

# THE YORKSHIRE MOUNTAINEER

Issue: 388

Spring 2022



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The Yorkshire Mountaineering Club - Founded 1941



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Cover photos:

Front: A shot of Borrowdale by  
Natasha Cook

Rear: Ice Maiden in Summer by  
Peter Tennant

Both from the 2021 Photo Comp.

## From the Editor.

This is my last TYM. I stepped in to take the Editor role back in 2020 when no body else was prepared to do it. I understand that someone has expressed an interest in the role.

You'll notice that this Edition is only 12 pages and for printing reasons the Newsletter is always a multiple of 4 pages, so either 12, 16 or 20, etc. This month I don't have the input from you for 16 pages so it has to be 12. For this reason my usual custom of providing a reminder of forthcoming meets has been dropped this time around. It also explains why the Committee page is a bit cramped

I assume that the deadline for input to the next Newsletter, TYM389, will be around the middle of September, with the next edition due at the end of that month.

As always I'd like to thank all contributors to this Newsletter, and indeed to my previous Editions.

Material for the next newsletter can be sent to:

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

or

[ymcnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:ymcnewsletter@gmail.com)

*Steve Bostock*

### OFFER OF OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT

The Secretary has been contacted by former member Alan Braddock regarding an amount of gear he wants to pass on now that he reached the ripe old age of 90. The items are listed below and it seems from the email received that this is not the full list.

A pile of karabiners and slings, mostly usable but *perhaps a bit out of date*;

At least two rucksacks in decent condition;

A peapod tent only used for Karrimor Mountain Marathons;

Another good lightweight tent;

A couple of ice axes; etc. etc.

Any of these items can be obtained free to any Bona Fida YMC member. Just ring Alan on 07847 081296

## Committee Matters

Members were informed in the last newsletter that the installation of a signal booster was due to take place at the beginning of April. It can now be reported that work on this has now been completed, with the aerial being positioned so as to optimise signals. However, only the O2 and Vodafone networks could be satisfactorily accessed.

Mention was also made in TYM 387 of plans to celebrate the opening of the Coniston Hut 50 years ago and two provisional weekends for the event have been chosen: October 20/21 and October 27/28, both 2023. A number of aspects have already been discussed and members will, in due course, be kept in the picture. It would be helpful at this early stage if members with any recollections of those days way back then could convey them to the Secretary.

Members may not be aware that the club has a guide selling agreement with the Climber's Club [CC] which enables YMC members to obtain CC guides at a 25% discount. The CC were in the process of opening a new Web Shop and the YMC has accepted their offer to continue with this discount arrangement, which is reciprocal to CC members purchasing YMC guides.

Considerable work has taken place at the Coniston Hut, apart from the signal booster, particularly in the main kitchen area. The stripping down of the tongue and groove cladding is now complete and has made a big improvement. External work was undertaken, with the assistance of Phillip Johnstone, who donated several loads of hardcore which was used to improve the access track adjacent to where it is crossed by the beck at the end of the cottages. Water run-off channels were also created a little further up the track. Further improvement to the main kitchen area is planned, with the refurbishment of the storage area which lies beneath the stainless steel worktops and sinks. The existing surfaces are to be covered, also in stainless steel, subject to a suitable quote. Covering of the similar area in the member's cottage, also in stainless steel, has been approved.

The difficulty of accessing the club website by phone has been problematic for some time, so further efforts have been made to resolve the problem. Webmaster Mike Dean has again been asked to investigate: he has subsequently identified the main problem as being that the menu was not working properly, which meant that members could not access all the pages on the site. Mike has identified why this is happening but was not sure there was an easy fix without further investigation. Unfortunately, Mike has come down with Covid so rectification of the problem has been delayed.

Meet attendances are reported as having been good, with Grassington having 19 attendees. Included in this number were five from the Craven MC, which was an initial experiment to assess the suitability of joint meets. The feedback from them was positive, so future joint meets seem likely to be held, including climbing meets.

### Arthur Dolphin Update

Articles about the YMC's first president Arthur Dolphin appeared in Issue 382 of TYM (Autumn 2020) and I have since been in regular contact with Deborah Walsh of the Fell and Rock Climbing Club in relation to publishing the 12 diaries in edited and illustrated form. The transcription of the diaries has now been completed and additional information to supplement these was provided by John Cook, who climbed with Arthur in the late 30s and 40s. A full set of the transcripts has been provided for the YMC, with the earlier ones largely being just a list of climbs, but they do get more interesting and informative. What the FRCC would like from the YMC is an indication of which sections/climbs are particularly significant in relation to climbing in Yorkshire or significant in other ways to the YMC. This will help hugely with the editorial process, particularly with the earlier diaries. Also, information about the other climbers mentioned. It has also been suggested that an appreciation of Arthur by the YMC be included, which would follow the introduction and precede the edited diaries. It is intended to provide the club's older members with copies of these transcripts so that they can help provide the FRCC with the input they have requested.

## **Castleton, Peak District.**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Start Point: Peak District National Park CP in Castleton.

Attendees: Pete Stott, Ben Gilbert & Graham Willis (YMC members).

Probably as a result of the poor weather forecast, Covid 19 issues and the start of the school half term holiday, attendance was reduced on the day from that expected. Pete nursing a knee problem opted for a low level walk on his own followed by some retail therapy and plans to meet up on our return were made.

Ben & I set off sprightly in bright sunshine for Edale village via Hollins Cross and made good progress. By the time we'd left Edale on the Pennine Way heading for Upper Booth & Jacob's Ladder the cloud was rolling in and by the time we'd made the top of the pass we were in descending wet cloud which stayed with us for most of the rest of the day. Passing over Brown Knoll & Lord's Seat on Rushup Edge we headed for Blue John Cavern and Treak Cliff Cavern and the short roadside path back to the start point.

Ben decided to head off home and Pete & I warmed ourselves by the fire at The George Inn at Castleton.

The total distance travelled was approximately 12 miles & 2,300ft of ascent.

**Graham Willis**



## Hardcastle Craggs & Blake Dean.

Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022

Start Point: National Trust car park at Midgehole - SD 988 291

Attendees: Mike Belk, Steve Bartlett, Laurie and Anne Morse, Steve Buxton, Kath and Graham Willis (YMC members).

It was just after 10am when we headed up the steps and along the path behind the car park and the ground underfoot was slippery and muddy from the start. Exchanging Christmas, New Year and Covid news we climbed through the wood before heading north at Willow Gate to the hamlet of Shackleton. The clearly defined path rose steeply up to the edge of Turn Hill, but from here the route was less distinct as we made our way through boggy ground and long grass.

Heading downhill we arrived at the farm road to Walshaw and continued on this road passing New Laithe Farm over New Laithe Moor and down to the once derelict building, but now a well-appointed dwelling, at Holme Ends. From here we made our way across a field to The Pack Horse, once a thriving public house but alas now closed with a hopeful looking 'For Sale' sign outside.

As we headed down the road the clouds began to look threatening and waterproof jackets were donned as a light shower followed. But as we joined the Pennine Bridleway at Clough Foot we found a suitable place for lunch because there was a break in the clouds and we knew we wouldn't escape a much heavier prolonged down pour which had been forecast.

After a thankfully dry lunch we continued along the bridleway crossing the dam wall of Gorple Lower Reservoir, passing Gorple Cottages and down the track to Widdop Gate. As we dropped down to Blake Dean we took the high level path as the rain came down and although there was some shelter from the trees the colour of the clouds told us that we were in for a very wet walk back.

As we followed the path down to the river there was much evidence of tree felling and water flow management with tree trunks fastened across the river banks in several places along the route. Passing the weir on our right, the buildings at Gibson Mill came into view and we crossed the footbridge and followed the road back to the car park. The rain was relentless so we said our farewells and most of the group headed off home.

Some of us had brought a change of clothing and headed back to Hebden Bridge as the rain eventually stopped and a free table next to the open fire at The White Lion was a welcome sight.

The total distance travelled was approximately 13.8k (8.6m) with 352m (1,154ft) of ascent.

**Kath Willis**

## Kettlewell and Capplestone Gate

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Start Point: Kettlewell village YDNP pay & display car park SD967 722

Attendees: Eve and Steve Bartlett, Steve Buxton, Laurie and Anne Morse, Tony Raithby, Ken Tilford, Kath and Graham Willis, Rob Dracup and Becky (YMC members), Bill Cordingley and Freda Williamson (guests)

A prompt sunny start took us east out of Kettlewell village and after leaving the road we headed up a wide grassy track with Dowber Gill Beck on our left. Climbing steeply with a few stops to take a breath and to enjoy the splendid views, we continued on towards Providence Lead Mine area, until we were level with Hag Dike at the other side of the valley. Here we turned right and followed the wall south along Slatepit Rigg and although the ground underfoot was levelling off, the cloud descended and our lovely views disappeared.

Because of the unusual dry weather we have been experiencing this January, the route was generally dry with very few boggy patches, as we passed Langcliffe Pot and headed to Capplestone Gate. Here we crossed the stile to arrive at the trig point situated at 512m, where we had a group photo, but sadly no view. From here we headed downhill on Conistone Turf Road until we arrived at a gate by a small copse. With a wall to shelter from the wind, we decided this would make a good lunch stop and looking back up from whence we came, the cloud started to disperse over Capplestone Gate and the views across the valley to Kilnsey started to open up.

Continuing on our walk on the grassy track, we arrived at a stile and headed down Bycliffe Road for a while before heading east towards an ancient settlement with the iconic limestone plateau on our right. The route downhill took us to our next landmark; Conistone Pie and a short scramble up enabled us to touch the cairn and take some more photographs.

Joining The Dales Way path along Swineber Scar, we descended to Highgate Leys Lane (track), through Crookacre Wood and assembled at the minor road between Kettlewell and Conistone for a round of wine gums! With a short walk along the road, passing the entrance for Scargill House (a religious retreat) the Dales Way continued north across several fields and the outskirts of Kettlewell. A few hundred yards more and we were back in the centre of the village at our start point. This is a walk that I have done several times before with Graham, sometimes reversing the route starting at Conistone Bridge but it was good to hear that this was a new route for several people in our party.

As it was the only pub out of the three in the village that was open, refreshments were taken by some of the group at The Bluebell Inn. It was sad to see the once thriving Racehorses and Kings Head closed, and it appears that they may also have been unfortunate casualties of the pandemic!

The total distance travelled was approximately 13.2k (8.3m) with 380m (1,246ft) of ascent.

**Kath Willis**

## Grassington.

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Start Point: Grassington village YDNP pay & display GR SD 002 637.

Attendees: Steve Buxton, Derek Field, Laurie and Ann Morse, Tony Raithby, Peter and Jennifer Tennant, Ken Tilford, Kath and Graham Willis, (YMC members), Bill Cordingley and Freda Williamson and 6 members of Craven Mountaineering Club (guests).

Although it was a cold start the sun was shining and our party of 18 left the car park and headed up the road before turning right onto the main street through the village. Taking a left turn off Moor Lane we continued along the Dales Way footpath for a short distance before heading north onto Kimpergill Hill. Despite all the rain and flooding two weeks ago the paths were in a good condition with boggy areas easily avoided. After crossing several stiles and stopping every now and again to enjoy the views, we eventually arrived at Bare House.

Taking the path directly behind the ruin we passed High Barn on our right and followed the track in a south easterly direction before heading down to the hamlet of Yarnbury. From here we crossed the road and followed the wide track through the remains of the lead mines until we reached the watercourse - Hebden Beck.



Following the path on the left of the beck to start with, we were once again surprised that there were plenty of easily accessible crossing points along the way. Once all the beck hopping was completed we found a suitable spot for lunch by the disused Levels.

With the sun still shining we continued down the track with the beck on our right and soon arrived at a bridge and the hamlet of Hole Bottom, which continued down to the village of Hebden. Crossing the road, we followed Mill Lane for a short distance before descending to Hebden Beck once again. Here we walked along the path, crossing a footbridge and passing a Trout Farm on our left before heading down to Mill Bridge.

Turning right onto Mill Lane we soon crossed a stile taking us onto the Dales Way alongside the River Wharfe. With shelter on either side and the sun still beating down it was time for some of the group to shed a layer or two before continuing on to Linton Falls. Here we headed up Sedber Lane which brought us out at the bottom of the car park and our start point.

Although the sun was still gracing us with its presence it was a bit too chilly to stay outside for long so refreshments were taken by some of the group inside The Devonshire Arms (the location for some of the filming for the recent remake of All Creatures Great and Small). However our guests from Craven MC braved it outside for a while, before saying their farewells and thanking us for organising the walk and inviting them to join us

The total distance travelled was approximately 13.5k (8.4miles) with 288m (945ft) of ascent.

**Kath Willis**





## Two legs and two wheels

For many years we have had some very successful meets in the Pinnacle Club Hut at Cwm Dyli just prior to Christmas. This time around we are going to stay at the Oread Mountaineering Club hut at Rhyd-Ddu. As we drive over the Denbigh Moors ahead of us is Snowdon covered in snow.

We can't resist a winter ascent of Snowdon so next morning we set off up the Snowdon Ranger Path. When we reach the snow level it's fresh stuff and as we climb higher it gets quite deep in places making the climb hard work. The cloud is down and there is no view. We find some shelter by the Top Station for a quick bite to eat and then it's about turn to make our way back down.

The pub at Rhyd-Ddu is always a pleasant place to relax after a hard day on the hill.

Next day, Derek kindly offers to drive us to the start of the Nantle Ridge. We climb up by Cwm Silyn to the start of the ridge proper. It's a wonderful, undulating ridge with magnificent views north towards Snowdon, which by now has lost a lot of it's snow. From the last summit, Mynydd-Drws-y-Coed, it's a steep descent back to Rhyd-Ddu.



**The Nantle Ridge looking towards Snowdon**

Next morning, we pack up and drive down into deepest mid Wales. We are going to visit the two Hostels that the YHA gave up and are now run by the Ellenydd Wilderness Trust. Tyn-y-Cornel is the first stop and when we arrive the Warden is called away on an emergency, so we end up having the Hostel to ourselves.

In the morning we leave the car and get our bikes out to cycle to the next Hostel at Dolgoch. We take a Bridle Way eastwards, which drops down to a tarmac road, close to the huge Llyn Brianne reservoir and the isolated Soar-y-Myndd Chapel where we have a look inside and say a quick prayer. From there, we follow a quiet road northwards until we stop off at a cross roads for some lunch. As we eat our butties, a car pulls up. Seeing two cyclists sat at the cross roads, the driver assumes that we might be going to Dolgoch Y H. It turns out he's the Warden who's just off to get some supplies and says he'll see us later.



### Leaving Dolgoch

Again, we are the only people staying in the Hostel and we have a pleasant evening sat around a wood burning stove, chatting in the flickering gas light.

Next morning, we say “Cheerio” to the Warden and set off on our way back to Tyn-y-Cornel. We go south down a long arm of Llyn Brianne before picking up a track which will take us back to Soar-y-Mynydd Chapel and a steep climb back up to the Hostel. The Warden is still away, so again, we have the place to ourselves.

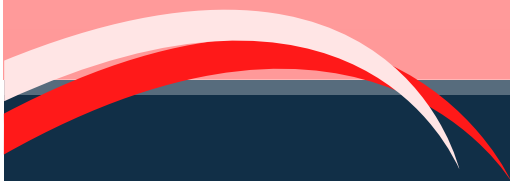
The following day we have to pack up and make our long way back to West Yorkshire.

For anyone who doesn't know the area, if you're seeking a bit of peace and quiet then this is the area to visit, either on foot or two wheels, you won't regret it.

### Sol Lomas



### Tyn-y-Cornel



## Cragg Vale

The phone rings.

“Sol, it’s me, Mary. Do you fancy riding Cragg Vale tomorrow?”

“Yes”.

“Great, I’ll be coming up on the train, meet me at Mytholmroyd”.

Cragg Vale is the longest continuous road incline in England. It starts in Mytholmroyd, climbs up through Cragg Vale until it reaches the A58 at Blackstone Edge. This road used to be a major crossing of the Pennines before the advent of the M62.

Mary climbs down from the train along with her bike in her usual colourful attire with a broad smile to match. We cycle to the official start point and stop for the obligatory selfie.

For the first couple of miles it’s fairly steady with small factories and housing lining the road. For the middle two miles, the road steepens and narrows, hemmed in with gritstone cottages. The top two miles are out on the open moor with no protection if the weather turns bad. The climb ends when we meet the A58. In the summer months there is an Ice Cream Van parked but not today, it is February after all! It’s too cold to hang about so it’s a quick turn around and we make our way back down, which is much easier. After a couple of miles, we turn off to the right to a small industrial estate with a Café. It’s busy, always a good sign and after a while we got a table.

Over some lunch we look back on some wonderful times that we have had with the YMC. In the early days, some of us had kids of a similar age and many a summer was spent down in Cornwall. We were like some big happy family. We would spend time on the beach, building sand castles and then we would sneak off to climb on the sea cliffs.

Over time we worked our way up north through Wales, where we had some wonderful meets and up through the White and Dark Peak districts. The Yorkshire Dales and then the Lake District and our own hut at Coppermines Valley. Finally, up into Scotland where we had some memorable summer and winter meets.

After lunch it’s an easy ride back down to the Station at Mytholmroyd. I say “Goodbye” to Mary as she loads her bike into the train. A quick wave and she’s off.

Little did I know that this would be the last time I would see Mary alive.

I can’t believe she’s gone. A wonderful friend over all those years. Gone but not forgotten.

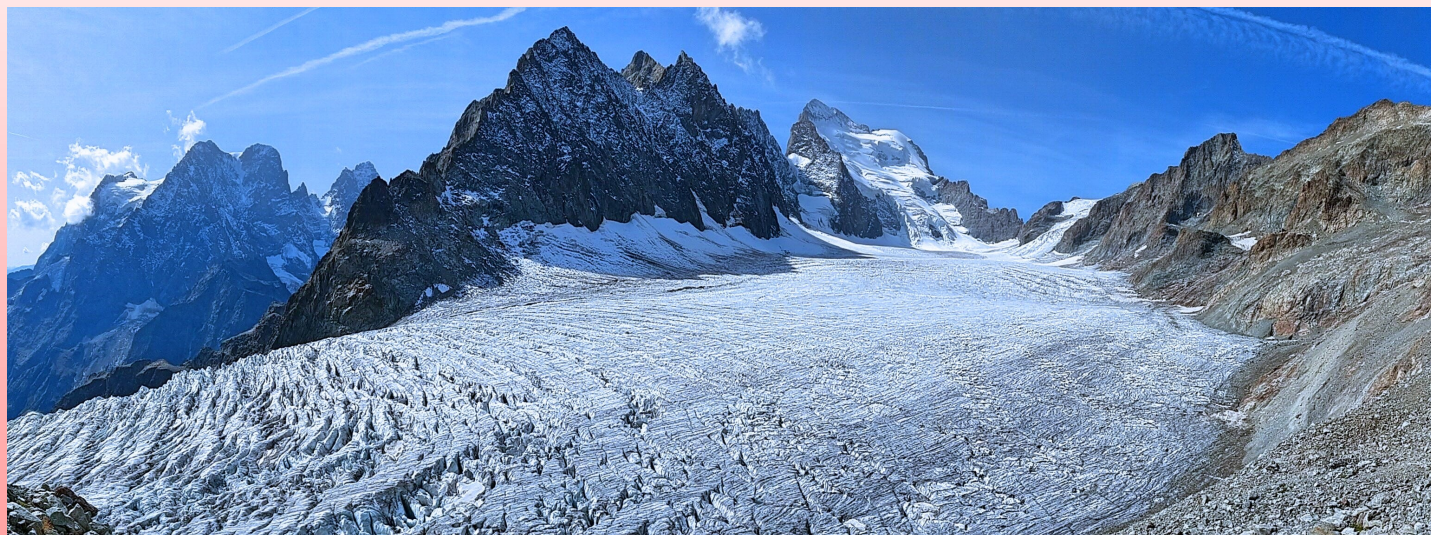
### Sol Lomas

PS – The Tour de France came up Cragg Vale in 2014, I’m sure they made better time of it than we did.



## 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)



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