NEWSLETTER

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SUNDAY 20th JANUARY 2019 – KESWICK via M6.

It's the start of a new year and we get this underway with a visit to Keswick by way of the M6.

There will be only one coach today although a feeder coach will be in use to ferry some our number to the pickup point at Gisburn.

The coach will be parked in Keswick on the coach park adjacent to Booths Supermarket and we will depart at 5.00p.m. Please do what you can to ensure that we leave on time.
There will be a club stop at Hellifield on the return journey.

Keith Sutton is with us today and his regular supply of maps and suggested routes for this meet will be available on the coach. Additionally, Keith is to lead a walk today but he has left the route open in order to take account of the weather conditions. I am sure that he will make you aware of the route he has selected and you know the drill. Identify in the route book that you will walk with Keith and leave the coach when he does.

Roy Haythornthwaite has been very busy this last month with four articles in the newsletter. His first refers to our longstanding member Victor Marcinkiewicz, who will attend next months meet in February, 60 years after his first ever coach meet with the club! The Committee would extend to Victor our most heartiest congratulations and best wishes on this achievement together with the hope that he will continue to enjoy his membership for a great many years to come. Roy's other articles include a piece on his recent visit to Oxford, a reference to the Christmas Hut weekend at Lowstern Hut, Clapham and a report on his recent visit to Pembrokeshire. I don't know what we'd do without him.

Marie tells me that the Annual Dinner and Dance was held in the newly revamped Doctor Ivan Suite at Turf Moor on 5th January 2019. The food and service were as usual excellent in quality and thankfully the Chairman's speech was amusing and brief. The entertainment, a solo singer was good although a little dated (nothing after the 80's) but a good night was enjoyed by those in attendance which included nine members from the Saturday group of walkers organised by Frank and Bev. Marie is looking to change the format for next year's event.

Marie is having difficulty with the Tyndrum weekend scheduled for 1st March 2019. Support has been poor and unless there is a significant increase in numbers as of today this event will be cancelled due to lack of interest. If you are interested, don't delay, contact Marie today.

Please note that any outstanding subscriptions (£15.00 for the year) should be dealt with as soon as possible and may I take this opportunity to remind you all that that monthly trips with effect from February, (next month) will be increased from £14 to £15.

As far as today is concerned the weather is given as freezing temperatures with light rain and light winds.

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Victor Marcinkiewicz

This year marks a special anniversary of BMC membership for Victor probably the longest continuous member of our club. He tells me he will be on the February trip which will be 60 years exactly since he went on his first club trip, an amazing achievement.

Victor is still an active walker and he and Linda often travel to Scotland and the Hebrides where they are both volunteer warden/managers for the YHA. They are also involved in several other charitable organizations.

I have walked and climbed with Victor on many occasions and have greatly enjoyed his company. He was quite an accomplished fell runner in his earlier days and amongst his many achievements he completed the Bob Graham run, which takes in 42 summits, 66 miles, 26,900ft of ascent, all to be completed in under 24 hours. Wow it makes me tired just typing it,

You won't have heard about Victors accomplishments because he's a modest man and not the sort to blow his own trumpet. The BMC was built on people like Victor and it's right and proper we should celebrate an occasion that will probably never be repeated,

Roy Haythornthwaite

OXFORD

A group of us visited Oxford for a weeks holiday spread over the New Year.
It's a very interesting City with lots to do, Museums the Bodleian library and Colleges, but the crème de la crème for me was the Pitt Rivers Museum of natural history and the Ashmolian Anthropoogical Museum, if you like dinosaurs and life in the far past then this is the place.

I spent several days visiting these wonderful buildings and also the Christ Church Cathedral.

We walked the Oxford canal but by far the best walk was along the river Thames, where I came across a small monument to a man called Edgar George Wilson who drowned at the spot near Boneys Bridge in 1889. I was intrigued by the barely legible inscription so looked it up, and what a story it tells.

21 year old Edgar, an assistant chemist was walking back along the canal after his lunch break when he came across two boys aged 7 and 9 who had fallen into the Thames whilst fishing. Despite being afraid of water and a poor swimmer he leapt into the Thames and managed to get them both to shore and safety. Tragically his arms were tangled up in the string fishing line and the hook embedded in his clothing pinning one arm to his side.
Before help arrived he sank exhausted beneath the Thames water.

Many years later the younger boy enlisted in the army and was killed in the 1st World War trenches aged 33 leaving a wife and 3 children. Looking back later it seemed at odds with the tranquil and peaceful scene on the river Thames which I'd experienced.

Roy Haythornthwaite

LOWSTERN CHRISTMAS HUT

The Christmas hut this year was based in Clapham at the Lowstern Hut of the Yorkshire Ramblers, the second oldest walking/mountaineering club in the world, founded in 1892.

On the Saturday I decided to walk a route which has been on my list for years. Through the pretty village of Clapam (Alan Bennett the writer/actor lives there) followed by a nice stroll along the lakeside and past the show cave, up through the dramatic Troll gill and on to the Gaping Gill pothole. The route then goes over Ingleborough and down the other side to Ingleton village with a return by bus, piece of cake I thought!

All went to plan and I soon reached the Gaping Gill pot hole but by now the temperature had dropped considerably and the wind had greatly increased. I wasn't too concerned even though I was on my own, I had all the proper gear on even instep crampons which someone had laughed when they saw me packing them in my rucksack.

Following the path up little Ingleborough the wind increased even more and it had become much colder. I was passed by Kevin, Joe and Will, a lot younger and faster than I, "I'll see you on top I said" but as I got further up and reached the level just before the final steep part, the wind had reached gale force and I was blown off my feet several times. Even worse I experienced something I'd seen once before in Scotland, freezing rain which coated myself and the ground instantly in ice. Visibility was drastically reduced and the wind continued to increase. I was numb with the cold despite thermal gear and two pair of winter gloves, and the steep steps I'd ascended were by now coated in a layer of ice, so I put on my laughed at instep crampons and turned around and descended back to safer ground,

I shall return in warmer weather to complete the walk I'd planned and relive what was an 'iffy' but interesting event.

Roy Haythornthwaite.

PEMBROKESHIRE

I visit Pembrokeshire at least twice a year, it's one of my very favourite parts of the UK , the walks along the coast are stunning and inland there are many unspoiled areas to wander. The cliff top walks in particular I find are attractive for the rich variety of bird life especially in Spring,

2018 has been a successful year for Choughs who are members of the Crow family. 16 Chough chicks fledged last year to add to the some 350 pairs in Britain. The Chough is a striking bird with its red beak and legs; interestingly the alpine variety has a yellow beak. I count myself fortunate to see Choughs whilst climbing on the cliffs of Pembrokeshire.

Interestingly the seal population of the area has been boosted last year in what has been the most successful year for a decade in the rearing of pups, following several years when many young seals have perished in stormy weather and gales.

I stayed on the beautiful Gower peninsular in Southgate for a week last year and would highly recommend this unspoiled corner of Wales to everyone, the walks along the coast and also inland are magnificent, and you're only a short car ride away from Swansea and the bright lights.

Roy Haythornthwate.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thank you to all the people who donated prizes and congratulations to the winners. They are as follows:-

£50; £20 and £10 vouchers donated by the club; won by Zahida, Sue and Gary respectively.

After the vouchers were won the rest of the prizes were claimed as the winners wished from the table.

Two bottles of whiskey donated by Keith Sutton and Roy H. won by Ray and Bev.

A pack of four Cumbrian real ales, donated by Marie, won by Pip.

Wine donated by Kevin, won by Paul.

Perfume donated by mike, won by Liza.

Camera bag donated by mick, won by terry.

Various books, compass, selfie stick, and goblet donated by Frank and Bev. Won by Mick, Anton, Peter and Jean.

Crystal wine bottle stoppers donated by The Sparrow Hawk, won by Marie, Keith and Chris.

Gaitors donated by Ray, and David, won by Will and a.n.o.

Camera donor unknown (apologies) won by Ron.

Corkscrew donor unknown, (apologies) won by Joe.

Again my apologies if I have not named any prize donors.

Marie

SCOTTISH WEEKEND

This trip was to have travelled to Tyndrum on the Friday and in addition as far as Glen Coe on Saturday and out to Oban on Sunday.

We need 35 people to get the package price from the hotel and the make the coach cost reasonable.

I have to confirm numbers by 25th January and this trip will have to be cancelled unless a lot more people book today.

My apologies to those who have booked. I have not banked any of the cheques or cash so I will of course return them.

Marie Phelan.