

# JANUARY 2026



**A note from the editor, Jan Campbell.** I have launched into the 21<sup>st</sup> century with a new Apple Mac computer so I am discovering how to make pictures look a bit more interesting! And not only that, but I also now have a smartphone and can join in with the WhatsApp groups much to the relief of many who have been nagging me for a while. I guess it had to happen eventually.

I heard a snippet of good news from Arran that may interest those of us who were there last May. Around 90 volunteers planted 6000 trees in Glen Rosa shortly after the devastating wildfire and they are growing well.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

You recently (16.12.2025) had an email from our Treasurer, Graham Baldry re subs and here is a reminder: As you were advised at the last AGM, subscriptions have had to increase this year to £40 which is still very reasonable considering all the benefits from not only SMC but also the BMC. If you are a member of any other affiliated Clubs you can claim back any additional affiliation fees direct from the BMC.

Subs should be paid **by the end of January** and please put your surname in the reference section. If for some reason you have decided not to rejoin SMC this year please could you let Graham Baldry know.

[treasurer@shrewsburymc.com](mailto:treasurer@shrewsburymc.com)



**The AGM Cock Inn , Hanwood January 27** , 7 for a 7.30pm start. Last year it was Jan not standing again for the position of Secretary and this year we will be saying goodbye to Mike Blakemore as Chairman. Let's hope to see a good attendance as it can always be quite an entertaining evening with the Harry Gregory Trophy to be awarded and the winner of the Photo Competition.

*Front cover: Miles Tight on Glyder Fawr*

**Deadline** for the next newsletter is 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026. Any photos should be a separate JPEG please. Contact details:

## The Glyders on November 16<sup>th</sup> 2025.

A bit of a mixed forecast meant that we had only the committed for the trip up Y Gribin Ridge, Glyder Fawr and Y Garn, of Graham Daly, Lee Campbell, Larry King, Miles & Julie Tight and myself.



Lack of any space in any CC hut or CYB meant a comfy night in the Bangor Travelodge for me, £47 not bad value but the super bright lights in the car park fooled the local birds into kicking off the dawn chorus at 4.00am! ; just what I did not need after a 302 mile drive up.

Julie & Miles helpfully got Lee and Larry in their car, but Graham texted me at 6.33a.m. from Radbrook to say it was a windswept car park and was it still on, yes, "come & join us"!

We managed to get away by 8.45am in light drizzle and with cloud down to 800m or so .Miles set a fast pace , so fast he and I missed the spur off to Llyn Bochlwyd and had to back track 50 metres then on up the steps to the lake and onto the ridge where the rock was wet and greasy. then came a rightwards line onto the top of the ridge with Graham and I ascending an interesting and rather exposed rib for 50 feet or so while the others sensibly took a less exposed route to our left.

When we reach the top of the ridge we came out almost at the large cairn that marks the finish / descent. Of the many times I have scrambled up Y Gribin Ridge this was the only time that I have emerged so far to the right, it rather proves the ridge goes at grade 1 just about anywhere.

As we reached the summit plateau, still in cloud, we took out compasses and were about to take a rough bearing on Glyder Fawr but out came the sun and we were treated to great views that only got better.

The short walk over to Glyder Fawr was completed and an early lunch taken, with the odd snow patch being visible here and there. A debate ensued about which of the pinnacles of Glyder Fawr was higher, the one the Ogwen side or the far one. Some sitting on the pinnacles of the Ogwen side won for Miles, me and Larry. With the pressure rising it soon got pretty cold and I was keen to get moving after our short and early lunch at about 11.15a.m. down to the col we went.

For me virtually every other time I have done this descent it has been in snow but today it was wholly snow free and the extent of the ravages of the runoff of water from the plateau had caused deep channels in places.

At the col Miles set a furious & impressive pace up Y Garn before stopping to allow a regroup, I bashed on to get a couple of shots from the summit of our group on the final haul.

The summit of Y Garn to me is a special place as it has an excellent view from its slightly more isolated position; the sun was out and we had a second lunch. I took a picture of a group of girls and they returned the favour. In the sun and out of the wind it was nice place to sit although Julie was concerned about a party in the summit ring knocking a loose rock off down onto me; fortunately, no such incident took place as it would have been sub optimal.

Down we bashed in great weather and were back at Ogwen Cottage by 3.00pm, Larry kindly bought me and I think others a coffee, thanks! We said our goodbyes and made our way home from the free car park towards Tryfan, I got away at 3.45pm arriving home at 9.30pm. Others rather earlier!

A super day and thank you to Graham, Lee, Larry, Miles & Julie for turning up.

*Sean Toms*

### **The Denbigh Moors area, November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

Four of us teamed up for a sensibly timed start from Radbrook at 8.00a.m.; Jan Campbell, Gareth Egarr, Graham Daly and Steve Lowe. A quick drive up the A5 took us to meet Andy Bentley at The Llyn Brenig Visitor car park.



*Gareth, Graham, Andy and Steve*

We had a pleasant, dry ramble taking in multiple wind turbines of the Mostyn Wind Farm and a return along the shores of Llyn Brenig.

The trig point on Marial Gwyn (519m) afforded us an excellent view towards the snow-covered tops of the Carneddau and we wished we were there enjoying the snow although the reality may have been a bit soggy with soft fresh snow which would have been hard work to traipse through.

In the other direction the views towards the Clwydian Hills were almost as good.

On the way back to the car park we bumped into Ken and Tracy Whyte who were out on their mountain bikes. We perhaps stayed to talk for too long as we reached the car park only 5 mins before the advertised time of closing the gates! A bit of a rush at the end!

Thanks to our meet coordinator Andy for working out this route.

## Xmas party weekend at Clwt y Bel, Dec 5-7<sup>th</sup> 2025

Wet,Wet,Wet! It was really only good for those who went for a dip in Padarn Lake; Rachel Hind, Adrian Wilcock, Annie Pearce, Andy Bound & Klara Atere. Some had intended to do something on the way up to the hut but didn't and Richard had bravely played golf. Others went for an extremely wet walk on Sunday. Chris took the opportunity to do some DIY so we did have two functioning water heaters by the sink in the kitchen: many thanks Chris.

The highlight as ever was the food and drink on Saturday starting at 4pm with mulled wine and mince pies. The excellent xmas dinner was produced by master chef Adrian and his chefettes, Rachel and Annie this year, while Graham stood as gatekeeper to the kitchen....no-one is allowed in once hot food is being handled.



Graham as gatekeeper.

It is a team effort though and all 15 of us contributed whether it was shopping, shifting furniture, putting up the decorations or washing up, not to mention the cleaning on Sunday morning.

Thanks to everyone for a great time.

Jan

## Adrian Donnelly, 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 1961 – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2025.



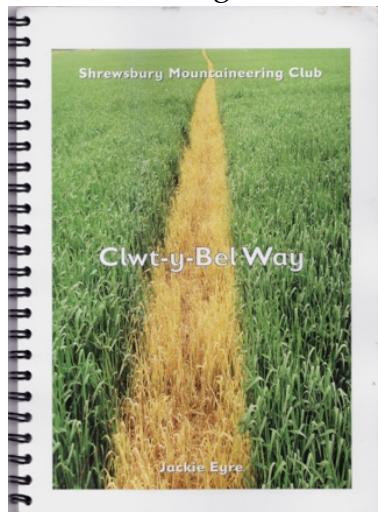
Adrian joined the Club in 1987 and remained a member until 2020. He was also known as 'tick tock man. He excelled as a fell runner and received the Harry Gregory Trophy in 2010 after finishing the 100-mile Grand Raid des Pyrenees, with 10,000 metres of ascent and descent, in 37 hours and 58 minutes.

At his packed Quaker memorial service at Norbury village hall many friends stood up to recount tales and affirm what a thoroughly lovely man he was with time to help anyone in need. He was particularly valued by the Scouts and the Long Mynd Hike.

He is buried on his own land on the edge of the Mynd with a beautiful view. R.I.P.Adrian

## The Archive Slot.      The Clwt y Bel Way.

Looking ahead to the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2009, Jackie Eyre and her loyal team had spent much of 2008 creating this 98-mile-long route from Shrewsbury to our hut in Deiniolen which involved 6523m of ascent as well. The guidebook was very professionally produced with the assistance of Jackie's daughter Mel.



On Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, approximately 30 members gathered at the Frankwell footbridge to start the first leg of the Clwt y Bel Way which took us as far as Nesscliffe.

It was planned that members would take it upon themselves to do the 9 sections as and when convenient but to have a grand finale at the August BBQ weekend.



Eleven of us made it to the meet for the final leg which took us over the hills from Capel Curig to Clwt y Bel and CAKE.



It was an outstanding effort by Jackie and a brilliant idea. Several members did take on the complete challenge in sections and two people are known to have back packed it in one go. Amazing. Do ask if you want to have a go and I can lend you the guidebook.

Jan

## Sunrise, Walk, Xmas dinner, December 21<sup>st</sup> 2025.

Our traditional Sunday meet before Christmas fell on the Winter Solstice thus providing an opportunity to "Do the Double" gain a summit to see solstice sunrise and then take a second summit and be in the pub for our Christmas lunch before sunset. 12 of us: Jan, Mike C, Mark, Steve, Larry, Alex, Phil, Brenda, Alistair, Rick, me and my daughter Amy took position on Earl's Hill scanning the horizon at 135 degrees with a tincture of bubbling orange in our glasses to greet the sun's appearance over The Lawley. Alas it was a no-show on the sun's part however we all had a nice early morning summit celebration chatting with about another dozen people there for the same purpose. We then repaired for coffee and a light breakfast in front of the wood burner. 6 members then went on to do the double meeting another dozen members at the Stiperstones Pub for a 3 hour walk which included a sojourn in Blakemore gate Byre to fortify ourselves with another tincture this time ginger. We arrived at pub on time this year at 2.30. 18 of us sat down to a large very good value Christmas meal of choice and some were able to take advantage of the selection of fine ales on sale; all were able to chat and enjoy each other's company and friendship.

*Mike Blakemore*

*Mike Creese, Sam Lloyd, Larry King at the byre.*

*The sun rose but we didn't see it*



## SMC New Year's Day Walk 2026.



*everyone who contributed to the alfresco smorgasbord.*

*Mike Blakemore*

## Member profile, Ken Whyte

**Favourite mountain:** after much deliberation, with so many contenders, here are my top three: Tryfan with its unmistakably rugged silhouette which holds a myriad of enticing rocky routes leading to its iconic Adam and Eve summit; Blencathra which stands as the gatekeeper to the Lakes, offering yet another recognisable profile from all directions, and a menu of routes to suit all; and the Coledale Round as a big hill day which can be tailored to add or reduce whatever.

**Winter or Summer:** Always winter....cooler air and better visibility.

**Walking poles?:** a big yes on rocky, steep descents particularly with a loaded sack...knees and hips are unreliable these days.

**Solo or group:** Always prefer a group but with sufficient space for selfish contemplation.

**Favourite post hill drink:** always a good pint shared with others.

**Grid references or what3words:** as a retired old school Geography teacher anything but grid references would be heresy!

**Favourite bit of kit:** Stance technical underpants (mens)....a revelation!

**Navigation method:** as a dinosaur, OS (or Harveys) map only...with compass of course.

**Tent or Hut?** Neither is conducive to sleep; campervan every time, the only way to avoid snorers and toilet door bangers.

**Mountain aspirations:** the Cuillin ridge or part of at least. To eradicate friction with the mountain bike community.

**Favourite climb:** never have enjoyed cragging but do love to play in the snow therefore my biggest achievement is a Scottish winter classic: Centre Post Direct on Coire Ardair buttress on the marvellous Creag Meagaidh....a special day in perfect conditions. 6 hours of utter commitment, adrenaline, self-doubt and some terror! Done but never again!!

**Proudest moment in the hills:** 15 years ago summiting Mont Blanc du Tacul with my teenage daughter Meg. Roped together I tentatively lead her down the Midi Arete, through the crevasses of the Vallee Blanche, over the bergschrund and around the seracs, and ultimately over the short rocky scramble to the jaw dropping summit; but whilst sharing this incredible moment with Meg a realisation hit ....my wee girl was becoming a woman and would no longer critically depend on me; poignantly she led the route back down, even up the daunting Midi Arete. Our relationship had changed forever; she has been in charge ever since!

**Mountaineering tip:** Never skimp on underwear.... invest in high quality technical pants; never underestimate the value of personal comfort on the hill. Socks too!



## The Glyders, January 4<sup>th</sup> 2026.

Like many of you I've probably climbed the Glyders on numerous occasions but the tendency was to climb from either Y Garn / Devils Kitchen or from Tryfan so this time I decided to try something different and climb up the hills from Pen y Pass using the red dot path that starts behind the YHA.

In normal conditions the walk would be a bimble but this was a completely different undertaking with 20cms plus of deep powder snow! I arrived the evening before and parked in the layby near the PYG hotel despite originally intending to stay at Clwt y Bel which was almost inaccessible due to snow and ice. When I arrived at the layby the roads were clear with only a small amount of snow but the following morning it was a completely different story following a massive dump of snow overnight. The rest of the gang arrived around 0900 and 10 intrepid explorers headed off up the pass and onto the hill.



*Stunning views.*

To say it was tough going is an understatement, it was flipping hard work by any standard trying to break trail to the summit of Glyder Fawr, often through waist deep snow. We were the first and probably only group mad enough to try the route that morning.



Atop the Glyders was a lot less problematic, and we certainly made better progress over to Glyder Fach, although we were occasionally in whiteout conditions.

From here we cut down to the cars. I would **like** to say we used the Miners track but all I **can** say is that we in the proximity of it as it definitely wasn't visible. Needless to say, the accumulated snow wasn't going to make the return trip any easier so after we had floundered or fallen over in the snow laughing at ourselves as we tried to stand up, we eventually made it back to the cars some 8 hours later.

This was definitely a tough day but despite being knackered I think everyone enjoyed this full-on winter day. Thanks to everyone for your efforts.

*Simon Moore*

*And those intrepid snow wranglers were: Simon, Chris Wood, Tracy Whyte, David Jakeman, Tom Cave, Lee Campbell, Mark Bayliss, Steve Lowe, Richard Grindle, Larry King.*

**Shrewsbury Mountaineering Club AGM Agenda January 27<sup>th</sup> 2026****7.00pm for 7.30pm start, Cock Inn, Hanwood**

Welcome from the Chairman (Mike Blakemore)

- Apologies
- Approval of Minutes of 2025 AGM
- Matters Arising

Treasurer's Report (Graham Baldry)

Hon Secretary's Report (Julie Tight)

Election of Officers and Committee

*Refreshment Break*

- Results of election if ballot taken
- Harry Gregory Trophy (presented by the out-going Chairman, Mike Blakemore)
- Photo Competition- finalists and results (Graham Daly)
- Out-going Chairman closing address - Mike Blakemore
- AOB

**A note from Mike Blakemore (Chairman) about the SMC committee 2026**

Last Newsletter I wrote an open invitation to members to consider putting themselves forward to be on the committee giving outline detail of how the committee works and how to stand for committee. This is just a little update.

Three members of committee will not be standing for election at AGM, 27th January: Catherine Allen, Cheryl Foster and me. The other 6 members of committee: Graham treasurer, Julie Secretary, Mike C, Chris, Simon and Lee will be standing for election. This is a very strong core committee with much experience and enthusiasm and if re-elected would be a great team to join. Being on the committee is simply one way of putting something into our club, it is not the only way but it is an important way. What it is not is an easy opportunity to polish a CV as there is work to be done. Interested? contact Julie Hon Sec. [mail@shrewsburymc.com](mailto:mail@shrewsburymc.com)

Mike Blakemore

## Upcoming meets/Events

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February, Cregennan near Dolgellau.** A walk with good mountain and coastal views from the National Trust car park at Llyn Cregennan taking in Craig Cwm-Llwyd, Craig y Lyn and Craig Las. Then descending back to the car park on the Pony Path.

Meet coordinator: Steve Lowe .

**Feb 21-28<sup>th</sup> Morenish House, Killin, Central Highlands.** All 18 beds booked at the time of writing and there is a 'waiting list' in case anyone has to drop out.

Meet coordinator Jan Campbell.

### **Sunday March 15<sup>th</sup>, Llandegla**

Starting from the village car park in Llandegla we will explore the lower hills at the southern end of the Clwydian range.

Meet coordinator Jan Campbell.

### **Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. The annual slide night at The White Horse, Pulverbatch. 7pm ish**

This is your chance to tell the rest of us what you have been up to in the hills. Refreshments at half time. Contact Phil if you are coming and whether you could do a presentation (10 mins max).

**Sunday March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Snowdon Horseshoe.** This is a classic circuit with a Grade 1 scramble along Crib Goch.

## **Further ahead**

### **Sunday April 12 Cnicht.**

Meet coordinator Matt Dunn.

### **April 24-26<sup>th</sup> Clwt y Bel maintenance.**

Jobs list Chris Wood.

Meet coordinator Jan Campbell

**Tuesday evening walking programme****Meet at 7.30pm for the walk.****Contact Mike Creese for further details.**

WHEN	WHERE	Grid Ref	What3words
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Cardington village hall car park	SO 506951	income.metals.nudge
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	The Wharfage, Ironbridge	SJ 668036	commutes.matchbox.vocal
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Nesscliffe, Pines car park	SJ 389198	note.covenants.nearly
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	A49 layby, Little Stretton	SO 443913	juggles.musician.workers
3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Criggion public car park	SJ 295149	retaliate.strict.blushes
10 <sup>th</sup> March	A49 lay by (The pipes)	SO 470961	dine.fights.expecting
17 <sup>th</sup> March	Breidden Hotel, Middletown	SJ 304126	belonging.events.flauiting
24 <sup>th</sup> March	Robin Hood's Butts, Long Mynd	SO 431964	scooter.obstinate.supreme
31 <sup>st</sup> March	Pole Cottage, Long Mynd	SO 412 937	downhill.adding.husky

*Liz Shanklin and Cheryl Foster on the New Year's Day walk*