



2022

**ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE  
SWISS ALPINE CLUB**



Journal

## MEETS PROGRAMME 2022

Date	Meet and Venue	Meet Leader
January 11	North/South Day Meet	P Stock/A Burton
January 28-30	Annual Dinner and AGM, Glenridding	Julie Freemantle
February 8	North/South Day Meet	P Stock/A Burton
March 8	North/South Day Meet	P Stock/A Burton
April 8-10	Refresh/Improve Your Skills Meet, George Starkey Hut, Patterdale	Mary Eddowes
April 12	North/South Day Meet	P Stock/A Burton
April 14-18	Joint ABMSAC/AC Easter Meet George Starkey Hut Patterdale	Book your own
May 6-8	Peak District Meet Ollerbrook Farm Stables Bunkhouse, Edale	Andy Burton
May 22-28	Scottish Spring Meet, Braemar	Judy Renshaw
June 1-5	Rhyd Ddu. Oread Hut, N Wales	Ed Bramley
June 25-26	Cotswold Meet	Mike Goodyer
July 9-16	Alpine Hotel Meet Kandersteg Switzerland	Paul Stock
July 2-23	Joint Alpine Camping Meet Camping du Glacier D'Argentière	P McWhinney
September 3-9	Picos de Europa Meet, Casa Gustavo, Potes	Paul Stock
September 23-25	George Starkey Hut Maintenance Meet	Marian Parsons
September 24 - 26	Roving Meet, Reeth, N Yorkshire	David Clear
October 7-10	New Inn, Bwlch, Brecon Beacons	Paul Stock
October 21-23	Presidents Meet, GSH, Patterdale	Andy Burton
November 8	North/South Day Meet	P Stock/A Burton
December 13	North/South Day Meet	P Stock/A Burton
Dec 26 - Jan 2	ABM Twixmas/New Year Meet, George Starkey Hut, Patterdale	Book your own



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**2022 Meets Programme** - inside front cover

**Current Office Holders** - back cover

**Cover photo: On the way to Gowbarrow on Summer Lakes Meet - by Marcus Tierney**

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to this year's Journal. Once again the restrictions implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic in the UK and elsewhere severely changed everybody's plans for the year. If you think back to early last year (January 6 2021) full restrictions were again reinstated, the third lockdown.

The one piece of good news was the vaccination programme started on 16 January and rolled out across the age groups during the spring. The second jab was then rolled out 12 weeks later and the booster programme started on 16 September. By the end of the year most of our members had been offered two jabs and the booster.

Restrictions started to ease in England with outdoor gatherings of up to six people resuming from 29 March and we were able to start our day programme from April. From mid April pubs and restaurants were allowed to serve food outside and non essential shops reopened. In May two households were allowed to mix indoors, with the 'rule of six' in pubs.

On 19 July the final restrictions were lifted in England. The George Starkey Hut fully reopened, with attendees having to have a negative lateral flow test before arriving.

Travelling abroad had a series of changing restrictions over the summer and the Committee decided to cancel all the Meets abroad.

Increasing levels of Covid infection over the summer and autumn led to a mandatory wearing of masks in late November until 27 January this year. The all remaining restrictions were stopped in England from late February, when the 'living with Covid' protocols were introduced.



The UK element of the Meets Programme, put together with Paul and the Meet organisers largely survived, as described by the President overleaf. A new feature that we added to the website was offering a digital copy of the walks completed on meets. Here is QR link to the routes from Meets. Once you have clicked on your chosen walk you can download it in .gpx file format. This file can then be uploaded to your GPS, mobile or mapping software.

In the Journal, in addition to the Meet Reports, there are accounts of several members exploits over the year. It is good to see people making the most of a difficult time.

I would like to thank everybody who over the year has sent me news and reports and photos of meets, which I add to the website and/or Facebook. Don't forget that you can post your own activities on the group Facebook page, let me know if you want to join. The Journal uses the reports and a selection of photos from the website to record the year's activities.

I hope you enjoy the Journal.

*Mike Goodyer,*

*Editor, April 2022*



## PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS



2021 began with us having to cancel the first day walk in January, and our Annual Dinner celebration weekend at the beginning of February in the Ullswater valley. We managed to hold the AGM component by Zoom with about 30 Club members present which allowed us to complete the yearly administration of running the Club with the assistance of your long-standing and hard-working volunteer committee and all those present.

At the end of proceedings, I had the pleasure of thanking James and Belinda Baldwin for all the work they have done for the club over the years. In recognition of their service to ABMSAC donations have been made to three charities that they support. The Patterdale Mountain Rescue Centre, who will use the money to buy the team new Petzl headtorches, the Dartmoor Way CIC of which James is Chair and Blood Cancer UK (was Leukaemia), the latter in recognition of Belinda's work.

The February and March Day walks had to be cancelled, and Mary Eddowes New Members meet had to be moved to the 19<sup>th</sup> August weekend, but the next North/South day walk was able to go ahead on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April with 19 members attending at the Calver and Combe meeting places.

Heather Eddowes in her new role as Chair of the Hut Management Committee oversaw the re-opening of the Hut on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021, and Paul Stock added another North/South Day walk on the second Tuesday in May to the programme, which allowed 16 members to gather at Grindleford and Alderbury, and enjoy a day's walking in good company in our great outdoors.

Judy Renshaw's Braemar meet had to be postponed until this May.

The first weekend meet, albeit a month later than advertised, and camping rather than the usual bunkhouse accommodation, was enjoyed by ten of us at the start of June back at the Royal Oak in the Peak District. Thanks to Daniel Albert, our Covid-19 officer, for all his advice to get us there.

Ed Bramley's popular Rhyd Dhu meet had to be cancelled, but will be back in 2022 with a bumper platinum version. Two of the European meets had to be cancelled, and the Picos meet has been put back to September 2022.

By the end of June, we were back out again on a brand-new meet, both in style (two day walks) and destination, the Cotswolds, with both days being well attended, and ably run by your Editor.

With both the July and August North/South Day walks enjoying increased attendance, we were set to reengage with our UK-based programme. Starting with the re-arranged New Members meet, which again saw a couple of new members join the club, and others renew their membership. Thanks to Mary Eddowes for all her hard work on this meet which she has been running since 2015.

Then came the Hut Maintenance meet where members from both partner clubs worked hard to clean, paint and generally fettle the Hut back into shape after the various closedowns of the pandemic, moving onto the Picos Trek replacement at the Hut in early September, and the new Roving Meet, this year on the Isle of Purbeck at the Swanage Auberge at the end of the month.

On this meet Judy Renshaw agreed to come onto the Committee. As the bookkeeper for the Hut, plus her considerable experience in helping to run the TCC over the years, we feel certain she will be another great addition to the team.

In October we were allowed back to the New Inn at Bwlch, in the Brecon Beacons. A great venue where the bunkhouse and pub live side by side in the same building situated right in the join between the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons, with walks straight out of the door.

At the end of the month on my first Presidents meet back at the Hut everyone took part both on the hills and in the kitchen working with Andy Hayes, making for a great weekend in good company.

The November North/South day walk saw fourteen members walking in the hills from Ashford in the Water and the Uffington White Horse respectively.

The Winter Lecture series continue to be very well attended and enjoyed with the assistance of Zoom. Thanks to Don Hodge and the AAC team for making this all work.

The December North/South day walk again saw 14 members meet up at Cromford and Hindhead, and the Twixmas meet to round the year off back in Patterdale was well attended and great fun.

Four long-standing members died this year. Keith Dillon, an Affiliate since 1990, Geoff Urmston, an Affiliate since 1996, Edwin Hammond who joined the Monte Rosa (St. Maurice) Section in 1962, and Derwent Turnbull who joined the Geneva Section in 1965.

Having been on many of the meets myself the thing I take away each time is that it is great to be able to do all these things again even if we have to adapt to be able to do them safely, and that I am grateful for everyone who organises a meet, and all those who attend, for your continued support of the Association.

*Andy Burton,*

*April 2022*

# MEET REPORTS

## Overview of the 2021 activities

The UK element of the Meets Programme, put together with Paul and the Meet organisers largely survived. Travelling abroad had a series of changing restrictions over the summer and the Committee decided to cancel all the Meets abroad.

The Peak District Meet in June was changed to camping and the North Wales meet in July had to be cancelled because of the restrictions on meeting indoors. The day walks, started in 2020, were a great success with many members from both 'up North' and 'down South' coming along. A new feature that we added to the website was offering a digital copy of the walks completed on meets.

The reports of these activities are presented below.

## North/South Day Walk - April

### It's good to be out again – the north contingent meet up for a Peak District walk - by Ed Bramley

As I crested Curbar gap, the view into the Derwent valley opened up beneath me. A cool, crisp morning, with good



visibility and the prospect of a fine day. But I think we'd have been out, even if it was raining. Just good to be out and about again and the prospect of meeting up with a few friends.

The Insomnia café at Calver cross roads was our meeting point and watering hole to get us started, before heading out towards Stoney Middleton. Then it was a simple left into Coombs Dale, a lovely limestone dale wend-

ing its way slowly uphill for the next mile and a half. Evidence of the valley's mining past are all around, including the entrance to the abandoned Sallet Hole mine This adit, which was first driven in the 1800s, was finally closed in 1998 and was used to access fluorspar under Great Longstone, specifically Deep Rake, and there is evidence of where the original mine connected to those later opencast workings.



Steve, Dick and Ed ready for lunch

We take a quick breather at Black Harry Gate, before turning south onto Longstone Edge itself. A retrospect of the route reveals the massive settling ponds on top of the moor, complete with marquee – apparently something to do with the filming of the next “Mission Impossible” film – well, we’ll have to wait and see what that all about. At the edge we descend towards Great Longstone, but not before we take in the views and the wildlife; a kite overhead, and the possibility of buzzards in the distance, just feeling a great morning. Further on, we take a lunch break in a secluded dale, before recommencing our travels.

Heading North West, we follow the lines of other old mineral rakes in the area back towards Calver. The terrain is easy travelling, and lots of old industrial features to spot – we even come across a still open part of the rake in one patch of the undergrowth. Past a set of holiday cottages, with signs of life re-emerging from them. Over a mile of old

rakes and quarries, the sheer scale of the mineral extraction behind the screen of trees is staggering, particularly when you think this is only the minerals, and not the limestone as well.

A last pull up sees the vista of Calver and the Derwent valley open up again in front of us, Curbar and Froggatt edges standing out on the ridge line. Soon we are making the final descent down the back lanes into the village, where we each seek out our sustenance of choice, whether that is an afternoon tea, or an outside beer, now that lockdown easing has moved one stage on.

As Andy said when planning the walk – I was looking for a gentle walk that wasn’t going to be as popular as others in the area. I think you got it spot on for our first lockdown foray.

## **Romans, the Duke of Marlborough and cake - by Mike Goodyer**

On the Monday morning, the day before our walk in the Oxfordshire countryside we received this scene from our walk organiser, Margaret. Luckily all had cleared by the Tuesday morning and we had a glorious day of sunshine!

Six of us parked up at the Combe Community Hub and Margaret walked across the fields to join us in the sunshine. We set off on our 14.5 mile walk in two groups, with the ladies in front.

We walked across fields and through woods, following the Evenlode Valley, skirting East End to arrive at our morning coffee stop - North Leigh Roman Villa. There were extensive ruins, unfortunately the mosaic floor was not readily visible as the ‘shed’ housing it was shut.



We passed to the west of Stonesfield to the King's Wood, where we stopped for a quiet lunch in the shade, the bluebells were just starting to emerge.

Group in the Great Park with  
Column of Victory behind



In this area there is the Wychwood and the Oxfordshire Ways and we walked on parts of both ways to bring us to the Great Park of Blenheim.

We entered a park over a large ladder stile. The path then followed Akeman Street until we met the tree lined boulevard from Ditchley Gate. We followed this across the Park to the lake, passing the Column of Victory on the way.

The Great Park was the first time that we had seen any numbers of folks out, but it still wasn't busy. We stopped for the obligatory photos of the Palace, the Grand Bridge and the Harry Potter tree and then followed the lake side and up through the woods.

Lake and Grand Bridge with the Palace beyond



After passing Park Farm by a circuitous footpath we arrived back in Combe at the Reading Room and Coffee Shop for afternoon tea. We were thoroughly spoilt at the end with tea and cakes, kindly made by Margaret.



## North/South Day Walk - May

### Walking along the Derbyshire edges – a trip down memory lane - by Ed Bramley

We met at Grindleford station café and ordered pints of tea, and the mind went back to half a century ago when, as a teenager undertaking my DofE and was climbing on the edges most weekends, I had first visited this iconic place. Back then, there was a booking hall window where you ordered your meal, and the proprietors were the elderly man

who once operated the signal box, and his wife. And a large breakfast with a pint of tea was only 50p.



But enough of these reminiscences. Our walk starts with a climb, up and onto the level of the edges that dominate the landscape, with a good track running south for four miles, right the way to our lunch stop.

Once onto the edges, we stop by the first boulder and several of us indulge in climbing about on it, and also sampling the view northwards up the Derwent valley, looking towards the double peak summit that is Win Hill. The weather is surprisingly mild after the cold turns we have experienced in recent weeks and we make the most of it. Before we reach Froggatt edge, we spot a small herd of deer on the moor just behind the edge. There are a few people out climbing on the edge, but Valkyrie pinnacle is not on anybody's list when we arrive.

The massif of Curbar edge is the next block of gritstone we pass by, its many routes hidden from view as we pass above the crag. Soon we have arrived at Curbar gap, and I'm reminiscing to another of the group about a detective book I've just read that is centred on this whole area.

Already in the distance we can see the Eagle stone sitting atop Baslow edge, and it's not long before we have arrived there. Another memory of soloing up this 20 foot high boulder (not to mention reversing the route for the descent) in my younger days, but definitely not today. In days gone by, it was a test young men to climb the boulder to prove their fitness for marriage! Almost immediately, we arrive at our lunch stop, the Wellington monument, which overlooks Baslow and the Chatsworth estate, although a selective lopping of some of the birch scrub would reveal both the monument and the vista even better.



Looking South from Curbar Edge



After our lunch stop, the path makes a slow descending traverse to Curbar and Calver and behind and to the side of us, we can see an ominous wall of grey over the Chatsworth estate. Despite a few spots, the body of the shower passes over Stoney Middleton, the dark grey curtain accompanied by several cracks of thunder. PHOTO 5 Our path then resorts to road for a short while, descending to Calver and the river Derwent, where Marcus is lucky enough to spot a kingfisher.

As we head up the track to Calver Mill, the rain returns with a vengeance, and it's quickly waterproofs on for everybody. The old mill once featured in the 1970's TV series about Colditz, and a little further upstream we come across the mill weir itself. A massive reverse S shape, which is over 11 ft high.

Crossing the bridge at Froggatt, we initially have more field walking before reaching the woodlands around Froggatt, with their twisting laid paths. Couple with the open woodland, it's a joy to walk on and we are shielded from the worst of the rain. By the time we get to the last bridge, at Grindleford, the rain is starting to ease and we are just left with a climb back up the road to the café, which we make in good time for last orders.

When you look round at the smiling faces and listen to the banter, you wouldn't think we'd spent the last hour or so in a downpour!

*Attendees: Ed Bramley, Andy Burton, Steve Caulton, Heather Eddowes, Dave Matthews, Ian Mateer, Dick Murton, Lyn Wariss, Michele Pulford and Marcus Tierney.*



## Wiltshire 'wildlife' walk - by Julie Freemantle

The Southern group met up for their May walk at Alderbury near Salisbury, the home village of Julie Freemantle who was the leading the walk for the day.

We had a good turn out with Mike Goodyer, Margaret Moore, Mike O'Dwyer, Judy Renshaw, Paul Stock and Paul's friend and prospective new member Mitch Sneddon.

Pepperbox Hill



The walk took us out of the village (past Julie's new house!), across Witherington Down and up to Pepperbox Hill (avoiding getting run over whilst crossing the very busy A36).

Pepperbox Hill is topped by an early example of a brick folly. Thought to have been built by Giles Eyre of Brickworth House, it may have served as a viewpoint for ladies following the hunt, a haunt for highwaymen and a lookout post for the home guard.

We took advantage of the great views down to Salisbury and had a coffee break keeping a wary eye on the small herd of cows that was grazing around the Pepperbox.

From there it was a walk along the ridge, which unfortunately was spoiled by the piles of rubbish that had been fly-tipped at regular intervals. We then took a path south off the ridge into the small village of Whiteparish, through some woods where we saw the first of many carpets of bluebells.

From Whiteparish we headed through farm land, past horses, a fat pig in a sty and some very friendly donkeys, back across the A36, past a quarry and onto Moor and Titchborne Farm. After crossing one field Mike took a



detour into the adjacent field and proceeded to be followed by a very large herd of cows who were far too lively for the rest of us so we kept our distance! Mike definitely has new career as a 'cow whisperer'!

We stopped for lunch amongst the bluebells at Hanghill Copse and then made our way west to Barford Down where we got more great views of Salisbury and surrounding areas.



From there we made our way down to Barford Park, which Paul was very familiar with as he has been fishing on the River Avon there on quite a few occasions.

For our naval companions today (Paul and Mitch) we then called into Standlynch Chapel which is the private Chapel of Trafalgar House, a Grade 1 listed house which was gifted to the heirs of Admiral Lord Nelson to commemorate the Battle of Trafalgar.

We then walked through Trafalgar Park, getting a glimpse of Trafalgar House and then from there it was back down the dismantled railway track to Alderbury. We heard a cuckoo much to Judy's

delight and saw a very pretty brightly coloured bird which none of us could identify - subsequent interrogations by Mike of his bird book suggest that it was a Goldcrest.

A quick pit stop at the Green Dragon Pub for beer, tea and cake which was cut short after the rain which we had managed to avoid all day came pouring down!

A lovely walk with plenty of views and wildlife 16.5 miles in length with an ascent of 1400 metres.



Standlynch Chapel



## Peak District Meet, 4 - 6 June - by Andy Burton

This year's Peak meet was preceded by an additional layer of Covid-19 admin in line with the BMC guidelines, which was ably monitored by our newest Committee member Daniel Albert in his volunteer role.



Camping became the only real option. Two walks directly from the campsite along less popular footpaths were planned. A 3-metre square gazebo was purchased and a couple of camping gaz stoves were dusted off in order to allow those travelling light to have somewhere to sit outside and cook without having to schlep it all with them, and be socially distanced as is the current norm.

Thanks to Mike Goodyer for bringing half the stuff up from Wiltshire, and helping me set it all up on Friday afternoon before everyone else arrived, and taking it all down again on the Sunday too.

Mike and I even managed a great little cycle ride along the trail into Hartington village and then back up the upper Dove valley past the Pilsbury motte and bailey castle site with a brief look to see if the Packhorse at Crowdecote was still going, which it was but not open at that time, and a look at Aldery Cliff, the BMC owned crag in the road gap before wending our way over the hill and back



Resting at Pilsbury Castle



down to the Royal Oak at Hurdlow, in time to meet everyone else, and enjoy an outdoor fish and chip supper together.

Saturday's walk started from the tents along the High Peak trail to its northern end and skirted round the edge of the massive limestone quarry at Hindlow, across a series of hay fields in various stages of being cut, dried and harvested.

### Leaving Earl Sterndale



As we approached High Wheeldon, 422 m. we dropped down into the village of Earl Sterndale. Here we found the quaint old Quiet Woman pub closed until further notice. We mused on the loss to the community as we made our way around the building back onto the footpath that leads down to the road and across and up onto Parkhouse Hill.

Here at the farm situated at the foot of the hill the farmers had corralled all the sheep ready for shearing, complete with all their lambs in tow. The combined bleating and baaing remained the dominant sound until we had climbed well up above and away from the shearing pens.



Looking back to Parkhouse Hill



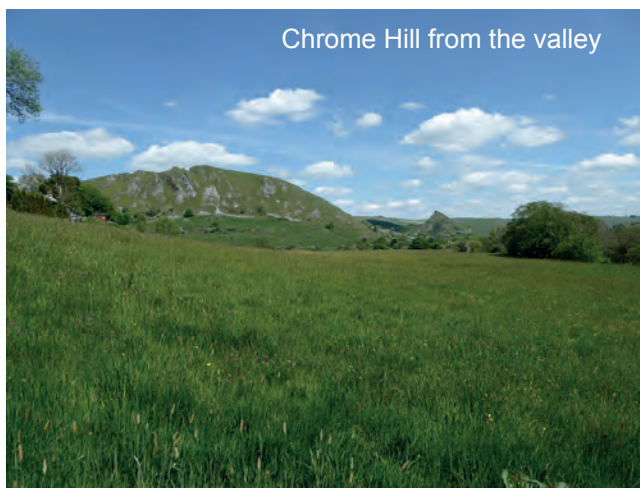
We climbed steeply up to the top of Parkhouse, 360 m, the first of two reef knolls which are believed to have existed during the Carboniferous period when the Peak District was covered by a tropical sea. (I usually rely on Ed to refresh our knowledge of things geological, but because he was not able to be with us, I have had to look it up).



With all-round blue-sky views we continued onto Chrome Hill, 425m, where comestibles were consumed whilst enjoying the views both through a large part of the White Peak and across to the more brooding Staffordshire moorland.

We then walked around Hollins Hill into the inner valley where the infant River Dove comes from its source nearby at Dove Head under Axe Edge with great views across vibrant wildflower meadows to the southwestern flanks of the two former atolls we had climbed earlier. Continuing back out onto the same fields with their sheep now all feeding quietly with their lambs, but all the ewes looking very shorn.

The way back was punctuated by one slight route change to visit the homemade ice cream shop within the Pomeroy farm and campsite.



Dinner was enjoyed by all those camping, in the Oak Room, and the evening finished with us all sat around the glowing embers of a firepit chatting under the stars until the pleasure of sleeping under canvas once again called time.

Sunday morning the forecast rain came early, and was heavier than we had hoped for, but with Steve Caulton arriving for breakfast and saying it wasn't raining at Mansfield, a later break in the weather seemed likely.

By 11am the decision to strike camp was made. With everything safely packed/squeezed into our cars, we set off up the trail and headed off east up to the Bull int' Thorn, where a late morning coffee and cake was enjoyed, before walking down into Monyash, making our way through the grounds of the church situated at the back of the sizeable village pond, past Fern Dale, heading for the Neolithic henge monument at Arbor Low with its companion Barrow at Gib Hill. This atmospheric location with its fallen stone circle and surrounding earthworks, currently swathed in a carpet of



buttercups and other wildflowers, with a resident pair of curlews that called us in on our approach, was our late lunch stop. The extensive views under a still quite lowering sky were enjoyed quietly by each person in their own way as befits such an ancient site.

As we began walking back to the trail near Parsley Hay the sun properly broke though



again, allowing everyone to arrive back fairly dried out, and ready for their different commutes home.

Steve and I saw everyone away and sat and had a cuppa in the early evening sunshine reflecting on how great it was to be able to do this sort of thing again in the hills, and how much we enjoyed everyone's company.



Thanks to everyone who attended, and to Josh, Marshall and the team at the Royal Oak, for making it all work, flexing with all the changes thrown at them, for our umpteenth annual visit to this lovely little place.

*Attendees: Judy Renshaw, Mike Goodyer, Mary Eddowes, Celine Gagnon, Martha King, Jane Poole, Andy Burton . Saturday visitors : Michele Pulford, Mike and Margaret O'Dwyer. Sunday visitor : Steve Caulton.*



## Cotswolds Meet, 26 and 27 June - by Mike Goodyer

### Stanton and Snowhill round - Saturday

This new addition to the meet calendar was designed as two one day meets over weekend. We had a total of 16 members and guests attend over the two days. The weather was kind to us and the promised rain held off during the walks, although it rained very soon after finishing Sundays walk.



Ready for the off from Stanton

Several of the group had not met up with each other since the Annual Dinner early in 2020. In addition it was an opportunity for new member Mitch and his partner to meet a few more members. The Cotswolds was a new area for several in the group and today's walk would show off the pretty villages that the area is famous for.

We set off through the village of Stanton and quickly joined the Cotswold Way heading towards Stanway.

We passed perhaps the only thatched cricket pavilion as we entered the village.



The rich colour of the stone was a feature of Stanway.

We walked through the village and set off up the only real hill of the day.



Gatehouse to Stanway Manor



At the top of the hill we have wide ranging views across to Broadway tower. A gentle descent took us to the beautiful village of Snowhill and lunch.



The Snowhill Arms was very welcoming with a lovely sunny beer garden and a range of Donnington Ales!



Suitably refreshed we left the village and headed onto the Winchcombe Way through woods and then towards Laverton - with a quick look on the map to make sure we took the right path.



Which way now?



Stanton and market cross

We were shortly back at Stanton. Afternoon refreshments were taken at the Mount Inn (up a steep hill) on the outskirts of the village, before everyone went their separate ways. Several members were coming along for the Sunday walk as well. Today's walk was around 8.5 miles with 1200 ft of ascent.

### **Seven Springs round - Sunday**

The walk today set off along the Cotswold Way around the escarpment above Cheltenham to Leckhampton Hill.



Sundays group ready for the off from Seven Springs



View from the escarpment



The views were extensive, but slightly misty from the escarpment. A coffee stop was taken at the viewpoint on Leckhampton Hill.

After a short break we continued along the escarpment, taking in the views and enjoying the profusion of wild flowers including orchids. We dropped off the path slightly to see the Devils Chimney - a classic viewpoint of the Cotswold Way.

Devils Chimney

We arrived at Crickley Hill Country Park for lunch. Some people took advantage of the cafe and toilets. After a restful break we continued along the Cotswold Way. We had a good view across the valley of the downhill mountain bike centre on the side of Birdlip.

The next part of the walk was the most exciting - crossing the road at the Air Balloon roundabout! A kindly motorist stopped and let us all cross. After another short dash across the next road we were all safely on the Gloucestershire Way.

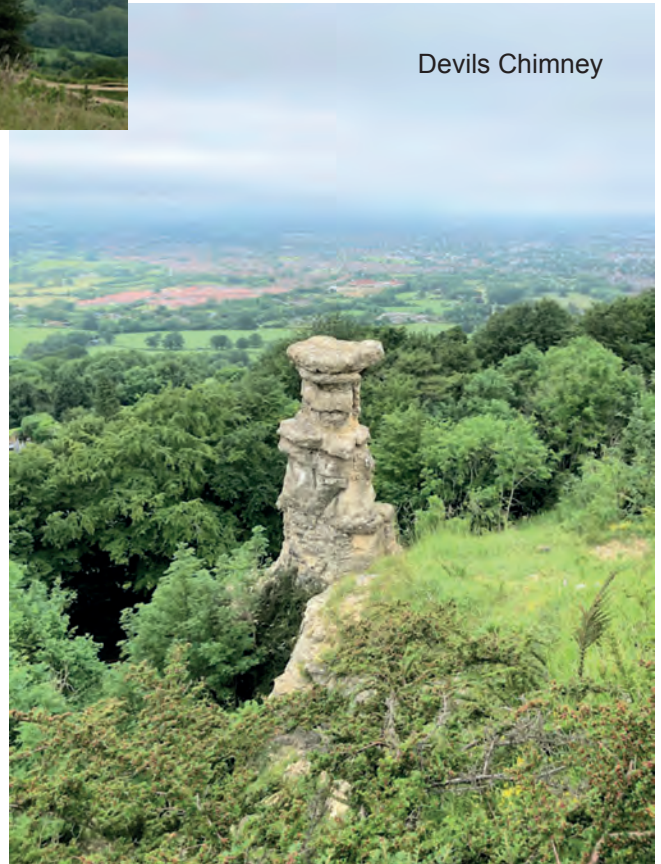
Once we were on the Gloucestershire Way we were walking along fields and green lanes on the short walk back to Seven Springs.

We were all safely back at Seven Springs by late afternoon and the forecasted rain didn't appear.

Although a couple of members doubted they would go the full distance everybody finished in good spirits. The walk was around 9.5 miles and 900 ft of ascent.

Several people drifted off to the pub for refreshments before returning home.

Report by Mike Goodyer, photos from Mike, Mitch, Martha, Judy and Andy.



*Attendees: Andy Burton, Paul Stock, Mike and Margaret O'Dwyer, Mitch Sneddon plus Sue, Judy Renshaw plus Jeanie, Mike Goodyer, Heather Eddowes, Margaret Moore, Barbara Swindin, and Martha King plus Paul, Carrie, Becca*

## North Day Walk - July - by Andy Burton



Heather and Steve find the way

Tuesday at 10am saw 12 members park up at the Mam Tor Nick National Trust car park.

After introducing three new faces to the usual suspects, we all set off up Mam Tor just as the mizzling cloud that had shrouded the higher hilltops started to clear.

By the time we had reached the top of the Shivering Mountain we were afforded clearing views into both the Edale and Hope valleys.

The Peak Cavern opening, which is the largest cave entrance in Britain, with the ruin of the 11<sup>th</sup> Century Peveril Castle sat above it was clear to see as we walked along the ridge.

This castle featured in Sir Walter Scott's longest novel, Peveril of the Peak.

From Hollins Cross up onto Back Tor great progress had been made in repairing the path since most of us had walked that way last. By the time we got to Lose Hill and then down into Hope, Martin and Pat had taken an alternative path across the fields to Castleton, whilst the rest of us lunched in the grounds of Hope parish church in the sun.

Taking the bridge over the Peakshole Water, named because it runs from below Mam Tor and through the caverns until it joins with the River Noe just below Hope, we continued across the fields in front of the cement works (Home of the Edale Mountain Rescue Team) and into Castleton making our way through the side streets to the old village square and into the well-hidden Cave Dale.



Group at Hollins Cross

Here we walked underneath Peveril Castle with a clear view of the garderobe in the south-east face of the keep, (think toilet suspended over a long drop) and carried on up past the air vents from the Peak cavern with their



mechanical sounding cool draft into the narrows before turning sharp right and traversing up out onto the grassy moorland above the castle itself.

Here Ian set off in search of the entrance to Titan whilst Marcus regaled us with the story of the finding of this massive underground limestone cave formation.

Passing alongside and through a series of the old lead mining rakes we ended up walking on the little road past Rowter Farm and across the fields inhabited by a mix of sheep flocks and smaller herds of cattle in front of Mam Tor back to the car park.

Attendees were: Martin Whitaker, Pat Cocks, Pete Hammond, Dick Murton, Lyn Warriss, Heather Eddowes, Dave Matthews, Steve Caulton, Andy Burton, Ian Mateer, Michele Pulford and the walk organiser Marcus Tierney.

## South day Walk, July - East Meon Round, Hampshire - by *Paul Stock*



The group just below Salt Hill

We started at East Meon and made our way up a steep path to the summit of Salt Hill to join the South Downs Way.

We then followed the South Downs Way towards Winchester, via Winchester Hill Fort and Beacon Hill. On arrival at Winchester Hill Fort we visited the pop up coffee wagon for refreshments.



On the way to the hill fort



Between the Hill Fort and Beacon Hill we stopped for a lunchtime beer at the Shoe Inn.

Lunch was taken on top of Beacon Hill with great views towards the Solent and the Isle of Wight. After lunch we went down the opposite side of Beacon Hill to Warnford. Past the watercress beds which it is famous for and through a few undulating fields to West Meon.

From here we headed east through more arable fields, wooded hillsides and some more fields to return to East Meon.

17.5 miles and 2400 ft of ascent. Not too shabby.

Attendees were: Mike Goodyer, Mitch Snedden, Margaret Moore and Paul Stock.

## North/South Day walk - August

### Youlgreave , Peak District - by Andy Burton

We all met at the renovated and extended yet still free (but donations appreciated) Coldwell End car park, on the western outskirts of Youlgreave.



Clapper bridge across the River Bradford

We set off down to the River Bradford before continuing along this lovely river valley to a point where we joined the Limestone Way briefly before striking uphill towards Harthill Moor Farm with its neighbouring Castle Ring.

Harthill Moor is a rich prehistoric landscape with several protected Scheduled Ancient Monuments. Crossing the road, after helping an elderly man from the farm start his lawnmower brought the Nine Stones Close Bronze Age stone circle and separate standing stone into view.



Here we walked between the ancient stones and the much older parent rocks of Robin Hood's Stride (also called Mock Beggar Hall?), very busy with boulderers and their mats. At the side of the woods containing the Hermit's cave we caught glimpses of the much larger Cratcliffe Tor, which provides more challenging rock climbing with over 200 graded routes.

On reaching the road we did a little zigzag to gain a path on the other side that took us up and round Rocking Stone Farm and alongside Birchover Wood to cross the road again and drop down to the ancient stone paths that lead to and from Winster.



Leaving Elton

We had lunch at the newly completed play area/fitness park tucked away below the village, before wending our way through the village past the church and through at the side of the cemetery to re-join the Limestone Way, before turning left into Elton to avoid the normally very boggy path round the back of Elton.

Here we again negotiated a little zigzag in the village back street to find the actual footpaths out of the village. Expansive views opened out towards Gratton Moor and Middleton as we crested the hill and walked down to the road. Then back up Cliff Road to

the site of the spring water troughs at the edge of the former Bury Cliffe quarry that up until 1940 provided fresh water for the village of Elton.

Here some exploring was done as we made our way cross the in parts marshy landscape to Rock Farm with its stand of large old Scots pine trees towering above. With a bend in the road having pushed the recent heavy rains across the footpath causing some alternative diversions to be used, we eventually ended up back on the banks of the River Bradford where we made our way up the gently shelving footpath through the trees back up to the road close to where we had parked the cars.

Today's 10-mile stride in perfect walking weather was enjoyed by seven members.

Youlgreave coming into view



Pausing for breath at the stones



## Wheeler End Common, Chilterns - by Judy Renshaw

Five club members met for the August walk, after two had had to drop out at the last minute due to family commitments. We were lucky to have the best day of the week for weather, with no rain and enough warmth and sunshine for shorts. We met at Wheeler End Common, just west of High Wycombe, and set off after being asked to move our cars away from the common but nearer to the pub (which turned out to be an advantage at the end!).



Mausoleum from on the way to Bradenham

We went a short way down the road then across fields, over two ridges to the villages of Bradenham and Naphill.

From there the numerous paths through woods required some assisted navigation with GPS as well as map and compass (much harder to navigate in Southern woodlands than in the mountains!) and into the grounds of Hughenden Manor.

This was the home of Benjamin Disraeli, Prime Minister to Queen Victoria. There we had a lunch stop with good views and a special log seat large enough to take everyone.

We continued via a viewpoint with a monument to Isaac D'Israeli, Benjamin's father, then through woods and around the edges of High Wycombe to West Wycombe. At this point one of the party stopped at the Hellfire Caves café to rest a problematic knee while the others ascended the hill to the mausoleum and returned over a few more hills to Wheeler End Common.

After some car shuffling most of us were able to stop briefly for refreshments at the Chequers pub.

The total distance had been approximately 15 miles (24 Km) with 575m ascent, an enjoyable day out, in good company as usual.

Monument at the viewpoint, with Hughenden Manor in the background



Present: Margaret Moore, Mike Goodyer, Mike O'Dwyer, Mitch Sneddon, Judy Renshaw

## George Starkey Hut maintenance meet, August - by Marian Parsons

We were very fortunate to have dry calm weather which helped us do outdoor jobs as well as indoor ones.

Marian (the Hut Warden) had prepared lists of tasks, of which many were of a routine annual deep cleaning variety. Much dusting, cleaning, scrubbing and tidying was attacked with vigour, including the dreaded cupboards which had acquired a layer of dirty mould on the walls. Tony attacked the job with his usual enthusiasm, while Suzanne polished the cobwebby window frames outside until the spiders positively glowed. She did much the same with the hearth, but no spiders benefited.



Artist at work

Paint was applied to the bare areas on the mens' dormitory ceiling and the washroom ceiling where repairs had recently been made. Marta had a particular flair for wielding the paint brush liberally wherever there was a scar or a mucky bit of wall, while Graham and Sharon scoured out the drying room to a sparkling finish. Paul and Judy sorted out the kitchen and gave it a good spring-clean, and Mike Dunn cleaned, scrubbed and polished the dormitories and washrooms, after clearing out the gutters.

Heather gave the new kitchen fire door multiple coats of varnish, as the bare wood was actually quite nice and paint would have added unwanted thickness anyway. The front door had to have some filler and paint too, as it was scarred and weathered with layers of paint lifting here and there.

Don, our hut maintenance guru of long standing, was more or less everywhere at once, beginning with pruning the trees round the car park, and moving in to address all sorts of fiddly maintenance jobs and problem areas that only he understands how to fix!

Everyone did more tasks than I can put their names to, since I seem to have lost the tick list, but we finished with a nice sociable meal on Saturday night, and by then everything had been ticked off.

Many thanks to these kind folk who turned up to help make the Hut so much nicer for everyone.



Attendees: Don Hodge, Judy Renshaw, Paul Hudson, Mike Dunn, Marta Mills (prospective new member), Heather Eddowes, Tony Westcott, Suzanne Strawther, Graham Uney, Sharon Kennedy, Mike Parsons, Marian Parsons.



## New members Meet GSH, August - by Mary Eddowes

Mary, Nan and prospective new member Laurel arrived in the hut on Thursday evening to the warm treat of an Andy Burton 'El President Pasta bake' and a lovely bottle of red. It was the perfect way to begin the first new members meet since spring 2019. A trip to the fells was certainly a long time coming for the majority of us.



With the usual evening poring over maps and route planning chat, it was agreed that the next day the four of us would walk from the hut up to Angle Tarn via the Hause at Boredale, with a view to going for a swim in the tarn should the conditions suit.

Friday morning brought a slight inversion with patches of pale blue sky down alongside the Goldrill Beck. With the promise of an improving forecast later on in the day we set off up to the tarn, which greeted us with a cool moody raiment that couldn't quite tempt anyone for a swim.

Early Friday morning

Continuing on up through the Knott and turning left at the Straits of Riggindale onto the Roman Road (High Street) we took the path off right up to Kidsty Pike at 780 metres. Here we had lunch overlooking Riggindale which cleared so we could see both the herd of around 60 red deer grazing on the slopes directly below us and out to Haweswater and the path over Gatescarth Pass towards Longsleddale.

It was a pleasure to sit amongst the moss and lichen covered rocks, and drink in the views all around us, almost witnessing them anew. Reluctantly we left our lofty craggy perch and retraced our steps back to Angle Tarn where Mary, Nan and Laurel carried at the water's edge as a group of wild campers started to pitch up nearby.

Enjoying the view at lunchtime





We returned back to the Hut and Patterdale just in time to get into the White Lion and secure a couple of tables with Heather leading the way. The rest of the party, still travelling along the Friday motorways of Britain, were hungrily anticipating the infamous fish and chips, curly Cumberland and local ale awaiting in the cosy pub.

The group steadily grew to a total of 13. Meals and drinks of choice were provided for everyone, not always a given in the post Covid-19 era of pubs doing their best with either limited or no staff from time to time. It felt quite surreal to be altogether in the physical after so long apart and having mostly only seen each other on screens for 18 months. Friday night was a hearty homecoming to the Patterdale regulars and a warm welcome to faces new the area and the club.

On the rainy Saturday morning two separate groups emerged from the hut bunks, one going with Mike Parsons up St. Sunday Crag to look for the Brothers Parting Stone situated en route.

Cheery group on Saturday morning



The other staying beneath the low cloud and drizzle, heading for the Glenridding pier to catch the 9.45 am ferry to Howtown. This group took their time to walk back along the lakeside path, through Sandwick and under Place Fell, stopping to read stone carved poetry, eat soggy picnics and delicious ice cream, and then finally have a swim and lakeside beach snooze with the swans near Silver crag. The group higher up enjoyed discovering Mike's off piste paths, bog navigation and then fantastic views of the valley once the clouds parted.





The traditional Saturday evening meal was butternut squash curry prepared by Mary and friends and enjoyed by all.

After dinner Mike Parsons gave an interesting talk on how to choose your clothing for a day out on the fells, answering questions and explaining the different properties of traditional and modern day materials used in outdoor gear. Then for some board games fun and cosy chat before a not too late night to bed for all.

On Sunday morning, most people made their way up to Kirkstone Pass for a short excursion up to Stoney Cove Pike along St. Ravens Edge. Worth it for the views out along Windermere to the coast at Barrow and beyond, as well as the views back into the mountains where everyone had been enjoying themselves during the previous couple

of days. Tired legs and energised souls made their way home after this much needed time in the Ullswater valley.



There were four expressions of interest in joining the ABMSAC from attendees, plus two post pandemic membership renewals; the icing on the cake of another excellent New Members Meet in 2021.

Welcome back everyone!

Thanks to Heather, Daniel, Mike and Marian for your help and support in making it such an enjoyable weekend.

Meet attendees: Andy Burton, Nanette Archer, Laurell Turner, Mary Eddowes, Simon Palmer, John Aouad, Heather Eddowes, Daniel Albert, Karen Dickinson, Rachel Howlett, Martha King, Paul Clarke, Mike Parsons, Marian Parsons

*Additional reporting by Andy Burton*



## Lake District (Picos Replacement) Meet, September - by Paul Stock

At last a meet at the hut, my first for 21 months. It was very nice to be there after such a long break. We arrived on Sunday evening in the sunshine and quickly settled in with a very nice chilli con carne made by Mike Goodyer and a couple of glasses of red wine.



On the Ullswater Way

On Monday morning we arranged to meet the non hut dwelling meet attendees at the Glenridding pier to catch the earliest ferry to Aira Force. The skies were cloudy with occasional peaks of sunshine. We set off along the new Ullswater circular path towards Swinburn's Park passing the memorial seat above Yew Crag. Close to the shooting lodge we turned west and headed to the summit of Gowbarrow for our first coffee stop. The views from here are truly spectacular and with the visibility towards the Helvellyn range shrouded in spectral cloud Catstye Cam stood out really well. After Coffee we make

our way down a rather well trodden path to Dockray. In fact, so well trodden that a team from 'Fix the Fells' were hard at work trying to repair it. We had lunch and some refreshments at the pub in Dockray.

After lunch we took the path over Watermillock Common to the mouth of the Glencoyne valley. We traversed around the head of the valley to Nick Head. The path was an absolute treat and gave us some great views.

From here we passed over Sheffield Pike, Heron Pike and Glenridding Dodd and down into Glenridding to follow the roadside path back to the hut. The evening was spent contemplating our next folly whilst devouring a home made Spaghetti Bolognese with a few glasses of red wine.

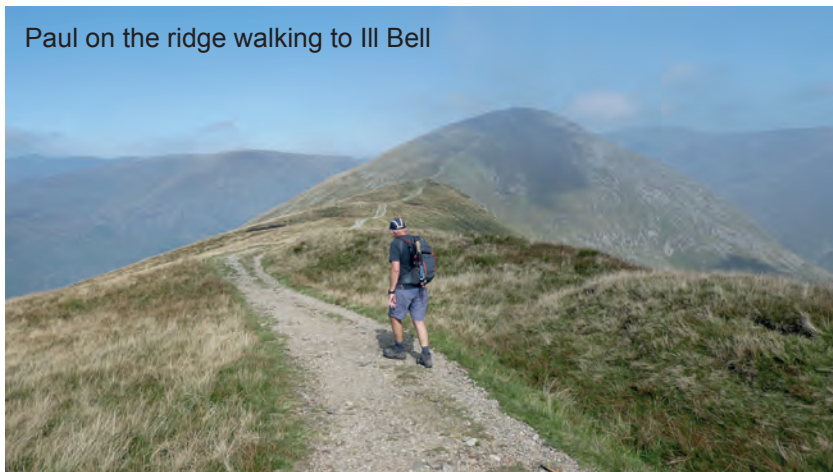


Upper Glencoyne path

On Tuesday morning we set off from the hut for a short drive to Troutbeck to begin our ascent of the western side of the Kentmere horseshoe walk. We followed the old cart track up to Garburn Pass. At Garburn Pass we took the



Paul on the ridge walking to Ill Bell



Kentmere Horseshoe path over Yoke, Illbell, Frostwick and on to Thornthwaite Crag. At the Beacon we stopped for lunch as it was the only place we could feel a slight breeze to ease the blazing sun and prevent us from being fly ridden.

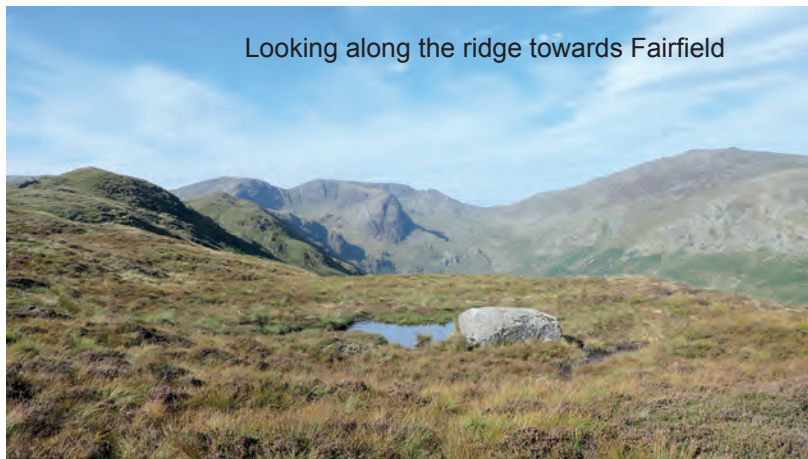
After that quick pit stop we descended to Thornthwaite Mouth and followed the stream down to Park Head Fell. From here we took a very faint path to meet the Roman Road descending from between Thornthwaite Crag and Frostwick. We followed this all the way back to Troutbeck. The heat in that valley was incredible and

certainly made us very thirsty as we stopped for some refreshments at the Mortal Man on our return to the hut.

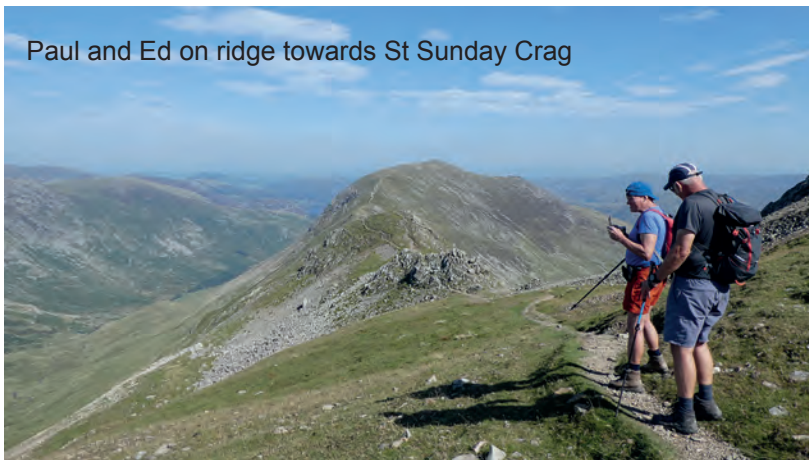
Tuesday evening we settled in for a lasagne made by the club President.

On Wednesday we opted for another assisted start and purloined a lift from Andy Burton to Bridgend. From here we took the path along the Hartsop above How ridge to the summit of Hart Crag. On arrival at the summit we were afforded some tremendous views across the Lakes in all directions. We followed the path

Looking along the ridge towards Fairfield



Paul and Ed on ridge towards St Sunday Crag



to Fairfield via Link Hause and Scrubby Crag. We took lunch at one of the shelters on the top of Fairfield in the warm sunshine.

After lunch we descended to Deepdale Hause via Cofa Pike and onwards to the summit of St Sunday Crag. We diverted from the usual descent from St Sunday Crag to take in Gavel Pike. From the bottom of the engineered path from the Birks we turned South East and followed the path to the rear of the Patterdale Hotel. As it had been a warm day we felt the need for some refreshments in the beer



garden of the White Lion. On return to the hut we were rewarded with a splendid pasta dish from Ed Bramley washed down with a couple of wines, of course.

On Thursday, as the weather forecast not being as kind as the previous days and the need for an early departure for home for Mike Goodyer and I, we opted for a swift walk over Lantys Tarn and followed the water course path to Greenside mines and back to the hut. An old favourite when the weather isn't too good.

Although we couldn't enjoy the trip to the Picos Mountains as was in the original 2021 meets calendar the Lake District didn't disappoint us. Many thanks to all who turned up and enjoyed a few days of fun in the sun and mountains.



*Additional comment from Marcus:*

*On the second day Mike O'Dwyer, Michelle and I walked up Grizedale splitting up at the junction for Mike to head up to the top of St Sundays Crag. Michelle and I continued to climb Pinnacle Ridge. I believe Mike continued on his own to Fairfield and onwards to Red Screes before descending back to the valley.*

*After completing Pinnacle Ridge Michelle and I continued to Grizedale Tarn and onwards up Dollywaggon Pike then Helvellyn. We descended Striding Edge and returned to Grizedale. A hot day out as you know.*

*On the last day Andy, Lynne, Gail, Mike, Michelle, Karen, Margaret and I walked up to Brothers Water and back. Disappointingly the Brothers Water Inn was closed on this day.*

Attendees: Andy Burton, Ed Bramley, Mike Goodyer, Marcus Tierney, Michelle Pulford, Mike and Margaret O'Dwyer, Karen, Paul Stock, Gail and Lynne Burton(visitors).

## Swanage Meet, September - by Paul Stock

After locating the entrance to the hostel from the Swanage one way system the weekend kicked off on Friday afternoon

for most of the meet attendees with a walk along the Swanage promenade and up and over Ballard Down to reach the headland with Old Harry's Rocks. This was a particularly spectacular view as the visibility was crystal clear which allowed views as far as St Catherine's Point on the Isle of Wight. The return trip involved a walk along the sandy beach back into Swanage town centre. After a quick wash and brush up we enjoyed a fish and chip supper at an outside restaurant overlooking the small harbour.



Old Harry's Rocks

Looking across to Swanage



Globe in Durlleston Park



Saturday's weather was definitely not as forecasted and began quite dull with low cloud. We set off from the hostel and headed through via Peverell Point to Durlleston Park. The Durlleston castle and its Globe were very quiet and we enjoyed the rising path to Durlleston Head.

Our hostel host had advised us to take the upper path along the coast to Dancing Ledge. On arrival at Dancing Ledge we split into two teams one returning to Swanage via the Priests Way from and the other pushing on further along the coastal path to Seacombe cliff and Winspit then turning inland to Worth Maltravers. Lunch and some refreshments

were taken at the Square and Compass pub. The return walk to Swanage was through some typical Dorset farmland on the Priests Way. The weather improved during the afternoon to give some better views on the approach to Swanage. The Saturday evening meal was a variety of takeaways eaten in the hostel kitchen.

Sunday's walk started from the National Trust Car Park at Corfe Castle. We set off through the town of Corfe Castle and onto Corfe Common which is a natural heathland. We followed the footpath through fields and woods to the west of Kingston. Here we took the road to the car park at Polar Wood and then the footpath to Swyre Head. As the weather was much better than forecasted the views were spectacular right down to Durdle Door and beyond in the West and the Isle of Wight in the east.



After a short coffee break we continued on the ridge path to just above the village of Kimmeridge. We stopped for lunch and then crossed the valley fields between the coastal ridge and Ridgeway Hill. Another tremendous view greeted us as we reached the summit of Ridgeway Hill.

We followed the ridge eastwards and all the way back to Corfe Castle for afternoon tea before departure.

Looking towards Kimmeridge

I would like to thank all the attendees for their participation in what is an unusual venue for an ABMSAC meet however, I make no apologies for its inclusion in our meets calendar as the Isle of Purbeck has many attractive features for our club from walking and mountain biking to challenging sea cliff climbing.



Group above Corfe Castle on the Sunday afternoon

Attendees: James and Belinda Baldwin, Andy Burton, Heather Eddowes, Mike Goodyer, Julie Freemantle, Judy Renshaw, Don Hodge, Margaret Moore and Paul Stock.



## Brecons Meet - October - by Mike Goodyer

It was a good feeling on the Friday to pull into the car park of the New Inn at Bwlch for another meet in the Brecon Beacons. Neil, the owner, had used the Covid lockdowns to modify the bunkhouse with a new kitchen and less bunk rooms. The pub has also had a makeover. As we were later to find out the beer and food were up to the usual standard. So, in my opinion, a general improvement.



In the afternoon five of us walked up the Beacons Way along the ridge to top of Mynydd Troed, overlooking Llangors Lake to get an appetite for dinner.

The sun broke through the clouds in the late afternoon and we could see the top of Pen y Fan was just in cloud.

The team on Mynydd Troed

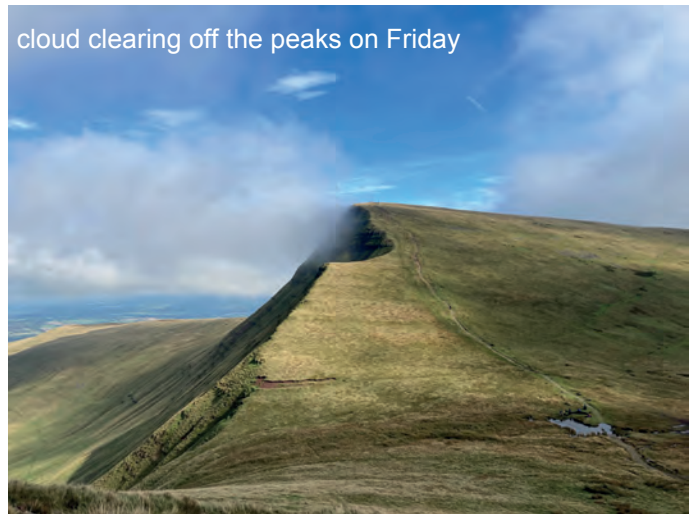
In the evening seven of us enjoyed a good meal and the comforts of the bunkhouse, while four others were ensconced in a cottage near Brecon.



Broken spectre

On the Saturday the cloud was low, but undeterred we had the Brecons Horseshoe complete.

The group of four spent the day on Fan Fawr, with glimpses through the cloud (On Friday they were on Pan y Fan).



cloud clearing off the peaks on Friday



The bunkhouse crew all sent off from the Storey Arms in the gloom and headed up the well laid path up to Corn Du.



Bunkhouse crew atop of Corn Du

Despite the weather the top two car parks were full by 9:30am, a busy weekend. On the way we were passed by what seemed most of Army heading down to the lorries waiting at Storey Arms (- end of a route march?). We reached the top in cloud, along with many other walkers.

It was an atmospheric day with glimpses of the mountains of the horseshoe throughout the morning. After descending from Pen y Fan Andy and Steve broke away from the ascent of Cribyn to follow the Taff Trail/Beacons Way back to the bunkhouse via the Talybont Reservoir and the canal - total of 16 miles ( A project of Steves - Good effort! See below for a personal account.). The rest of us continued

up Cribyn and the cloud lifted and we had better view. After a lunch down near the dismantled Neuadd Reservoir we headed up to the Graig Fan Ddu ridge back towards Corn Du and down the path to return to the busy car parks.



Horseshoe -Corn Du, Pen y Fan and Cribyn

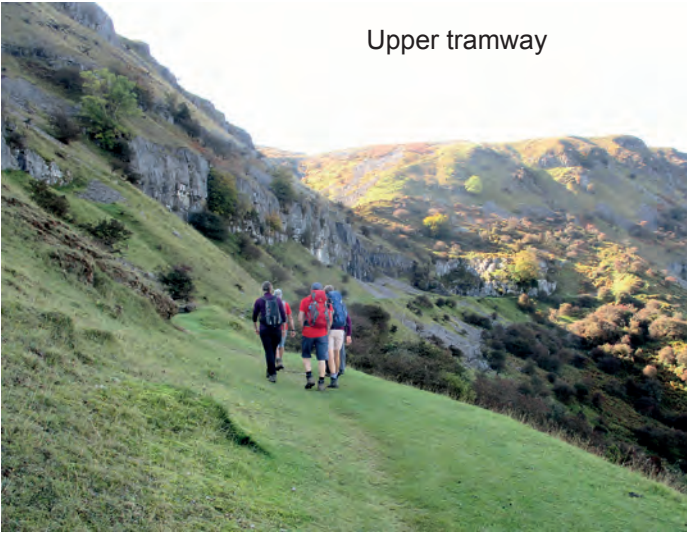
We returned back to the bunkhouse for refreshment and met up with Marcus, Michele, Mike and Margaret. A good day followed by an excellent dinner.

A clear and cold morning greeted us on Sunday. The weather improved as the morning went with a warm sun and little wind.

Nine of us drove down to Crickhowell and had a pleasant walk from the town to the Llangatwg escarpment and disused quarries.

Leaving the village of Llangatwg we walked along the old tramway of the quarry, which was well marked. A short but very steep pull up the side of a forest led us to the upper tramway - here there were extensive views of the Usk Valley and the Sugarloaf above Abergavenny. We could also look across to Pen Cerrig calch, which we had walked over on a previous visit.

Upper tramway



We then followed the old tramway round to the old quarries/nature reserve, taking in the views and spotting ravens. After lunch we returned, via a gentle descent through a series of fields, to the canal and old lime kilns.

We leisurely walked along the canal before turning off to get back to Crickhowell.

The weekend was rounded off by a late afternoon call into a sunny cafe in the town.

A great weekend with good food and company. We were all sorry that Paul, the meet organiser, couldn't make the weekend. We're already looking forward to returning next year.

### 'The Pen- y-Fan to Bwlch alternative walk' - by Steve Caulton

With apologies to HG Wells - *"No one would have believed, in the early hours of that Saturday morning that minds, far less intelligent than those of their fellow companions, planned a walk from the pinnacle of Pen-y-Fan back to the comforts of Bwlch. Across the gulf of open countryside they regarded the adventure with envious eyes and slowly and surely they drew their plans against getting back and looking done in".*

And so it was that Andy and I took up Mike's kind offer of a lift to The Storey Arms where the whole meet gathered for the walk up Pen-y Fan. A steep ascent for dodgy knees but the only one of the day for Andy and myself.

Steve with the Brecons behind



Our route called for no more climbing as time was of the essence.

On the descent to the base of Cribyn, the grey mist lifted to show our footpath Southeast along The Beacons Way National footpath. That magnificent trek snaking its 99 mile way from Abergavenny through The Beacons and the Black Mountains to its finish at Llangadog. At the bottom of the mountain we said our farewells to the intrepid climbers and with a wave worthy of Mallory and Irving we struck out along the stony path heading for the slopes of Fan-y-Big. There it seemed as if half a dozen coach trips had decided to go up at the same time and it was no disappointment to save that undertaking for another time.

No mist now and a clear view ahead as we took a flat and straight path South towards Torpantau and the Taf Fechan

Forest. We passed the now waterless Upper Neuadd Reservoir with only a seeming trickle of the Blaen Taf Fechan itself meandering through. The austere looking Victorian dam has given Welsh Water some headaches for many years. Leaking and cracking badly it's a work in progress but worth the effort. Concerns over climate change have rerieved this grand old lady as a valuable future asset against the increased water demands of the good people of Merthyr Tydfil. This current moonscape lies between steep escarpments of mountainous moorland and years hence will see this catchment return the reservoir to a rippling, reflective expanse of clear water, once more mirroring the attributes of Pen-y-Fan, Cribyn and Corn Du.

We were soon amongst the trees of the Taf Fechan Forest and glimpsing white columns of smoke as we walked along an obvious man made embankment from long ago .Accompanying unmistakable sounds of a steam whistle excited the schoolboy in us and we discovered the Torpantau terminus of The Brecon Mountain Railway. Running northwards from Pant above Merthyr Tydfil, this ten mile return ride skirts the Pentwyn and Pontsticill Reservoirs through a green and pleasant landscape. Now a narrow guage railway it was, until the 1960's, a grown up's size. Wonderful little old engines that look like they should be wound up make this a tourist treat. The ride has gone on the to do list.



Around the corner was the metalled Forestry roadway Eastwards which would take us all the way to the Talybont Reservoir. Time had come for some well deserved lunch and we tucked into our respective tuck boxes, looked at our map and decided it would do us no harm to bolster ourselves with a tot or two of Glayva. For medicinal purposes only of course and we were on holiday after all.

Nearby was the Caerfanell River and its tributary the Nant Bwrefwr. Beginning high up on the plateau East of Fany-y-Big she flows down the valley through wooded hillsides a full ten miles to comprise the Talybont Reservoir and swell the waters of the River Usk .

A two mile stretch of these waters holds twenty waterfalls of a most picturesque aspect and from our lunchtime viewpoint we could see the one nearest. A popular visitor attraction with ample car parks to

make them worth the drive to see.

Fortified by Scotland's finest we set off at a good pace, aware we still had half the walk to do. An easy surface made for good speed along the tree lined track for around four miles with snatched glimpses of the impressive Talybont Reservoir spurring us on. Before we blindly carried on downwards to the waters edge Andy fortunately spotted the waymark we needed to ascend to higher ground and the route to Bwlch-y-Waun farm. From this path we were afforded the most spectacular views of the Reservoir as it stretched full length towards its dammed extremity and the pretty village of Talybont-on-Usk. The tree spotted valley slopes carpeted with multi shaded grasses and wild foliage were perfectly reflected in the still surface waters and the sky and clouds mirrored in sharp detail.

We left this glassy fascination at the foot of the familiar Tor-y-Foel and took the muddy footpath through farm buildings that can only be described as a model of shambolic neglect and with an impressive collection of motoring paraphernalia and ancient Austin's I haven't seen since the first series of 'All Creatures Great and Small'. Who said farmers are the custodians of the countryside?



Well beyond this scrap and rubbish the path continued along natural terrain and through more pleasing countryside, passing isolated ancient barns and patches of woodland. The nostalgic smell of wood smoke greeted us as we passed through the busy little farm at Llwyn-y-eos with its excitable dogs and vast array of complicated looking machinery. After that it was a stroll across the fields and meadows with curious faced, chubby bodied sheep watching our every move. I like sheep. They don't try to tread on you like cows.



And then we were at the lock gates on the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal where we crossed over onto the north side towpath and headed for the unpronounceable village of Llangynidr. It's always a pleasure to walk alongside a canal and we thoroughly enjoyed the boats with their quirky paintwork and eccentric decorations. One had a full sized wooden lady sitting on the pointy end quite proudly, considering whoever created her had carved her with no clothes. As we neared the bridge over the waterway, by the side of the Coach and Horses pub, I was taken with a craving for a cold Guinness. Understandable under the circumstances but the voice of commonsense in the form of the club President wrestled me back from temptation and we pressed on.

Llangynidr is a quaint little place with the very nice Walnut Tree Cafe down by the waterside. Well worth knowing and which we have used before. The road to Bwlch crosses an impressive, narrow, 18th Century stone bridge with five arches. Built for horse and cart its single file traffic only with refuge points for walkers caught halfway across. It spans the fast flowing River Usk and is as scenic a location as you would find anywhere.

It's a long pull up from the bridge to The New Inn and wanting to finish in time for dinner we upped the pace. Now the prospect of a mug of hot sweet tea was all the carrot we needed.

My dodgy knee had done me proud thus far but I confessed to Andy that my legs felt like jelly. An unsympathetic "What flavour?" was not the reply I expected but he had long finished his Haribo's and I think he was hallucinating a little. Where the road met the A40 we turned up the driveway of Cornerways House and the permitted path took up sharply uphill through old gates and lush grass to Darren Road. This was a sting in the tail but with no more to come this last half mile was spent green eyed at the new builds and improvements done since last we passed.

We finished to find the gang taking in the sun and beer, relaxed and fragrant with Andy and myself less so and more like two old goats that hadn't even been rained on for about six months.

We declined Ed's offer of a beer and rewarded ourselves with that mug of tea.

All in all a great day. 17 miles of grand and dramatic landscapes, fresh air and greenery, watery splendour and great company. An ambition fulfilled for us both and a walk likely to be repeated another year, knees and Haribo supplies permitting!

Attendees: Ed Bramley, Andy Burton, Steve Caulton, Mike Goodyer, Judy Renshaw, Rick Snell, Alison Henry, Michele Pulsford, Marcus Tierney, Mike and Margaret O'Dwyer.

## President's Meet, October - by Julie Jones

The first day of the 2021 President's Meet dawned unexpectedly fair and so afforded the opportunity for arriving members to grab a little extra time on the hills, some with a quick sprint up Place Fell, others enjoying the reverse vista of the Helvellyn range from above Pooley Bridge.

Place Fell on Friday afternoon, looking towards Pooley Bridge



The moody, low moorland at the northern end of

Julie near the Cockpit stone circle



Ullswater looks, at first glance, like an empty, featureless place, but closer inspection reveals a landscape dotted with Bronze Age mysteries.

Many of the depressions are shake holes, naturally formed by the interaction of water and the underlying limestone. The most impressive of these remains is the Cockpit Stone Circle, estimated to be between 3500 and 5000 years old. Like other stone circles in Cumbria, such as Castlerigg and Long Meg and Her Daughters, it remains an enigma. Whatever its ancient origin, it presents a beautiful view across Ullswater towards Glenridding and Patterdale, the usual starting point for club activities in these hills.

Saturday saw three groups of varying ambition leave the hut in reasonable weather, with low cloud and a gathering south westerly making for lively sailing conditions on the Ullswater steamer.

The wind forecast also revised the main group's proposed route up Nethermost Pike to the plateau, heading instead straight for Grisedale Tarn, over Dollywaggon to a considerable gale on Helvellyn and down via Sticks Pass. A nifty 5 hours and back for tea in the hut by 3pm.

Aira Force was another choice on the day, where fallen trees and branches have caused havoc in the lower falls, then on to the bracing summit of Gowbarrow Fell. The car park at the entrance to the falls was also a staging post





Stormy time on the lake

for three members who chose the undulations of the Ullswater Way, again from Pooley Bridge, through lush farmland, bracken coated hillsides and glimpses of the lake, to the gusty promontory of Skelly Neb where even the sturdy tourist boats were turning back for shelter.

The President's dinner was a delicious menu of avocado bruschetta (on secret recipe toast), red pepper soup, chicken on celeriac mash with gorgonzola sauce and veg, bread and butter pudding and an array of petits fours, provided in fine style by Andy and a team of happy helpers in the Starkey kitchen.

All this in the excellent company of Daniel Albert, the ABM Covid advisor. It is reassuring to know that the observance of unlocking rules and hut

safety have been considered by the club and balanced with common sense to ensure our continued freedom to roam in high places.

Sunday morning was atrocious but, undeterred, there were two low level excursions to blow the cobwebs away and some Christmas stocking fillers were tracked down in the Glenridding Craft Market by the less adventurous contingent.



Paul on Arnison Crag

Mike and Paul ventured out up the steep path towards St Sunday Crag and shortly after the first gate broke off the path to climb a faint trod up to the Birks. They traversed the hill and picked up a series of paths to return along the ridge to Arnison Crag and then steeply back down to Patterdale.

Along the ridge the sun briefly came out!

It may be too soon to say, but 2022 is looking good – or better at least!

I would just end with a big thank you to Andy Hayes and Ian Mateer, along with the cooking team for another great meal in good company.

Attendees: Andy Burton, Heather Eddowes, Julie Jones, Andy Hayes, Ian Mateer, Mike Goodyer, Don Hodge, Judy Renshaw, Paul Stock, Daniel Albert, Mike and Marian Parsons.

## North/South Day Walks – November

### River Wye and the Monsal Trail, - by Ed Bramley



The morning started cold and crisp, with many of our 10 having availed ourselves of a little pre-walk sustenance at the Aisseford tea room. Our route started over the old sheepwash bridge at Ashford in the Water – pose for obligatory photo – before heading out to the A6 and the track that runs alongside the river Wye.

After the initial tussle with that main artery over to Manchester, we quickly leave it for quieter tracks, passing beside magpie sough, which in olden times used to drain the land served by the Magpie lead mine at Sheldon, and also pass a water mill that featured in 'Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves'. To get round some of the riverside bluffs, our path is a rising track through

woodland, and we are rewarded with the last of the autumn colours as we make our way up the Wye valley.

Eventually our track descends and after a coffee and loo stop (very thoughtful), we recross the A6 and continue on upstream, where the scenery is now mixed grassland and open woodland. At one point, we pass a herd of cattle in the trees and by the path but, in contrast to some herds we've encountered, these are very docile.

Shortly before the iconic Monsal Head viaduct, we arrive at a weir across the river, with a pair of swans adding their tranquillity to the scene. Ignoring the published route, we cross the river at the small bridge and take the steady rising ascent, directly to our lunch stop. It's great when local knowledge of one of the party makes life so much easier.



We are all bold and sit outside in the increasing wind and cold for our lunch, just so that we can admire that view, but then succumb to the joys of Hobb's tearoom for a cuppa (and perhaps a little more), before descending to the viaduct and the Monsal Head trail. We go through the Headstone tunnel, these days with a tarmac base and full lighting, and continue on through the Derbyshire countryside. Strange to think of this as this being at one time Midland railways



link between London and Manchester, with the northern leg of HS2, and NPR having been cancelled the day before! On the old trackbed we pass Thornbridge Halt, which was the one time station for Thornbridge Hall – part of the bargaining done to allow the original route of the line.

After some distance, our route then goes cross country along a bridleway and track, before descending to the western outskirts of Bakewell. After initially following the A6 out of the town, and past a newly built supermarket, we then end up on a track that cuts round the back of many houses, before rejoining the river, and a simple path back to our start.

Attendees: Ed Bramley, Steve Caulton, Heather Eddowes & Dave Matthews, Pete & Jane Hammond, Tony Howard and partner (Roma), Dick and Lin Murton.

## Uffington White Horse - by Mike Goodyer

This was another one of my walks into pre-history in the Wiltshire countryside. Despite injury and illness cutting our numbers four intrepid walkers arrived promptly at the NT Uffington White Horse car park (actually in Oxfordshire). It was an overcast morning and a bit chilly, but fortunately little or no wind. This meant brisk walking and short breaks were in order.

Uffington Iron Age hill fort



Our first ancient site was visible from the car park - the 5500 year old white horse. We walked up to the horse, passing Dragon Hill. Although there were open views across the countryside the white horse isn't totally visible from the ground - only from the air!

The Iron Age hill fort just behind the white horse is a huge double ditch and earthwork complex - very similar to Barberry Castle a few miles down the Ridgeway. We headed off down the Lambourne Way, expecting the path to be very muddy but the walking was fine.

After a short coffee break an hour or so into the walk we headed off downhill, crossing arable fields and along farm tracks and then skirting around Ashdown House and forest. On the way we passed stone

circles and burial mounds. In what seemed no time at all we arrived at the Bronze Age Ridgeway track. In recent years this ancient track has suffered erosion by overuse from SUVs churning up the surface for their 'fun'. The introduction of 'tank trap' blocks at strategic points along the way has helped the situation.

Our part of the Ridgeway was in good order. We saw several cycle groups and a few horse riders on the Ridgeway. As we were approaching a path



crossroads we felt it was around lunchtime - and were pleasantly surprised to see a 'pop up' mobile cafe in a farmyard. We all enjoyed a hot drink (and more for some) and a sit down!

After our comfortable lunchtime stop it was but a short walk to Wayland Smithy, a Bronze Age burial mound. This is a huge structure and is totally enclosed by beech and oak trees - it has a special atmosphere. We all took a moment to take in this place before completing the last mile back to the car park.

An easy walk through interesting countryside - 13 miles and 900' of ascent.

Thanks to Judy, Margaret and Paul for their company. Paul and I rounded the day off with a pint and a warm by an open fire at the White Horse at nearby Woolstone.

Attendees: Mike Goodyer, Paul Stock, Margaret Moore and Judy Renshaw.

## North/South Walks - December

### Cromford Circular - by Steve Caulton



We met at Cromford on a disappointingly grey and damp morning which prompted some of the party to fortify themselves with an early breakfast in the familiar Tor Cafe. Suitably replete we joined the rest of the party close to the famous 18th Century Cromford Mill, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The industrialist Richard Arkwright built it, taking advantage of the abundant rivers and streams thereabouts to power his patented water powered spinning frame. Now owned by The Arkwright Society it's a popular day out. Well worth a visit to see how it all worked, have a coffee and a wander across the road to look at the start of the Cromford Canal with its original wharf and Georgian warehouse.

A nice easy start along the bank of the Derwent River led us past the climbing venue of 'Willersley Castle Rocks'. This north facing limestone crag sees little sunshine and it shows. Andy Burton scaled these slippery heights in his youth and it remains a popular destination still for aspiring rope dangles. Cromford Village was next. A picturesque market place of varied architecture was the beginning of the uphill walk with Black Rocks as our target. As old as the Domesday Book, most of the 'new' village was built courtesy of old Mr Arkwright who needed to house his growing army of mill workers. North Street has virtually unaltered examples of three storey terraced housing, far superior to those provided later by other entrepreneurs for their employees. Knitting frameworks lined the top floors worked by dad whilst mum and the kids went down the road for a twelve hour turn in the mill.



Some of these have been beautifully restored inside and are self catering short stay accommodation. Very cosy and ideal for anyone visiting the area for the first time looking for something different.

The huge mill pond in the village used to supply old Arkwright's water wheels down at Cromford Mill. A lovely place when the sun is shining and a pint outside The Boat Inn overlooking the water is to be recommended.

Turning up Bedehouse Lane we took the steep path passing houses, old cottages and through woodland to Black Rock and The High Peak Trail. (It's where Ed first did any climbing as such, aged 9, when the High Peak railway still ran alongside, and many an epic tussle with the gritstone since then, some of them in big alpine boots!)

The weather was still against us and the usually magnificent view from top of the Rocks was lost somewhere in the heavy mist shrouding the whole valley. A disappointment for me not being able to share such a panorama with those visiting for the first time.



Undaunted we took The High Peak Trail eastwards towards the Cromford Canal. This is the footbed of the 19th century Cromford and High Peak Railway. No mean feat of engineering today but this was built by big lads with shovels and wheelbarrows and no hard hats, paid in shillings and beer. Waggons were pulled up the inclines by steam winding engines and lots of chains. The remains of the winding houses are still in situ.

The long descent found us at High Peak Junction on the bank of the canal. These old

railway buildings provide a shop and facilities during the summer season but still have tables aplenty for winter walkers and here we had lunch in relative comfort.

The Cromford Canal once stretched 15 miles from those wharf buildings, mentioned earlier, to The Erewash Canal. Our old pal Mr Arkwright unsurprisingly had some say in its making as he wanted to shift his cloth from his mill in the direction of civilisation.

To keep it topped up the nearby Leawood Pump House still houses a working beam engine. This huge pump draws water from the River Derwent below and delivers four tons of it into the canal at each stroke. At seven strokes a minute



it's no wonder restrictions were once put upon how much water it could access every day.

It sits at one end of the Derwent Aqueduct which spans the river and at the other stands the much locally loved Aqueduct Cottage. For many years just a roofless shell, lost amongst the trees and ivy reclaiming its crumbling walls both inside and out, volunteers have restored the roof and patiently wait for the walls to dry out before plastering and pointing can be done.

It took some doing arranging with 'Ron', the project manager, to have his lads working on site at the precise moment we happened along. Still, busy though he was he was more than happy to share with us what has been achieved thus far and the aims of all their unpaid efforts.

The continued walk along the now sadly reed strewn canal saw the twitchers amongst us taken with Moorhens and Dabchicks darting amongst the vegetation floating along the far bank. Heather in particular had binoculars trained on a bird hiding motionless in the greenery and her fixation piqued the curiosity of us all. Somewhat embarrassing then to admit we had all been staring at an oak leaf!.

Apparently the Dabchick's neck turns brown in winter just so it can be mistaken for a leaf but then nature is wonderful isn't it.

After that it was a steady walk through the deer park of Lea Hurst, the childhood home of Florence Nightingale and later her summer holiday home. It has an impressive aspect overlooking the Derwent Valley and hills beyond and is now a private residence where you can stay in comfort if you can afford it.

Her family made a fortune smelting lead and there is some evidence that children in Holloway Village suffered from lead poisoning. Florence was known to be a little peculiar as a girl and some of her characteristics are now thought to be the result of her family polluting the water supply.

Passing through parkland we hit the main road and were soon on the leaf strewn pathway of Bow Woods now able to see Cromford and the imposing pile of Willersley Castle. A castle in name only it is the 18th century mansion commissioned by that man again, Richard Arkwright. Now a Sir he wanted something to show off to his friends that would make a dent in a fortune estimated at £200,000,000 today. Until Covid came along it was a hotel of sorts for Methodists. Now its future is unsure but it's a listed building in a World Heritage Site so it's not going anywhere soon.

We descended to the roadway and a short walk took us over the centuries old Cromford Bridge and back to the start of the walk.

A well deserved cuppa and cake was subsequently enjoyed in Arkwright's Cafe which is in the confines of Cromford Mill. Very enjoyable it was too.

Not a long trek. About 8 miles but varied in scenery and a chance to look at some of Derbyshire's industrial past.

Lovely company again made for a great day!

## Devils Punchbowl and Hindhead Common - by Paul Stock

Only four participants braved the cool and cloudy weather to enjoy our day walking around Hindhead Common and the Devils Punchbowl. We started our walk from the National Trust car park in Hindhead at 0930.



The start of the walk saw us mingling with many local dog walkers initially descending into Hindhead Common and into the forested hills which are a common feature in Surrey.

Paul and Judy on Gibbet Hill

We managed occasional glimpses of the surrounding countryside whilst following the leafy paths. The last part of Hindhead Common was a climb to the top of Gibbet Hill. There are spectacular views in most directions and an information board describing its gory past. The last hanging at this point involved three sailors accused of murdering a local man whilst returning to their ship in Portsmouth.

After our coffee break we walked on to the ridge on the side of the Devils Punchbowl which is a lovely geological feature. Whilst walking on the old Portsmouth to London road (A3 before the new tunnel) we stumbled across an old directions stone which stated that Hyde Park Corner was 39 miles away.



Looking across the Devils Puchbowl, old A3 visible





We stopped for lunch by a babbling stream with water meadows. The route took us through some leafy hamlets and across Heather moorland until we came to the 2.5 mile gradual ascent back up to the car park along the opposite ridge of the Punchbowl.

On arrival our 14 mile route was completed and we celebrated with a National Trust cream tea. Thanks to Mike Goodyer, Judy Renshaw and Mitch Sneddon for the great company.

## Twixmas and New Year meet 2021/2022 - by Judy Renshaw & Andy Burton

A jovial and fun meet took place at the hut over New Year, despite wet and extremely windy conditions on the hills.



Six people braved the conditions on New Year's Eve, Andy arriving just as the group were leaving and after a group photo they were on their way through the churchyard and onto the private path alongside the Grisedale Beck which



pops out at the little stone bridge as the road finishes and the track up to Striding Edge and the wider Helvellyn massif starts.



We made our way up to Lanty's Tarn where the path had a divert due to several large trees having been blown down by Storm Arwen at the end of November blocking the normal path. We continued along to Glenridding Hostel and up to the col of Greenside Mines.

Most of the party then descended to Seldom Seen, where they were lucky to see a red squirrel, while Judy continued along to Glencoyne dale and Aira Force, through a few more unavoidable fallen trees, and back on the new(ish) lakeside path which forms part of Ullswater Way.

Don had done various essential jobs in and around the hut, including mending a storage heater and unearthing the water meter form underneath a large quantity of water and mud, before taking a local walk.

In the evening, a mix-and-match shared meal was enjoyed by 12 of us, including a home-made Christmas pudding with suitably flaming brandy and accompaniments. Karen and Rachel arrived from their visiting friends and family in England odyssey before returning back to Scotland in the New Year. Then many games were played, one of the party taught us a wassail song and we went out at 12.00 in the rain to sing it and to welcome the New Year.



On New Year's Day Judy was up and out early. She did a circuit up and around Place Fell and Boredale, while Don went to view the swimmers at Glenridding Pier. There were no steamers due to the high winds, but around 30 people braved going in to the water. Marian was helping out at the pop-up café in Glenridding, in aid of village community activities.

The rest of the group dawdled a bit in order to allow the improving forecast to actually improve, before we set off in two cars to park at the disused quarry on the road up to Dockray, now run by the National Trust, as it allows access to a gate in the wall across the road and down to the top of Aira Falls where the Aira beck starts to cascade into its gorge proper. We crossed the relatively new wooden footbridge and up and out of the trees towards Dockray before turning right and heading up the newly constructed

stone stepped path to a windy Airy Crag, which in parts is still a work in progress.

We then continued down and around Gowbarrow to where the path joins the Ullswater Way where it comes out of the forestry at Swinburn's Park. Lunch was enjoyed close to the Memorial Seat with views across to Sandwick and Pooley Bridge, before setting off down and back across Aira Beck where it passes through the collection of specimen trees and carved logs and tree trunks.

Here having spotted a little feeding box lowdown on a tree with just a lift-up lid to gain access to the nuts and seed inside, we saw a red squirrel showing us all how it is done, much to the delight of most of the passers-by.

With the main waterfall only being viewed easily from the bridge above, due to fallen trees having blocked the lower bridge and viewing platform, this area was quite busy, so we continued on up past the various cuts and cascades, spotting a dipper feeding off the rocks, before exiting back out to the car park.

A swift half in the Royal at Dockray whilst learning a new card game, and back to the Hut for another delicious shared evening meal, which was followed with some enthusiastic a capella style group singing, and another new game to learn, so it was no surprise that everyone was ready to call it quits before midnight.

We all managed to have a safe and enjoyable meet, having tested ourselves beforehand so that we could socialise in a normal way and have fun. It was well worth it! Happy New Year everyone!

Attendees: Andy Burton, Anna Kaszuba, Don Hodge, Judy Renshaw, Karen Dickinson, Marian Parsons, Mary Eddowes, Mike Parsons, Nanette Archer, Pam Holt (AC), Rachel Howlett, Simon Palmer.

## North/South Day walks - January

### Higger Tor from Grindleford Station, Peak District - by Andy Burton

With the Station café being a favourite meeting point, with cheap and plentiful parking during the week, it was easy to return to this area for the first day walk of 2022.

Eight of us gathered and set off over the railway bridge by the entrance to the three and a half mile long Totley Tunnel, the second longest in Britain, through which trains pass to Sheffield from Manchester.

We followed the track road bending left past Padley Mill, and Padley Chapel which is all that remains of the 14<sup>th</sup> century manor house owned by the Fitzherbert family. In Elizabethan times the head of the family was imprisoned in the Tower, and died there refusing to renounce his Catholic faith. At this time two priests were arrested at Padley and subsequently hung, drawn and quartered. The chapel was purchased in 1933 by the Church and restored as a memorial, and there was a school group having an outdoor history lesson there as we walked by.



Higger Tor from Longshaw Estate

We ascended up to the A625 via a circuitous route through boggy pastureland through Greenwood Farm. Here you cross over onto the lane opposite and walk till the end of the woodland on your right, to a fingerpost on your left that leads up a surfaced track which you follow as it bends right up to the house at Scrapperlow, with its well-balanced facade.

Here we spoke to the owner who explained that the house was built on the salt trade route from Cheshire to Sheffield as an overnight stop and shelter for both the traders and their animals, and that was why we were still allowed to walk up his driveway, before we turned right onto the moor proper.

Continuing over a couple of stiles and down to join a track around Mitchell Field Farm we turned right by a stone bridge and climbed increasingly steeply past a previously abandoned farm now being

lovingly restored by its new owner literally piece by piece.

Nestled in the moor side some way down from the road was a small green car that had clearly missed the bend and tumbled several times before coming to rest. Much conjecture about how the vehicle could be recovered ensued, with no need for any of us to take any action as according to Pete it had been there some considerable time.



## Lunch at Higger Tor



On joining the minor road and crossing it by way of two stiles we climbed the stepped path up to the top of Higger Tor at 434 metres, where we hunkered down among the boulders and had lunch.

We then carried on to the outcrop to the south, Carl Wark, which shows evidence of having been fortified, probably in the Iron Age. The path then continues down to the brook where various crossing points were found before we all emerged on the relatively new wide footpath that runs under all the rocks in this valley from Burbage South End right up to North End.

This dry graded path has been made to allow everyone a chance to enjoy this part of the Peak District by allowing wheelchair/pushchair access with plentiful car parking at either end.

We crossed the A625 and followed the track to Longshaw Lodge where there is a newly revamped café and toilets. This hunting lodge was built in 1827 on an estate of some 11,000 acres owned by the Dukes of Rutland, and was used during the First World War and its aftermath to provide a place for injured soldiers to convalesce once they had sufficiently recovered from their injuries in hospital in Sheffield.

The Country Park now covers only 1600 acres, and has been protected by the National Trust since the 1930's. Here you bear right along the enclosed path around the lodge, and fork left at a junction of two paths, through two hand gates to follow the level track through open woodland and managed moor.



Outside the newly revamped National Trust café

After about one mile, having crossed another track turn right over a stone stile at the end of trees, and descend along an old paved path and then bear right down a gorge. At this point we chose to stay high and traverse the woodland edge path above the Topley Tunnel, which eventually brought us out on a lane which meets with the B6521. We crossed the road and went right for a short distance and then left down the enclosed surfaced series of steps back down to the station.

Another great day out in the Peak.

Attendees: Steve Caulton, Pete Hammond, Lyn Warriss, Heather Eddowes and Dave Matthews, Michele Pulford (not for long) and Marcus Tierney.

## Streatley Hill and Ridgeway, January - by Mike Goodyer

The drive to Streatley was misty and rainy and this was the poor weather stayed with us most of the day. What with family commitments and recovery from illness we were down to a hardy group of three! After Mike had parked in the Golf Club overflow car park instead of the National Trust one we met up and set off, slightly delayed!



Mike and Margaret at Goring

The track through the woods and steeply down to the Thames at Streatley gave us a taste of the mud and slippery conditions we would have all day.

We followed the Thames Path for a few miles to Moulsoford, where we left the river and after a coffee stop headed towards Aston Tirrold. The rain was now intermittent.

As we walked towards Aston Tirrold we passed the area of a large battle fought between the Saxons and Danes in January 871.

The Danes had come along the Thames from Reading and set off along the Ridgeway (this was a major route at this time) to take Wantage. Prince Alfred was camped at Kingstanding Hill near Cholsey and took his army up the Fairmile towards Lowbury Hill where the Danes were camped. King Aethelred was camped at Blewbury Hill and delayed his departure to battle so he could pray at the nearby church in Aston Upthorpe. This nearly caused an upset as he arrived late after Alfred's army and the Danes had set to! The Saxons won the day and the Danes were sent in disarray back to their boats via Dean's (Danes?) Bottom.

We found temporary cover under the porch of the village cricket pavilion for lunch. After a short break we headed off up to the Downs and the scene of the battle.

The hills and track loomed up out of the mist and slowly the rain stopped. We didn't much fancy sloggng up here preparing to do battle! On Hill, we were on the highest ground but could see only mist. Very soon we dropped down to the Ridgeway and followed this back to the golf club, cut uphill along the footpath back to the car park.

An interesting walk of 14 miles and around 1000' of ascent. We were, however, glad to get out the rain and head off home.

Attendees: Mike Goodyer, Margaret Moore and Judy Renshaw



Judy and Mike atop Lowbury Hill, no battle today

## Annual Dinner and AGM, Glenridding, January - by Julie Freemantle

2022 saw the very welcome return of the Annual Dinner and AGM meet in the Lake District after a break in 2021 due to the pandemic.

It also saw our return to the Inn on the Lake after their re-furb was completed last year.

Forty one of us gathered in various spots across Glenridding and Patterdale including the Inn on the Lake, the George Starkey Hut and various B&B's and AirB&B's, all coming together on the Saturday night for the Annual Dinner.

Before that however, many of the group had been out exploring the area.

Ed Bramley has written up the following account of his, Mike Goodyer, Mitch Sneddon, Andy Burton and Paul Stocks day out on Helvellyn on the Friday.

*As Mitch had not been up Helvellyn before, we decided that particular itch needed scratching. Having consulted the forecast, it was due to be above freezing, but increasingly windy, so we opted for the classic safe route. Up to Grisedale Tarn, up and along the whaleback from Dollywaggon to Helvellyn, lunch at the shelter, and then down the Zig Zags, to finish in Glenridding.*



Andy and Ed on Helvellyn

*By the time we had reached Grisedale Tarn, it was obvious that Andy and I were going slower than the other three, and also that the weather was getting worse with height, we were left rueing that we'd left full winter gear in the hut, including gloves. Ours were like a pair of sponges and offered scant protection against the wind and cold. Mike, Mitch and Paul continued on their route and were battered by the very strong wind coming down from the summit to Whiteside, the wind kept up its strength down the Zig Zags until the Greenside mines! The summit shelter was virtually deserted, and Andy and I quickly ate our lunches with our gloves still on. Going across the summit plateau, we could hear the wind like a jet engine and feel it pushing us towards the edge.*

*It was then we made our schoolboy error. Instead of still having our map handy (or consulting it in the shelter a few minutes earlier) and noting the bearing we needed to find the path down to the Zig Zags we assumed we knew which was the correct path, and followed the most obvious path away from the summit trig point. (For those in the know, a northerly bearing is needed to correctly locate the Zig Zag path.) As we slowly descended in the thick cloud, we cursed the state of the 'new' path, its unevenness and slippiness, wondering when the replacement path work had been done.*

*As we emerged out of the cloud, there was a clear view of a body of water, followed soon after by the sight of a road and traffic. It was now clear that we had taken the wrong path, but where exactly where we, and what were our options to get back to the hut? After a few more minutes descent I could see sufficient to know that we were on Brown Tongue and headed towards Swirls car park in Thirlmere! Looking at our watches made it clear that if we were to try and either retrace our steps, or find Stick Pass to reach Glenridding, then we would definitely still be out when it was*



*dark. On top of that, we'd already burnt a lot of energy, and re-ascending at least a couple of thousand feet wouldn't be easy.*

*Down we went to the car park. Phones not working, as they were suffering from the cold and wet, so no easy way of contacting the others, both let them know where we were, and to try and get help with getting back. It was at that point that disaster turned to salvation. A man and his dog were just about to head back to Carlisle in his transit van and he must have noticed things were awry, as he offered us a lift part the way to the Dockray turning on the A66. What a relief to us! And that relief went further as we approached the turning – "I'll tell you what lads. I can turn down by the lake and drop you at Aira Force. It's not that much further for me". The man was a saint in our hour of need. If you read this and are ever passing the hut, there will be a brew and cake waiting for you.*

*Still no working phones at Aira Force, despite tucking them close into ourselves to get some warmth back into them, but there was now a clear path back along the Ullswater Way, and we'd be back before dark.*

*Relief from both us and our friends as we walked through the door, just as dusk was closing in, and a salutary reminder. It doesn't matter how many times you've done a route before, always check regularly where you are, even if the conditions make that a chore. It's an even bigger chore getting back from the wrong valley.*

*Andy's fish pie that he had made for the evening meal that evening was very much welcomed by everyone!*

Friday night saw most people gathering at the The Inn in the Lake bar and it was fantastic to see everyone catching up with old friends and enjoying their company face to face once again.

Saturday saw various groups out and about. A storm was hitting the area so most people decided it was sensible to stay low and not venture too high up for fear of getting blown away!

The newly married Marcus and Michele Tierney were spending their honeymoon at a cottage with Rick Snell, Alison Henry and Mike and Maggie O'Dwyer. They were joined by Andy Burton and some others to walk to the Brotherswater Inn who despite being struck by a power cut were still able to enjoy some mulled wine and some lunch.



The two Julie's (Freemantle & Jones), Heather and Dave and Anne Jago decided to walk up to view the Priests Hole in Dovedale. The wind was incredibly fierce even at low level and everyone needed to hang on to each to stop getting blown away. The route back involved a a short river tricky crossing during which Dave gallantly built a bridge of rocks to help Anne hop across to the other side.

Michele, Alison and Margaret



Qing and Roger on the way to Brotherswater

Other groups enjoyed walks across the weekend including Marian, Margaret, Roger and Qing who walked to Brotherswater on Sunday.

Mike and Paul on Place Fell



Paul, Mitch and Mike braved the windy tops again and enjoyed a leg stretch up to Boredale Hause and then a swift ascent of Place fell returning to the Hause so they could nip up Angle Tarn Pikes before returning to the hut. The wind was much less than earlier in the weekend, but the temperature reminded you that it was January!

Saturday evening saw us gather first for the AGM and then into our favourite chalet style room, The Candle Room, which had been decorated by Heather with the flags and the club treasurers. The meal was excellent and the waiting staff looking after all splendidly.



Our after dinner speaker for the evening was Stevan Jackson. Stevan was a Captain in the Royal Navy and during his 30 years membership of the Royal Navy & Royal Marines Mountaineering Club he climbed in most areas of the UK and participated in expeditions to the Alps, Norway, Kenya, Tanzania, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, USA, Pakistan, Nepal and Tibet. He gave us a thoroughly entertaining and thought provoking talk about his expeditions to the Himalaya's trips in South America's and climbs in Scotland.

The President with our guest speaker.

Thanks to everyone who made the effort to come to the dinner this year and we look forward to seeing everyone again in 2023.









## Members Reports

### **Roman footsteps; a walk along Hadrian's Wall** *by Judy Renshaw*

This year, with foreign travel remaining uncertain, I took the opportunity to explore some areas of the UK I had not visited before. One of these was the recently developed (2003) path along the route of Hadrian's Wall from the Solway Firth to the Tyne estuary. I chose to join a group, both for company and to avoid having to arrange my own accommodation and food along the way. The group members provided additional knowledge and insights about the history of the wall and were also fun to be with.

The wall was built over a period of 6 years around the year 122 AD, when Hadrian himself came to inspect it. The Western part was built of sandstone and the Eastern part of limestone, based on their local availability. Trained Roman legions were involved in its construction, and afterwards it was manned by auxiliaries, some of whom came from other European countries. There were mile-castles at each mile and two turrets between each of these, many of which can still be seen. A wide ditch, or vallum, ran along either side, except where natural features, such as crags, made this unnecessary. Most of it remained in use for around 300 years.



Discussion on wall construction

It took us 6 days to walk the full length, covering about 92 miles. Although the official path is only 84 miles, we added some distance at the beginning and made a few detours for sightseeing. We stayed in 4 different locations, sometimes walking straight to and from the accommodation and sometimes having a coach to take us to and from the start and finish points of each day.

I took a train to Carlisle, where we met as a group in the first hotel. There were 16 in the group, including the guide, from various parts of the UK, including Scotland, Liverpool, Berkshire, Kent and Essex. Our guide was a great enthusiast for the Romans and provided much interesting information. As we had all had our two Covid vaccinations we were allowed to mix as a 'bubble'.

The first day we were taken to Bowness on Solway, from where we walked to the official start, a small open shelter looking out to sea, marked with the mileage to Wallsend. After the essential group photos, we went through the villages alongside the estuary where many houses and walls had been built with blocks of sandstone from Hadrian's Wall. Several of them had Roman altar stones built into part of a wall or garden. The walking here was easy, on paths and roads by the coast, and many swallows were swooping around. We met a number of other people going in both directions and congratulated those who were almost at the end. At this point it felt somewhat like a pilgrimage, with everyone knowing where each other were going.





Judy at the start of the trek

We passed Port Carlisle, the abandoned remains of a port built in 1819, with an 11 mile canal link to the city a few years later. It may have been intended to rival Liverpool as a major port, but appears not to have succeeded and was closed about 30 years later. The remaining walls of the port can be seen on a small island close to the village. After a small rain shower and a lunch stop at the church in Burgh by Sands, we walked the rest of the way back to our hotel in Carlisle for a second night.



In the morning we were able to make a slightly earlier start from the hotel to the Hadrian's Wall path and Eastwards. This day's route ran mainly through farmland, with skylarks overhead, but with almost no Wall to be seen. The weather forecast had indicated rain but we had only one very brief shower and much warm sunshine, so I was glad to be wearing shorts. We reached our destination of Lanercost Priory with plenty of time to explore around the Augustinian priory and its 13th century church, as well as taking advantage



of its tea room. Some real rain came just as the coach came to pick us up, which was acceptable. We then stayed for two nights at a very good pub called Twice Brewed, which was just off the main ridge of hills along which the Wall runs, and provided convenient access for the following days.

The next two days were the most spectacular for seeing the Wall, and also the hilliest and most interesting walking. It was a slightly late start, having had to wait for the transport back to Lanercost Priory, then a morning break rather sooner than necessary. However, the advantage was that the overnight rain had cleared, leaving us with a clear and sometimes sunny day. After a short stretch along a river we began to see elements of the Wall itself, including some well-preserved mile-castles, signal towers and turrets. The mile-castles are numbered from East to West, so we were able to count them down to note our progress along the route.

Wall near Birdoswald



We stopped to look at the one at Hare Hill (no. 53) and again to view Birdoswald Fort, which was fairly incomplete but covered a large area. We spoke to a team of archaeologists there who were very excited about the new finds they were discovering every day. These had caused them to keep revising their views about the function of a particular section of the fort, which led to new ideas about who its inhabitants might have been.

Our lunch stop was in an interesting mile-castle which had many walls still standing. It was a privilege to sit where the Romans and their associates had worked and lived for hundreds of years. Surprisingly we met fewer people on this stretch of the route than at the beginning where there had been much less to see. Most of the people

we did encounter here were visiting just to look at parts of the wall, rather than walking the route. In the afternoon we made a detour to Thirlwall Castle, a much younger relic, originally from the 12th century and rebuilt in the 14th.

After all this sightseeing we still had a long way to go, over the hills of Cawfield Crags, Caw Gap and Winshields. Many of the group were flagging and needed plenty of rest stops, which meant we had the chance to admire the views across to the Lake District and also the Pennines. The first of us reached the Twice Brewed pub before 7 pm but others were considerably later. Luckily we had not needed a transport pick-up that day and the pub staff were able to delay dinner for us.

It had rained in the night and continued for a few hours in the morning, though not heavily. Waterproofs were needed, but with minimal clothing underneath, as it was still warm.



Steel Rigg

We walked up the road from the pub to Steel Rigg, the next section of the ridge, and above some climbing crags. A few breaks in the rain enabled us to see some good views of lakes and hills and to view some good turrets.

We stopped at a place called Sycamore Gap, where there is a Sycamore tree, famous for appearing in a film of Robin Hood, and posed for compulsory group photos. Other breaks allowed a snack stop at a very nice fortlet with good views across the valley and masses of purple foxgloves. Much of this section was shared with the Pennine Way path.

Group at Sycamore Gap

By lunchtime, just as we were all getting somewhat slightly fed up with walking in the rain, we came to a large barn just off the path, where a few other walkers had stopped to shelter. There was room for all of us to sit and eat lunch (a serendipitous find!), after which the rain stopped and the day became considerably brighter and warmer.

Later we passed more well-preserved features, including Housesteads Fort, and visited the very nice Roman temple to the god Mithras, with its three altars. We reached our destination in good time, so had another tea-room stop at Chesters Fort in Chollerford, from where we were taken to the next, very comfortable, hotel in Hexham.

In the morning we took a lift back to Chollerford and had a pleasant day's walk to Heddon-on-the-Wall, though with less Roman interest. At an early stage we visited a church at Heavenfield, dedicated to St Oswald, on the site of a battle to establish Celtic Christianity in the 7th Century. The path went over a few hills, sometimes alongside a road but separated from it by ditches and mounds.





Some people slowed down in the afternoon so a few of us attempted to push the pace a little, which meant we all just made it to Heddon in time to catch our lift back to Hexham.



Temple of Mithras

Housesteads Fort



The final day of walking was varied and interesting, taking us from a large section of the Wall, to the Tyne valley, alongside the river and into the city of Newcastle, past features of industrial history. The weather was warm and mainly sunny again, so shorts were still the most suitable garb. We stopped to view a section of wall where the width had changed as it was built. The earliest section close to Newcastle was wider, about 9-10 feet, then further west it was only about 7-8 feet. After a viewpoint over the valley, we descended to follow the river and through parkland near Blaydon, where a noticeboard detailed some verses of the song 'Blaydon Races'.



Soon we were in the city of Newcastle upon Tyne, walking along the river past all of its bridges. We stopped at the viewpoint from where it is possible to see all seven of them at once. For interest we crossed to the south side via William Armstrong's historic swing bridge and back over the new Millennium Bridge which lifts to allow larger ships to pass underneath.





Although our hotel was here on the riverfront, we continued past industrial areas to Wallsend where the Hadrian's Wall path officially finishes at Segedunum Fort and museum. After a quick visit to the museum, with its tower viewpoint over the fort, we took a lift back to our hotel for a final dinner and farewells. The group had been great to travel with and for many of us this week had involved the most socialising we had done for 18 months.

The following week Don and I were able to make the most of being in the North East, as he came up to Alnwick where we stayed in a very nice self-catering flat, converted from a farm building.



From there we visited many places of interest including the Farne inlands, Lindisfarne, Cragside House and the Northumberland coast, as well as catching up with some friends in Bamburgh.

## Summer in the Swiss Alps by Pamela Harris

For most of this year Covid restrictions continued to make foreign travel difficult, with the result that the club's proposed Alpine hotel meet in the Val d'Anniviers had to be cancelled for a second time. So once again Alan and I set off on a meet for two, this time back to Klosters in the Graubunden, where we had spent ten glorious days on the 110th anniversary meet in 2019.

It was going to be very different from being with a large group of 42, so we decided to rent a self-catering apartment rather than stay in the Piz Buin Hotel again. It was in an equally good location, near the river and just a short walk to the train station and lifts. But most importantly, it gave us lots of space and the choice of eating in or exploring different restaurants for our evening meals.

It was the beginning of July, and we were hoping for better weather than western Switzerland had experienced in the



past months. We left home in lashing rain, wondering if we were doing the right thing, but amazingly we arrived in Klosters in brilliant sunshine, in time for a walk along the Landquart River towards Monbiel. We were not so lucky the next day, however, as we woke to find cloud almost down to the village, where it persistently remained for the next two days. At least it was not raining, and we found a network of paths around Klosters waiting to be explored, all below the cloud level. One led up towards Schlappin, through fields where hay was still stacked on wooden drying racks in the old-fashioned way and the meadows were a riot of pink, blue and yellow flowers.

Hayfields above Klosters

The next day we made the short train journey to nearby Davos and walked round the Davosersee, dodging the showers by taking refuge in a conveniently placed lakeside café. Despite the weather there were still people windsurfing on the lake, and at the side of the path were spotted orchids nestling in the high grass. Further along the lake where the trees grew closer to the path, we came across a family of black squirrels running up and down the trunks, so tame that they were taking food from the hands of the walkers in front of us.

We had intended to walk from the lake along a high path back to Klosters, but when the showers became heavier, we put that off until the following day. We started by train again, and then walked up through the woods to the small lake of Schwarzsee near Laret, where we ate our picnic lunch. Once again spotted orchids grew everywhere, and as we reached Cavadurli, we could see how the train tracks looped round to lose height in the descent to Klosters. This was a walk that we had intended to do two years ago, but we had so much good weather then that we were able to go high every day.





Davos Lake from the Panoramaweg

Fortunately the clouds lifted on the following day, and the sun was shining brightly as we set off on the “Panoramaweg” from the Gotschnagrät cable car high above Klosters. The path is aptly named for it provides a wonderful panorama as it contours along at 2300 metres, with spectacular views down onto the lake at Davos and across to the Silvretta peaks in Austria. Although we had seen lots of meadow flowers on our previous walks, I had been looking forward to seeing true alpine, and here we found them in multitudes. For the length of the trail the grassy slopes were covered with bright blue spring and trumpet gentians, pink alpenrose, yellow globeflowers, tiny lilac-coloured soldanellas, black vanilla orchids, bright pink primulas and a rare ground covering daphne, *Daphne striata*. After about an hour we passed the Parsenn hut and continued towards the middle station of the funicular coming up from Davos. This time we took it up to the top at Weissflühjoch, a barren wilderness with a café full of mountain bikers about to hurtle down the steep path to Davos. We did not join them, preferring the easier descent by the small train.





Walking through flowers on the Panoramaweg

The following day we returned to Davos to take the funicular to Schatzalp. We first walked through the Alpine Garden, up a steep slope past terraces of flowers. Most were alpines we had already seen on our walks, but there was a special section of Himalayan plants where we found the dark purple Tibetan slipper orchid (*Cypripedium tibeticum*), blue poppies (*Meconopsis*) and bright yellow Himalayan primulas. A gate led out through the top of the garden onto a path heading southwards on a long traverse through fir trees and meadows of grazing cows to reach a welcome café at Erbalp - which served delicious *apfelstrudel* - from where we descended more steeply to the streets of Davos once again.

Tibetan slipper orchids



Our final day again dawned bright and sunny, and this time we took the Madrisa lift from Klosters Dorf. We set off on a gently undulating path eastwards towards Schlappinerjoch on the Austrian border, the slopes at the side of the path once again covered with alpenrose, trumpet gentians and tiny white orchids. But as the day wore on, the sun became hotter and the path steeper. We were becoming increasingly tired, and in the end turned back before the border in time to enjoy a drink on the sunny terrace before taking the last lift down.

After a spring of walking in our local Jura mountains it had been good to get back to the Alps, and we were looking forward to our next trip, this time to the Saastal. But the rain set in again, and we had to wait until August for a period of good weather. Alan had never been to the Britannia Hut, and as far as I knew no one from the club had visited since August 2014 when I had accompanied Mike Pinney's sister Margaret in her pilgrimage to donate Mike's ice-axe. Back in 1912 the ABMSAC financed the building of the Hut, and thus it has always been important to the club and the focus of celebrations. The obvious place to stay was the Monte Moro Hotel in Saas-Almagell, which the club has made its



Monster signpost

base since the Centenary Meet in 2009. Annette was delighted to see us, and once again the hotel accommodation included the bonus of free rides on all lifts and buses in the valley.

It was an easy drive from home, and by lunchtime we had caught the bus to Saas-Fee and lift to Hannig ready to start our first walk. It was a gloriously sunny day as we set out on a contouring trail high above the village, signposted by the wooden carving of a monster in the traditional Valaisian style.

It was difficult to choose whether to look in front or below, for before us was a panorama of snow-covered peaks and at our feet a myriad of alpine flowers. The trail crossed streams and waterfalls, and at the Triftbach stream we passed the turn-off to the Mischabel Hut on the rocky slopes high above. We finally reached the other side of the valley at Gletschersee, the Glacier



Walking from Hannig



Lake, a wide expanse of milk-coloured water, from where we descended through larch woods to reach grassy meadows above the village. Here cows grazed peacefully, and the marmots had been fed by so many tourists that they were almost tame.

On the following day we caught the cable car from Saas-Grund up to Hohsaas, a thousand metres below the towering snows of the Weissmies, which several of our members had climbed in 2009. The view from here is one of the best in the valley for eighteen of the surrounding 4000 metre peaks can be seen rising above Saas-Fee. A panorama trail led across the snowy rocks, past cairns with information boards naming each peak, the date it was first climbed, and by whom. Most first ascents were made in the “Golden Age” of mountaineering, mainly by Victorian alpinists from Britain accompanied by Swiss guides. Some, such as the Allalinhorn, Strahlhorn, Alphubel and Rimpfischhorn, have been climbed by club members, although fewer have climbed the Dom, the highest peak of the Mischabel range.



Mischabel range from Hohsaas

From Hohsaas we took the cable car down to Kreuzboden for what has become one of my favourite walks in the Valais, the “*Blumenweg*” or Flower walk. From the lift an undulating trail led southwards across grassy slopes, giving



spectacular views across to the peaks we had seen from above. At our feet were numerous alpine flowers with small identification plaques naming each, and although we were too late for the trumpet gentians, we found alpenrose still in flower and a few rare edelweiss hiding in the long grass. It was a colourful walk, with bright pink dianthus, lilac-coloured field gentians, black vanilla orchids and bright blue perforated bellflowers, *Campanula excisa*, which I have only seen growing in this valley. But the most exciting find for me was the rare King of the Alps, *Eritrichium nanum*, its tiny bright blue flowers clinging to the rocks. After a short section through boulders and across an avalanche slope, where the path was protected by cables, we turned downhill to rejoin the cable car at



Perforated bellflower  
Trift, the midway station.

King of the Alps



Britannia Hut from the Egginerjoch



We now felt that we were acclimatised enough to attempt the Britannia Hut, and the next day took the Alpine Express from Saas-Fee up to Felskinn, just under 3000m. This was a world of snow and ice, and the path across to the Egginerjoch was busy, with several families on a day trip as well as better equipped alpinists. There was a herd of chamois at the Egginerjoch, and we had our first sight of the Hut on the ridge above.

It looked all too easy, but unfortunately the shorter winter path across the Chessjen Glacier was closed for the summer, meaning that we had to go down on a rocky path towards Plattjen, losing 200 metres in height, and then climb up again. It didn't sound much, but the rocks were uneven and difficult to negotiate, and we were very slow. As we clambered carefully



down, we were overtaken by Dario, the hut warden, who stopped for a brief chat. It looked a barren place, but hidden in the rocks were pale pink moss campions and tiny pale bellflowers which I have never seen before and later identified as Mont Cenis Bellflower, *Campanula cenisia*.



Moss campion



Mont Cenis  
Bellflower

At the lowest point were two small glacial lakes to be circumnavigated, and we started on the upward trail towards the large snow slope below the hut.



Glacial Lakes below the Hut



Nearly there



However, we finally had to admit that we were going too slowly to get to the hut and catch the last lift down - which left at what we thought was the ridiculously early time of 15:45 - so, just 80 metres below the hut, we turned back. Hopefully there will be another time!

We left two easier walks for our last days, the first leading from the top of the chairlift from Saas-Almagell into the wild, secluded Fürggtälli, an unspoilt valley leading to the Antrona Pass, a medieval trade route into Italy too far for us to even contemplate reaching. Once we left the top of the lift there were no restaurants to attract the crowds, and we met few other walkers. We followed the stream up through larch trees and meadows bright with flowers, with no real aim except to enjoy a more relaxing day in the mountains.

Our last day in the Saastal was a contrast for the historic “Kappellenweg”, the Path of the Chapels, is one of the most popular walks in the valley. Starting at the Saas-Grund campsite, well-known to club members, it climbs up to Saas-Fee past fourteen small wayside shrines, each depicting a different episode in the life of Christ and his mother Mary, ending in an elaborately decorated chapel to Mary, scene of an annual pilgrimage in September. The shrines were built in 1709 and in total contain over a hundred wooden carved and painted figures. From Saas-Fee we took a gently descending path down to Saas-Almagell, past the attractive restaurant at Bodmen where we

enjoyed a typical Valaisian lunch of *rösti mit spiegelei* on a sunny terrace.

During the summer other ABMSAC members were able to join us, the first to arrive being Bill and Rosie Westermeyer from the US, who had not been able to visit Europe since the start of the pandemic. They made the most of being back in the Alps, with day trips to mountains nearer to their home at Divonne and a longer visit to Zermatt. At the end of the summer Geoff and Pauline Causey arrived from the Lake District to stay with Richard and Katherine Heery at Champex-Lac. Alan and I joined them one sunny day for a short walk above the lake, the Grand Combin appearing tantalisingly through the trees as Geoff and Richard picked out the ascent route they had taken in their youth.

Let's hope that next summer other UK members of the ABMSAC will once again be able to join us in the Swiss Alps, and perhaps a group of us will be able to walk up to “our” Britannia Hut once again.



Group at Champex-Lac

Photos by Pamela Harris and Alan Norton



## Three day backpacking tour of the Lake District, July by Paul Stock

As part of our preparations for an Everest Base Camp trek due to take place in October 2021 (hopefully) Mitchell Sneddon and myself decided to take a tour of the Lake District. Originally it was planned to last for 5 days and take a much longer route, but due to unfavourable weather forecasts we adapted our route to suit the expected conditions.



View of Black Crag and St Sunday Crag from the hut

Day 1 started from the George Starkey Hut at around 0900. We set off up the road towards Grisedale and then on to the rather steep path ascending Black Crag.

The weather was a warm 20 degrees Celsius with blue skies with occasional clouds and no wind. Carrying a rather heavy 16kg rucksack we arrived at the summit of St Sunday Crag in 2 hours 40 mins.



Mitch on the path to Black Crag



Ullswater from the final slopes of St Sunday

There were great views of all the surrounding peaks without the accompanying crowds that some of them attract during peak holiday periods.

After a brief stop we descended to Deepdale House and then to Grisedale Tarn for lunch. There were a few groups of folks enjoying a swim.

Paul with Grisedale tarn behind

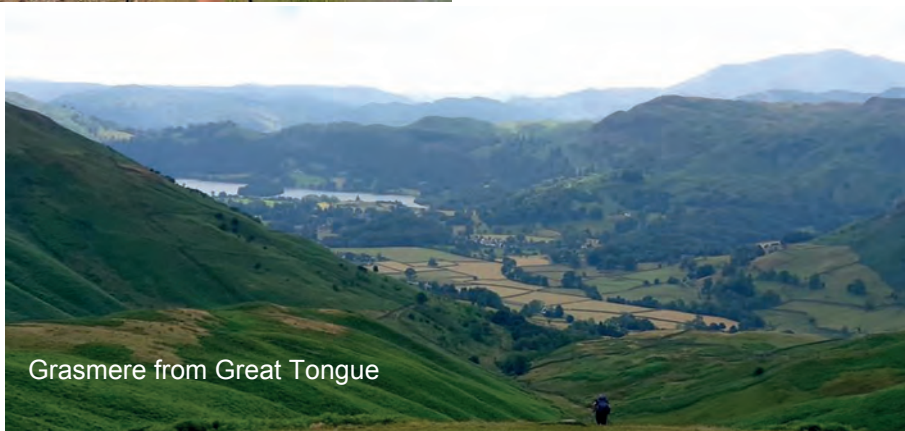


After lunch we passed through Grisedale House and traversed the lower slopes of Seat Sandal to Little Tongue Gill where we made our descent to Grasmere.

After some well deserved refreshments in the Travellers Rest Inn we made our way into Grasmere for a look around the very busy shops.

Day 1 ended in our first overnight stop at Baysbrown Campsite in Chapel Stile.

The MWIS forecast did not look favourable for day 2 and onwards so the route was modified to keep us at reasonably low level.



Grasmere from Great Tongue



Great Langdale from the Cumbrian Way

We followed the Cumbrian Way to both the New and Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotels in the hope of a coffee with no luck at all as the “pingdemic” had reduced their opening times a services offered. After passing through a field containing a rather threatening bull the Cumbrian Way continued up Mickleden to the head of the valley where the path splits





Mickleden Valley from the Cumbrian Way

into two. We took the Stakes Pass option and headed over the pass to the Langstrath valley.

The weather had steadily improved all morning giving way to bright sunshine for the descent. Many people were taking advantage of the sunny conditions whilst swimming in the deep stream pool at Blackmoss Pot. We passed a few wild campers just before turning the corner to Stonethwaite Campsite.

That evening at around 11pm the heavens opened and it rained all night. This is the first time we had camped in some years and the rain had kept us awake most of the night. However, at around 7am it stopped which allowed us to get packed up in the dry.



Langstrath valley from Stakes Pass



Approaching Grange

Day 3 started from the campsite and we headed to Longthwaite where we followed the Cumbrian Way along the River Derwent to Grange.

At last we found a coffee shop open for a quick refreshment and breakfast roll.

After second breakfast we followed the road to Manesty and then split from the Cumbrian Way to follow the path to Hause Gate and onwards to an extremely busy Cat Bells summit. Enroute we had two heavy showers requiring full waterproofs to be deployed but on arrival at the summit the sun shone and the fabulous views were there for all to see.



Paul and Mitch on Cat Bells Summit

We followed the crowds of day trippers to Hawes End to catch the ferry to Keswick. As luck would have it we arrived just in time for its departure and after a very short ferry trip we made our way to the nearest café for a late lunch.

The MWIS forecast again threatened further heavy rain with risk of thunder and lightening which forced a reluctant end to our tour of the Lake District and we retreated to the comfort of our homes on the South Coast.

The trip had been a success on many fronts. Much of our newly acquired camping kit worked extremely well and we had regained a healthy respect for those who carry heavier packs on the hills!

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### **A day out in the Lakes - Seatoller, Glaramara, Rosthwaite, July by Beth & Julie Jones**

It was the year the unthinkable happened, something so far reaching, it took us from the hills. Unimaginable, unprecedented, save for war time and the mercifully rare outbreaks of foot and mouth disease. 2020 was a time to read and reflect on peaks unclimbed, undiscovered routes and challenging fells hidden in plain sight. So it was with Glaramara, a brooding presence looking down on Seathwaite Farm where thousands arrive every year to head up the Scafell range.

Yet here, waymarked from the middle of the farmyard, lie miles of unpopulated hillwalking described as 'difficult' due to the lack of paths in the boggy, chaotic, terrain of the upper ground.





## Glaramara summit

The idea came from 'Chasing Snowflakes', an interesting book recounting the life of Norman Worrall, known to the world as 'Plum'. A founding member of the Karabiner Mountaineering Club in Manchester, Plum and his contemporaries were pioneers of mountaineering in all its forms and, in particular, the development of skiing in Scotland. In his later life, annual reunions were arranged, one of which, in 1989, gathered at the Royal Oak Hotel in Rosthwaite to climb up Combe Gill and take 'the circular, high ridge walk around the mountain Glaramara.'

It is an exhilarating 8 hour day in the forgotten reaches of Thorneythwaite Fell, Combe Head, Glaramara and Bessyboot. This lesser trodden area

offers commanding views of Dale Head, Fleetwith Pike and Green Gable, to Great Gable beyond, and the Scafell massif, plus the entire sweep of Borrowdale from The Combe, with Skiddaw in the distance.

There are two ways to gain height: a long traverse by Combe Gill to Thorneythwaite Fell or straight up the steep nose from Seathwaite. Whichever approach, the tracks at the top soon peter out into bogs and chossy outcrops, not a walk for poor weather as the going is rough and strenuous in places.

A rewarding detour to Combe Head offers fine views of the Langdale Pikes and Glaramara beckons with a 30' scramble to the summit.



Combe Head

The options from here are to continue straight on to Allen Crag and down to Stockley Bridge from Esk Hause; to retrace your steps back to Seathwaite down the 'impressive rift' of Hind Gill; or to follow the high level return to Strands Bridge at Seatoller along Dovenest Top and Rosthwaite Cam.

On the day, the number of other walkers around The Combe hardly broke double figures while the procession of tiny figures visible on the distant Corridor Route told a different story.



Derwentwater sunset

After months yearning to be outdoors again, the tranquil fells of Glaramara could hardly be bettered.



## Walking on the Ionian Islands: in the footsteps of Odysseus by Pamela Harris



Bust of Odysseus  
on Ithaca

The Ionian Islands lie off the west coast of mainland Greece, but only became part of the Greek state in 1864 after four centuries of rule by the Venetians and then half a century by the British. Three of the best-known islands are Corfu, Kefalonia and Ithaca, all of which play a prominent role in Homer's epic poem *The Odyssey*. After ten years of wandering throughout the Mediterranean, a violent storm sweeps Odysseus onto Corfu, then known as the land of the Phaeacians, and it is with the help of their king that he finally reaches Kefalonia and his homeland of Ithaca.

It was our aim to follow in Odysseus' footsteps on this last stage of his journey, visiting Corfu first and then Kefalonia and Ithaca the following year. But as we set out for Corfu in May 2019, little did we know that this was to be the last of our foreign travels before Covid took over the world for the next two years. Our visits to Kefalonia and Ithaca had to wait, and it was not until the autumn of last year that the restrictions of lockdown were lifted, and we were able to travel once again.

Homer is not the only author to have made the Ionian islands the setting for their books. The Durrell family lived on Corfu in the 1930s, and Lawrence's experiences there resulted in his evocative book *Prospero's Cell*, while his younger brother Gerald's *My Family and Other Animals* is a more light-hearted account what it was like to be a young boy growing up on the island. Louis de Bernières' novel *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* is set on Kefalonia, and the film based on the book was made on the island. Though fiction, it is a realistic account of life there during the Second World War and its aftermath.



Looking down on Paleokastritsa

Corfu is the northernmost island of the group, with a beautiful coastline and a good network of walking trails, described in detail in a recent Cicerone Guide. The first place we wanted to see was where Odysseus was shipwrecked, thought to be at Paleokastritsa in the northwest. The houses were clustered around a sandy bay, and we found a lovely walk which contoured along high cliffs with dramatic views down to the sea far below. It was easy to imagine Odysseus landing in this delightful spot.

Our most spectacular walk was up Mount Pantokrator, at 911 metres the highest point of

the island. From the small resort of Kassiopi on the northeast coast, where we were staying, a narrow road wound up to the high village of Old Perithea at the foot of the mountain. Founded more than seven centuries ago as a refuge from pirate attacks, it was once a thriving community with 130 stone houses and eight churches. Semi-abandoned in the 1960s, the village is, however, now coming back to life and is a Greek Heritage Site with several tavernas. One of these, *O Foros*, was visited by the British chef Rick Stein in 2007 and appeared in his BBC TV series *Mediterranean Escapes*. Its menu advertised a delicious walnut cake, just right for a snack before heading up the mountain 500 metres above us. It was springtime and the flowers were at their best, the rocky ground covered with tiny orchids and yellow Jerusalem sage. As



we gained height the views became more and more dramatic, until we could see down to the village where we had started, with the still blue waters of the Ionian Sea and the mountains of Albania only a short distance away. We reached the summit to find a beautifully restored chapel and a welcoming café before returning on the same track back to Perithea.

From here it is possible to continue all the way down to the northernmost tip of the island at Cape Agia Ekaterinis and the chapel of Agios Spiridonas, named after the patron saint of Corfu. This is the final stage





of the Corfu Trail, a glorious long-distance trek of 150 kms leading from the southernmost tip of the island to the very north in ten stages, partly along the coast and partly inland through remote villages. At the end of our stay on the island we went back to explore this final stage, walking from the chapel along the beach and then through tall grass and across jagged rocks to reach the beacon tower at the Cape. Clumps of large yellow sea poppies were growing on the dunes, and here we met some walkers who had just finished the whole trek, enthusing about their experiences.

Yellow sea poppies near Cape Ekaterinis

It was not until October 2021 that we were finally able to set out on the next stage of our journey in Odysseus' footsteps, travelling first to Kefalonia. Homer called the island Same, and Odysseus mentions that several of the suitors importuning his wife came from here. Now Sami is the name of a small town on its east coast facing Ithaca, and it was here that we based ourselves. It was a good centre to access the numerous well-marked walking trails on the island, both along the coast and up into the hills. These are described in the guidebook *Walk and Eat in Kefalonia* which we used for our walks and, equally importantly, for recommendations of local tavernas.



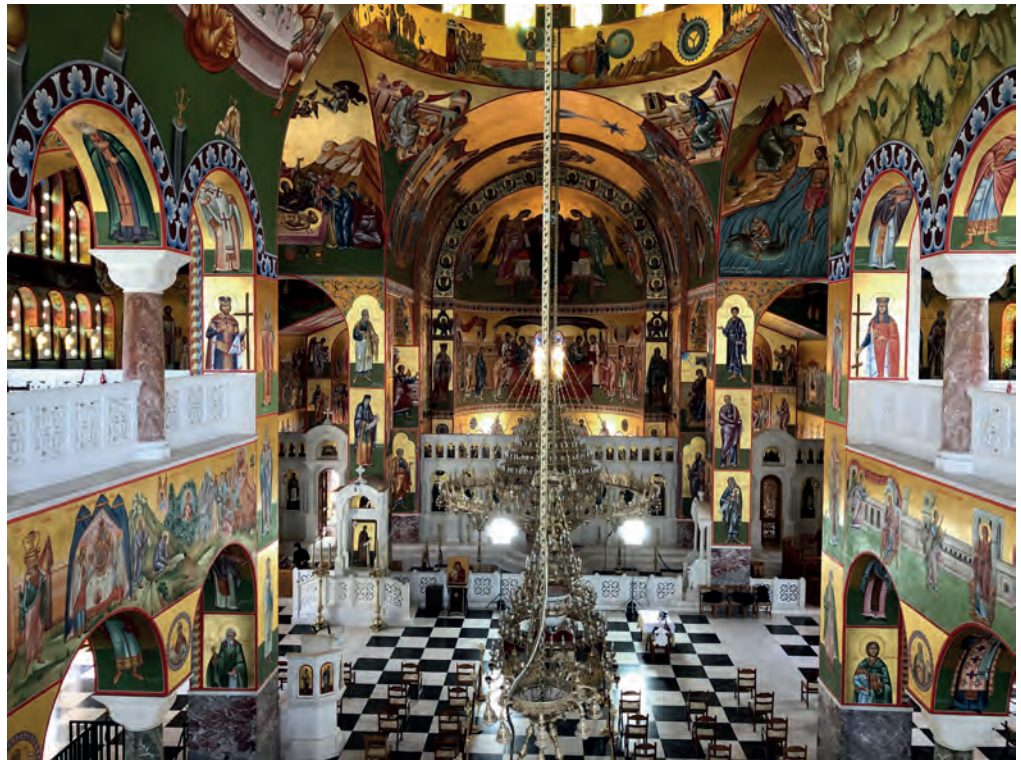
Walking to Old Valsamata

Kefalonia and Ithaca lie on a fault-line running down the west coast of Greece, and both were devastated by a massive earthquake in August 1953. In less than a minute, towns and villages were left in ruins, most of the lovely Venetian buildings totally destroyed. A rebuilding programme started a few years later, but many of the higher villages were abandoned, their houses left to crumble into ruin. One day we walked up to Old Valsamata and along what had once been the main street of a thriving community, all destroyed in 50 seconds. The church and bell tower are still there, but the houses are in ruins, one containing what looked like a wine press. In some of the overgrown gardens we found sternbergias growing, a bright splash of yellow livening up the drabness.



Sternbergia amidst the ruins

A new town of Valsamata has been built lower down and is now the centre of wine production in this fertile valley. A delicious white wine, called Robola, is produced here, and our walk took us through well-tended vineyards to a large church on the outskirts of the town, surrounded by olive trees and cypresses. The original church had been destroyed in the earthquake, and a new one has been built in the same style and in the same place, over the tomb of Agios Gerasimos, the patron saint of the island. The interior is completely covered with Byzantine-style frescoes, all intricately painted by modern artists, a work still in progress.



Frescoes in the new church





The only town not destroyed in the earthquake was the tiny port of Fiskardo in the far north of the island. The seafront is the home of several tavernas, and after a short stop for our usual lunch of Greek salad and glass of wine, we walked along the shore to the Venetian lighthouse and a 4th century Christian basilica. It was a tranquil spot, and we sat watching yachts sailing into the harbour on the opposite side of the bay.

Tranquil Fiskardo bay

We had time later that day to stop at nearby Assos and to walk on a paved track up to the ruined Venetian castle high above. The entrance gateway was guarded by a carving of the lion of St Mark, the symbol of Venice, and we climbed further up to the castle's highest tower, from where there was a spectacular view down onto the tiny harbour far below.



View from Assos castle

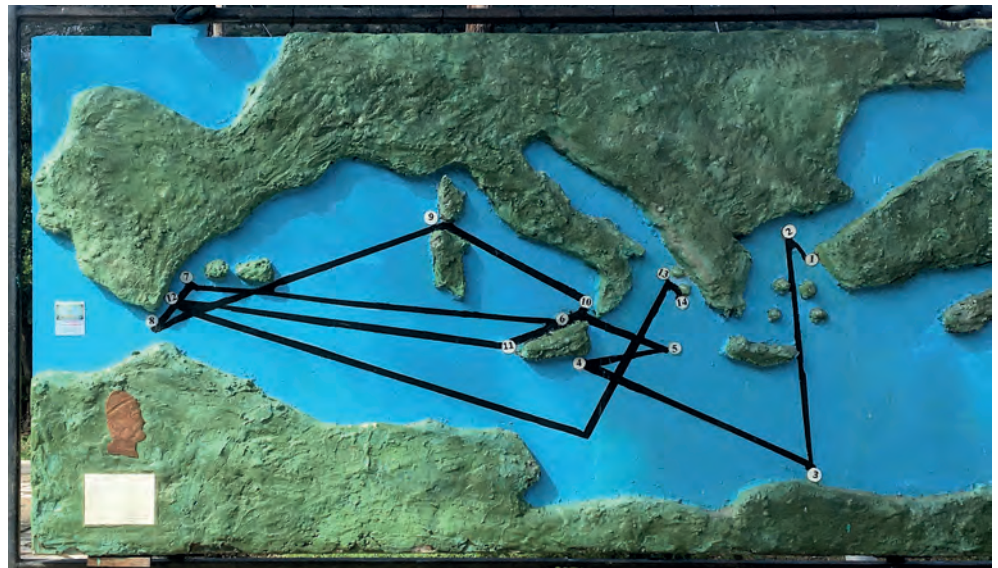
Ithaca was so close to Kefalonia that we could see it from almost everywhere on the island, but the best viewpoint was from the old citadel high above Sami. We reached this on our last day, climbing up through woods to see the hills of Ithaca just across the narrow stretch of water separating the two islands. This was our next objective, only a short ferry ride away.

Once on Ithaca, we drove to the town of Vathy in the centre of the island, set in a deep bay within a bay, possibly the very place where Odysseus himself was landed by the Phaiacians from Corfu. Vathy is surrounded by hills, and one day we walked up to the abandoned Byzantine churches above the town, from where we had a spectacular view down onto the bay and the multi-coloured houses clustered around the port.



Odysseus describes the island as a “rugged land” set in the “wine-dark sea”, with tree-covered hills and “pasturage good for goats rather than horses”. It seems to have changed little since his times, the ruggedness apparent as we drove along the winding coastal road northwards. The hills are not high, but we encountered little flat land and few villages on our journey, and indeed the land provided good

grazing for goats rather than horses. Where the road neared the coast there was a sheer drop down to the sea far below, and we could see across to the mountains of northern Greece in the far distance.



Map of Odysseus' journeys



We were heading for the village of Stavros and an archaeological site nearby which scholars have identified as Odysseus' Palace. We first stopped at a small park with a bust of Odysseus, a model of the palace, and a map of the Mediterranean showing his journeys. We then continued along a dusty road which ended at a tree-covered hillside, enclosed by a high wire fence with the sign "Archaeological Site: School of Homer". This was clearly what we were looking for, but at first there seemed no way in for we were barred by a padlocked gate. But just as we were about to give up, we realised that it was in fact not locked, and we were able to enter the site. Everywhere was overgrown with long grass and bushes, but we eventually stumbled on a path which led past a deep well and then up a crumbling staircase to reach the ruins of buildings, the doorways and windows clearly of Mycenaean origin, topped by a huge lintel stone.



Doorway in the Palace of Odysseus

We were soon joined by a few other curious people who had also found their way through the gate, and together we wandered round these delightfully unspoilt ruins, speculating as to whether Odysseus really had lived here. I was ready to believe that he had, and that we had found the site of his reunion with his faithful wife Penelope after twenty years' absence. There were several olive trees here, and we wondered if it would be too much to hope that one of them was that which he had built their bed around all those years before.

We continued out of the site by a higher gate, onto a stony track leading further uphill to the small village of Exogi, on land that would once have belonged to Odysseus. There were wild cyclamen and autumn crocuses growing at the side of the path, with vines, fruit trees and even pomegranate trees heavy with fruit in the cultivated areas. The views down to the coast were glorious, and it was easy to see why Odysseus would have built his palace up here, with the whole island at his feet.



Olive tree at the Palace



View from the Palace with ripe pomegranates

Odysseus' journey was finally at an end, here in his palace, and we too ended our Ionian journey in his footsteps, in this same beautiful spot.

*Photos by Pamela Harris and Alan Norton*



## Bob Graham Round *by Mike Griffiths*

For many of my friends, long days in the mountains are a passion and over the years this has enabled fostering many great friendships. An early inspiration was a successful completion of the Cuillin ridge of Skye as a group of four friends. One of these friends, Oliver Gilbert, was significantly older and showed us younger tigers a thing or two. The idea of the Bob Graham round grew in 2015 after recovering from pneumonia I struggled my way up Skiddaw, Great Calva and Blencathra that was a long day. During this trip, I realised that this was the first leg of the “Bob Graham”. Compared with my initial exploit, successful attempts at a sub 24 hour round complete this leg in around 4 hours. An attempt at the Bob Graham was going to require a significant amount of training and recceing.

I was already a member of the ABMSAC and took advantage of the George Starkey hut for exploits with my children in the Lakes. It would also be necessary to gain more fell running experience in the Lake District. I joined Dark Peak Fell Runners in 2018 and was soon following the activities of other fell runners preparing for their BG attempt. In 2019 I helped out on a successful attempt running over Helvellyn. The full moon was a splendid cherry red colour, it was magical night of fell running and joining the triumphant run into Keswick after I'd provided support on leg 5. This was the point at which training was notched up and I began to consider making a serious attempt at running the Bob Graham Round.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic final preparations for the BG attempt were challenging. Part of the challenge involved my 12 year old son with route reconnaissance. During June, Louis and myself spent a few days recceing the route. Arriving in the Lake District on the 31st May, we parked at the Honister Pass and ran up to Dale Head, Hindscarth and Robinson. It was a warm sunny evening in the mountains after a pleasant evening run we drove to the George Starkey Hut.



Mike and son, Louis

The next day, we set off from Thirlmere at the bottom of Comb Gill and walked up the back of Helvellyn. The view from the top was spectacular and it was clear. From here we traversed the Bob Graham route as far as High Raise, Sergeant Man and Thunacar Knott. The middle of this section was Dunmail Raise where we had a rest and some food. As we ate, we could see the monster ahead of us that was Steel fell. Ascending up Steel Fell was very tough as it was really steep and long. Our return route proceeded along Wyth Burn and eventually to our car parked at the end of Thirlmere.



I have got so much respect for Louis what he managed to achieve was excellent! After a rest day involving purchases of Gingerbread we recced the first leg. This involved parking at the Blencathra Centre and undertaking the long ascent of Skiddaw.

On Great Calva we met other people preparing for their Bob Graham round attempt. Our ascent of Blencathra was foggy but we had a fun scramble down Halls Fell ridge. For our final couple of days we explored the final legs. This included the traverse from Scafell Pike to Scafell via Lords rake and the journey from Kirkfell to Honister pass.

Highlights of the training included a range of evocatively named routes such as the Old County tops, Winter solstice round of the Derwent watershed, The Kinder Killer and the Fifteen Trigs, to name a few quality sessions. I soon found myself organising a group of people to help out with an attempt at the Bob Graham. I'd expected to provide support, but the question was asked. Who is making an attempt? Rosie responded "I think Mike is". A couple of days later I put my head above the parapet and said "please can I have some support for an attempt at the Bob Graham Round". Although the prospect seemed daunting, the people offering to provide support filled me with confidence.



Keswick Moot Hall and Ready to Go

After a period of rather warm weather the week of my attempt looked unsettled. I arrived in Keswick to rain and low cloud with some promise of clearing when we were due to head off. It was soon 18:45 and time to depart from the Keswick Moot Hall. Bob, Helen and myself were soon on our way up Spooney Green Lane on a pleasant evening run up Skiddaw. The journey had at last begun, the nervousness vanished and we settled into an enjoyable run with a good comfortable pace. I had eaten well this week, but feeding had begun, already, on the first leg. For long days out such as this it's important to keep your body well fuelled by eating regularly. My supporters on this leg were keen to ensure I did that.



Gordon, providing road support, gave the next team of supporters a lift to Threlkeld and transferred supporters back to the campsite. He also waited patiently for us at Dunmail Raise at 0300 in the morning, hard work.

Leg 2, which starts from Threlkeld and passes over Helvellyn, was soon here. James, Fiona and Paul did excellent navigation, pacing and feeding. With the low cloud it was quite tricky but we arrived at Dunmail, 35 minutes ahead of schedule. I felt like a formula 1 racing car as people changed my socks/shoes and I downed a protein energy drink. Before heading off up Steel Fell, Paul took a look at my kit and had a great list of things I didn't need. He sent me off up the Steel without my running sack! I was allowed to wear my compass though, later on Helen said it was my lucky talisman.



Lords Rake (a picture taken on one of our recce days)

Feeling strong and with excellent navigation and pacing from Ben and Andrew we arrived at Rossett Pike, still 35 minutes ahead. From Bowfell to Scafell Pike we struggled somewhat over wet greasy rock. I felt the ascent up Lords Rake was ok but we managed that 6 minutes slower than schedule.

On Scafell we met Helen and Majka who formed the support team for leg 4. The stop at Wasdale permitted more refuelling and a shirt change. Bob, who supported on Leg 1 and a month earlier completed a solo Paddy Buckley round drove around to Wasdale with kit and supplies and to join in leg 4 support fun.



I was soon heading up Yewbarrow on tired legs, I'd practiced this experience on an earlier training session it went OK and at a pace which kept me on schedule. I was particularly slow ascending Red Pike, my supporters were really working hard to make me feed, drink and keep on going. It was a delicate balance working out when to use poles. Sometimes it was just simpler to allow my friend to carry my poles whilst I

ran. The final run in over Green Gable, Brandreth and Grey Knotts was particularly slow. On this leg I was not focusing on my leg times and placed all my trust in the supporters. They worked so hard to keep me going but we'd lost time and I didn't stop at Honister. My supporters Helen and Pez grabbed handfuls of food and caught up with me. At one point they were playing good cop bad cop, apparently I was on another happy planet and not appearing to listen to their encouragement. Pez dropping the sergeant major approach adopted a stance of please, please carry on. I was struggling to run but they kept on encouraging me, feeding me and making me drink. I was still enjoying my run but it was rather tricky to keep a decent pace going.

After dropping off Robinson the road/trail section was at hand and I gradually picked up and maintained a run. I wasn't running uphill very well and was dependent on the support of Helen and Pez. At the same time I was checking my watch, guessing the remaining distance, I was not sure and at that time never really knew if my slow pace would get me in on time. It was beginning to get a bit dramatic. Still Helen and Pez kept me going! I never believed it until I arrived at the bridge, finally, when I could see the Moot Hall that was the point I really believed it was really going to happen I enjoyed a run on a wave of applause and cheers and arrived back at the Moot Hall in Keswick at 18:36, wow what a truly amazing experience.



Team Success at the Moot Hall

The day out is a great lesson for life. The really important thing here was the determination displayed by the team, just amazing. For that day I had extra insight into an inkling of how amazing those people are and how they are channeling that determination to get the job done. I guess that is the power of this team event. Big credit to Louis for being a brilliant training partner and coming out on some incredible trips.

Link to the Bob  
Graham Round





## Obituaries

### Keith Dillon 1952 - 2021



Keith Dillon died, aged 68 years, having suffered a cardiac arrest whilst out cycling, on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Keith's funeral took place on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 with only closest family present.

He had lived in Worthing for around 40 years. He studied Physics at Imperial College, London, and went on to work for Decca Radar on ship navigation equipment and then Link-Miles in the field of flight simulation. He retired from Link-Miles in his late 40's, but continued with freelance work into his early 50's.

Keith was active in many areas of life including music photography, cycling, dancing, windsurfing and sailing.

He taught himself carpentry, led walks for local walking clubs, played ukulele with several groups and sang regularly with the South Downs Folk Singers and a local shanty group. Being a computer programmer, Keith also voluntarily designed and

managed websites for several of the clubs and groups to which he belonged.

Keith joined the ABMSAC in 1990 and attended the Zermatt Meet that year climbing to the top of Switzerland, the Monte Rosa. He kindly wrote an article for the 1991 Journal. Over the years his club activities included attending several Alpine Meets and Annual Dinners. In addition, in the late 90s he was the Hon. Treasurer. In the Alps he regularly teamed up with David Slater and Don Hardy and climbed extensively in Switzerland. David says that 'Keith was a natural mountaineer and used to boulder hop without fear'.



He joined the 2007 Nepal Trek, his blog, ([www.keithinnepal.blogspot.com](http://www.keithinnepal.blogspot.com).) has an array of lovely photos recording the trip. The write up of the trek is in the 2008 Journal.

Pamela Harris described Keith who she first met in 2000, as a quiet and private person, but polite and courteous, always reliable in the mountains.

Alwyn Greenwood described Keith as having a can-do attitude to life, combining his adventurous nature with both kindness and patience.

She recounts her first trip to Snowdonia with Keith where she was surprised by how much he encouraged her to do in a few

days, with walks up Y Garn, Cnicht, the North Face of Tryfan and the Snowdon Horseshoe. Every other holiday that followed involved 'a rucksack on your back and off walking somewhere in the great outdoors'.

*Edited by Andy Burton with contributions from David Slater and Alwyn Greenwood.*

## Geoff Urmston 1936 - 2021



Geoff, one of nine, was born to William and Edris in July 1936 in Liverpool, and grew up in Aigburth.

Geoff was one of the last to have to do National Service. He didn't like the heat but was posted to Egypt during the Suez crisis, and then onto Cyprus, difficult times. He was originally going to be in the military police, but they realised he was colour blind.

He served in the RAF and the training served him in good stead all his life as it established him as a man of routine.

After leaving the RAF Geoff worked as a solicitor's clerk and studied as a chartered secretary. He then went on to work at Pilkington's as a systems analyst. Later he moved to work for Vernon's Pools (now Ladbrokes).

He married Murial (Mo) in January 1958. They met at a dance hall, possibly the Rocket. Mo thought Geoff was handsome and liked his red hair. The happy couple later had their son Stuart.

Geoff's interests were varied. He was a supporter of Liverpool FC, as is his son Stuart. He did the daily cryptic crossword, read extensively and kept up with news and current affairs.

He loved hill walking and mountaineering. As a member of the Association since 1996, Geoff travelled with the Club to trek in Austria, France and Switzerland, as well as in the Lake District and Scotland.



I remember Geoff joining us on Alasdair Andrews trek in the Maritime Alps in 2004. On the last day when Steve Caulton, Ed and I arrived back at the Gite, Geoff was already there with the rest of the gang having made a very respectable table pyramid of empty beer cans between them.

Geoff also hill walked with his brother Peter, and set out routes for walkers with Peter in Wales. His nephew Rob remembers the care Geoff took when packing his climbing gear.



In his later life, Geoff and Mo entertained family and friends. He continued to do his puzzles, and would regularly ferry Mo to the airport on her foreign travels.

Geoff was fiercely independent and didn't like to ask for help, but inspired a lot of kindness in people as he was a caring man with a dry sense of humour and an underlying warmth, who helped people when he could, but discreetly.

Geoff died peacefully in hospital on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Geoff was much loved by family and friends and he will be missed by them all.

*Edited by Andy Burton. Thanks to Phil Hands, Pippa Dell and Stuart Urmston for their assistance in preparing Geoff's life story.*

## **Cdr Derwent Grenville Turnbull 1922 – 2021**



Derwent passed away on 27 December 2021, eight days before his 100th birthday. Since 1965 he was member of the Geneva Section of the Swiss Alpine Club and in 1970 became a life member of the ABMSAC.

Ronald, his son, says his dad was a lifelong enthusiast for the Swiss Alps – a couple of years ago he recommended to me the Hotel Gletscher in Saas Fee on the basis that he'd stayed there with his father in 1936. (The receptionist believed I'd got my German wrong and meant to say my Dad and Grandpa had been there in 1963.) Immediately after the War he climbed the Matterhorn by the normal Hörnli ridge with his father (Prof. H W Turnbull, sometime president of the Scottish Mountaineering Club). They climbed it fast, in weather dodgy enough that they had the hill to themselves, which was unusual even in the 1940s. When we watched the TV show of Jamie Andrew's climb there, my dad was disgusted by the amount of fixed cable now defacing the mountain.

He took part enthusiastically in several meets of the Section Genevois, including one where I believe he was guided up the second ascent of a *Fissure en Z* somewhere above the Aletsch Glacier. I joined him on one in the Alpes Maritimes, where he demonstrated to the surprised Swiss that on a descent section of the ridge it can be more convenient to climb down than messing around with abseil ropes.

He also climbed in the Lake District and in Scotland, summer and winter. Once he climbed with Dougal Haston: they were stuck together in the Glen Coe hut in foul weather when their respective partners had failed to show. Earlier he climbed with WH Murray at SMC meets. His climbing style was what was then called 'bold' and nowadays would be 'dangerous and irresponsible', as perhaps was true of many who had come through the war.

As an example, he once did a short cut across Loch Avon in the Cairngorms during a vigorous thaw (well the Garbh Uisge can be troublesome in spate) with his cousin Oliver Turnbull. In the middle of the loch the ice was groaning under their feet and they were paddling ankle deep in warm water on top of the ice.

The Torridon hills were favourites, and I collaborated with him on the SMC's 1969 climbing guidebook to the area. (Above our grade, really, as we weren't VS men: the original author had, I believe, died in the Himalayas.) Julian Cooper was invited to do the crag drawings for the SMC guide in 1969, as his father did for the FRCC from the 1930's onward.



Julian climbed with him on Gimmer, Pavey Ark, Dow Crag, and maybe Scafell and in the Bernese Oberland, and agrees his style was 'bold'.

Derwent kindly lent Julian a pair of crampons to climb the Matterhorn with, but they were stolen afterwards from the train at Ventimiglia on the way to Nice. He was very understanding about it! The Cioch Nose at Applecross was Julian's most enjoyable climb with him.

In later life (the 1990s) his enthusiasm for the Alps continued, on panoramic paths and hut nights with his second wife Genny and their two children.

Outside climbing he was an aeronautical engineer in the Royal Navy, a lecturer at Dundee University, and a keen amateur musician. His son, Ronald, continues the family tradition, as a fellwalker and guidebook writer.

Many thanks to Ronald Turnbull and Julian Cooper, a climbing companion, for these photos and insights into Derwent's extensive and varied mountaineering career.

*Edited by Mike Goodyer*

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### **Edwin Hammond 1938 - 2021**

Ed Hammond passed away in August. He was a member of both the SAC and the ABMSAC since 1962. I last met him at the Britannia Hut Centenary Celebrations in 2012.

Mike Goodyer



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB**

**Minutes of meeting held at the Inn on the Lake, Glenridding at 1745 hours**  
**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The President Andy Burton, was in the chair. 25 members were in attendance including Andy.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Dick Murton, Lyn Warriss, Sheila Coates, Mary Eddowes, Myles O'Reilly, Mike Parsons, Daniel Albert, Pamela Harris, Alan Norton, Derek Buckley, Ann Alari, Steve Caulton
2. **Minutes of the AGM held by Zoom on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021:** No amendments were suggested. Proposed by Belinda Baldwin, seconded by Paul Stock
3. **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising
4. **Election of Officers and Committee:**

A full list of the current officers and members of the committee were set out in the Agenda of the AGM, together with the date on which each of their terms of office were due to finish. Under the current rules, the terms of office are 3 years in succession for the President and Vice President and elected members of the Committee, and 6 years for other committee members.

Andy Burton presented a proposal to clarify and provide greater flexibility to the Rules of the Association, such that the term of office of any committee member could be extended by one year, subject to agreement by the committee and ratification by club members at the AGM. John Dempster queried whether this change was necessary.

When put to a vote, no members voted against the change, two members abstained and all others present voted in favour.

Addendum Agenda item 7a. – Revision to Rules of Association. Paragraph 7d of the Rules of Association refers to the terms of office of various committee members and reads as follows. “The President, the Vice-President and the elected members of the Committee shall not serve for more than three years in succession. The other officers shall not serve for more than six years in succession.”

It is proposed to change the existing wording, Rule 7e, which currently reads “The Committee may, at their discretion, waive rule (d) above in exceptional circumstances.”

To **“The Committee may extend the term of any elected member for the following year subject to agreement at the AGM.”**

This change to the Rules of Association was taken to be accepted by the membership.

It was noted that Dick Murton would prefer to stand down from his role as Secretary in 2023, although he would be willing to continue in the role if needed, in order to enable a smooth handover of the role.

## **5. Hon Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer's report was circulated in the December 2021 newsletter and presented here. The Treasurer, Ed Bramley, drew attention to a number of points.

There has been a change to the presentation of the accounts to enable greater clarity.

The net assets at the end of the year amounted to just under £80,000, of which the majority was cash on deposit. The main income has been from return on investments, which has remained stable over the past year and was greater than the income from subscriptions, so it will be important to keep a significant investment portfolio. Expenditure has included the Journal, meet deposits (which were reduced in the past year), training grants and donations to relevant bodies and charities. The BMC affiliation fee for members is due to rise by 75p in April 2022. It was proposed that the combined ABM plus BMC membership rates should remain unchanged until at least April 2023.

Stuart Beare suggested that an additional donation be made to the Friends of the Lake District.

Roger James raised the point that as pound for pound, our investments generate more income than our cash deposits, whether it may be beneficial to convert more of the clubs' cash deposits to investments and suggested taking financial advice to improve the overall income position. The Treasurer agreed that external financial advice was necessary before any decision was made, and this was now progressing. In addition, the Treasurer noted that to make any financial advice meaningful, the club also needed to have a clear vision of what it wanted to achieve with its assets for the benefit of members, from the short term, through to the long term.

Proposed by James Baldwin, seconded by Julie Freemantle.

## **6. President's Report. 2022**

Thank you for coming to the Club AGM.

This is your opportunity to question the committee about running the club. Your committee has met formally three times by Zoom this year plus discussions and email contact throughout the year.

Your committee have introduced an annual donation of £150.00 to the Patterdale Mountain Rescue Team to complement the £350.00 annual donation that is already made by George Starkey Hut Limited.

We have also introduced an annual donation payment of £250.00 to the Patterdale Community Fund. Both regular donations have been well received.

We continue to work with the Patterdale Community Fibre Partnership, and I am pleased to report that they are approaching the actual works phase of the project, which will see Superfast Broadband reach our part of the valley.

We are also looking at supporting the Britannia Hut in this their 110<sup>th</sup> year with a new Scandanavian stove. Pamela Harris has been speaking on our behalf to Jacques Bondallaz, who is the SAC Geneva Section representative of the Britannia Hut. He works closely with Marc Renaud, who is in charge of all the Geneva Section huts, and Dario, the hut warden since his mother retired in 2012.



Once the committee have had chance to discuss this project in more detail, we will update you all as, ideally, we would like to combine our support for this project with a meet in Saas Fee and a visit to the Hut for as many of our members as possible.

Once Meets became a viable option again in June 2021 there were usually at least ten attendees at each venue, whereas before the pandemic, there would have been on average 15 attendees, but when you add to that the combined numbers out on the North/South Day walks each month, I feel our active core is as strong as ever.

Two UK-based meets had to be postponed until 2022, both in the devolved nations, due to their Covid-19 regulations running differently from those in England.

All three European meets had to be either cancelled, or in the case of the Picos Meet postponed for the second year. Fingers crossed we get to actually visit this unique mountain area in Asturias, Northern Spain, this September.

We did hold two new meets in 2021. The first one was in the Cotswolds, at the end of June, organised by Mike Goodyer. With its structure of two day walks run over a weekend, this meet had up to 16 members attending across a wide age range of the membership.

The second was the first Roving Meet held at Swanage on the Isle of Purbeck. Its location in major part being chosen so that James and Belinda could come on a meet relatively close to home after 15 years of running their Beer Meet. Thanks to Paul for finding this little gem for us.

Please take time to have a look at the Meet reports and accompanying photos on the website.

The Day walk itineraries are also available on the website, with .gpx files available for members to access should you wish to do that particular walk yourselves.

I thank, on your behalf, all meet organisers for their due diligence and enthusiasm especially with the extra layer of admin that Covid-19 procedures caused. In this regard we were ably assisted by Daniel Albert who agreed to join your committee this year, and be our BMC recommended Covid-19 officer.

The Membership is holding at 196 with 39 Full members and 157 Affiliates. The direct payment part of the system for renewals has now been introduced, as Julie takes over the Membership Secretary role from Ed.

Thanks to Julie and Ed for sticking with this major change, and educating us all on how to make it work better and easier for the future.

Your committee has elected not to increase membership rates until at least April 2023.

Ed has mentioned the handover of accounts went to plan, but not without some delays to updating nominees on investments.

The new Treasurer's report highlights a number of changes to how we present the accounts and the accompanying notes in support of them. We hope you find this new approach clearer and easier to understand.

It is sufficient for me to say the Club finances remain in a healthy state, as clearly documented. Thanks, Ed, for taking on another important committee role.

The Journal continues to provide members with a vibrant high quality annual record of your Club and Member activities with superb pictures and interesting articles, even in the face of the pandemic. Thanks Mike.

May I also thank Julie for organising our return to the Inn on the Lake this weekend.

It is sad that four of our members died this year. Keith Dillon, an Affiliate since 1990, Geoff Urmston, an Affiliate since 1996, Edwin Hammond who joined the Monte Rosa (St. Maurice) Section in 1962, and Derwent Turnbull who joined the Geneva Section in 1965.

Finally, I would like to thank my committee for their support, continued enthusiasm, and willingness to adapt to the many challenges this year has brought to us.

## **7. Update on the George Starkey Hut**

The hut management arrangements changed on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021, which was the start of this financial year. There are now 6 Directors, 3 from each of the two clubs (President, Secretary and Treasurer) and a Hut Management Committee (HMC), comprising of 9 volunteers from both clubs who deal with its day to day running and have specific roles.

The AC volunteers are Paul Hudson - Booking Secretary, Tom Curtis - Health & Safety and John Evans – Secretary. The joint ABM/AC volunteers are Marian Parsons - Hut Warden and Don Hodge – a font of knowledge about the hut. The ABMSAC volunteers are Ian Mateer – GS Hut website, Mike Griffiths - assistant Booking Secretary, Derek Buckley - Finance accounting and Heather Eddowes - Chair of HMC.

Various repairs and maintenance tasks have been completed in the past year, as well as addressing legal requirements such as fire safety checks and electrical testing. These have included roof repairs in several places, re-plastering following leaks, chimney repointing, a new fire door, 3 new USB sockets and remedial electrical works. The Maintenance Meet at the end of August was attended by 12 members who gave their time to painting, including the new plaster, deep cleaning, doing repairs and tidying the car parking area. These were all very necessary and a way that hut users can 'give back'.

Future plans are under discussion, including improvements to the women's washroom, improved ventilation and heating, improvements to the drying room, further roof renewal and smaller dormitories.

The number of bed nights was reduced considerably in the past 2 years due to Covid 19 restrictions, down to 207 in 2020/21 and 950 in 2019/20. This year to date (2021/22) has shown approximately 580 bed nights. The reduction is partly due to clubs who use the hut being reluctant to use it at full capacity. On the plus side, we have been fortunate to receive government support grants of £29,000 from Eden District Council in the last 2 years, which has helped to cover the regular outgoings such as the rent and electricity. This is now at an end so the hut running costs will need to be self-financing.



Booking the hut now requires payment in advance, after which the code for the key safe is provided. The night rates in 2023 will go up to £10 for members and £17 for BMC affiliated clubs and members' guests.

Heather made a personal note of thanks to Don for his help in getting so many odd jobs done, with a quick response when needed and when it is not worth bringing in an outside contractor. John Dempster thanked Heather and the HMC for all their work on the hut. He suggested that the possibility of reciprocal arrangements with other clubs be investigated, in order to increase its use, especially mid-week. James Baldwin congratulated the HMC for their work and noted how much it was appreciated.

**8. AOB**

No other matters were raised

**9. Date of next meeting**

The proposed date is Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at the Inn on the Lake.

Judy Renshaw, February 2022

## Treasurer's Annual Report 2020-2021

Our net assets as a club continue to be significant, totalling just under £80,000, which includes cash on deposit of nearly £60,000. The income from investment dividends and bank interest has remained stable from last year, and our total yearly income from all of these sources exceeded £5,000 last financial year. In contrast, our net income from membership was £1,256.23.

With expenditure last financial year at just under £5,000, the key implication of this is that we will need to maintain a significant investment portfolio as a club as our prime source of income, if we want to continue what we want to do and how we do it. That includes production of a high quality journal, underpinning meets, particularly with temporary deposits, donations to charities that relate strongly to the club, and training grants, for which we continue to seek nominations.

Behind the scenes, we have completed transfer of club nominees between old and new treasurer, which was happening at the same time as several of the investments were themselves changing ownership – life is never straight-forward.

You may have noticed some changes to the layout and content of the accounts, and their accompanying notes this year. This is because I want you, as members, to have as clear and transparent a view of our finances as possible, so that you are all financially aware of where we are as a club, and the opportunities and challenges we face in that area going forward.

In particular, with an eye to my previous Membership Secretary role, I've made some changes to how the membership information is reported, so that it is both clearer how much the club gets from subscriptions after it has made payments to both BMC and SAC, and also simplifies and aligns the information presented by the membership secretary to that which is set out in our annual reports. To achieve this, there are a pair of figures in the accounts that are a one time adjustment to enable this to happen.

Lastly, and again looking at membership, I would like to note that whilst the affiliation fee for the BMC is set to rise by 75p in April 2022, and at the AGM I would like to propose that combined ABM and BMC subscriptions for existing and new members is maintained at their existing level until at least April 2023. That is:

- Single Member £29.50
- 2nd Member at the same address £21.50
- Student £26.00
- Junior £15.35

Ed Bramley

Hon. Treasurer 5th November 2021



## Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club

### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th September 2021

		Notes	2021	2020
<b>Income</b>				
	Net income from subscriptions	1	1,256.23	568.22
	Net adjustment for membership subscription accounting change	2	1,093.66	72.99
	Dividends and Bank Interest	3	4,714.85	4,673.58
	Brooks MacDonald income reinvested	3	383.16	404.62
<b>Total income</b>			<b>7,447.90</b>	<b>5,719.41</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Journal & Newsletters	Journal	4	- 1,373.36	- 2,046.04
	Cost of digitising the Journals		-	- 4,193.33
	Newsletters		- 16.65	- 85.05
Meets	110th. Anniversary		-	- 34.95
	London Lectures		-	- 115.67
	Deposits to providers for future meets	9	350.00	- 303.50
	Annual Dinner	5	- 100.00	- 899.54
Training	Training Grants		-	- 321.00
Donations	Patterdale Mountain Rescue Team	6	- 450.00	-
	Patterdale (PCC) Community Fund	6	- 250.00	- 1,000.00
	Himalayan Trust		-	-
	Dartmoor Way		-	-
	Bloodwise		-	-
	Glacier Stove Project		-	- 207.00
GSHL	GSHL - Specialist advice	7	- 768.00	-
	GSHL - Other	7	- 145.90	-
Administration	Tax on interest and dividends		- 254.03	- 276.07
	Administration	8	- 573.35	- 360.32
<b>Total expenditure</b>			<b>- 4,681.29</b>	<b>- 9,842.47</b>
<b>Net Surplus / (Deficit)</b>			<b>2,766.61</b>	<b>- 4,123.06</b>

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th September 2021

<b>Fixed Asset Investments</b>				
	Investments at cost	3	20,223.45	19,555.62
<b>Current Assets</b>				
	Club deposits to venues for future meets	9	600.00	250.00
	Cash on deposit		59,247.16	60,638.08
<b>Total Current Assets</b>			<b>59,847.16</b>	<b>60,888.08</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>				
	Club members deposits paid to club for future meets	9	- 350.00	- 2,396.04
	Subscriptions in advance	2	-	- 1,093.66
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>			<b>- 350.00</b>	<b>- 3,489.70</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>			<b>79,720.61</b>	<b>76,954.00</b>
<b>General Fund</b>				
	Brought forward from previous ABMSAC accounting year		76,954.00	81,077.06
	Net Surplus / (Deficit) from Income & Expenditure account		2,766.61	- 4,123.06
<b>Carried forward at 30th September 2021</b>			<b>79,720.61</b>	<b>76,954.00</b>

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

for the year to 30th. September 2021

### 1. MEMBERSHIP

	2021		2020	
	No.	Amount	No.	Amount
New Members: Oct-Dec previous calendar year	1	26.00	-	-
Memberships renewed	187	7,198.76	199	7,029.08
Members with zero payment	3	-	3	-
New/renewing Members subsequent quarters (ii)	4	110.00	-	-
<b>TOTAL Membership income</b>		<b>7,334.76</b>		<b>7,029.08</b>
SAC Membership bulk payment (i), (ii)	28	-2,523.28	34	-2,654.42
SAC - Chf transfer fee		-15.00		-15.00
<b>TOTAL SAC related payments</b>		<b>-2,538.28</b>		<b>-2,669.42</b>
BMC affiliation payment – New Members Oct-Dec previous calendar year	-	-	7	-92.69
BMC Affiliation payment	175	-3,520.00	184	-3,698.75
BMC Affiliation payment subsequent quarters (iii)	1	-20.25	-	-
<b>TOTAL BMC Affiliation fees</b>		<b>-3,540.25</b>		<b>-3,791.44</b>
<b>NET Income to ABMSAC</b>		<b>1,256.23</b>		<b>568.22</b>

- (i) On behalf of SAC Members paying via ABMSAC.  
(ii) SAC credit for 2022 is Chf 310, due to membership changes after bulk payment made.  
(iii) Only the payments into and out of the club are shown. Where payments are pending, these will appear in the Accounts next year.

### 2. ADJUSTMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION ACCOUNTING CHANGE

This is a one-time set of adjustments to change from a purely financial accounting year to alignment with the membership year. This brings the following advantages:

- It reflects better the reality of when subscriptions are received and also paid out to both the BMC and SAC
- It allows for direct comparison and transparency with the membership information produced by the Membership Secretary
- It enables greater visibility of the net amount of income that the club receives from subscriptions

### 3. INVESTMENTS

The investment house for a number of the investments the club holds has changed over the past year and the details are set out below. The dividends received this year include additional dividends of £690.06, as a result of investment company changes.

Current name	Former name	No. Units at year end	Type of payment
Aberdeen Standard	Standard Life	7782.1	Accumulation
Brooks MacDonald Sterling Bond	Lloyds Investment Fund	11072.3	Accumulation (Jersey)
Brunner Investment Trust 25p		4,320	Dividend
Invesco Select Trust 1p	Invesco Income Growth Trust	10,374	Dividend
LionTrust	Architas MA Active Growth	6441.342	Accumulation
Murray International 25p		1,665	Dividend
Witan Investment Trust 5p		12,825	Dividend

	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2021	30 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2020
The original cost of holdings, including Brooks MacDonald Re-investment and change in unit value of accumulations	20,223.45	19,555.62
<b>Aggregate market value</b>	<b>172,707.73</b>	<b>139,881.00</b>
Total dividends and interest, including interest on fixed rate bond and change in unit value of accumulations	5,098.01	5,078.20

#### **4. JOURNAL**

The cost of producing the Journal has been significantly reduced this year as a result of changing printers.

#### **5. ANNUAL DINNER**

Whilst no annual dinner was held in 2021, the expenditure shown is as a consequence of securing a concurrent available date at both the hotel and hut.

#### **6. DONATIONS**

The club has made a number of donations during the year, reflecting both our connection with the local community, the wider mountaineering community, and charities related to our outgoing president.

#### **7. GSHL RELATED MATTERS**

Given the changes around GSHL membership, ABMSAC sought specific legal advice on this issue. The ABMSAC committee also held discussions with the outgoing GSHL chair on a number of matters around hut improvements, which incurred accommodation costs.

#### **8. ADMINISTRATION**

Included in administration costs is renewal of the club Zoom licence.

#### **9. PAYMENTS FOR FUTURE MEETS**

This includes both the deposits paid by the club to venues for the Braemar, Wales and Picos 2022 meets, and additionally the deposits paid by members to the club for the Picos meet.

Ed Bramley  
Honorary Treasurer  
Date: 5 November 2021

In my view the financial statements are in accordance with the Associations accounting records as at 30 September 2021 and disclose a surplus for the twelve month period then ended.

No work of an audit nature has been carried out.

Ian Featherstone  
Hon. Examiner  
Date: 5 November 2021



# Historic List of Officers

## List of Officers since the formation of the Association

### **PRESIDENTS**

1909-1912 Clinton Dent  
1913-1922 A E W Mason  
1923-1926 Dr H L R Dent  
1927-1930 Brig Gen. The Hon C G Bruce C MVO  
1931-1933 W M Roberts OBE  
1934-1936 A N Andrews  
1937-1945 C T Lehmann  
1946-1948 Dr N S Finzi  
1949-1951 Gerald Steel CB  
1952-1953 Col E R Culverwell MC  
1954-1956 F R Crepin  
1957-1959 George Starkey  
1960-1962 B L Richards  
1963-1965 Dr A W Barton  
1969-1971 Frank Solari  
1966-1968 Vincent O Cohen MC

### **VICE PRESIDENTS**

1948 Gerald Steel CV & Colonel E R Culverwell MC  
1949 Colonel E R Culverwell MC & Brigadier E Gueterbock  
1950 Colonel E R Culverwell MC, Rev G H Lancaster (died April 1950) & Dr C F Fothergill  
1951-1952 Dr C F Fothergill & Lieut-Colonel A E Tydeman  
1953 Lieut-Colonel A E Tydeman & J R Amphlett  
1954-1955 J R Amphlett & Robert Creg  
1956 Robert Creg & Dr J W Healy  
1957-1958 Dr J W Healy & B L Richards GM  
1959 B L Richards GM & Dr A W Barton  
1960-1961 Dr A W Barton & D G Lambley FRCS  
1962 D G Lambley, FRCS & V O Cohen MC  
1963-1964 V O Cohen MC & F Solari  
1965 F Solari & J G Broadbent  
1966-1967 J G Broadbent & J S Byam-Grounds  
1968 J S Byam-Grounds & W Kirstein  
1969-1970 W Kirstein & Dr D R Riddell  
1971 Dr D R Riddell & M Bennett  
1972-1973 M Bennett & Rev F L Jenkins  
1974 Rev F L Jenkins & P S Boulter FRCS  
1975 P S Boulter FRCS & J S Whyte  
1976-1977 J S Whyte & F E Smith  
1978 F E Smith & J P Ledebøer

### **HONORARY SECRETARIES**

1909-1911 J A B Bruce & Gerald Steel  
1912-1919 E B Harris & A N Andrews  
1920-1922 A N Andrews & N E Odell  
1919-1928 A N Andrews & W M Roberts  
1929-1930 W M Roberts & M N Clarke  
1931-1944 N Clarke & F W Cavey  
1945-1948 M N Clarke & F P Crepin  
1949-1953 F R Crepin & George Starkey  
1954-1956 George Starkey & R C J Parker  
1957-1958 R C J Parker & H McArthur  
1958-1960 R C J Parker & F E Smith  
1960-1962 F E Smith & M Bennett  
1963-1970 M Bennett & J P Ledebøer

1972-1974 D G Lambley FRCS  
1975-1977 M Bennett  
1978-1980 P S Boulter FRCS  
1981-1984 J P Ledebøer  
1985-1987 Wing Commander H D Archer DFC  
1988-1990 J S Whyte CBE  
1991-1993 A Ross Cameron ARC FEng  
1994-1997 Mrs H M Eddowes  
1997-2000 W B Midgley  
2000-2003 M J Goodyer  
2003-2006 A I Andrews  
2006-2009 J W S Dempster CB  
2009-2012 M Pinney  
2012-2015 E A Bramley  
2015-2018 M C Parsons  
2018 -2021 J Baldwin  
2021 - A Burton

1979 J P Ledebøer & F P French  
1980-1982 F P French & S M Freeman  
1983-1984 S M Freeman & F A W Schweitzer FRCS  
1984 FA W Schweitzer FRCS & Wing Commander H D Archer DFC  
1985 F A W Schweitzer FRCS & A I Andrews  
1986-1987 A I Andrews & W B Midgley  
1988 W B Midgley & C G Armstrong  
1989-1990 C G Armstrong & R W Jones  
1991 R W Jones & G G Watkins  
1992 G S Watkins & F B Suter  
1993-1994 F B Suter & Commander J W Chapman OBE  
1994-1995 Commander J W Chapman OBE & D R Hodge  
1996-1997 D R Hodge & R N James  
1997-1999 R N James & M Pinney  
2000-2001 M Pinney & Dr D W Watts  
2001-2003 Prof D C Watts & D F Penlington  
2003-2004 D F Penlington  
2004-2007 W L Peebles  
2007-2010 T J Shaw  
2010-2013 Mrs B Baldwin  
2013-2018 J H Strachan  
2018- Mrs H M Eddowes

1971-1972 J P Ledebøer  
1972-1976 FA W Schweitzer FRCS  
1976-1978 R A Coatsworth  
1978-1983 S N Beare  
1984-1986 A G Partridge  
1987-1988 S M Freeman  
1989-2000 H F Romer  
2000-2001 A I Andrews  
2001-2006 J W S Dempster  
2006-2010 Mrs A M Jago  
2010 - D Murton

**HONORARY MEETS SECRETARIES**

1971-1974 S N Beare  
 1975-1979 A Strawther  
 1979-1983 A I Andrews  
 1984-1988 J C Berry

1989-1994 F B Suter  
 1994-2001 M J Goodyer  
 2001-2003 E A Bramley  
 2004-2009 J C Foster

2009-2010 J F Harris  
 2010-2013 M Parsons  
 2013- 2019 A Burton  
 2019 - P Stock

**HONORARY MEMBERSHIP SECRETARIES  
(Formerly Honorary Registrar)**

1965-1968 George Starkey  
 1969-1971 F A W Schweitzer FRCS  
 1972-1974 J E Jesson  
 1975-1977 D J Abbott

1978-1980 A N Sperry  
 1980-1984 J W Eccles  
 1985-1991 T G B Howe MC  
 1991-1993 H M Eddowes

1994-2003 Dr M J Eddowes  
 2004-2012 E A Bramley  
 2012-2014 M Pinney  
 2014-2021 E A Bramley  
 2021 - J Freemantle

(The following officers carried out duties of Hon. Editor until post was created in 1949: 1909-11 J A B Bruce, 1912-28 J A B Bruce & A N Andrews, 1929-48 M N Clarke)  
 1949-1962 M N Clarke  
 1963-1964 W R H Jeudwine  
 1965-1968 G A Hutcheson

**HONORARY EDITORS**

1968-1974 Graham A Daniels  
 1975-1986 S M Freeman  
 1987-1992 M R Loewy  
 1992-2002 M I C Baldwin  
 2002-2009 R B Winter  
 2009- M J Goodyer

**HONORARY EDITOR NEWSLETTER**

1992-1995 F B Suter

1909-1911 C E King - Church  
 1912-1925 J A B Bruce  
 1926-1954 C T Lehmann  
 1954-1957 J A Amphlett

**HONORARY TREASURERS**

1957-1969 F R Crepin  
 1970-1978 R Wendell Jones  
 1978-1980 R A Coatsworth  
 1980-1997 M Pinney

1997-1999 K Dillon  
 1999-2005 A I Andrews  
 2005- 2018 J Baldwin  
 2018- 2021 A Burton  
 2021 - E A Bramley

1909-1914 A B Challis  
 1915-1922 Reginald Graham  
 1923-1930 W L Adams  
 1931-1940 F Oughton  
 1941-1952 J A Marsden-Neye  
 1953-1956 S E Orchard

**HONORARY AUDITORS**

1957-1967 R A Tyssen-Gee  
 1968-1974 A Hart  
 1975-1977 J Llwelyn - Jones  
 1978-1979 G A Daniels  
 1979-1980 C J Sandy  
 1981-1984 N Moore

1985-1999 D Bennett  
 1999-2005 K N Ballantine  
 2005-2009 P McCulloch  
 2009-2011 N Harding  
 2012 -2018 M Reynolds  
 2019 - 2020 S Crisp  
 2021 - I Featherstone

**Posts no longer in use****HON. CHAIRMAN - HUT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

1974-1977 J P Ledebøer  
 1978-1980 D R Hodge  
 1980-1987 W B Midgley  
 1987-1990 D W Edwards  
 1991-1994 D Beer (TCC)  
 1995-1998 S Maudsley (TCC)  
 1999-2005 W B Midgley  
 2005-2010 S Bridge (TCC)  
 2010-2012 D R Hodge

**HONORARY LIBRARIANS**

1909-1918 J A B Bruce  
 1919-1928 C T Lehmann  
 1929-1932 A N Andrews  
 1933-1938 George Anderson  
 1939-1952 S de V Merriman  
 1953-1963 C J France  
 1964-1966 J Kemsley  
 1966-1968 R Wendell Jones  
 1968-1970 S N Beare  
 1971-1974 W R H Jeudwine  
 1975-1979 H Flook  
 1979-1981 K J Baldry  
 1983-1984 Miss J Gamble  
 1985-1986 S N Beare

**HONORARY SOCIAL SECRETARIES**

1971-1977 P S Boulter  
 1978-1980 P V Andrews  
 1980-1983 F A W Schweitzer, FRCS  
 1984 Prof. E H Sondheimer  
 1985-1990 Mrs P M Boulter  
 1991-2001 J P Ledebøer  
 2001-2002 Wing Commander H D Archer, DFC

**HONORARY SOLICITORS**

1909-1932 E R Taylor  
 1933-1973 The Lord Tangley  
 1974 M Bennett  
 1991-1995 S N Beare  
 1996-2003 Mrs D K Lewis (nee Midgley)

**CURRENT HONORARY MEMBERS**

Wendell Jones, Don Hodge

## Useful Contacts

### **George Starkey Hut ([www.george-starkey-hut.com](http://www.george-starkey-hut.com))**

Members must book beds in the Hut before the visit to ensure space is available.

See the Hut website for details regarding the hut booking system.

Warden Marian Parsons. Contact on [george.starkey.hut@gmail.com](mailto:george.starkey.hut@gmail.com)



### **Oread Mountaineering Club ([www.oread.co.uk](http://www.oread.co.uk))**

We have reciprocal rights at both huts.

Tan Yr Wyddfa, Rhyd Ddu, LL54 6TN, North Wales

Heathy Lea, Baslow (Grid Ref: SK 273722)

To book see the hut booking link on the website



### **Swiss Alpine Club ([www.sac-cas.ch/en](http://www.sac-cas.ch/en))**

SAC members can log onto the site using their membership number and puk number (see membership card).

Get up to date information about routes, huts and suggested tours in summer and winter.



### **BMC ([www.thebmc.co.uk](http://www.thebmc.co.uk))**

All UK members are automatically members of the BMC.

The website has up to date information on access and conservation to mountain areas.

Contact- phone 01614456111      email - [office@thebmc.co.uk](mailto:office@thebmc.co.uk)





# ABMSAC Office Holders 2022

## Committee

OFFICE	HOLDER	ELECTED
President	Andy Burton	2021
Vice President	Heather Eddowes	2018
Hon. Treasurer	Ed Bramley	2021
Hon. Secretary	Dick Murton	2010
Hon. Membership Secretary	Julie Freemantle	2021
Hon. Meets Secretary	Paul Stock	2019
Hon. Editor	Mike Goodyer	2009
Hon. Hut Warden	Marian Parsons	2014
Co opted Committee Member	Ian Mateer	2017
Co opted Committee Member	Andy Hayes	2019
Co opted Committee Member	Roger James	2020

## George Starkey Hut Ltd

### ABMSAC DIRECTORS

Andy Burton, Dick Murton, Ed Bramley

### HUT MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (ABMSAC)

Heather Eddowes (Chair), Derek Buckley,  
Don Hodge, Ian Mateer, Marian Parsons.