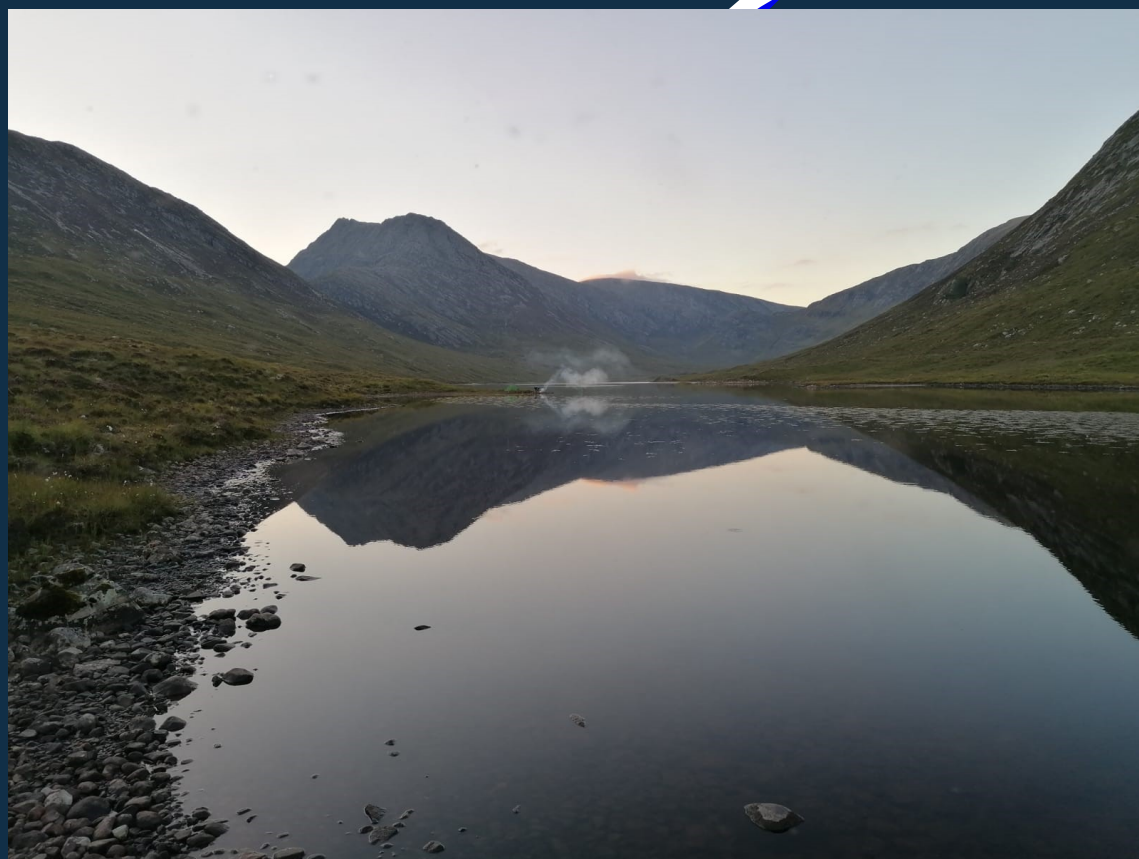


THE YORKSHIRE MOUNTAINEER

Issue: 384

Spring 2021



IN THIS ISSUE

The Mushroom Farm

The Cairngorm 4000s

Memory Lane

Ben Nevis circuit

On Yer Bike

Grand Finale

The Yorkshire Mountaineering Club - Founded 1941



Contents

- Welcome from the Editor
- Committee Matters
- The Mushroom Farm
- The Cairngorm 4000s
- Memory Lane
- Ben Nevis circuit
- On Yer Bike
- Grand Finale
- Meets calendar

Cover photos:

Front: Evening light Loch Prille

Rear: The ridge to Cona' Mheall

Both from Cozi's trip reported in TYM383



From the Editor.

Firstly, I'd like to express thanks to the Work Meet crew who sorted out the new floor in the Hut. Having done some of this kind of thing myself I know what hard work it is, especially as everything had to be unloaded, moved and placed by hand. A sterling effort! (See Ken's report).

This edition of TYM is full of memories, both written and visual and this is entirely due to the hard work and fine recall of Malcolm Lomas, without whom this would be a very sparse Newsletter. Now I know Sol is not getting any younger and has been larking around in the hills and mountains for quite some time and therefore has a large stock of good memories. Equally, I know he is not the only one, so what about someone else producing some content.

So thanks again to Sol for his Reports on what sounds like a terrific trip around the Cairngorm 4000s, trips in Lochaber and for looking out some of his old photos.

This Newsletter is slimmer than the last issue and would be slimmer still if not for Sol, now that Meet's are back on the agenda it would be nice to get some Meet Reports for the next issue.

Deadline for input to the next Newsletter, TYM 385, is 14th September.

As always, material for the next newsletter can be sent to me at:

newsletter@theymc.org.uk

or

ymcnewsletter@gmail.com

Steve Bostock

Committee Matters

As previously mentioned in TYM 383, the club's Annual General Meeting duly took place on March 18th. And since a complete set of related documents were distributed to members prior to the meeting, they are not reproduced here.

A summary of the proceedings is as follows:-

The minutes of the previous AGM [March 12th 2020] were passed and accepted as a true record. Both the Secretary and Treasurer reports were similarly accepted by the meeting. There were no matters arising.

The following Officers were elected:

Honorary Vice President:	Chris Chester
Honorary Secretary:	Pete Stott
Honorary Treasurer:	Andy Summerskill
Hut Booking Secretary:	Claire Howarth
Membership Secretary:	Dave and Audrey Girt
Newsletter Editor:	Steve Bostock
Meets Secretary:	Graham Willis
Media Secretary:	Ani Houston
Hut Wardens:	John Lee, Alan Marson
General Committee:	David Campbell, Martin Girt, Natasha Cook, Rob Dracup
BMC Representatives (Area Committee):	Chris Chester, Rob Dracup
Club Auditor:	Alan Swithenbank

Chris Chester and Rob Dracup are new additions to the team whilst Dave and Audrey Girt have agreed to continue for another year in view of the difficulties experienced at the time in the transfer of responsibilities due to Covid-19 regulations. However, it is unlikely that they will continue beyond March 2022 so it is crucial that a replacement is found before then. The club Secretary can be contacted by anyone expressing interest in the post.

It was agreed at the AGM that future committee meetings would incorporate the Zoom facility into normal face to face meetings so that those having difficulty in attending could participate.

A suggestion that the club should consider increasing the annual donation it gives to the Coniston Mountain Rescue team was accepted. A review has subsequently been formalised to take place near the end of the current financial year.

Walking meets have been taking place since May 17th, as members will have noticed from Mailchimp circulars. There has also been a development in climbing meets, where Rob Dracup and Chris Chester are now allowed to take them, but only with club members until they have obtained full qualifications. Rob is now in possession of the club's climbing gear, which can be used by aspiring climbers who do not have their own.

The Coniston hut is now being used again, and strict government guidelines are being followed: bookings include the use of a key normally supplied to outside organisations using the premises. Prohibition signs have been installed to remind members of their responsibilities.

The club website was considered not to be performing as it should, particularly the ongoing problems relating to mobile phones, so a review of what re-structuring could be utilised was being undertaken.

A Hut sub-committee has been formed, comprising Ian Willis, Ken Tilford and Dave Lomas, who will act in an advisory capacity.

The Mushroom Farm

Many moons have passed since the club hut had its big make-over; since then all that has been required maintenance wise has been a good spring clean. Though in the big kitchen, out of sight, and out of reach was an area that never got touched. After an in-depth discussion with Dave and members of the committee it was felt that to remedy this and the cracks in the concrete, the floor would require some difficult remedial work. The floor should probably be left well enough alone!

Then, along came Covid. The hut was left to look after itself, but Peter paid a visit after some four months to make sure all was well. It wasn't! A strange fungus was growing through the floor. An executive decision was required; what to do?

And so, a decision was made, the floor would have to come up and be replaced with slate as per the rest of the cottage. So, Dave and Ian set about sourcing some slate and settled on Broughton Quarries who did us a good deal including delivery to the door.

So, after a great deal of planning and ordering materials a small team was assembled and requirements made to ensure compatibility with Covid restrictions; gallons of antiseptic, though none was imbibed. Separate sleeping arrangements, one per room, with Dave and Sally sleeping in their vehicles. The final touch was Dave taking temperatures at regular intervals with his laser thermometer. Regrettably at the last minute, Peter had to drop out as he may have been in contact with Covid, but we were now ready to go.

When Ian and I arrived a good deal of donkey work had been done; materials delivered and unloaded, kitchen furniture removed, should be a doddle from here!

Right, take a few photos, tear up the old floor - lay hardcore - waterproof membrane – mortar - new slate - point - reinstall kitchen - go home.

Stage one and two went smoothly enough, but wait, what are all these big rocks? Oops, it's a slate floor, fancy that. "It'll have to come up" said Dave. "Really" said his minions. So, the first problem was overcome, but now what to do with this cavity that only a dentist could look forward to filling.

More ballast was the answer, it was now I realised how hard the original unloading of materials had been 'cos everything was being done by hand with buckets and shovels, it being impossible to get a wheel barrow round the doorway.

Dave had brought several mechanical aids and when the ballast had been laid, out came a "whacker plate", the surface smoothed and membrane laid. Now let's get on with the mortar. Enter Dave's cement mixer. Now I was relieved to see this, some four tons of sand and cement would take some mixing by hand. Oh no, it's faulty.

It turned out to be an electrical fault, the on/off switch kept throwing out. Luckily, Ian had been a technical officer on BT and soon had the fault diagnosed and fixed. Simple says he, drill a hole in the switch and stick a nail in. Well, it worked!

Now to mix the mortar, I've done this before, three buckets of sand, one of cement and a splash of water, can't go wrong! Oy! this mortar is too sloppy, well the sand had been already moistened by the buckets of rain that had come



Unloading materials (all done by hand)

down the previous night. It had a habit of returning at the most inconvenient times. Dave's gazebo helped a little bit but with gusts of wind and rain coming from all directions, plus hailstones, gave a mix 3/1/1 of hailstones.

As a result of this, I was transferred to bucket carrying duties along-side Sally and Bill and John, Andy now becoming main mixer. It was ok for Sally and Bill they're both tall and by this time had had days of experience carrying heavy loads, with my short legs I could hardly clear the step into the hut. When I finally got in, what do I see but Ian and Sean prone on the floor as if they were on the beach, what they didn't realise was the tide was coming in, or at least another problem was developing. Water was seeping in through the wall. The run-off at the back was blocked, but the new membrane should fix this along with some later remedial work.

This process of mix - slop - lay - point went on for several days until finally the kitchen units could be replaced. However, whilst doing this it was realised the pointing hadn't set so it would loosen the new slate if we walked on it, it was decided that as there was now no urgency, it would be more prudent to return at a later date to finish the job.

But the story doesn't end there, for someone who's grafted so hard, I couldn't understand why I had put on so much weight; well, this is the first time a work meet has had a designated catering officer, namely Sue, she slaved away serving up bacon butties for breakfast, a meal at dinner, snacks and drinks through the day and then an evening meal. Much appreciated.



Out go the old slates



Sally, Andy, Bill and John bucketing in loads of ballast .

It's perhaps worth mentioning that in our spare time the car park was levelled to help prevent puddles forming, and plans made to return to finish the kitchen, fit the new cookers and to seal the new slate floor. Measurements were taken to fit new shower doors as the old curtains and rails looked grubby/ rusty, all of which has since been done.

It's been a long time since club members have undertaken such a large project, I think I can say we all enjoyed it, a benefit to the club of our doing the work was that we were able to resolve problems on the spot and come up with a solution that suited our plans, we also had a better idea of how the services are laid out.

Any complaints to: Bill Stevenson; Ian Willis; Sue Willis; Sean Kelly; Andy Summer-skill; Sally Harris; John Lee; Ken Tilford; Peter Stott and Dave Lomas, who provided a lot of the special tools and expertise to enable us to complete this project.

Thanks are also due to the National Trust who at short notice loaned us some equipment; we thanked them by donating some of the recovered slate, so it should get used in a good cause.

Ken Tilford



Finished

The Cairngorm 4000's

It's Spring Bank Holiday 1988 and we are up in the Cairngorms on a YMC Meet camping at Loch Morlich. The forecast is good, so we decide to do the Cairngorm 4000's round. The 'we' are Jane & John Wainwright, Brian Murphy and myself and we leave the campsite with overnight gear for a stay in Corrou Bothy in the Lairig Ghru.

The initial walk through the Rothiemurchus Forrest is a delight. We break out of the forest onto stoney ground and start climbing up the rocky defile of the Chalamain gap and then start descending into the Lairig Ghru. We cross a stream and climb up to site of the old Sinclair Memorial Hut and stop for some refreshment in the brick shelter that remains. After our break we start up the long grind of the Sron na Lairige which eventually brings us out on the Braeriach plateau. We then skirt round the rim of Coire Bhrochain and onto Braeriach itself. We then skirt round the rim of the An Garbh Coire and follow it round to the summit of The Angel's Peak – Sgor an Lochain Uaine. Then it's more skirting around the rim of Coire an Lochain Uaine, followed by a climb up onto Carn Toul. We then follow the rim of Coire an t'Snaighdeir before dropping down to Coire Odhar and dropping our sacks. Then it's a climb up to The Devil's Point for some impressive views up and down the Lairig Ghru. Back to the sacks, we then drop down into the Lairig Ghru and on to the Corrou Bothy, our home for the night, which we have to ourselves.

Next morning, we cross the infant River Dee and start the long plod up onto Carn a' Mhaim. We follow the rocky ridge which broadens out onto a rocky shoulder that takes us up onto Ben Macdui. There's nothing higher than us except Ben Nevis. At the summit Jane breaks out a Primus for a brew which we all enjoy with something too eat. From our spot we can see for miles. Cairn Gorm is six miles away but we have no trouble route finding because of the good weather. We drop down going northwards to cross the March Burn before climbing back up on Cairn Lochan. We follow the rim of Coire an Lochain and Coire an t'Sneachda before climbing the final slopes up onto Cairn Gorm summit, with its weather station. All downhill from here! We drop down into Coire Cas, the White Lady Sheiling and the Ski Lift Car Park. From there we drop down some more and pick up the footpath alongside the Allt Creag an Leth-choin, which takes us back into the Rothiemurchus Forest and back to the campsite.

It was a fantastic two days back-packing and Munro bashing which was blessed with good weather and great company.

Sol Lomas

Down Memory Lane

I'd like to thank Sol for looking out some of his old photos from the 50's and 60's, some of which I've included in this Newsletter. Others will appear in future additions. I've also been looking at some of my oldies and have included a few, although these are much more modern than Sol's.

I'd welcome more of your memories, especially from the early days of the Club. Prints will do as I have a scanner and obviously I'd return them and be happy to give you the digital files if you want them.



Pete, Sol, Jack , Brian and Tony o/s Dale Bottom



Sol and Malcolm Smith on the summit of the Marmalada in the Dolomites in 1956.

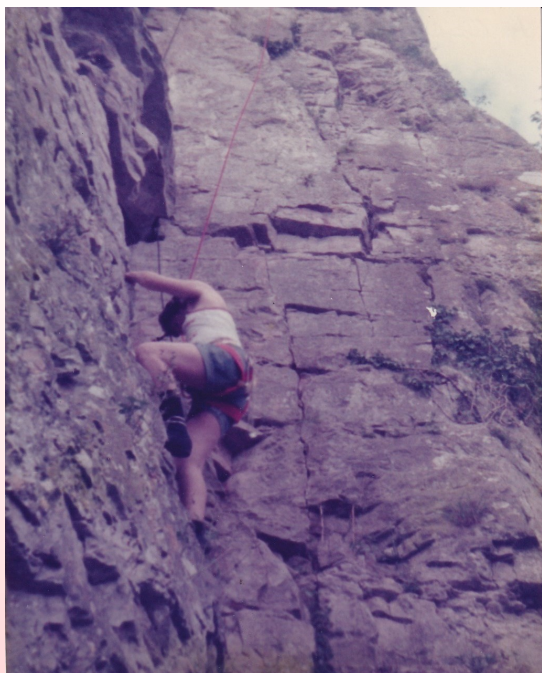


Sol and other Members after climbing the Matterhorn in 1957. Note the frost-bitten fingers!



Kim, Sol, Fred and Brian on the summit of Mont Blanc 1960.

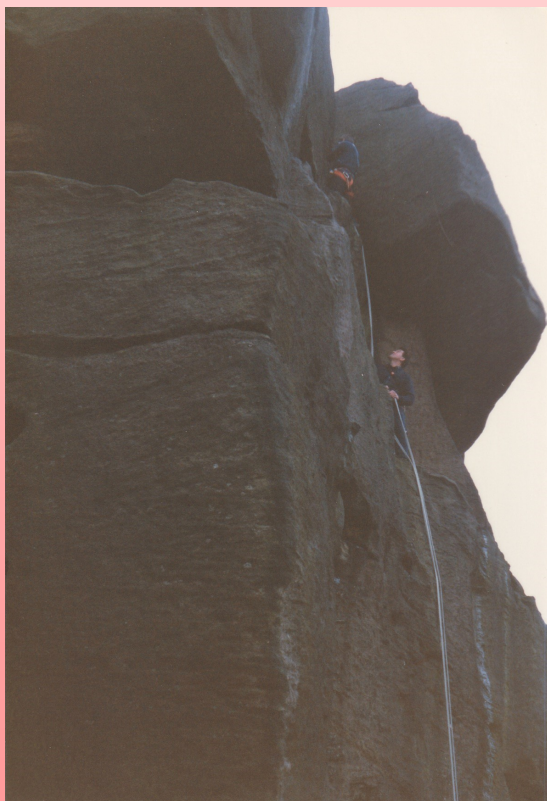
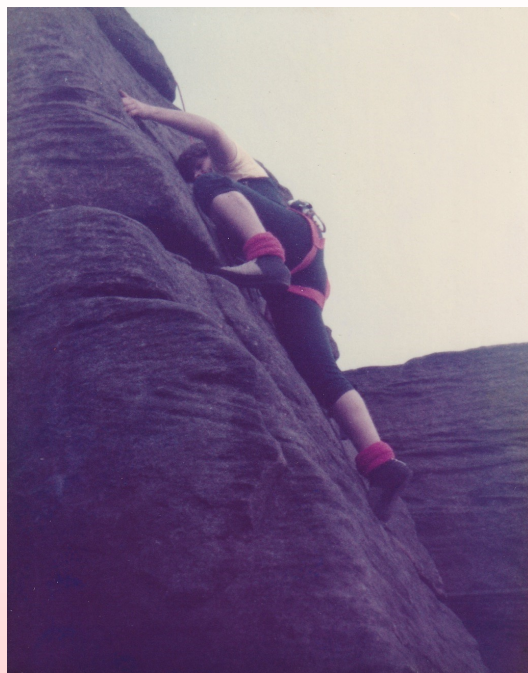
Here are some of my old photos.



This is me on Ivy Sepulchre at Craig y Forwen on the North Wales Limestone in the late '70's.



Same period at Froggatt, on Sunset Slab Direct (I think).



Possibly my first evening meet with the YMC, leading A Climb at Ilkley.

4th May 1988



With a prominent Member as my second.



Easter 2005

A low-level circuit of Ben Nevis

Roy Bridge was always a popular venue for a Winter, Easter or Spring Bank meet, with a Hotel, Bunkhouse, Camping and Caravan site with Cabins for hire.

Three of us, Jane, Conrad and myself catch the south-bound train from the near-by station. The line travel eastwards, with a short stop at Tulloch before turning south to follow the full length of Loch Treig. In a few miles we arrive at Corrou Station, which must be one of the most remote in Britain, a Station Master's house and little else. The Waiting Room was, at one time, used as a Bunkhouse. A track goes eastwards to Loch Ossian YMA - I've never stayed there but it's on my tick list.

We follow a muddy track alongside Loch Treig before crossing over three footbridges to arrive at Creaguianeach Lodge. From here, a track goes northwards, through the Larrig Leacach to Roy Bridge, passing the Leacach Bothy at the foot of Stob Ban. However, we pick up a path along the Abhainn Rath, which leads us to the Staoineag Bothy, perched on a grass ridge above the river. Looking inside, a solitary bloke is busy cleaning his boots. We continue following the river and an isolated building appears on our right, Meanach Bothy, a roof and four walls and nothing else, but a welcome shelter if you were caught out in bad weather.

We cross over a bridge to some farm buildings at Luibeilt and then climb soggy ground to the watershed. We start descending and pick up the headwaters of the Waters of Nevis and then traverse the narrow valley with the Grey Corries to our right and the Mamores to our left. It's a truly wild place but we are blessed with good weather. Ahead of us a lonely figure appears – it's my wife, Mabs, who has driven round from Roy Bridge, parked at the Head of Glen Nevis to meet up us.

The Steall Waterfall appears on our left as it tumbles from An Garbhanach, one of the Munroes on the spectacular Ring of Steall. Further on we come to a two-strand wire bridge which takes you to the Steall Mountain Hut. We descend the dramatic Nevis Gorge and finally arrive at the car park to be driven back to civilisation.

It's been a great walk through some really remote and wild countryside.

On Yer Bike!

A few days later, we take the train to Corrou again but this time we take our bikes. We've studied the map and come up with a north / south, mainly off-road route to Glen Borrowdale, of TV fame. We watch the train disappear into the wilds of Rannoch Moor on it's way south to Glasgow. We cross the line and take the track to Loch Ossian YHA. Good tracks circle the Loch and we stick to the right-hand one. At it's northern tip is Corrou Shooting Lodge.

Good tracks continue northwards over open ground and then we enter a stretch of forest. We exit the forest and more good tracks lead to Lochan na Heaba, with Binnein Shuas on the opposite side, Ardverikie Wall, a classic severe rock climb looks out over the Loch. At the northern end of the Loch we come to Ardverikie House, home to Glen Borrowdale. We turn south here and follow good tracks alongside Loch Laggan to it's southern end. We cycle past Laggan Dam and leave the forest again at Fersit and cross over the railway line and River Treig. We are then back on tarmac for the last few miles downhill to our base at Roy Bridge.

A fantastic ride on good tracks, in good weather and with good company.

Malcolm (Sol) Lomas

A Grand Finale – Spring Bank 1992

It's Whitsuntide and we are back up at Roy Bridge for some serious Munro bagging. You won't believe this but by Thursday, after a week of fabulous weather, we have run out of Munros to climb. I suggest to Brian Murphy that we should go out with a bang and climb Ben Nevis.

I've done Tower Ridge both in winter and summer plus the two great rock climbs on Carn Dearg Buttress – Sassenach and Centurion but never climbed Observatory Ridge. So, up early and drive down and park at the Golf Course. Then it's the long slog up the Allt a Mhuilinn, with a stop-off at the CIC Hut for something to eat and drink. We scramble up to the start of the Ridge and a rope of two climbers at the foot of the climb kindly let us go in front of them. Brian is quite content to for me to do the leading and with plenty of places to stop and belay, I run out a full rope length of 150ft before belaying. It goes on like this for the whole length of the climb. Doing it this way gives the leader plenty of time to rest while bringing up the second man, so no problem with stamina. We get to the top and walk over to the trig point for some more food and a drink. After such a brilliant week, we decide not to take the tourist route back down but rather to reverse the Carn Mor Dearg Arete. At Carn Beag Dearg we drop down steep slopes and pick up the Allt a Mhuilinn path back to the car.

A fabulous end to a great YMC Meet.

Malcolm (Sol) Lomas

CLIMBING WALL

A new climbing wall has opened in Bradford, details of which were not to hand in time for inclusion in the previous issue, TYM 383.

Entitled *The Climbing Hub*, it is specified as a rock climbing gym and the address is:

10-13 Becksid Business Park, Becksid Road, Bradford BD7 2BR. Phone number 01274 270123.

We have been advised that the contact name is Ejaz Hussain, phone number 07956 518991.

It advertises a vast bouldering wall area, including a free-standing boulder, plus 16 lines of roped climbing and state-of-the-art training area.

There is apparently plenty of chill-out space, a café and a specialist retail shop.

Mr Hussain has offered discounted rates for YMC members.

Weekend Meets 2021

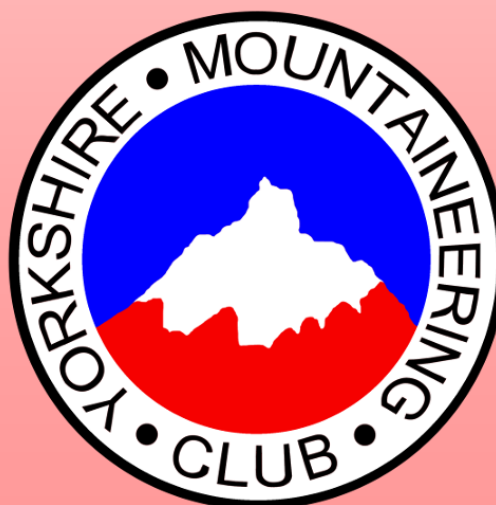
All Saturday and Sunday Meets start at 10.00am prompt unless otherwise stated.

Please contact the Meet Coordinator if you intend to join a Meet or require further information.

Please check www.theymc.com for confirmation of start point details.

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

- July 11th Sutton Bank, Whitestone Cliff, Gormire Lake. NY Moors.
Sutton Bank National Park Centre. Y07 2EH – GR SE 516 830
Henry Beevers.
- July 25th Great Shunner Fell & Lovely Seat, Hardraw. Wensleydale. Yorks Dales.
Roadside parking west of Hardraw village. DL8 3LZ – GR SD 866 911
Kath & Graham Willis.
- Aug 1st Ingleborough. Yorks Dales
YDNP car park in Clapham village. LA2 8EF – GR SD 745 692
Natasha Cook.
- Aug 22nd Margery Hill. Ladybower Reservoir. Peak District.
Fairholmes visitors centre car park. Post Code S33 0AQ - GR SK172893
Kath & Graham Willis.
- Aug 28th Switzerland (7 nights) - Details to be confirmed.
Andrew Drury.
- Sept 12th Chop Gate & Cold Moor. Bilsdale. NY Moors.
Village Hall Car Park SE559 993
Ben Gilbert & Graham Willis.
- Sept 24th Wales Provisional Hut Weekend (2 nights).
Details to be confirmed.
- Oct 1st Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet. (2 nights).
Booking - ymchut@gmail.com
- Oct 10th Scugdale & Wainstones. NY Moors.
Roadside Parking TBC
Henry Beevers.
- Oct 24th Castleton. Peak District.
Castleton village car park. S33 8WN – GR SK 149
830 or road side parking
Kath & Graham Willis.



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



*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*

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