

MARCH 2026



A note from the editor, Jan Campbell.

Firstly, a congratulations to our Secretary, Julie Tight, for masterminding the AGM and giving such an interesting report; “it all went very well”!

Secondly, an observation about the BMC who are frequently commented on as taking far too high a proportion of our subs. They are our representative body and work tirelessly on our behalf regarding access to the countryside among other things. As Club members we get a discount at many gear shops such as Blacks and we are protected by the BMC’s Combined Liability Insurance; knock a rock down on someone and they can sue you but you are covered.

Additionally, you get Summit magazine. I could go on but suffice to say they deserve our support even if you may disagree with some of their policies. They are the only representatives we have and vital re the upcoming issues with a tourist tax in Wales. They clearly understand that a mountaineering club hut is not the same as a holiday let and let’s hope they can persuade the relevant authorities of that. The BMC have also recently **increased the benefits** to Club members to be in line with full individual members and I’m sure the Officers, committee members and hut trustees will be pleased to know that they have up to £5 million of Liability Cover.



Harry Gregory Trophy. At the AGM Harry presented the Trophy to Maud Nicolas, a worthy winner whose exploits on the Tour de Blanc were covered in the November 2025 newsletter.

Unfortunately Maud isn’t smiling possibly because she was still trying to work out why Harry had been trying to play a very old recording of “Come into the Garden Maud’ through his phone!

Front cover photo: Chris Wood on an Austrian Via Ferrata by Graham Baldry, winner of the Mountaineering Category.

Deadline for the next newsletter is Friday May 8th...a bit earlier than usual due to me going to Ireland. Any photos should be a separate JPEG please. Contact: campj1@btinternet.com

The Coniston meet January 23-25th 2026

Ten members attended this meet in the hut of the Midland Association of Mountaineers Club; Chris Wood, Jan, Andy Tetsill, Mike Creese, Mark B, Adrian Lowe, Miles and Julie, Simon and me. On arrival the scene resembled a Clwt-y-Bel work weekend, with all manner of tools and paint tins in the hallway! Some of the MAM(Midlands Association of Mountaineers) members had been taking advantage of a road closure which gave them a rare chance to pop up a ladder and paint the gable end of their hut, amongst other jobs. The tools were soon cleared up though allowing us to get on with our usual business.

On Saturday most of the party opted to do the same thing, a walk straight from the hut up onto the fells to the west of Coniston. A horseshoe route was taken, which included the summits of Wetherlam, Swirl Howe, Brim Fell and the Old Man of Coniston. Simon and Chris also made a



detour towards Great Carr finding the crash site of the Halifax Bomber LL505 - a plane which crashed during a night training exercise in 1944, taking the lives of all eight of its crew. The weather was fine through most of the walk although strong winds on the ridges made the going difficult in places. Meanwhile, Jan caught a bus to Skelwith Fold and made her way back to Coniston via Colwith Force and Hodge Close Quarry.

Summit shot of Miles, Julie, Andy, Chris and Simon

As per our usual winter Lakes eating arrangement, most of us enjoyed haggis, tatties and neeps for our evening meal (This year our Burns supper coincided exactly with Burns night). Big thanks to Mike who took charge of the meal. The rest of evening was spent in the rather chilly - despite an enormous wood burner - common room, chatting and taking part in an impromptu quiz, with Simon doing most of the questioning. Sunday saw Mike, Simon, Andy T and me opting for a walk up Holme Fell and an exploration of the impressive Parrock /Hodge Close Quarry. Miles, Julie, Chris and Adrian L stopped for a walk on the limestone escarpment of Whitbarrow.

Thanks go to Chris Wood for coordinating this meet at short notice.

Andy Bentley.

The Archive slot. Slovenia, July 10-17 2004.

This was a meet with a difference. For all the planning it had hiccups not least of which was an earthquake.

Before the earthquake though there was the discovery, only 7 days before departure, that you couldn't take a hire car across the border from Venice, Italy to Bovec in the Soca valley, Slovenia. Hence a couple of nights in Venice, a train journey to the border, a bus across the border and hire car pickup. Phew!

The drive from the border town of Gorica to Bovec was going without incident until the roadblock; a shallow earthquake of 5.1 on the Richter scale had caused a load of rockfall. We retired to a bar (well, what else would you do?) and waited for 5 hours before being able to continue the journey. In a car you can't actually feel the earthquake but for Martin Holmes who was dozing on his bed awaiting our arrival the earth definitely moved. 70 aftershocks were recorded and we felt quite a few of them. Bovec itself was the epicentre and suffered quite a bit of damage with 1100 properties affected including 250 made uninhabitable



From a mountaineering point of view all plans were out of the window.

No cable cars were operating and there was unstable rock all over the place so sticking to ridges was the main option and due to the travel issues we only had 4 days to explore the area.

Bernard Eyre and Pete McAree on an unpronounceable and unspellable heap of scree.

We made the best of it though and still had a good time. But what a meet!

Jan C

Member profile, Alastair Alexander who joined SMC in 2022 and is now on the committee.



Favourite mountain? Aran Fawddwy from the east. One of Dad's old mates lived nearby, so, as a kid, I watched the two of them climbing it many times while my sister and I played around the falls on its flank. Finally I was considered old enough to join them on what was my first proper hill walk.

Winter or summer? Winter

Walking poles or not? Pole on the way down.

Solo or with friends? Very different, both good.

Favourite drink after a day out? Pint of Jennings

Grid reference or what3words? Grid reference

Favourite bit of gear/kit? First Gortex jacket. A revelation.

Watch/phone/Garmin or paper map? Love paper maps, but my phone is waterproof.

Tent or hut? Tent or bivvy unless the hut serves food.

Mountain based aspirations? Finally visit Clwt-y-Bel (if it really exists)

Favourite rock climb? Haven't done much rock climbing but spent a great couple of days climbing pebbly limestone spines and towers in Súľ'ov, Slovakia.

Anything unusual about you that members might not know? No, unless that itself is unusual.

Proudest moment in the hills/on the crag? Don't really do pride. Probably most pleased not to have got stuck on Beinn a' Chuirn by myself in the winter when the plan went wrong.

What piece of mountaineering advice would you like to pass on? The map isn't wrong, and wishful thinking isn't thinking.

Cregennan Lakes (National Trust) or Llynau Cregennen (Welsh) Feb 8th 2026

An intrepid three, Lee Campbell, Mark Bayliss and I, left Radbrook to brave the clement Welsh weather. Just two overnighting vans on the National Trust car park so no problem parking. The sound of off-road motorbikes was ominous but other than a churned up footpath we did not see any other sign of them. There were views of Barmouth and the Mawddach estuary, but cloud sat on the tops.



Pared y Cefn-Hir.

As we followed a vague ridge line up over rough ground the cloud began to rise as did my heart rate. Lee reckoned reaching your maximum heart rate was like a car at maximum revs. You won't go any faster however hard you push the pedal. No doubt why I'm always last up the hill! By the time we had reached the forest edge on Braich Ddu the cloud base was well above our route. For the rest of the day, we had views of the Mawddach and the Rhinogydd beyond. A party of three walking the opposite direction passed us just before Craig-las. They, and two others on their way up to Cadair Idris, were the only people we saw all day.

There was a good profile view of the Cyfrwy Arete on the way down the Pony Path, something still on the bucket list.

A bit of road and track along with a rainbow and rain shower bought us back to Llynau Cregennen and the car.

Steve Lowe

Killin meet February 21st-28th 2026

February arrived and excitement mounted as the annual Scottish winter trip approached with WhatsApp increasingly busy as people organised transport, musical instruments and kit. And so it was that we all gathered at Morenish House near Killin on Feb 21st. The weather dominated conversation and plans as usual with about 12 people enthusiastically heading off for the Tarmachan ridge on the first day which was dry but too windy to reach the top. The rest of the week featured many lower level outings and bike rides avoiding wind and rain for the most part and these included the Falls of Moness at the Birks of Aberfeldy, Creag Bhuidhe directly above Killin, Beinn Leabhainn, 709m above Glen Ogle, and the Ben Lawers Nature Trail which Jan had worked on in 1981 whilst on a conservation working holiday. Finally, Friday was one of those calm, blue sky days and both Beinn Ghlas 1103m Ben Lawers 1214m and Meall nan Tarmachan 1044m were ticked off at the same time as Jan managed a charming little 'Graham' * called Craig Garbh (637m). This finally enabled people to don crampons, get out their ice axe and have some fun in the snow.

The last night culminated in some dressing up, a rousing address to the haggis by Phil and all followed by musical entertainment from Heather (classical guitar) and then the band of Jerry, Mark, Tom and Phil (guitars, mandolin, harmonica).



*Phil,
Andy,
Barbara,
Tom,
Emilie and
Sam on
Ben
Lawers*



Friday night entertainment.

Thanks to everyone for 'mucking in' and making the whole week as enjoyable as ever. After 23 successful meets I won't be putting my name to it again but very relieved to say that Jerry Adams has volunteered to take over and keep the traditions going.

It is Kingussie, Feb 6-13th in 2027.

Jan Campbell

- A Graham is a hill in Scotland between 2000 and 2,500ft in height and with a minimum prominence of 150m (492ft) on all sides



Barbara Cave

What a view! Tom Cave.

The 2025 Photo competition, organised by Graham Daly

Having given up his role as newsletter editor Graham volunteered to take over the photo competition from Gareth Egarr...and a good job he has made of it.

Congratulations not only to the winners but also to all who made it through to the final.

	Mountaineering	
Winner	Graham Baldry	Chris Wood on a via ferrata near Mayrhofen, Austria
Runner up	Miles Tight	Julie in the Italian Alps
finalist	Lee Campbell	Above the clouds on Cadair Idris
finalist	David Jakeman	In the Austrian Tyrol
finalist	David Jakemans	Via ferrata, Bavarian Alps
finalist	Cheryl Foster	View to Annapurna from Poon Hill, Nepal

	Landscape	
Winner	Liz Reeves	New Forest
Runner up	Phil Holden	The Portway in winter
finalist	Steve Turk	Rainbow in the Black Mts
finalist	Lee Campbell	Sunset over Yr Wyddfa
finalist	Graham Baldry	Seaside rock, Almeira, Spain
finalist	Graham Baldry	The 'cube' Austrian Tyrol

There were 31 entries in the mountaineering category and 44 in landscape so any photo making the final was in the top 20% of entries. Well done everyone.

At the AGM in January Mike Blakemore, stepped down from his role of Chair after a total of 12 years as an Officer of the Club. In his closing address he thanked by name, many of the members who have performed particular roles supporting the running of the club. He said that the Club had brought him great joy over the years, enabling the sharing of multifarious adventures with like-minded people. He noted that the Club has proved adaptable and resilient in the face of challenge and change, a feature that bodes well for its future.



Graham Baldry thanked Mike for his outstanding service and presented him with a bottle of vintage port garlanded with a 'Blakey extra loop' fashioned out of a length of jummar cord.

Mike Creese, as our new Chair, introduced himself to the membership.

Club email contacts

Role and Name/s	Contact for.....	Club email address
Membership Secretary Chris Wood	Member enquiries Notification of changes to your personal details, such address, phone number etc.	membership@shrewsburymc.com
Prospective member Secretary Alastair Alexander	Information about joining the Club	membership@shrewsburymc.com
Treasurer Graham Baldry	Financial matters such as payment of annual subscription and claiming expenses	treasurer@shrewsburymc.com
Meet card Lee Campbell	Matters relating to meet co-ordination	mail@shrewsburymc.com
Hut Bookings Cheryl Foster	Clwt-y-Bel bookings	bookings@shrewsburymc.com
Social media management Lee Campbell	Matters relating to Club WhatsApp, Facebook and Instagram	media@shrewsburymc.com
Secretary Julie Tight	General enquiries. Emails will be forwarded to the relevant person where appropriate	mail@shrewsburymc.com

Slide Night. Thursday 16th March 2026

Organised as usual by Phil and Brenda the Slide Night was again held in the congenial surroundings of the 'White Horse' pub in Pulverbatch.

The 30 or so members who attended were treated to seven presentations.

The list of speakers was:

Speaker	Subject
1. Gareth Egarr	Sleeping on Trail Walks
2. Emilie Roberts	The Witels, Kloofing in the Western Cape, South Africa
3. Phil Holden	France à Vélo. Cycling across France, St.Malo to Nice
4. Gareth Egarr	Iceland: nine things most people associate with it
5. Miles Tight	Italian Alps : Gran Paradiso National Park
6. Sam Lloyd	The Scottish Winter meet last month
7. n/a	2025 Photo Competition - all the pictures entered

1. Gareth Egarr Sleeping on Trail Walks

Gareth is an experienced walker on long distance routes, e.g. The Cape Wrath Trail. He gave a practical guide to choosing overnight locations, mainly but not exclusively camping. Using examples from his own experience we got an insight into the splendour of wild camping in remote locations. However, the better facilities available at a permanent campsite are appreciated every few days.

2. Emilie Roberts The Witels, Kloofing in the Western Cape, South Africa

Emilie had the audience engrossed with an account of her adventure back in Christmas 2011. Kloofing is a South African term relating to the exploration of steep sided river canyons in and out of the water. Unfortunately late in the trip one of the party disturbed a bee's nest and Emilie was violently stung by an angry swarm of bees. She did an emergency dive into the water to escape the attack, abandoning her rucksack on a ledge. It couldn't be retrieved until a much later date, with Emilie sporting a protective wet suit as insurance, in case the bees were still present.

3. Phil Holden La France à Vélo. Cycling across France from St.Malo to Nice

Phil comes across as quite a Francophile and he undertook this epic 1000 mile cycle tour across France in September 2025. It was partially work related as he planned the route to pass through 14 *parcs naturels*, regional nature parks which are the French equivalent of the British National Landscape areas with which Phil is professionally involved.

With this background he was able to arrange meetings on the way with some of his French employee equivalents. His route crossed several river valleys, including the Seine and the Rhone and there was much ascending to get across the watersheds. His daily grinding of the gears resulted in a badly swollen ankle. A variety of eye-catching photographs included both landscapes and regional architecture.

4. Gareth Egarr Nine things most people associate with Iceland

Gareth and Alenka had visited and explored Iceland in September. He grouped his photos under nine themes. These were 1. Vulcanicity, 2. Lava fields, 3. Glaciers/ Glaciation, 4. Waterfalls, 5. Whaling, 6. Thermal pools, 7. Northern Lights, 8. North American/ Eurasian plate boundary, 9. Bjork!

5. Miles Tight Grand Paradiso national park, Italian Alps.

Miles spoke about a trip he and Julie had made to the Italian Alps in September. One of the areas they explored was the Valnontey Valley which still exhibited the legacy of a major storm in July 2024. Thousands of tons of boulders had been washed downstream, closing some paths which may never reopen.

6. Sam Lloyd Scottish Winter meet, Killin, Central Highlands

Making his slide night debut Sam showed some photos he had taken on last month's meet. His principal theme was to show a landscape photo with people in it for each day of the meet. However the weather was that poor one day the only 'landscape' photo he managed was an indoors kitchen shot, with the people in view involved in meal preparation rather than mountain trekking! Fortunately, by Day Six the weather had sufficiently relented for an ascent of Ben Lawers, the tenth highest Munro.

7. 2025 photo competition entries

The evening concluded with a showing of all 75 images entered in the 2025 photo competition.

Thanks

Many thanks to the members who took the time to prepare and show their presentations in what was one of the most entertaining slide nights yet.

Thank you also to Phil and Brenda for their organisation in making the evening such a success.

Graham Daly

Llandegla, March 15th 2026.

A select group of 5 met up at the car park in Llandegla village ready for a potentially wet, muddy lowish level, shortish walk; Sam Lloyd, Miles and Julie Tight, Graham Daly and me.

The first section followed part of Offa's Dyke across fields and thankfully was not as muddy as when I had done a recce. We then made our way to the village of Llanarmon-yn-lal via a disused golf course where we stopped to admire what had been the bell which had been in a cut-away gas cylinder. Finding a cunningly hidden footpath between houses in the village took us out towards the hills of Moel y Plas and Moel y Waun although the summit views were somewhat lacking.

Also on our route was Tomen y Rhodwydd which was a short lived motte and bailey castle dating from 1149 although it was burnt down in 1157 .We headed on to some wonderful, secluded limestone outcrops nearer to Llandegla and also detoured to St Tecla's well which had a reputation for curing epilepsy so long as you slept in the church using a Bible as a pillow and clutching a chicken. (Google it!).

It was hardly mountaineering but at least it was healthy outdoor activity, we learned something and enjoyed our day.

Jan Campbell



Upcoming meets.

Note you MUST contact the meet coordinator to receive details of time and place.

Sunday March 29th. Snowdon /Yr Wyddfa horseshoe. A classic walk and Grade 1 scramble taking in Crib Goch, Garnedd Ugain, Snowdon and more. Approx 13kms + 10051m ascent. You need a head for heights.

Meet coordinator: Andy Bentley.

Sunday April 12th Cnicht and Moelwyn Mawr circular which is approximately 12 kms with some steep rough ground.

Meet coordinator: Matt Dunn.

April 17-19 Lowstern hut, Yorkshire Dales. 14 beds are booked and the cost will be £35 per head. Deadline for booking your bunk is April 3rd

Meet coordinator Julie Tight mail@shrewsburymc.com

April 24-26th CyB maintenance. The usual deep cleaning and painting with jobs to suit all skill levels + coal store roof repair, common room ceiling/roof repairs; raking out stone to extend car park area will require some people Friday afternoon.

Lunch will be provided for the workers on the Saturday. Please let Jan know if you'll be there re catering and what job(s) you may be interested in. For more job details ask Chris Wood.

Meet coordinator: Jan Campbell. Campj1@btinternet.com

www.shrewsburymc.com

May 1-4th May Day Bank Holiday weekend. Clwt y Bel is booked for members.

May 16-23rd Killarney, Ireland. Get your passport ready! Camping at Fleming's White Bridge, Killarney Holiday Park. Jan has already booked a mobile home and you are advised to book if your van/tent wants electricity. There is already a WhatsApp group for those going.

Meet coordinator: Lee Campbell

May 22-24 Stoney Middleton. Staying at the excellent Calswark Cottage which belongs to the Derbyshire Pennine Club. It sleeps 12 and there is a convenient pub across the road. Loads of gritstone and pleasant walking/cycling to be done nearby.

Meet coordinator: Andy Bound.

June 5-7th CyB based climbing weekend. Like last year, this is an excellent opportunity for people to refresh old skills, get up to date or even have a go at outdoor climbing for the first time.

Meet coordinator: Rozi James

Tuesday evening walking programme

Meet 7.30pm for the walk

Contact Mike Creese for further details:

michaelcreese@gmail.com or 07967 111661

When	Where	Grid ref	What3words
7 th April	Hope Bowdler layby	SO 468 932	sneezed.chase.diplomats
14 th April	The Bog car park	SO 357 978	skim.tapers.training
21 st April	Motte & Bailey, Pulverbath	SJ 422 022	croaking.tougher.spots
28 th April	Womerton	SO 458 972	items.gallons.collides
5 th May	Mitchell's Fold. Bend in the road	SO 302 977	activity.pointer.valued
12 th May	Gliding station, Long Mynd	SO 404 919	heartburn.visions.scanty
19 th May	Llanymynech public car park	SJ 266 209	openly.usage.shoelaces
26 th May	South of Poles Coppice	SJ 385 042	entrusted.woven.scared



Winner in the landscape category.

Congratulations to Liz Reeves who won with this photo taken in the New Forest in December last year. It was a clear winner with 41% of the first choice votes cast over the six images on the final shortlist in this category.