

JULY 2019



60 years 1959 - 2019



A special mention to

A few members have their name 'up in lights' since the last issue.

First of all congratulations to Simon Shanklin and his wife Liz on their successful completion of the Welsh 3000's last month. An unforeseen diary commitment meant they couldn't attempt it on the designated club weekend of 28th/ 29th June. They therefore undertook it the weekend before without back up, carrying the extra weight of additional food and water such a decision involves. Their achievement is all the more impressive for that.



However probably exceeding that in distinction is Gareth Egarr's achievement in completing the Long Distance Walker's Association (LDWA) 100 mile challenge over the late May Bank Holiday Weekend. The challenge is to walk 100 miles in 48 hours, ie. it is exactly double the test of the local Long Mynd hike.

Starting/ finishing in the Northumberland town of Hexham most of this year's route was in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. However named the 'Hadrian Hundred' there were also early miles on the Hadrian's Wall National Trail in the Northumberland National Park before his progression onto the Pennine Way in the AONB (it's highest point of 2,930ft on Cross Fell was passed in poor visibility at night).

Many congratulations to Gareth on completing the 100 miles in 44 hours and 47 minutes!

This issue will cover:

- 3 Nantlle Ridge, Snowdonia
- 4 Stoney Middleton, Peak District
- 4 Cannich, Scotland
- 5 Tremadog, Snowdonia
- 6 Wasdale Head, Lake District
- 7 Mountains on the Moon
- 7 Over the Hill
- 8 Hut meet at Clwt-y-Bel
- 9 Moelwyns, Snowdonia
- 10 BMC Area Meeting for the Midlands
- 11 Upcoming Meets/ Events
- 12 Tuesday walks and Thursday climbs

Thanks as always to all this month's contributors including those who posted on the Club's Facebook site. This is a useful 'backstop' for a compiler who is loath to go 'banging on people's doors' for material needed for coverage of all the Club's meets and events.

Graham Daly, Editor

Cover photo:

From left to right Alenka, Gareth and Brenda pause on the slopes of Great Gable in the Lake District (en-route to the summit) during the Wasdale meet in June.

Wasdale and Wastwater provide the backdrop. See also meet report on page 6.

Picture : Phil Holden

Deadline for the next newsletter is 10th September 2019. Any photographs should be a separate JPEG.

Sunday 12th May 2019

The Nantlle Ridge - a less trodden gem in Snowdonia

For many years I had been tempted by the Nantlle Ridge walk but circumstances had always prevented me from tackling it. So, when given the chance to lead a walk I couldn't think of a better route, particularly a linear traverse.

Googling around Google suggested that we were in for a treat. However, as a ridge it doesn't get the five stars that the Snowdon Horseshoe and Crib Goch receive, but it does get acknowledged for its solitude, amongst many other things.



Heading west (towards the coast) shortly before the lunch stop. Craig Cwm Silyn in the middle distance (2,408ft, 734m) is the highest point on the ridge, and summited after some scrambling.

Doing it one way brings the usual challenges of transferring cars, nothing that couldn't be sorted with just a bit of effort. Having organised the basics, 10 of us set out from Rhyd Ddu, in glorious sunshine, to spend the next 5.5 hours tracking cwms between Cwn Pennant and the Nantlle Valley. And Google didn't disappoint, we barely saw another soul all day.

Nantlle Ridge is the ridge that never stops giving - rolling hills and easy walking, the occasional glimpse into the abyss, a decent section of scrambling thrown in and superb views of Snowdon and Ireland. Yes, Ireland. The visibility we had was so good that we were sure that we could see the distant shores of Eire. In fact, I reckon I could see the patrons staggering out of Murphy's Bar.

If you haven't done the Nantlle Ridge, do it.

Larry King

17th and 18th May 2019

Stoney Middleton, Peak District

Attendees were few in number but what a great climbing weekend. Many classic routes ticked, perfect weather, steak pie to die for and fab company. Sorry no photos* : I was too busy having a good time. Already looking forward to next year.

Tracy Whyte

(via SMC Facebook Group)

**Having read Tracy's post Scott Pardoe filled the void by posting the picture opposite.*



Last climb on the Saturday : Adrian Wilcock (in helmet) and Tom Cave in view. Picture : Scott Pardoe

25th May - 1st June 2019

Cannich, near Glen Affric, Scotland

It was never going to compare with Ullapool in 2018; the weather then had been unbelievably and memorably good. Nevertheless, this year was OK and was never bad enough to stop us doing stuff....indeed the prize for energy goes to Dave Keltie who bagged 10 Munros in the week.



Looks like it was a drying out day when this photo was taken at Cannich base camp ! Pic: Jan Campbell

Everyone agreed that the area around Cannich is stunningly beautiful with lush green forests and excellent opportunities for biking and walking as well as Cannich itself having a decent pub. The Tomich café satisfied the yearning for coffee and cake during the day. It is perhaps surprising that the club have never been there before.

Accommodation wise we were spread around the village. Jane Holmes, Pete McAree and Judy Preece were in a cottage nearest the pub.

On the campsite were Tim Tindle, Jan, Richard and Bridgett Pugh, Mike and Amy B, Phil and Brenda, and Annie and Alex (briefly). In luxury on an adjacent holiday park were Dave Keltie, Adam James and Ross Lister (the 'lads'). Andrew and Rachel Lawton were also in a cottage but up the road at Tomich. So, altogether a good turnout considering it is about 470 miles from Shrewsbury !

Phil Holden managed 8 Munros and is getting close to completing (*do we not use 'compleating'? Ed*) the grand total with only 27 remaining. He likes to do the Munros in unusual ways so an exciting boat trip up Loch Mullardoch to start the 'Mullardoch 4' fitted the bill...at £25 per head. It does save 2-3 hours of walking so it was considered to be worth it. Getting there was also a challenge with potholes in the lane the size of a MINI!

The drive up Glen Cannich was beautifully unspoilt but access is restricted by a gatekeeper....you can't go in on Tuesdays at all (good day for the cyclists) and not before 9.00a.m. precisely! Again this gives access to 4 Munros which Phil, Brenda, Dave and Adam did after Jan gave them a lift to the starting point thus saving a few road kms at the end.



Another Munro bagged : Richard Pugh and Mike Blakemore at the summit of Toll Creagach, 3,458 ft.

All in all, it was a very good meet and aided by the pub where we convened most evenings; never mind ticking Munros 'the lads' were menu ticking by eating in there every night! Next year..Ullapool again

Jan Campbell

Sunday 9th June 2019

Tremadog, Snowdonia

As Allan Day is one of our most experienced climbers I was delighted when he offered to coordinate a meet at Tremadog. So, on a glorious warm day, 8 climbers convened at



Tony Mills (arrowed) on the One Step route. Pic: Jan

Eric's café and quickly sorted themselves into pairs; Heather with Tony Mills, Andy Tetsill and Tom Cave, Geoff Read and Mark Bayliss and Allan with newbie Rob Hall who climbed 20 years ago and wants to get back into it. Various routes were done in the easier grades including Christmas Curry and Grim Wall. Sadly, due to an enormous loose boulder (now demolished), they were unable to go anywhere near Brothers or Shadrach.

Meanwhile, Jan had an interesting walk exploring the area up behind Tremadog through quite unspoiled and rough country as well as a nature reserve full of birdsong.

Thanks to Allan for organising such a good day.

Jan Campbell

15th -16th June 2019

Wasdale Head, Lake District

As everyone remembers (or at least they do now) - it's along way round to Wasdale. But, as we all also know, it's fantastic there and really worth the drive. The National Trust campsite proved a good venue after the complicated admin was overcome. Dry and not too many midges. And the Wasdale Head Inn provided good refreshment - for some on Friday night, and for all on Saturday. Highlights included a whole jug of Pimms (Clive) and a whole second dinner on the house (Phil).



On the Saturday Jan and Alek Sadowski's walk took in this panorama of Wastwater. Hard to believe now that this remote and beautiful location was the subject of lurid newspaper headlines in the 1980's in a story the tabloids dubbed 'the lady in the lake' - Ed. Picture: Alek Sadowski

Ah yes, and the mountaineering highlights too.... One party went for a close up look at Napes Needle on Great Gable and slithered about on scree and greasy rock below it, before taking the easy way over Great Gable summit, timing the high point to the only cloudy half hour of the day. Jan and Alek went for an easy walk which turned out to be a big slog up a different scree to Wind Gap. Ross and Andy peaked England's highest on Scafell Pike, and Clive did a big ridge walk to work up his thirst. Epic walk of the day however was done by Tom (the dog) with Ellis and Grace, following this with a perfect display of 'dog-tired'.

Swims were had, in Wastwater and Styhead Tarn. There was no gathering up after Sunday, so all the activities weren't logged. But the conclusion from all was pretty much the same - we will be going back!

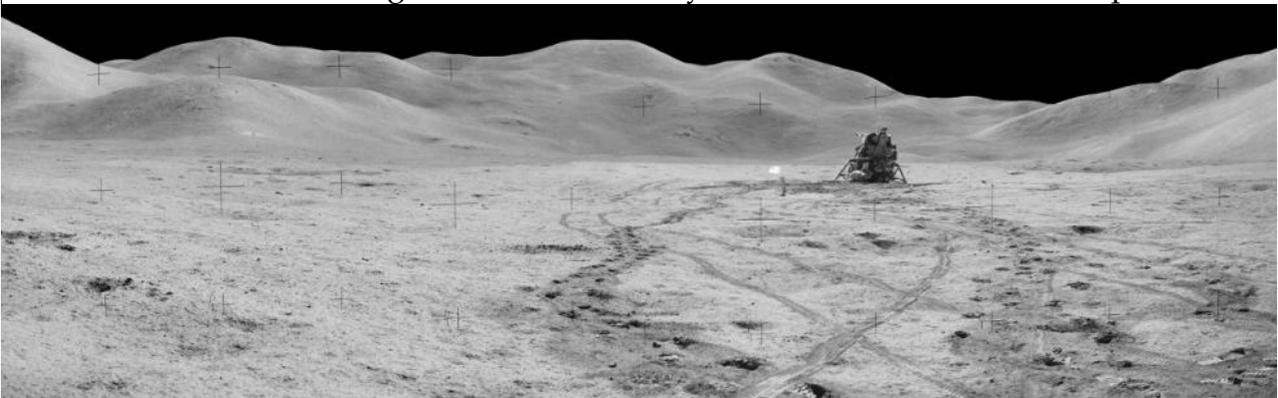
Brenda Duffy



Ross Lister has a keen eye for landscape photography and two of his pictures from the Wasdale meet are included here. Above left : the classic view of Wasdale Head from the shores of Wastwater. Above right : Ritson's Force. Photos : Ross Lister

Mountains on the Moon

No – not a meet report ! However older members like myself, the editor, may be enjoying the 'nostalgia fest' offered by all the TV programmes on Apollo 11, the first space mission to land men on the moon, 50 years ago. Understandably NASA opted to land on a plain 'The Sea of Tranquility' for the historic first event. However there were later missions which landed near lunar mountain areas, the first being Apollo 15 near the Montes Apenninus (Apennine mountain) range on the northern part of the Moon. With Apollo in the news this seemed as good an excuse as any for an alternative mountain picture !



The Lunar Module 'Falcon' displaying it's slightly inclined landing position is seen at the Apollo 15 landing site with the lunar Apennine mountains as a backdrop. Copyright NASA

Thursday 20th June 2019

Over the Hill meet

Only four people went on this meet as it involves either being retired, unemployed (Adrian at that point in time), self-employed (Heather and Tracy) or formally organising a day off work (Scott).

This year the destination was the Moelwyns after breakfast at Tracy's.

The day was variously described as 'cold' or 'not too bad' and classic routes such as Slick and Slack were climbed.

Jan Campbell

28th -29th June 2019

Hut meet at Clwt-y-Bel



An unusual and spectacular backdrop to Clwt-y-Bel (seen amongst the trees) on Hut meet weekend. They are Lenticular clouds and are quite rare for the UK. Photo : Jan Campbell.

Back in April six people said they were interested in doing the Welsh 3000's so advice was given and support organised. In the end no-one did it*.. reasons ranging from plantar fasciitis , unfitness, other commitment, to attendance at a funeral.

No matter, those of us that did go up to the hut didn't have the hassle of supporting people and were able to get out on the hills and then chill out with a BBQ on the Saturday evening. Newbie, Julie Parker showed us all up on Saturday by

- a) having a run whilst waiting for a walk
- b) having an 11 mile walk over to Y Garn and back
- c) having a swim on the way back
- d) having a bike ride after the BBQ whilst the rest of us were sat around with a beer

WOW!

It was good to see Val Swingler who is now living at on Anglesey and vet Dave who came over from Norwich. Adrian W and Mark B scrambled up Crib Lem in the Carneddau on the Sunday while Val, Julie and Jan headed for the Moel Tryfan / Myndd Mawr area.

Jan Campbell

** It subsequently transpired that Simon and Liz Shanklin undertook and completed the Welsh 3000's the weekend before. See editorial on page two.`*

Sunday 7th July 2019

Moelwyns, Snowdonia

Six of us attended the Moelwyn meet, Heather Smith, Mark Baylis, Geoff Read, Rob Hall (a new member), Jan Campbell and me, Steve Lowe. Jan and I were walking the rest climbing. Whilst the others carried on to the crag Jan and I left the road, ignoring the big red danger sign, and gained height quickly up an inclined tramway coming from the slate workings above. Once through the tunnel at the top derelict buildings and rusty ironwork showed more of the Moelwyns industrial past.



Walking : the summit of Moelwyn Bach (2,330ft, 710m). View towards the coast at Porthmadog.

Back with Jan we skirted the Llyn Stwlan dam back down to the road and along to the crags to find the others. We watched Heather and Mark on Kirkus', they having done Chic in the morning, and Geoff and Rob come down the descent route from their day on Kirkus'.

Back at the car my GPS said we had walked 6 miles in 6½ hours, 3½ of which we had been stationary. It was that sort of day, admiring the views, chatting and watching the exertions of others although we did "summit" four 600+m peaks.

Steve Lowe

(with thanks to Steve for the photographs also - Ed)

We made our way first onto Moel-yr-hydd (648m) then Moelwyn Mawr (770m) and Craigysgafn (689m) taking in the extensive views from each.

I climbed Moelwyn Bach (710m) while Jan breathed in the scenery at the col.

I passed three mountain bikers with their bikes over their shoulders labouring up to the summit. Apparently the ridge down towards Croesor is awesome, I do hope it was !



Climbing : Mark and Heather on Kirkus

BMC Area Meeting for the Midlands



Contrary to appearances Adam, Jan, Catherine, Ross and co. aren't about to participate in a sack race on the top of the Wrekin! For the actual story you'll have to read Catherine's report ! Ed

Also On 5th June; Jan, Ross, Adam, Annie-dog and I represented SMC at the most recent BMC Midlands Area Meeting. It started with an hours litter-picking on The Wrekin, as part of the BMC's 'Hills 2 Oceans' campaign. I'm glad to say that, despite the number of visitors who climb The Wrekin each day, we found very little litter. As you can see from the photo, our bags were practically empty when we got to the summit!

The meeting itself took place at The Old Orleton in Wellington, who provided a good spread of food to keep everyone going during the discussions. There were with 23 participants from across the Midlands region, plus a very well behaved 10-day-old baby.

The meeting started with an introduction to Andy Potter, who is taking over as the Midlands Area Chairman. We then heard reports on various topics, including; hill walking, climbing, youth activities and clubs. Here is a summary of the most relevant highlights from the meeting - Firstly, the BMC is launching a 'Near Miss and Incident Reporting System'. The idea is create a free online resource that will allow us all to learn from the experience of others. So, if you witness, or are involved in, an incident then please complete the online form and help make our passion for the hills and mountains a little safer. Also, volunteers are needed to help with next year's Youth Climbing Series. They need people to belay, plus other roles. If interested, contact **Claudia Sarner**, (BMC Training, Youth & Walls Committee member, National Council). And don't forget that the BMC offers a range of training courses for individuals and clubs, at various locations around the UK.

If you want more information about the meeting, a copy of the official minutes is available on the BMC community web page.

Catherine Allen

Upcoming Meets / Events

Sunday July 28th Dinas Mawddwy/ Dovey Hills

This will be a linear walk over the hills to the south west side of the A470. Probably classed as mid-Wales rather than North Wales but still within the Snowdonia National Park.

Meet at Radbrook Co-op car park, Bank Farm Rd at 8.00a.m or at the Malwydd Service Station on the A458 (by The Brigands Inn) where we will arrange the shuttle. The service station cafe opens at 8:30am. Do drop in and give them some business before the walk!

Meet co-ordinator Catherine Allen

Sunday August 11th Snowdon

Meet coordinator is now Gareth Egarr, who has taken over from Grahame James.

Early start from Radbrook Co-op car park at 7.30a.m. or

meet at Nantgwynant car park GR 628506 at 9.30a.m.

Route to include Lliwedd, Snowdon and down via Cwm Llan and the Watkin path

Contact Gareth Egarr

*Upcoming Meets / Events is
compiled by Jan Campbell*

August 24th – Sept 7th Briancon area

Camping at Les Alberts about 7km out of Briancon. There is also an apartment which sleeps up to 4 in a nearby hamlet.

Guide Book 'Walking in the Brianconnais, Cicerone.

Jan's plan is to Eurotunnel on Thursday Aug 22nd and return on Monday Sept 9th... one passenger welcome!

Maps: IGN 3436 ET, 3536 OT, 3535 OT all at 1:25,000.

Contact Jan

August 24th - 26th Clwt y Bel

The club hut is booked for members who are not going to France.

Feel free to get the BBQ out!

Sept 13th-14th Bagg Point near Croyde, North Devon

This is now where Joe Penfold is living so plenty of local knowledge for sea cliff cragging. All grades and the coast path for walkers too.

Meet coordinator Clive Dean

Sept 29th Arenig Fach, Snowdonia

Meet at Radbrook Co-op car park at 8.00a.m. or car park near Trywerwynn memorial chapel on south side of the A4212 alongside Llyn Celyn reservoir GR SH848413. Approx.Postcode LL23 7NU

Meet coordinator Andy Bentley

Tuesday Evening Walking Programme

Meet at 7.30pm or 9.00pm onwards at the pub. Contact Gareth Egarr for further details.

Date	Meeting Place	Grid Ref	Pub afterwards
06/08/2019	Pole Cottage, Long Mynd *	412937	Buck's Head, Church Stretton
13/08/2019	Mytton Arms, Habberley *	399035	Mytton Arms, Habberley
20/08/2019	Oswestry Racecourse *	259305	The Barley Mow, Trefonen
27/08/2019	Royal Oak, Cardington *	507953	Royal Oak, Cardington
03/09/2019	Stiperstones Inn *	363004	Stiperstones Inn
10/09/2019	The Square, Church Stretton *	451938	King's Arms, Church Stretton
17/09/2019	Inn on the Green, Wentnor *	381932	Inn on the Green
24/09/2019	Bridges **	394964	Bridges

* Walk will include one of Phil's 60 hills for the Club's 60th anniversary

** We will be walking a section of The Shropshire Way as part of the week's Shropshire Way Festival

Thursday Evening Climbing Programme

Date	Venue	Location
	Scott Pardoe is coordinating the Thursday climbing once more and will put the venues on the club website calendar.	
	For further details contact Scott :	