

THE YORKSHIRE MOUNTAINEER

Issue: 394

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The Yorkshire Mountaineering Club - Founded 1941

Welcome From the Editor



First off, let me apologise for the delay in getting this edition out to you. With Christmas, honeymoon and illness there was just not enough hours in the day to give you a good quality newsletter. Having said that, it does give me the opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year! I was lucky enough to see it in with Chris on our honeymoon in Tromsø, Norway. In fact I may have slipped a couple of photos from the trip onto the front and back pages.

So as you will see in this edition, the club has been a hive of activity since the last newsletter, we have a range of submissions and photos from the 50th Anniversary celebrations, the bonfire meet and walks galore. We also as in recent issues have some lovely submissions regarding adventures in years gone by,

As I write this it is bitterly cold outside, the fire is on and a brew is in hand. I can highly recommend you doing the same whilst relaxing and reading the rest of the newsletter.

I have held back a few items that people have sent me for the next issue, so if you don't see your submission, do not fret it will be making an appearance soon!

Deadline for input to the next Newsletter is **15th March**.

Material for the next newsletter can be sent to me at:

newsletter@theymc.org.uk

Soraya Marshall



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Cover photos:

Front:: The YMC Hut-

Soraya Marshall

Rear: Ersfjordbotn, Norway-

Chris Marshall





Committee Matters

An outline of the proceedings for the Coniston hut 50th Anniversary celebrations appeared in the last issue of this publication so it was appropriate to look back and assess the events of that October weekend.

The general consensus was that the celebrations took place successfully, despite initially threatening weather. The attendance was in excess of 40, including a number of guests and also members who had secured accommodation elsewhere after finding the hut fully booked.

Catering for the weekend had been undertaken by a small number of members and all present were highly satisfied with what was on offer.

The presentation by Alan Hinkes had gone down well, the main content illustrating his ascent of each of the 8000 metre peaks ascended. This was preceded by the presentation of a small shield signifying his acceptance as Honorary Member of the club.

It was accepted that the celebrations had taken a lot of organising, both before and during the event, so it was considered important to recognise the contributions of those directly involved. And not least for the assistance afforded to the club by its neighbour up the valley, Philip Johnstone.

Extended reports appear elsewhere in this issue.

The club treasurer had reported that the British Mountaineering Council were increasing their rates for 2024. The cost for an Adult was to rise to £23.90, for a Student to £19.75 whilst that for a Junior would now be £17.70.

This meant very little was left over from the fees paid by members for their membership after the BMC fees had been deducted. However, whilst the decision was made to freeze the existing club rates for 2024, it was emphasised that each individual YMC member contributed almost four times the amount to club funds than each Family Member unit. For that reason, a review of the rates to be implemented in 2025 was to be taken in late 2024.

Also mentioned in TYM 393 in connection with guidebooks, Volume 2 of the Yorkshire Gritstone had now sold out. As a result, a quote had been received for the reprinting of 2000 copies. But there had been a significant increase in printing costs since Volume 1 was reprinted, which meant that the retail price would need increasing. For both Volumes 1 and 2, the proposed increase was from the current £24 per copy to £30, a figure which distributors Cordee considered still to represent good value. Based on anticipated sales, profit for Volume 2 would not be generated until 8 years had elapsed.

Committee Matters Continued...

The planned alterations planned for the members' accommodation was duly completed in time for the 50th celebrations, with the end result being as intended, which was to make the area appear more spacious.

Although considerable internal improvements had taken place during 2023, the Hut Sub Committee is regularly looking at ways to improve the premises further, and future alterations are being contemplated.

This was with the aim of arriving at a position where future work needed on the premises would be reduced to a minimum.

The number of people now climbing with the club, both indoors and out, was steadily increasing, and with Rob Dracup currently being the only person qualified to instruct, it was accepted he needed assistance. For that reason, Henry Green was given approval to undertake an RCI course, with the ultimate aim to provide the extra instruction capabilities needed.

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Two more people have been confirmed as full members of the club: Zuzana Bartonova and Nick Pierpoint. May they have a long and happy association with the club.



House-Keeping Meet

Date: 6th– 7th October 2023

A well attended meet, 14 people completed several tasks; there was again, the hum of a sewing machine, hammering, chopping, sparks flying and temporary water features in the kitchen and gents toilet.

I can't thank each person for what they undertook as I spent three days with my head stuck down several toilet pans (many thanks to those who must have been bored out of their skulls passing me tools.) and didn't see what was going on around the hut. When I finally did emerge, a newly tiled and opened up kitchen in the members side, along with freshened up window sills and curtain tracks transformed the place and made it very presentable for the 50th year celebrations.

The next work meets are proposed as 2nd Feb. 19th April. 14th June. 5th Oct. To be confirmed.

Proposed work: Painting, re-arrange library, general tidy up and anything else that may be suggested, so, hope to see you there.

It has also been brought to our attention that some people in the visitor's side with exclusive bookings have had their privacy disturbed by our members "popping through" to borrow a pan. If anything is missing from the members side, please let us know.

Having said that, if you do need to contact them, use the front door, and check if everything they need is available, eg. Toilet rolls and washing up liquid.

Many thanks,

Ken.

Close to the Edge

Coming out of the téléphérique one is heralded into a tunnel and then across a cat-walk to another tunnel when, suddenly, everything changes and it's a revelation: from a snow balcony built out of the sky itself, facing the rising sun, one is blessed not only with the sight of the ridge down which one is to climb but also with the fairy-tale land whose grandeur and scale is underlined by the tunnel one leaves, symbol of the city, that grey dark prison.'

Gaston Rebuffat (1921-1985)

August 1983


"Chamonix ou la Valley Blanche, le téléphérique est clôture. Chamonix ou la Valley Blanche". Even with my faltering grasp of French it was clear that sitting out the weather here in the ice tunnel was not going to be an option.

Earlier that morning, as we ascended to the Plan d'Aiguille, there was no hint of the snow and freezing wind that now swayed the cable-car so alarmingly. The arête looked desolate and uninviting in the swirling snow. We would retreat to Chamonix - or at least to the Plan.

Disembarking at the station it was as if we had been transported to another world. Tourists, walkers and climbers sipped their drinks on the café's terrace, birds scrambled for the crumbs of their pastries and the valley below was bathed in sunlight. It was time for a re-think.

Stumbling across the steep mountain side we reached the base of the Aiguille de l'M, our new focus. The climbing was not too difficult and we soon reached its columnar summit. From its tiny flat, but inclined, summit the view into the valley was spectacular, as if from an aircraft, so vertical is its front face. It strengthened our resolve to return to the Midi.

After a chilly and restless night spent under a huge boulder we were up at first light, breakfasted and rushing to catch the first téléphérique of the day. Four were now two, our friends having decided to return to Argentière and the relative comfort of the campsite. After the short ascent contrast to the previous day could not have been greater. The Midi was warming in the early morning sun and the arête glistened into the distance. To the clicking cameras of a group of Japanese tourists we were crumpled, harnessed and roped and taking our first tentative steps on to the ridge.



Soon down the first steep slope the ridge leveled and the full glory of our situation was revealed. From the Dôme de Rochefort to the Aiguille du Tour and far beyond innumerable peaks and ridges punctured the clear blue sky. This was the fairy-tale land of Gaston Rebuffat.

At about mid-way we left the ridge to circumnavigate a large rocky peak, the Rognon du Plan, by way of shallow couloirs on its Chamonix face. The snow was hard, like concrete and axe placements tenuous. Exposure was breathtaking as the snow and rock swept down towards the steep boulder field below. Cautiously we edged our way downwards and round. Back on the ridge we continued to make steady progress, our goal getting ever closer. It was now only a short distance along the arête and the abseil to the Col sup. du Plan. Then the final climb to the summit of the Aiguille du Plan.

Earlier in the day we had met a small party of climbers while they were enjoying a short break and it was now, whilst pondering our next move, that we were re-acquainted. They would, almost literally, become our life-line.

The abseil was a full rope length, part of the guidebook that we had failed to read, and although there was, they assured us, a suitable belay at about half distance, this news was not welcome. The look of dismay on our faces obviously touched their softer side and without hesitation they offered to let us ab on their ropes. We were pleased to accept. Their *modus operandi* was to be as generous as their offer. They would send one of their party down first ensuring that the ropes were free. We would follow with their last man, the smallest and lightest, removing the back-up sling before joining us on the col. I was more than willing to sacrifice one of my slings but they seemed quite happy with their arrangement. The last few feet were off the end of the ropes and we plopped down onto the softening snow before making our way to the final climb.

Roped once again we climbed, summited and returned to the col, collected our sacs and began the long descent towards the Refuge du Requin. Progress was generally steady but was slowed in several places as bergschrunds were negotiated. On reaching the refuge it would, in hindsight, have been prudent to rest, even bivvy, but we were keen to make it back to the valley that evening.

The Mer de Glace is deceptively long and although for the most part it is easy walking, as the end approaches so the crevasses get bigger. Stepping over quickly changes to walking round and almost as quickly to climbing in, bridging and climbing out. It can be slow, tedious and not without its 'moments'. Eventually, in the fading light, we could see the checkered painted wall at Montenvers and even make out the iron ladder that climbs the rock face above the glacier. The crevasses, though, were now a serious problem and progress was painfully slow. Almost within touching distance we decided that to continue would be too dangerous and we spent the night on a huge island of moraine. Exhausted and very thirsty a tin of sardines was all we could muster. They proved almost impossible to eat without some liquid and that was something that we had not got.

After a surprisingly good night's sleep we were ready to tackle the last few hundred yards. Up the ladder and a bee line for the water tap on the station wall. But it wasn't over yet! With our spare money having been spent on the return journey up to the Midi walking down through the forest towards Chamonix was our only option. Although still early the heat was beginning to build and by the time we reached the valley, still clad in salopettes and big boots, it was beginning to take its toll.

Trying to thumb a lift up the valley proved impossible. Perhaps this was unsurprising as we shambled our way along the road. Eventually, realising the futility of our efforts, we decided to cut our loses and join the Petit Balcon for the rest of the journey to Argentière.

The campsite seemed an unattainable goal as we drunk from every stream that trickled from the hillside but eventually we staggered down from the path. "Sorry we're a bit late" seemed to be a less than appropriate greeting. Graham just flopped in front of his tent.

**Neville
Hawkin**





Meet report – Kinder Northern Edges & the Snake Pass - Sunday 11th June 2023.

Start Point: Birchen Clough CP - GR SK 109 904.

Attendees: Eve & Steve Bartlett, Rosemary Beale, Ben Gilbert, Tony Raithby, Peter & Jennifer Tennant, Kath & Graham Willis (YMC members).

As the Birchen Clough CP is very popular we arrived in good time to find a parking space and thankfully the rest of the party found one too. Heading off down the path at the side of the road, we passed the (now closed) Snake Inn until we reached a stile on our right and continued down a winding track through the felled woodland to reach the infant river Ashop. As there had been an extended period of dry weather our crossing was easy with the stepping stones above the water level.

From here we started our relentless ascent up Gate Side Clough and with the sun blazing down it made for very slow progress. On the plus side we had spectacular views all day and once on the plateau edge we headed west over Seal Edges in the knowledge that most of the ascent for the day had been achieved.

Continuing along the dry, dusty, and undulating path on the northern edge of the Kinder Scout plateau, we eventually arrived at Fair Brook Fall which was devoid of water, and we scrambled up to some suitably flat rock formations for our lunch stop. We were rather surprised by the lack of walkers on this popular route, but maybe a walk through the woodland and a paddle in the river Ashop was more tempting in these temperatures.

Well fed and rested, we headed for Fairbrook Naze and admired the views and gritstone rock formations along the way before heading steeply down to reach the Snake Path. A short break here to wait for the party to regroup, gained the attention of one brazen sheep who thought she was going to be fed. As the marker post pointed the way to The Snake Inn (that will now need changing) we left the hungry ewe and headed east along Ashop Clough which was again very dry with very few boggy sections. However, some of us still managed to get caught out (no names mentioned).

With the sound of thunder and some angry looking clouds behind us, we pushed on along the winding path which finally led us to Saukin Ridge, where a wide track through the forest eventually turned north up Lady Clough. Despite the warning notices on the gate leading into the forest it was disappointing to see the remnants of fires and barbecues under the trees and discarded cans, bottles and deck chairs. With wild fires raging on Marsden Moor at this time it appears that some people have no conscience.

By the time we arrived at the start point it was very humid and late in the day so some people headed off home and a few of us drove down the Snake Pass to find somewhere for a refreshing drink. With the A57 closed at Ladybower Reservoir due to a motorbike accident we headed towards The Yorkshire Bridge pub – and then the rain came!

The route was approximately 15.2km (9.5miles) & 447m (1467ft) of ascent.

Kath Willis

Fifty Years and Going Strong

It is an interesting read as to how the hut came into our possession; for those who haven't got a copy of the YMC 50th Year Journal, then when you next visit the hut look it up in the club library. It even gets an article in the October 2023 edition of The Dalesman.

The hut has seen a lot of use by members of the club; club meets, friends, work meets and a high usage by people leasing the visitors side thus contributing to the financial security of the club.

So, on the weekend of the 22nd October the purchase of the hut was celebrated by holding a 50th anniversary party.

A small group went up early to prepare for the party, free beer was delivered, which had to be stood a while and frequently tested, so apologies if my memories don't quite match other peoples recall. One observation I made, and it shows how the requisites of members have changed, more wine was drunk than beer!

Typical Lakeland weather met this early group, who intended to erect a marquee for the various functions that had been planned and now looked threatened, but one of our neighbours stepped in and offered use of his wedding venue. However the weather improved, the marquee erected, carpet laid, tables and chairs set out and a screen and projector set up. Oh Oh, what's the password for the laptop? When this minor hiccup was resolved and an unbelievable amount of food preparation and presentation was underway, the scene was finally set for celebrations to commence.

There were 34 members and guests attended the event, one being Alan Hinkes who presented an enthralling slide-show of his many Himalayan expeditions. The club acquired a copy of his book, and everyone present signed it. This will of course be kept in the club library.

In between the preparations, and as the weather improved there was the opportunity for folk to get out on the hill, bit of scrambling, bit of walking, bit of climbing, and, as mentioned how the attitudes have changed, and since most members are now older than the hut, electric mountain biking!

All in all, a great weekend was enjoyed by all who attended, banter with old friends about old friends and making new friends.

A lot of background work went into making this weekend a success, and not wishing to embarrass anybody, but all those involved would like to thank Jenny and her helpers for their production of such an amazing variety and quality of food which was planned and produced weeks ahead of the event, and immaculately presented and consumed on the day.

Ken Tilford

A big thank you...

to all who planned the 50th party. Excellent weekend, food amazing and great company.

Adam and I finished the weekend with a superb afternoon up to Goats Water then over Dow Crag with fantastic views over to Morecambe Bay,. This photo is looking across to the Scafells, me trying to keep up with Adam.

I hope the club goes from strength to strength and have another great do in 50 years time.

Jane Wainwright



Golden Oldie's enjoying the 50th Bash– Malcolm Lomas

50th Anniversary Meet

For some long-standing members, memories of the last major celebrations at the hut were revived as the 50th anniversary event approached. There had been other gatherings there of course, over the years, but non like the festivities which took place in September 1983.

That occasion marked the 10th anniversary of the opening of the hut and the enthusiasm for the event was high. Extracts from Newsletter 179 state that *people started to roll up, in ones and two, families and groups, cars and caravans. And as they arrived, numbers swelling, so the accommodation spread to tents and dormobiles and the hut.*

Daytime Saturday left much to be desired, afternoon rainfall made worse by a chill stiff breeze and it was deemed necessary to erect a canopy over the patio to protect the evening barbecue.

But with the advent of dusk, so the fun started. The band started warming up, the banqueting commenced and the ale started flowing. By 8pm the party was in full swing and stayed that way till the early (and for some, not-so-early) hours of the morning. The barbecue was a great success, in virtually continuous use throughout the evening and so the jollity continued unabated on into the night.

It was not expected that the number attending in 1983 would be repeated for this celebration. Times were so different now compared to the eighties and a considerable number of club members had never been to the hut and so have no clear affinity towards it. However, all places at the premises were taken in advance of the occasion, and as a result other members had acquired accommodation elsewhere: Keswick, Langdale, Coniston village itself. In addition, there were also campervans and a solitary tent to the rear of the hut.

People came from far and wide: Yorkshire, Lancashire, Shropshire, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire and North Wales, so a good attendance was achieved. In addition several guests of our own members were present, and property owners from within the Coppermines Valley itself.





The organization of such events has always been the key and 2023 was no exception. In the early build-up, concerns were voiced from the ranks about the date chosen. October was a bit late in the year to hold such an event, wasn't it?

How on earth can decent weather be guaranteed? But doubters' fears proved to be unfounded, and a glorious day was enjoyed on the 21st.

The decision to purchase a marquee was planned not only as a precaution against inclement weather but also as the area where the slide presentation could take place. It would also provide an extra seating area at meal time and would be quite homely when rolls of carpet were laid prior to tables and chairs being brought in.

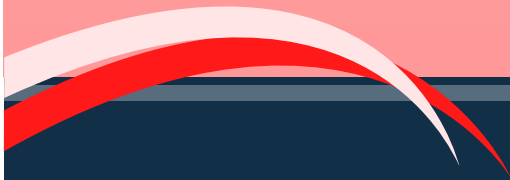
Various options for catering had been considered before an offer from several members within the club solved the problem. Starter, mains and dessert courses were to be provided, including a selection of curries and chilli, with vegetarian options also available.


Two nine gallon barrels of beer had been delivered by Coniston Brewery and cases of red/white wine were available for consumption.

Parking was anticipated as being a problem since the marquee was to be erected over the area in front of the hut and following discussions with Philip Johnston, it was agreed that the area below the spoil heaps – on the left just before the Youth Hostel – be opened up (boulders removed) in order to accommodate extra vehicles.

Everything was set for the occasion. All that remained was the erection of the marquee. There had been a trial run a couple of weeks earlier when the frame only was erected. So nothing could go wrong, could it? Well yes, the doubters in our ranks could whisper 'I told you so' when strong wind prevented the planned Friday erection of the marquee taking place. And was to persist into Saturday. But our chief organizer had a contingency in place – it was agreed that we could move up the valley and use the Coppermines Cottages Wedding Facility free of charge if need be. Now that's what you can call improvising.

As it happened, there was no need to take advantage of this offer but it was much appreciated and illustrated the greatly improved relationship the club now enjoyed with the owner of the Coppermines Lakes Cottages organization.





As soon as the wind subsided, the erection team sprung into action. The task was not straightforward, despite the efforts of large team of willing helpers, but eventually everything fell into place. The carpet layers made short work of providing a suitable internal covering and when tables and chairs were installed, the area did, after all, look quite acceptable.

Whilst this was taking place, the catering team began the time-consuming preparation of the banquet for the evening. Providing food for up to 50 people was no easy task but additional helpers lightened the load. Mini sausage rolls, garlic bread, crisps and nuts formed part of the starter choices whilst mains included assorted curries, chilli and also vegetarian options. All supplemented with rice and bread. Chocolate cake was just one of the desserts prepared. An assortment of cheeses and biscuits completed the menu.

By now there had been a vast improvement in the weather, which allowed outdoor gathering in the warm sunshine. Starters were laid out on a table just in front of the patio, the mini sausage rolls being particularly delicious. People had been steadily arriving and much socializing was conducted outside.

Although considerable time had been taken up with getting everything set up, some people were able venture up the hill in search of somewhere to climb and there was even a report of an embarrassing incident involving the club vice president but details have been withheld.

There was also some frustration when the club laptop initially refused to recognize the login code whilst preparing for the evening presentation.

A convivial atmosphere prevailed throughout the evening's activities, which began with feasting on the delicious main courses which had been prepared earlier in the day. The beers and wines went down well too, and much nostalgic recollections took place over an extended period.

With appetites suitably satisfied, people made their way into the marquee, rather later than planned, for the presentation to be made by mountaineer Alan Hinkes, the only Briton to have climbed all the world's 8000 metre peaks.

Prior to the commencement, club president Natasha Cook presented Alan with a small shield which signified his being made an Honorary Member of the club. He 'was honoured to have been accepted into the club' and looked forward to promoting it.

What followed was, for some, a fascinating account on his ascent of all the 8000ers, undertaken solo. As was to be expected, some harrowing and emotional experiences were related.

Staying at the hut were: Dave Lomas, Ian Willis, Ken Tilford, Pete Stott, Jane and Adam Wainwright, Alex Sharp, Alan Marson, Sean and Sam Kelly, Jenny Koenig, Sally Harris, Lawrence Fardell, Deb and Julian Simmons, Natasha and Amy Cook, Soraya and Chris Marshall, Jakki Kelly, Zuzana Bartonova, Pavlina Svarkova-Jeffs, Patrick Jeffs, Bill Stevenson, guest Edgar Davies.

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Staying elsewhere, visiting for the day were: Malcolm [Sol] Lomas, Kevin Garratt, Martin and Kathryn Tetley, Graham and Kath Willis with guests, Rob Dracup, Henry [Vice president] Green, Philip Johnston, 2 guest owners from the row.
Apologies to anyone who has been missed. It was difficult keeping track.

As members will probably gather from the preceding report, a lot of effort went into making the celebrations possible. It is important therefore to recognize those who made major contributions: the driving force was undoubtedly David Lomas, who not only liaised with Philip Johnston over certain organizational issues eg extra parking facilities but also sourced the marquee from Denmark and the beer from Coniston; Sean Kelly and Jenny Koenig for acquiring all the ingredients for the catering; Sally Harris and Lawrence Farndell.

Thanks must also go to those who assisted with the erection and dismantling of the marquee, as well as its drying out.

And of course all those who helped make the event a success.

There were members who had not visited the hut in recent years who could not have failed to notice the vast improvements that had been made in recent years. Comments were also made to the effect that the YMC hut must rank among the best in the Lake District. This bears testimony to the small band of members whose foresight and enthusiasm has made the hut what it is today.

Pete Stott



Shout Out...

We are hoping to put some photographs on the hut wall to show the original renovations of the hut. If anybody has any old photos of the derelict building, or any of those early work meets, or any of the participants, then please get in touch with me (sean@phukaw.com).

Hopefully we'll be able to show what a herculean job was performed by those club members on a shoe-string budget.

Thanks, Sean.

Meet Report–The Roaches, Lud’s Church, Gradbach Hill & Ramshaw Rocks -

Sunday 2nd July 2023.

Start Point: Field parking opposite Paddock Farm - GR SK 006 613.

Attendees: Simon Atkinson, Gary Curley & Paul Dunnigan (Guests). Kath & Graham Willis (YMC).

As the roadside laybys on Roach Road fill up very early at the weekends, for £2 all day the field opposite Paddock Farm and Café provided a great alternative for parking. Despite some heavy showers on the journey the weather was dry but very breezy all day.

Heading up the road we passed Hen Cloud on our right before taking the path up to Rock Hall – The BMC Don Whillans Memorial Hut, to catch up with the YMC climbing group that had been there all weekend. With no extra takers for a walk, we scrambled over the rocks to reach a busy path leading to The Roaches ridge. The trig point of 505ft was quickly reached and we headed down to Roach End and Bearstone Rock crossing over the minor road and taking the path down to Forest Wood.

Following the path in a north westerly direction we eventually arrived at Lud’s Church which is a deep and impressive chasm and very popular despite the muddy path. However, stepping stones and pieces of wood ensured we weren’t ankle deep in mud and climbing out we continued through the wood to Gradbach.

After crossing a footbridge, we followed the track round to Gradbach Scout Camp at Old Hall Farm, passing between farm buildings and out on to the moor to find a suitable derelict stone wall to provide a suitable lunch stop. After lunch we had a short ascent of Gradbach Hill which was abundant in Bilberry bushes and bracken. Rejoining the path at Clough Head we headed east towards a bend in the minor road before taking the path through several fields to Goldstitch House, Blackbank and Hazel Barrow. With Ramshaw Rocks now within striking distance we continued upwards taking the higher-level path to get the views down to the A53 on our left and our final ascent of the day on our right.

Following the path down to the road we took the track to Naychurch where red topped marker posts ensured that we took the path avoiding the farmyard and a well-cut grassy slope led us down to the base of Hen Cloud. Rather than taking the steep path up, we contoured round and onto the coll before taking the easier and more popular route up. The views were well worth a photo opportunity after which we retraced our steps to the coll and back to the road and our start point at Paddock Farm.

The route was approximately 10.5miles & 511m (1676ft) of ascent.

Kath Willis



Meet Report- Deerstones Edge, Cock Hill & Crimsworth Dean

Sunday 6th July 2023.

Start Point: NT Car Park Midgehole - GR SE 467 937.

Attendees: Richard Binks (Guest). Eve & Steve Bartlett, Mike Belk, Tony Raithby, Peter & Jennifer Tennant, Kath & Graham Willis (YMC members).

From the upper tier NT Car Park, we walked down the road and took a left turn after the toilet block to follow a partially cobbled track uphill through Spring Wood. A steep climb brought us up to the A6033 which we crossed and headed towards Pecket Well before detouring around Shawcroft Farm to eventually arrive at Boggs Eggs Edge.

With the minor top of Tom Tittiman up ahead we diverted off the main track and headed for the summit spot height which could have been anywhere on the plateau! With confirmation (from a SAT NAV device) that we had indeed reached the highest point of 408m, we headed north to rejoin the track along Deerstones Edge. Although it was a dry and breezy day, this section was rather boggy due to the heavy rainfall over the previous couple of weeks, but we eventually arrived at the trig point of High Brown Knoll at 443m.

Unfortunately, the conditions underfoot became even wetter along the Black Gate path, which soon disappeared altogether, and our only guide was the mast at Cock Hill. Needless to say, no one escaped with dry boots, as we made our way over Burnt Stones Hill and Will's Allotment and with great relief, we eventually arrived at a stile onto the A6033.

Crossing the road, we followed the dry track down Halfpenny Hole Clough and after dropping out of the wind we found a good spot for lunch. From here we continued down to White Hole and the minor road at Lane Head, where some of the party were fortunate enough to see a barn owl. At Grain Water Bridge we left the road but continued along the Calder/Aire link route to Nook. As it was now sunny and our boots were beginning to dry out, we decided to opt for the longer route alternative around Shackleton Knoll to Walshaw. From here we headed down the track passing Hardcastle Craggs on our right before arriving at the hot spot of Gibson Mill.

Taking the more scenic route back to the car we followed the path at the side of Hebden Water through the woods at Hebden Dale. Although there were a few spots of rain at this point it was short-lived and we soon arrived back at the car park at Midgehole.



Most of the group said their farewells but some of us ventured down into Hebden Bridge where the Rotary Club were hosting a Vintage Weekend. From our table at The Old Gate Bar and Restaurant we were well placed to watch the classic cars drive by whilst enjoying a well-deserved pint.

Kath Willis

Weekend Meets 2024

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

**Attendance at any meet at the Coniston cottage including maintenance meets is by advanced booking only through the hut booking secretary, Claire Howarth–
ymchut@gmail.com**

February

Feb 2nd Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet (2 Nights).

Booking – Claire Howarth - ymchut@gmail.com

Work Enquiries – Hut Warden Ken Tilford.

Feb 11th Grimwith Reservoir from Burnsall return via Appletreewick.

Roadside parking or YDNP car park in Burnsall village. BD23 6BS

– GR SE 030 611.

Kath & Graham Willis – meets@theymc.org.uk

Feb 16th Scottish Winter Meet. Alex MacIntyre Memorial Hut. Onich, North Ballachulish (3 Nights).

16th-18th February 2024 inclusive. Post Code PH33 6RY

- GR NN 044 611.

Mike Belk.

Feb 25th Helvellyn. Gully Climbing Lake District. (Axe & crampons required).

Glenridding Car Park. Greenside Road. Glenridding. CA11 0PD.

Damian Rose & Andrew Drury.

Note Limited Places & Suitable Conditions Needed – Advance Booking Only.

March

Mar 3rd Buckden Pike via Buckden Gill, Cray & Hubberholme. Yorks Dales.

Buckden YDNP Car Park. BD23 5JA – SD 941 774.

Eve & Steve Bartlett.

Mar 17th Feizor & Stainforth. Yorks Dales.

Settle town centre - Whitefriars Car Park. BD24 9JD - GR SD 743 691.

Kath & Graham Willis – meets@theymc.org.uk

Mar 29th Easter Club Meet Coniston Hut (4 Nights).

Booking – Claire Howarth - ymchut@gmail.com

April

Apr 7th Arncliffe & Starbottan - Littondale & Wharfedale. Yorks Dales.

Joint Meet CMC & YMC.

BD23 5QE - GR SD 930 719. Roadside Parking in Arncliffe village centre over bridge on Brootes Lane. Stuart Pickford – Craven MC.

Kath & Graham Willis - meets@theymc.org.uk

Apr 19th Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet (2 Nights).

Booking – Claire Howarth - ymchut@gmail.com

Work Enquiries – Hut Warden Ken Tilford.

Apr 28th Millington Environs. Yorks Wolds.

Wayrham Farm to Millington via Bishop Wilton and the Chalkland Way.

Parking at Picnic Site on A166 (Garrowby Street) near Wayrham Farm.

YO42 1TA

Ben Gilbert & Graham Willis – meets@theymc.org.uk

May

May 12th High Cup Nick. Eden Valley from Dufton Village. Cumbria.

Joint Meet CMC & YMC.

Dufton Car Park CA16 6DB – GR NY 689 250.

James Crawshaw - Craven MC.

Kath & Graham Willis - meets@theymc.org.uk

May 19th Marsden to Standedge via Kirklees Way & Pennine Way. South Pennines.

Free Parking adjacent to Marsden Railway Station & Marsden Moor Estate

Premises- HD7 6DH—GR SE 047 118.

Ben Gilbert & Graham Willis – meets@theymc.org.uk

May 31st Langdale. Lakes Climbing & Walking Meet (2 Nights).

Robertson Lamb Wayfarers Hut. Langdale. LA22 9JS.

Booking - Henry Green.

June

June 9th St Sunday Crag via Pinnacle Ridge & Helvellyn descent via Striding Edge. Lake District.

Parking in Patterdale village.

Booking - Damian Rose.

Note Limited Places – Advance Booking Only.

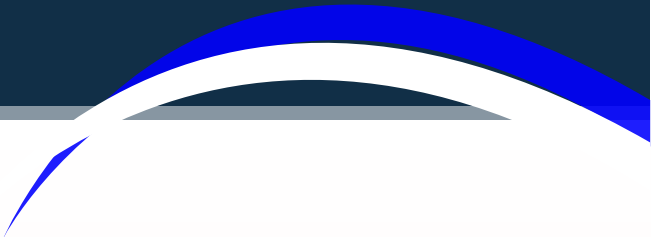
June 14th Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet. (2 nights).

Booking – Claire Howarth - ymchut@gmail.com

Work Enquiries – Hut Warden Ken Tilford.

June 23rd Abney Moor. Hope to Foolow. Peak District.

Hope Village Pay & Display Car Park. S33 6SB. (Adjacent The Woodroffe Arms
Eve & Steve Bartlett.



**June 28th Anglesey. Wales Climbing & Walking Meet
(2 Nights).** Camping &/or B&B - Self Booking.
Meet Coordinator Natasha Cook.

July

July 5th Coniston Club Climbing & Walking Meet – (2 Nights).
Coniston Hut Booking - ymchut@gmail.com
Meet Coordinator Henry Green.

July 14th Arncliffe & Malham Tarn via the Monks Road path.
BD23 5QE GR SD 930 719. Roadside Parking in Arncliffe village centre or over
bridge on Brootes Lane.
Steve Webb Craven MC.
Kath & Graham Willis - meets@theymc.org.uk

July 19th Snowdonia Hut Climbing & Walking Meet. North Wales – (2 Nights).
Booking - Natasha Cook.

August

**Aug 2nd Roaches Climbing Weekend. Don Whillans Memorial Hut. Peak District. (2
Nights).**
Rockhall Cottage, The Roaches, Upper Hulme, Leek. ST13 8UB.
GR SK 007 622
Bookings - Rob Dracup.

Aug 4th Roaches - Day Walking Meet.
As above. Meeting point at Paddock Farm pay & display car park adjacent to
café on Roach Road. ST13 8TY. GR SK 004 622.
Kath & Graham Willis - meets@theymc.org.uk

Aug 11th Stanage, Peak District. Day Climbing & Walking Meet.
Climbing - Natasha Cook.

Weekend Meets 2024 continued...

Aug 18th Ladybower & Win Hill. Peak District.

Rowley Bridge via Crook Hill Farm & return via Win Hill.

Parking at Fairholmes Visitors Centre CP. S33 0AQ – GR SK 173 893.

Ben Gilbert & Graham Willis – meets@theymc.org.uk

Aug 24th Chamonix Camping Meet. France. (7 Nights).

Climbing & Walking Meet – Further details to follow.

Booking - Natasha Cook.

September

Sept 15th Whernside from Dent. Yorks Dales.

Circuit of Flintergill, Occupation Road & High Pike

Memorial Hall Car Park in Dent. Approx Post Code - LA10 5QJ.

GR SD 703 870.

Kath & Graham Willis – meets@theymc.org.uk

Sept 22nd Roseberry Topping. North Yorks Moors.

Kildale Station / Captain Cook Monument / Sleddale.

Kildale Station free Car Park, Station Road. Kildale YO21 2RT

GR NZ 604 095.

Ben Gilbert & Graham Willis – meets@theymc.org.uk

October

Oct 4th Coniston Hut – Housekeeping Meet. (2 nights).

Booking – Claire Howarth - ymchut@gmail.com

Work Enquiries – Hut Warden Ken Tilford.

Oct 13th Ingleborough from Ingleton. Yorks Dales.

Fell Lane to Crina Bottom & summit descent via Chapel le Dale & Oddie's

Lane. Ingleton Village Community Centre Car Park LH6 3HG - GR SD 693 730.

Kath & Graham Willis – meets@theymc.org.uk

Oct 27th Longshaw Estate - Froggatt & Curbar Edges. Peak District.

Roadside Parking adjacent to The Fox House Inn - S11 7TY or Pay and Display in National Trust CP at Longshaw Estate Visitors Centre - S11 7TZ – GR SK 266 802.
Kath & Graham Willis – meets@theymc.org.uk

November

Nov 1st Coniston Hut – Club Bonfire Meet. (2 nights).

Booking – Claire Howarth - ymchut@gmail.com

Nov 17th Hameldon Hill & Environs, Rossendale. South Pennines.

Clowbridge Reservoir Car Park. Approx Sat Nav – BB11 5PF - GR SD 828 281.
Eve & Steve Bartlett.

December

**Dec 1st Ogden Water (Reservoir) & Ovenden Moor. South Pennines.
Circuit of Ogden Clough, Ovenden Moor & Cold Edge Dams.**

Yorks Water CP at Ogden Water. HX2 8XZ - GR SE 066 308.
Meet Coordinator Natasha Cook.

Dec 6th Snowdonia Weekend Hut Meet.

Provisional Event – Further Details to Follow.

Dec 15th Xmas Fuddle Walk - Barden Moor, Skipton. Yorks Dales.

Barden Scale. Approx Postcode BD23 6AP- Roadside parking
-GR SE 051 568.
Meet Coordinator Derek Field.

Dec 20th Xmas & New Year Coniston Hut Club Meet (13 nights).

Booking – Claire Howarth - ymchut@gmail.com

Dec 26th Ilkley Cow & Calf – Traditional Boxing Day Meet.

Cow & Calf Public Car Park. Approx post code LS29 9RF – GR SE130 467.
Meet Coordinator Derek Field. Meet Time – 10:30am.



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



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The Yorkshire Mountaineering Club - Founded 1941