

## SHREWSBURY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB: COMMITTEE LIST

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|                  |                |              |
|------------------|----------------|--------------|
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### HOUSENOTES

What a summer. Here's to a fabulous dry autumn. Please note the matters below:

- To mark the Club's fiftieth anniversary next year, Kim and Steph are organising some appropriate club clothing. It's not just T shirts this time, there will be the choice of a range of garments from tasteful T shirts to jackets and gilets; all in the colour of your choice. There will be order forms in the November edition of the Newsletter, so that delivery can be made for the AGM towards the end of January.
- Date Change. The finale of the Clwy-Y-Bel Way (Capel Curig to Clwt-y-Bel) will now be on 29<sup>th</sup> August (AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY SATURDAY "))( to give adequate time for members wishing to do so, to walk (or run) all the other legs and still have time left to attend some of the other club meets. BBQ for all in the evening at Clwt-y-Bel.
- Spring Bank Holiday week 2009. A note for your diary. It will be on the Isle of Skye. Access is easier and cheaper now the bridge is in place and free. Skye is a place very self respecting mountaineer should visit; a huge and varied island with the fabulous Cuillin Hills, both black and red; castles; beaches, Portree; The Old Man of Stoer; the Quiraing; the Trotternish Hills; Talisker distillery and much more.
- The 2009 meet card is nearly sorted and will be distributed with the Newsletter in November. Special events, to remind you, will include the AGM on 19 January; the Clwt-y-Bel Way launch on 1 February; the French Alps meet Argentiere 11-31 July; the Clwt-y-Bel Way finale 29 August and the CLUB DINNER (in Shrewsbury) on 26 September.
- Photos for 2009. As you will be aware, secretary Jan is compiling a collection of photos of club members from over the years, both mug shots and events and locations. She wants to thank all those who have already lent photos and makes a plea for those who haven't so far to search out anything that might be suitable and send them to her as soon as you can. Particularly needed are photos from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s and also pictures concerning 'fringe' activities, such as the running and biking cadres.
- Clwt-y-Bel. Significant works of improvement are afoot for 2009, subject to the money not running out. The committee has decided to carry out a number of fairly major works, starting with the provision of mains water, followed by upgrading of the toilets, installation of double glazing to the cottage windows and lastly painting the exterior walls.

**Dave Laddiman**

## HIGH SPORTS WINTER LECTURES AT THE GATEWAY

Stuart has booked the usual stunning array of inspiring speakers for this winter series as follows:

**4 November:** Andy Kirkpatrick – Psycho Vertical, the title of his acclaimed new book, nominated for a Banff award. Always wacky and an audience favourite.

**3 December:** Mick Fowler – Vasuki Parbat (the unclimbed Walker Spur of the Indian Himalayas). He's out there climbing it now with Paul Ramsden.

**6 January:** Dave MacLeod – Exclusive, the hardest Trad route in the world. Echo Wall E11 on Ben Nevis. A bit of a coup getting him out of Hibernia.

**3 February:** John Beatty – Wild Vision is probably the most prestigious outdoor mountain photography site around. Stuart has been trying for years to get this one in the series.

**3 March:** Local Spot – our own Nick Dixon will talk on a major new route in the Alps from this summer. Also presentations on the Matterhorn, Old Man of Hoy, Cycling the Islands of Scotland and more.

Ticket prices and terms as last year: £10 per lecture or buy 4 and get one free before the first lecture date.

### Meet Reports

#### The Roaches – 8 June – Bryan Johnson

Sunday Walkers, they're so demanding!

A lovely warm sunny day has been forecast. Five in the team; Annie, Alison, Dave P, Andy and myself. None of whom had ever been walking on the Roaches. So they are all expecting a ridge walk and a gorge walk and of course; Wallabies! Upon arrival we stopped at the café for tea. Sitting in the sun it becomes a real struggle to convince anybody to put their boots on!

Finally we are away with a quick ascent of Hen Cloud, which produces fantastic views over the Staffordshire Moorlands, Rudyard Lake, and Jodrell Bank. A short drop down and up again on to the Roaches Ridge. Where we are stopped by a Park Ranger and informed that there are Peregrine Falcons nesting on the rocks and would we mind taking a little detour. One she allowed us to see through her Telescope. The male could clearly be seen sitting guard.

With a little detour, we carry on to the trig point with cries of "so when do we see the Wallabies!" "Later if you're quiet." Midday and rumblings of "Bryan, so when can we get an ice cream on this walk?" I knew very well there was a good possibility of an ice cream van at Roach End just over the ridge. However I was not ready to let that info slip. So "later if you're good".

We drop down into Dane Bridge and the trees are a welcome relief from the sun. Suddenly, cry's of "So when do we do the Gorge." "Just around the next bend". Knowing full well it actually was.

Luds Church Cave is a natural chasm in the ground some 60-70 feet deep and 5 feet wide for approx 400 yards long. You are able to walk / scramble into it and out at the other end.. Back up to the ridge and behold: an Ice Cream Van!

To make a variation on a return route I decide to take a path under the ridge. So, after twenty minutes of scrambling through ever increasingly dense undergrowth, its very clear to me that the map must be completely wrong and I will be contacting the Ordnance Survey upon return home!

After more tea at the café we return home. Just started off and Alison announces "LOOK A WALLABY. Yes, really a Wallaby, not a Snow leopard!" However it was baked, half covered in chocolate and came out of a packet! So there we have it; Sunday walkers completely satisfied.

### **HARLECH – 1-3 August – John Edwards**

**(A little out of sequence, but it fits the page, ED.)**

Good weather greeted Liz, Harry, Roy and me, for the annual Harlech weekend. Having pitched tents and girl Liz introducing herself, we visited the Lion Hotel for a few beers and later took a taxi back up the hill.

The weather next day was overcast and dry, but with the clag down over the high hills we opted for the level track out to Bryn Cader Faner, the 'crown of thorns' standing stones burial site around four miles from our Merthyr Farm base camp. After luncheon amongst the stones and a very pleasant loop towards the coast it was time for afternoon posh coffee and biscuits at the Maes-y-Neuadd Hotel before the long trudge up the lane back to base just in time to shower and wander down to the village curry house for a welcome meal.

We really needed that taxi back this time! See you next year folks.  
PS. Liz is a little gem.

### **Coniston – 4-6 July – Kevin Knott**

"Lonely Old Man in Coniston"

In June I organised my first club meet  
For some this might be an easy feat  
For me I want it to be all right  
And ensure we were not walking into the night.

So a trip to the Lakes was the place to go  
It's a place that the wife and I really know  
I decided to camp along Coniston Lake  
And put on a BBQ-hoped someone would bring cake

So the "Old Man of Coniston" was the walk to do  
Not the highest or hardest but still a great view  
The forecast was grim with rain gales and more  
But I went anyway - it was not a chore

I arrived at the site and pitched my tent  
Unloaded the car, and paid my rent  
Next stop to the pub - the Black Bull close by  
Notice I am talking about JUST I

I sat on my own with my scampi tea  
Four pints of Guinness and still only me  
Back to the tent tired and yawning  
Will I have friends in the morning?

Up bright and early and raring to go  
 The “Old Man of Coniston”- on MY OWN you know!  
 but you don’t need company to enjoy a good climb  
 And I will claim this meet as MINE ALL MINE!!

Cheers. By Kev (AKA Norman No Mates) Knott.

### **Clwt-y-Bel – August Bank Holiday – Jan Campbell**

Compared to previous years not very many people thought that getting away from it all at the cottage was a good idea: maybe the weather forecast had something to do with it.

Friday evening saw the arrival of Jean and Mike Jones, Phil Latter, Tony Rogers, and me. A pleasant hour or so drinking and chatting ended in a relatively early night, but we were disturbed at midnight by the late arrival of Roger Skews and Martin Coward who fumbled noisily at the door and then rang Mike on his mobile to find out the code!

Annie Blayney arrived first thing Saturday and she and I went with Tony for a walk from Nant Peris up Y Garn and then over to Elidir Fawr and down to the cottage. Mike went to stroll up Snowdon to inspect the progress on the new summit café, which is behind schedule and far from complete. Roger and Martin managed one pitch of Central Arete on the Upper Cliff of Glyder Fawr before having to abseil off in the face of persistent rain - but full marks for effort, as it’s a long pull to get to the base of that excellent route. The rain put paid to the BBQ plan and we all ate together in the dining room (which looks better now that the floor paint has been applied) but at least we have the charcoal ready for the big BBQ event next year (see new details about the Clwt y Bel Way)

After the AA had seen to Annie’s car on Sunday morning she went off to the Lake District, Tony and I strolled along the cycle track from Bethesda to Ogwen; and the rest remains a mystery.

### **AUTUMN/WINTER EVENTS**

|                       |   |                                      |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>4 NOVEMBER</b>     | <b>HIGH SPORTS WINTER LECTURES</b>  | <b>Contact: Stuart Cathcard</b>      |
|                       | Andy Kirkpatrick – Psycho Vertical, the title of his acclaimed new book, nominated for a Banff award. Always wacky and an audience favourite.   |                                      |
| <b>9 NOVEMBER</b>     | <b>Rhobell Fawr</b>   | <b>Jan Campbell 01743 236692</b>     |
|                       | Rhobell Fawr is a stunningly good little hill north east of Dolgellau. On a clear day the views are amazing especially down to the Mawddach estuary and across to the Arans.                        |                                      |
| <b>21-23 NOVEMBER</b> | <b>LAKES - DUNNERDALE</b>   | <b>Jackie Eyre 01743 236877</b>      |
|                       | High Moss hut booked. Near the Old Man of Coniston. Still places left.  |                                      |
| <b>3 DECEMBER</b>     | <b>HIGH SPORTS WINTER LECTURES</b>  | <b>Contact: Stuart Cathcart</b>      |
|                       | Mick Fowler – Vasuki Parbat (the unclimbed Walker Spur of the Indian Himalayas). He’s out there climbing it now with Paul Ramsden.  |                                      |
| <b>6-7 DECEMBER</b>   | <b>XMAS PARTY – CLWT-Y-BEL</b>  | <b>Rose Fenn-Wiggin 01939 232614</b> |
|                       | The usual pre-Christmas jollity at the cottage, with Rose masterminding the Saturday evening dinner with her customary skill and flair. Then get out on the hills on the Sunday morning if you can! |                                      |
| <b>21 DECEMBER</b>    | <b>PRE-CHRISTMAS EVENT</b>  | <b>Contact: the Committee</b>        |
|                       | Not yet finalised but full information should be in the November Newsletter.  |                                      |