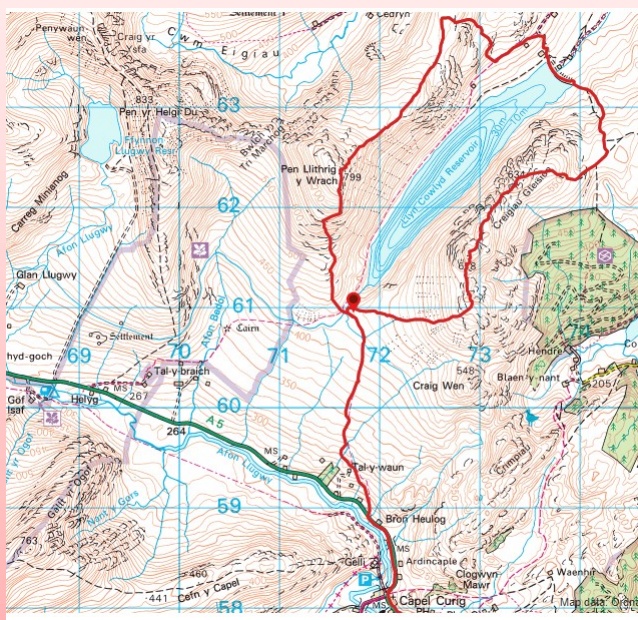
Article edited by: Dave Girt

Photos: Mike Cooper

Date: Weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> / 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Attendees: Mike Cooper, Leah Thompson & guests (Paddy and Olivia)

This was a meet that perhaps was meant not to be! Although originally 8 people signed up to attend, in the event, due to health and crime problem interventions, only 4 people made it, and 2 of them were guests! As well, the weather forecast was dire; Mike forgot his boots and had to dig deep to buy replacements; and Leah forgot her waterproof trousers and had to buy a new pair. Not an auspicious start, but being YMC they made enjoyment out of adversity.



Map1

Mike tackled Pen Llithrig y Wrach (798m) and the two peaks of Creigiau Gleison (678m and 634m) (see Map 1). Between the two is the Llyn Cowlyd reservoir (Photo 1) which at nearly 2 miles long, supplies drinking water to Colwyn Bay and Conwy as well as hydro-electricity to the aluminium works at Dolgarrog. Pen Llithrig y Wrach translates as 'The Slippery Hill of the Witch', though no Witches were to be seen. Neither was the mythical water bull who appears from the depths of Llyn Cowlyd with "fiery horns and hoofs with flames issuing out of its nostrils"; nor the fairies, namely the Welsh Tylwyth Teg, who drag solitary walkers to their death in the depths. Probably for the best really.

Walking from the A5 at Capel Curig a short climb led to a gently sloping grassland / bog area where duckboards help cross some of the more marshy areas and eventually to the reservoir and across a bridge to start climbing Pen Llithrig. Heading left on an ill-defined path lead in 380 metres to the top. There would have been fine views of the Snowdon Massif and the North Wales coast if not for the grey layer of cloud just above the hilltops. The path off towards the dam at the end of Llyn Cowlyd is reasonably gentle but it can be easy to miss which Mike did and required a little "cross country" to make his way to the dam and breakwater, and lunch. Crossing the dam the way lead up through a patch of shallow wetland that required some skirting around and on to the lower North Top of Creigiau Gleison where Mike met the only two other walkers he would see all day. From the North

Top a region of quartz mixed into the rock, including a big slab hanging off the side of the hill lead



Photo1

over the small 'third top' and on to the highest peak of the mountain. At this point the cloud level dropped dramatically and Mike was faced with following a path that led to Craig Wen (which was the wrong way) or taking a bearing and heading straight through knee high heather to find the top of the reservoir again: which he did. From there it was down the duck-boarded paths and back to the A5, and a short detour to the bar at Plas Y Brenin to complete a fine day out. The forecast of wet weather had never really materialized and it seemed that Snowdonia was a lot drier than Yorkshire that weekend.



Photo 2

Meanwhile, Leah, Paddy and Olivia headed for the Carneddau Horshoe. Following a farm track from Llyn Ogwen they forded Afon Loer and on sometimes tricky scrambling aimed for Pen yr Ole Wen summit which was fog-bound, then followed the ridge to the summit shelter of Carnedd Daffyd and lunch. Reaching Carnedd Llywelyn glimpses appeared of the wonderful views of the surrounding mountains and Ffynnon Llugwy Reservoir. Heading for the final summit they were faced with a steep descent over a scary slab before gaining Bwlch Erig Farchog, the ridge up to Pen y Helgi Du (Photo 2). Then down the long walk to the road passing wild ponies on the way. Sunday was rainy and on achy legs Leah, Paddy and Olivia took a much longer than anticipated walk from Betws y Coed through the Gwdir Forest Park up to Swallow Falls. The river was in full-flow and fun was had trekking through varied terrain under the tree canopies.

# Bonfire Meet - Coniston hut.

Photos: Sean Kelly

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019

In many ways the bonfire meet followed the usual format. Members arriving in Coniston from near and far, bringing with them the year's accumulation of household waste and off-cuts from their diy projects, as well as the odd firework.

Whilst other members did their own thing on the Saturday, Sean Kelly led a small group of intrepid explorers through the Coniston Copper Mines. A hike up to Levers Water was made where the group kitted up ready for the descent. The trip starts by entering the upper mine entrance, known as Black Strings, which is quite close to the S.E. shore of the lake.



Kitting up at the entrance

descending a total of three pitches and along the way some quite spectacular formations can be seen, their blue colour caused by the presence of copper salts dissolved in the dripping water present. The exit from the mine is through the Hospital Level, an obvious entrance next to the footpath at Paddy End, which many of you will be aware of.



Admiring the flowstone



Deep water



# Hebden Bridge Meet.

**Article by:** Graham Willis

**Photos:** Laurie Morse

**Date:** Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019

**Start Point:** Hebden Bridge town centre.

**Attendees:** Laurie & Anne Morse, Derek Field, Steve Buxton, Mike Cooper, Nabeela Hafiz, Rukhsana Azim, Angela Moroney, Alan Marson, Kath & Graham Willis (members) Richard Buck, Alan Goodman, Alice Nelson-Smith & Laura (YMC meetup group / guests)

Leaving the town centre we followed the canal tow path west for a short time before crossing the A646 and climbing up through Eaves Wood towards Heptonstall village. Avoiding the village we continued up Colden Clough to meet up with Derek Field on route to Clough Head Hill and Standing Stone Hill. Following the Pennine Way we stopped for lunch at Gorple Cottages. Passing across the dam wall at Gorple Lower Reservoir and the Pack Horse pub we entered Blake Dean & Hebden Dale following the Hebden Water river-side path past Gibson Mill and Midgehole back to the start point.



After several weeks of rainy grey days it was nice to have a bright sunny day for a change.

The total distance travelled was approximately 19k (11.8 miles) with 505m (1,656ft) of ascent.

Refreshments were taken at The Old Gate pub in Hebden Bridge.



## YMC Photo competition 2019

The annual photo competition was held at Thornfield House on 14<sup>th</sup> November where a good night out was enjoyed by the members attending. The winners of the various sections were:

L W Smith Trophy for best overall score for three photos. Winner - Peter Tennant with: Lac de l'Eychauda (See cover photo), Reflections on Pelvoux and Carn Dearg, Corroul.

Lac de l'Eychauda also won the Dave Stott Trophy for Best Landscape photo.

Golden Peg Trophy for best climbing shot. Winner - John Hunt with '7a at nearly 70'. Dave Musgrove on Sven Vath, Victoria Cave, Attermire

Humour section. Winner - Laurie Morse with 'Blimey, I told you not to lean back'.

Junior section. Winner - William Hunt with 'Trick climb'.

Viv Swithenbank won the Best Print prize.



Reflections on Pelvoux



Carn Dearg, Corroul



'7a at nearly 70'. Dave Musgrove on Sven Vath, Victoria Cave, Attermire



Blimey, I told you not to lean back



Trick Climb

# Grand days out.

**Article by:** Steve Bostock

One of the benefits of getting on in years is that you have a rich store of memories over which to reminisce, particularly if your interests get you out and about. Never having managed to do anything significant overseas, with two notable exceptions, and never having spent time in the Alps or the greater ranges, all my memories bar two, as I said, stem from activities in the UK.

I've been climbing on and off since my late teens and started hill walking whilst still at school but my best days out mostly occurred following my move to Yorkshire, in my thirties. That's when I met a couple of keen mountaineers/climbers in Manchester and joined the YMC.

Having said that, my first recollection of a great day in the hills was on a school trip to the Lakes over Easter 1970. There were a dozen of us, including two teachers, staying in two caravans at Braithwaite. We'd travelled up by train from London to Keswick, when you still could, and walked the 3 - 4 miles with all our food and kit from the station to the caravan site. In my case this was all in my Dad's old Royal Navy kit-bag, which aren't the easiest things to carry! With no transport, we walked everywhere and perhaps the best day out was also the longest. We walked over Newlands to Buttermere, between the lakes and up Red Pike, via a scramble up Sour Milk Gill. We then walked the ridge south to Scarth Gap and descended to the southern end of Buttermere, road walked north back to the village and then back over Newlands. This was all before I had any proper mountain gear, my boots being army type and not at all waterproof and my coat home made. I know we went out every day during the two week stay but this is the only trip I can recall, except a day on Skiddaw, so it must have been a good 'un.

Another fine day out in the Lakes was much later with a mate named Stuart, one of the aforementioned Mancunians, on Blencathra. I drove over to Lancashire and met him at a Service Station before continuing to the lakes. We parked up at the eastern end of the hill and set off up Sharp Edge, which was brilliant. But the principal memory comes from the fact that having scrambled up Sharp Edge in good conditions, there was a hoolie blowing from the west on the summit ridge and we struggled to the top in the teeth of a gale, barely able to stay upright. Descending to the road we had a longish walk back to the car.

One of my best days in Scotland was also with Stuart, on the Ben in February 1989. When we crawled out of the tent in Glen Nevis the day didn't look promising, the cloud base was about 500 feet and the weather was dreich at best. But we'd driven a long way the night before and were determined to get something done before continuing to Loch Carron for a week's B&B. We set off up the Ben at the tourist track from the Youth Hostel, and as you probably know, that route is a bit of a slog. One advantage of the poor weather was that we appeared to have the hill largely to ourselves. As we approached the summit plateau the cloud started the thin. We couldn't believe it, the summit plateau was clear with wall to wall blue sky above and cotton wool clouds below. We were alone as we crunched across perfect nevé to the shelter which was the only thing visible on the summit. We sat on the steps of the shelter eating our lunch marvelling at our good fortune, there was no other moun-

tain visible, only the Ben was above the clouds and we had the place to ourselves - and we had a great glissade on the way down. Great day.

The Ben also features in two more of my best days in the mountains. In the early '90's the Club booked the CIC Monday to Friday in winter on a couple of occasions and in March 1991 I did Tower Ridge with Cozi. Cozi led most of the way being far more experienced at winter climbing than me. I don't recall that much of the actual climb except that we took the Eastern Traverse to avoid the crowds at the Tower Gap. Normally not a problem but on this occasion the whole traverse was banked out with waist deep fresh powder and the pitch involved a very long run-out with no pro on very dubious ground. Cozi leading and me following would have taken a tremendous pendulum had either of us come off. But we managed it unscathed and got to the top. Great climb.

I did another great climb on the Ben in July '98 with my mate Les, the other Mancunian. He was a member of Lancashire CC and we were staying in their caravan at Tyndrum. So it was an early-ish start to drive to the Ben followed by the long flog up the Allt a' Mhuilinn to the base of the route, Observatory Ridge. Conditions weren't ideal. The clag was down and visibility upwards was restricted to 50 - 100 feet, so route finding was an issue the whole way. For whatever reason Les was feeling a bit off so I led all the route, my longest ever lead by some margin. The climb was a bit damp but nothing to worry about and we made steady progress but the difficulties with route finding slowed us down and it was getting on by the time we finished. We packed up our gear and shot off back to the car but it was still past closing time when we got there, so no celebratory pint for us. By the time we found somewhere still open to eat and set off back to Tyndrum it was well dark and we had been on the go for about 15-16 hours plus driving time. I was so knackered I almost dosed off on the drive back over Rannock Moor, good job Les was awake.

One of the best days out in winter that I've had was in March of the year before, with Les again. I can't recall where we were staying but we were aiming for the three Munros around Coire Ardair. We set off from Aberarder on what promised to be a fine day and headed north onto snow and towards Na Cnapanan and then continued on to Carn Liath. The conditions were perfect with fine nevé on the ridge to Stob Poite Coire Ardair and then across The Window to the Creag Meagaidh plateau and summit. As I've said, the conditions were brill but nonetheless we must have been going well because we'd completed our whole day's planned route of three Munros before lunch! We still had a good 3 hours of daylight that we weren't going to waste on a day like this. A quick bite and we headed off back to The Window and then roughly westwards towards Beinn a' Chaorainn, which I'd already done four years previously with Sam, Cozi and Tex as a fine snowy scramble up the south ridge. It was still only 2-ish when we got to the summit so without much discussion we continued on to Beinn Teallach, which neither of us had done previously. By the time we got to the road at Roughburn the sun was setting and we were, of course, quite a way from where we'd left the car. But it was one of those days, as we hit the tarmac a car approached, we stuck out a thumb and it stopped, and dropped us back at the car in about 10 minutes.

1997 was obviously a good year as in the October I had a great bothy trip with Les, Roger and Nick. We parked the car at Rannock Lodge and took the track to Benalder Cottage, continuing past the bothy to the Bealach Breabag where we dumped our sacs and headed up Ben Alder. Returning to

the Bealach, we collected our sacs and set off for Beinn Bheoil. It was then a long slog down the north ridge, across the Allt a' Cháoil-reidhe to Culra Lodge. You can see Culra pretty much from the summit of Beinn Bheoil and as we tramped across the heather with heavy sacs it didn't seem to be getting any closer. We got there eventually and had the bothy to ourselves and having sorted dinner and snap for the following day, turned in early. Up at a reasonable time, we packed up and headed NE to the ridge that would take us to Carn Dearg. It was then a high level day taking in Carn Dearg, Geal-Charn, Aonach Beag and, finally, Beinn Eibhinn. From the last summit we headed south down steep slopes to cross the Uisge Labhair before picking up the path over the Bealach Cumhann and back to Benalder Cottage. The place was heaving and we struggled to find floor space for our pits. Most of the other occupants had just walked in for a day out and a few bevies at the weekend but everyone was friendly enough and we managed to get a good night's rest. Next day we were up and off early as we had to be home that night. We headed westwards for two to three miles before rising steeply to the Bealach nan Sgòr and turning south to the summit of Sgòr Gaibhre. It was then south-westwards for another couple of miles to the summit of Carn Dearg (another one), our last Munro of the trip. A fine ridge southwards to Sròn Leachd á Chaorainn and then down from the hills to pick up the path along the Allt Eigheach and then the track back to the road, about 6 miles from the car. As the driver I set off last along the road, to be first in the queue for a lift and after a mile or so I got one. Unfortunately, there was no room for the others when we passed so they kept walking while I went for the car. The weather was a bit mixed but nothing extreme for late October, the company was excellent with plenty of craic and we did eight Munros in the three days. A stonking trip.

Another fine ridge for collecting a few Munros is, of course, the South Glen Shiel Ridge. I'd already done the eastern four hills on my first trip to Scotland in winter, with Stuart in March 1988 but had always hankered to do the whole ridge in one hit. Ten years later, in February 1998, the opportunity presented itself when some of us were staying at Invergarry, which is a bit of a drive but four of us were keen to tackle the ridge. Sammy, Nick, Tony and I had two cars at our disposal so left one down Glen Shiel and parked the other near the Cluanie Inn before setting off up Creag á Mhaim. We soon reached the snow line but fortunately the snow was in good nick and we didn't have to wade through thick powder as on my other visit. Consequently we made good time. The weather was fine but there was a front coming in from the south and therefore there were no views in that direction and, of course to the north all you can only really see are the Five Sisters of Kintail and the rest of the North Glen Shiel Ridge. The day was uneventful and we made good progress, our only mistake was coming off the ridge too soon, missing the path down the Allt Mhalagain and scrambling down a steep, slippery, heather and grass slope back to the car and the long drive back to our log cabin.

Most of these grand days out fall into the bagging (mountaineering) category but I've also had many greats days on the crags. For obvious reasons, Napes Needle had been an ambition for some time and not long after I moved north to Yorkshire my two Mancunian mates and I drove up to Wasdale one evening after work, camped, had far too many beers in the Wasdale Head and set off the next morning for the Needle. The cloud base was low-ish and there was moisture in the air when we started up 'The Arete'. I led the top pitch and it is a lasting regret that my first runner, in the horizontal break below the top block, stopped it rocking! As first man up and therefore last man down, reversing off the top block was thought provoking, but I got down safely. Unfortunately the weather had wors-

ened and we scuttled back to Wasdale Head, rather than tackle Eagle's Nest Ridge, as originally planned, and then back home for work the following day. So not much done and not the best weather, but a pinnacle of my climbing career and a fine day out.

Another big day out with only one route to show for it occurred on my first visit to Pillar. Both Stuart and I had a day off and drove up to Wasdale Head early doors. This is after I've driven over the Pennines to collect Stuart. We'd chosen Wasdale Head rather than Ennerdale to shorten the drive, but this lengthened the walk and it took us quite some time to get to the crag. Once there I led all five pitches of New West Climb, a brilliant route in a great position but once at the top we realised we'd have to head back soon if we wanted to be in a fit state for the work the following day. Therefore only one route done but a great day out nonetheless.

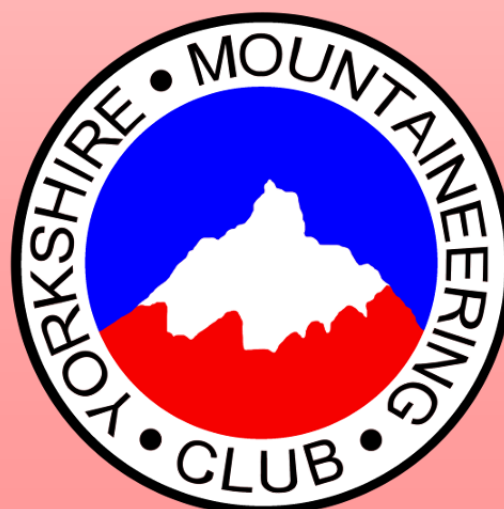
I've always enjoyed rock routes / scrambles that get you to the summit of a mountain, hence my determination to do the Continuation Route at Idwal that I wrote about recently. One of the best of these that I've done is the Arrow Face route on Table Mountain that I did back in 2005 and have again already written about. The first such excursion I did was way back in 1978 on Tryfan. Unfortunately I can't remember much about it. I know we did the Direct Route on Milestone Buttress and then made our way to the summit, but I have no idea which route/s we did to get there. I know we got to the summit because I can remember stepping from Adam to Eve for the first time, quite daunting! Exchanging e-mails with a mate who was there, he thinks we probably did the north ridge or it may have been Soapgut, but I have no record of that. So I can't remember much but it must have been a grand day out getting to the top of a mountain.

I've also written previously in the TYM of a purple patch in climbing terms that I experienced way back in 1989. Perhaps the best day out of that period was on Scafell Crag. Les and I had a day off and drove up to Wasdale Head straight from work and set off early up to the foot of the crag the following morning. Botterill's Slab was first up and we tossed a coin for who would lead off, I lost and got pitch one and three whilst Les led the peach that is the second pitch, the actual slab. At least being second on the rope for this pitch meant I had time and confidence to have a good look around and enjoy the position. Descending for a rest and a bite to eat we discussed our next route, we were both going well so it had to be Central Buttress. I led off and this time got the premier pitch, the third that includes The Great Flake. At that time the route was still HVS but this pitch had a reputation to spitting out inexperienced HVS leaders, which, to be honest was me. I soon discovered that a bold and determined approach was what was called for and was soon sat of Jeffcoat's Ledge with a broad self-satisfied grin as I brought up Les. Since the loss of the chockstone behind the flake, the route has been re-graded to E1 but with the original way up the flake given as a E2/3 variation. We alternated the lead on the final three pitches and returned to our sacs. With a long way to get home we called it a day and headed back to Wasdale Head. But what a day! The weather had been perfect, dry and not too hot, being mid-week there weren't crowds of people and we'd done two of the best routes on the crag.

So far I've covered getting up lots of hills and a few routes in summer but only one in winter, albeit a good one. I've had many splendid days on snow and ice and it's difficult to pick which is worthy of mention here, but Penguin Gully takes some beating for a great day. A whole bunch of us were stay-

ing at Leckmelm just south of Ullapool way back in the mid '90's. Four of us parked at Inverlael and set off up Gleann na Sguaib on the long approach to the flanks of Beinn Dearg. The first third is on good tracks through the FC plantation and then once through the deer fence it's a good path up the Glen that became increasingly indistinct as we got above the snow line. Sam and Cozi branched off early, heading for Emerald Gully whilst Pete and I continued almost to the headwall of the glen before turning right to Penguin Gully. A steep icefall is the usual start at grade III/IV but it was late-ish in the season and the icefall didn't reach down to the stance. So we had no option but to go for the alternative start, a 75m dog-leg gully which is the start to Eigerwanderer. Pete led off, in fact Pete led all the way and we soon reached a good stance just to the right of the main gully. Conditions were a bit blowy and communication was a problem throughout so with Pete out of sight round a corner from the stance in the gully I was unable to let him know he was running out of rope. Not wanting to pull him off I had little choice but to rapidly dismantle the belay and follow him into the main gully when the rope eventually ran out. I didn't have to go far before he looked down, realised the situation and scuttled off to the left to get a rather exposed belay. I don't remember the several ice pitches quoted in the Guide and saw no sign of the through route behind a chockstone. What I did get were numerous spindrift avalanches, some of them quite large that were trying to push me off the route. Once I was up to the belay we didn't have far to the end of the route and the top of the ridge. A bit blowy in the gully, blowing a hoolie on the ridge! We sheltered behind a dry stone wall for some snap (penguin biscuits all round), then set off down the ridge and back to the car, seeing no sign of Sam and Cozi. As it turned out, they too got up their route so all four of us had a great day.

I could go on, a trip into Coiremor followed by Seanna Bhragh the next day, numerous days on the rock in the Peak, Wales and the Lakes and big days out on the hills in Scotland. Of course I've had disappointments and failures both on the rock, in winter and on the fells. Sitting in the CIC for a week whilst it hammered down outside, similar days in a tent on Skye, falling off an 'easy' E1 at Anglezark; but the good times far outweigh the bad, so I've no complaints. I suppose that with a metal hip, two DVT's and dodgy knees my best times are behind me and despite only being in the first flush of old age, future special days will be limited. Having said that you have to keep trying and my list of things I still want to do is extensive and includes areas throughout the UK. So here's hoping I can get a few of them ticked off before I become totally infirm and have more grand days out..





## Tuesday Lunches 2020

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
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.

## Photo shows - 2020.

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 [ctasha@live.co.uk](mailto:ctasha@live.co.uk).

Food provided!

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

## 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
Mar	1	Goredale Scar & Malham , Yorkshire Dales. Car park SD900427, BD23 4DG	Natasha Cook - <a href="mailto:ctasha@live.co.uk">ctasha@live.co.uk</a>
Mar	15	Fountains Fell / Darnbrook Fell, Yorkshire Dales. Roadside parking. SD898742, BD23 5QJ	Eve & Steve Bartlett - <a href="mailto:stevebarts@talktalk.net">stevebarts@talktalk.net</a>
Mar	29	Alderman Hill / Pots & Pans / Cotton Famine Road, Peak District. Car park SE017044, OL3 7NN	Eve & Steve Bartlett - <a href="mailto:stevebarts@talktalk.net">stevebarts@talktalk.net</a>
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 - <a href="mailto:gcw@dial.pipex.com">gcw@dial.pipex.com</a>
May	17	Kinder Scout – Seal & Ashop Edges / Snake Path, Peak District, Roadside parking SK109914, S33 0AB	Eve & Steve Bartlett - <a href="mailto:stevebarts@talktalk.net">stevebarts@talktalk.net</a>
May	23/30	Spring Bank Holiday - Skye / Glen Brittle Hut. (7 Nights).	Sean Kelly - <a href="mailto:sean@phukawi.com">sean@phukawi.com</a>
Jun	7	Crookrise Crag / Embsay Moor, Yorks Dales. Car park. SE009538, BD23 6RE	Derek Field - <a href="mailto:derek-field@hotmail.co.uk">derek-field@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Jun	14	Black Hill, Peak District. Car park SE109067, HD9 2RX	Jennifer & Peter Tennant - <a href="mailto:peter Tennant@hotmail.co.uk">petertennant@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Jun	21	Cam Fell / Cam High Road / Dodd Fell, Yorks Dales. Roadside parking SD859837, BD23 5JR.	Kath & Graham Willis - <a href="mailto:gcw@dial.pipex.com">gcw@dial.pipex.com</a>
Jun	26/27	Coniston Hut – Housekeeping meet.	Booking: <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>

Month	Date	Location	Coordinator
Jul	12	Sutton Bank / Whitestone Cliff / Gormire Lake / NY Moors. Sutton Bank National Park Centre. Y07 2EH, SE516830	Henry Beevers - <a href="mailto:henrybeevers@gmail.com">henrybeevers@gmail.com</a>
Jul	26	Great Shunner Fell / Lovely Seat / Hardraw / Wensleydale. Yorks Dales. Roadside parking DL8 3LZ, SD866911	Kath & Graham Willis - <a href="mailto:gcw@dial.pipex.com">gcw@dial.pipex.com</a>
Aug	2	Ingleborough / Yorks Dales. YDNP car park, Clapham village. LA2 8EF SD745692	Natasha Cook - <a href="mailto:ctasha@live.co.uk">ctasha@live.co.uk</a>
Aug	23	Margery Hill / Ladybower Reservoir / Peak District. Fairholmes visitors centre car park, S33 0AQ, SK172893.	Kath & Graham Willis - <a href="mailto:gcw@dial.pipex.com">gcw@dial.pipex.com</a>
Aug	29	Switzerland (7 nights). Details TBC	Jonathan Carter – <a href="mailto:jonathan.carter1973@hotmail.co.uk">jonathan.carter1973@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Sep	13	Chop Gate / North Yorks Moors. Chop Gate Village Hall, Bilsdale. TS9 7JW, SE559993	Kath & Graham Willis - <a href="mailto:gcw@dial.pipex.com">gcw@dial.pipex.com</a>
Sep	25/26	Coniston Hut – Housekeeping meet.	Booking: <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>
Oct	11	Scugdale / Wainstones. NY Moors Parking TBC	Henry Beevers - <a href="mailto:henrybeevers@gmail.com">henrybeevers@gmail.com</a>
Oct	16/17	Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet.	Booking: <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>
Oct	25	Castleton / Peak District. Castleton village car park. S33 8WN, SK149830 or road side parking.	Kath & Graham Willis - <a href="mailto:gcw@dial.pipex.com">gcw@dial.pipex.com</a>
Nov	6/7	Coniston Hut – Club Bonfire Meet. (2 nights)	Booking: <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>
Nov	22	Nidderdale. Yorks Dales. Parking TBD.	Kath & Graham Willis - <a href="mailto:gcw@dial.pipex.com">gcw@dial.pipex.com</a>
Dec	13	Xmas Fuddle Walk - Barden Moor / Skipton. Yorks Dales. Roadside parking - Approx Postcode BD23 6AP, SE051568	Derek Field - <a href="mailto:derek-field@hotmail.co.uk">derek-field@hotmail.co.uk</a> Note: Meet time 10:30
Dec	24	Xmas /New Year Coniston Hut Club Meet (11 nights)	Booking: <a href="mailto:ymchut@gmail.com">ymchut@gmail.com</a>
Dec	26	Ilkley Cow & Calf – Traditional Boxing Day Meet. Cow & Calf Public Car Park. Approx post code LS29 9RF, SE130467	Derek Field - <a href="mailto:derek-field@hotmail.co.uk">derek-field@hotmail.co.uk</a> Note: Meet time 10:30

## Club News

Congratulations to Mel Shaw and Luke Dickens on the safe arrival of their son, Humphrey, on 27/11/2019.

## Welcome

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

Richard Buck and Ian Walton.

And Paddy O'Neill, Richard Smith and Rebecca Burrell as Full Members.

Charlotte Lee and Corrine Knight are now Junior Members of the club in their own right.

## 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  
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to the mailing lists  
[newsletter@theymc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@theymc.org.uk)*

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The Yorkshire Mountaineering Club - Founded 1941