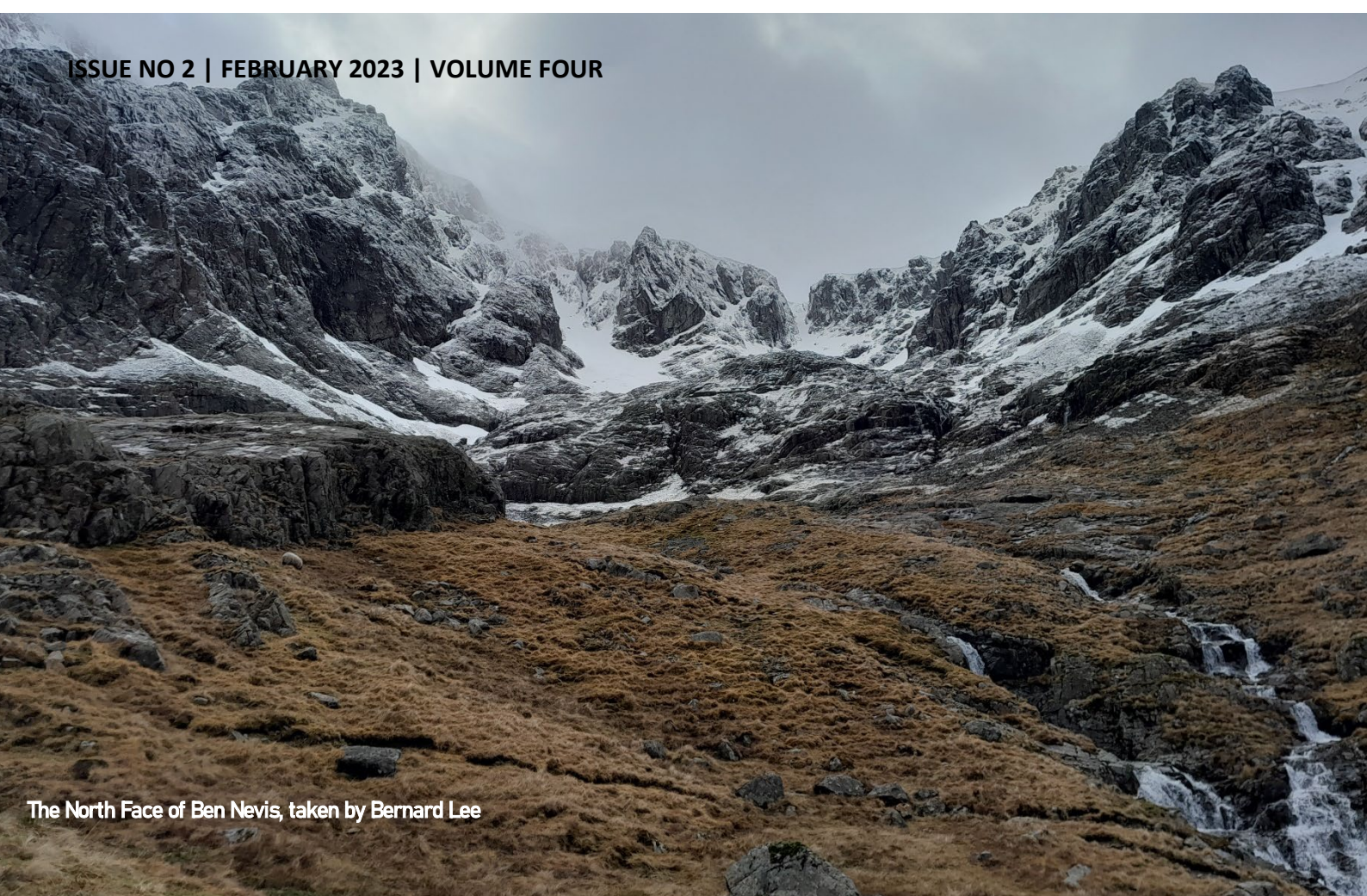


WORCESTER MOUNTAINEERING CLUB



ISSUE NO 2 | FEBRUARY 2023 | VOLUME FOUR



The North Face of Ben Nevis, taken by Bernard Lee

WELCOME TO THE WMC NEWS!

A warm welcome back to the WMC
Newsletter.

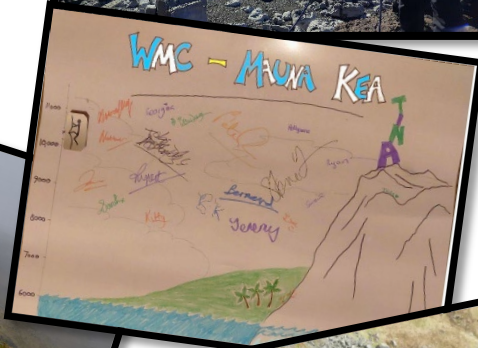
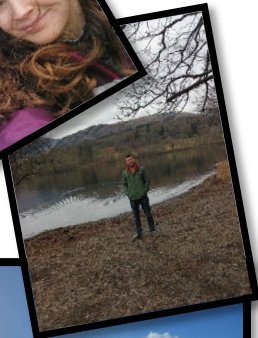
February may be a short month, but WMC members have certainly made the most of the time available. From a trip to the Scottish Highlands, Lake District Scrambles and an epic Charity Climbing event, this has definately been a busy month.

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Highlights of the Month





The Annual Charity Climb

Every year the Worcester Mountaineering Club nominates a local charity that represents something close to their hearts. This year, the WMC raised an amazing £1500 for **Mentor Link**.

Mentor Link works to support vulnerable children and young people by providing them with a volunteer mentor. These mentors offer their time to listen and offer guidance to these people during a difficult time in their lives, which may include self-harm, bullying, traumatic bereavement and family breakdowns. The charity aims to help achieve positive changes in young people's lives and help them remain engaged with their families, their education and their community, which in turn will give them hope and a successful transition into adulthood.

To support the charity, the WMC created a fundraiser and set its members a goal of collectively climbing the equivalent height of *Mauna Kea*, a partly submerged volcano and the world's largest mountain (from its underwater base to its exposed summit, this peak reaches a grand height of 10,210m!). Members gathered at Redpoint climbing wall on Sunday 26th February and through blood, sweat, chalk and much needed cake, they surpassed their challenge at the close of the day by achieving an epic distance of 10,481m!

A huge thank you to all who attended, and an even bigger thank you to those who donated to the fundraiser. We could not have achieved this without you, and we hope that the funds raised make a difference to someone's future.





Scotland

In the final weeks of the month, the West Bromwich Mountaineering Club welcomed members of the WMC to join them on their meet to Fort William and the Scottish highlands! This trip combined a fantastic fusion of hillwalking, mountaineering and climbing.



This was a great opportunity for some of our members to try out new gear and learn new skills, including an exciting first attempt at dry tooling (climbing with ice axes despite no ice!)

"Not going to lie, I wondered if I'd bitten off more than I could chew within a metre of starting! However, once you got the hang of it, it was mostly balancing skills. We began with no crampons which made the slippery rock quite challenging so there may have been a few choice words! The reach the axes gave was brilliant for those of us who are more vertically challenged. I'd definitely want to go out and try it again!" –Tina De-eoray



Jumping in the deep end and learning how to climb in crampons on the day could not have been easy, but nevertheless proved a successful feat under the guidance of seasoned climber Andy.



Highlights of the trip include an exploration of the Coire Giubhsachan (venturing across the notorious Steall Falls Wire Bridge on the same day),

a route over Mam na Gualain (796m) led by Rachel Davies, and a group ascent of Ben Nevis (1344m) by the pony track, where the party encountered their fair share of snow and ice en route to the summit.



An adventurous finale for trip participants Andy, Rachel and Bill Douglas involved a climb up Aonach

Mor via a beautiful winter grade 2 route, Spider Rib, where they enjoyed a fabulous and well earned sunset.





The Lake District



For many, the Lake District is a charming holiday destination, where one can put up their feet and enjoy the Lakeland

views from the comfort of a country pub. We of course like to make things a little more dicey!

On the first Saturday of the month, 8 members made their way to Conistone, with the aim of summiting the Old Man of Conistone (802m) whilst linking together a few graded scrambles and making the most of the dramatic steep ground in the area. Unfortunately, the typical Cumbrian weather meant that the views from the top were obscured by the low laying cloud base.

Nevertheless, an adventurous day out for all!



The following day their eyes were set on ticking off a

Lakeland classic, Jack's Rake, an exposed grade 1 scramble on the side of Pavey Ark (700m) in the Langdale valley. Ascending through the less traveled gully between Swine Knott and Whitegill Crag, the members had the opportunity to practice crucial rope skills and important steep ground management.





Club News

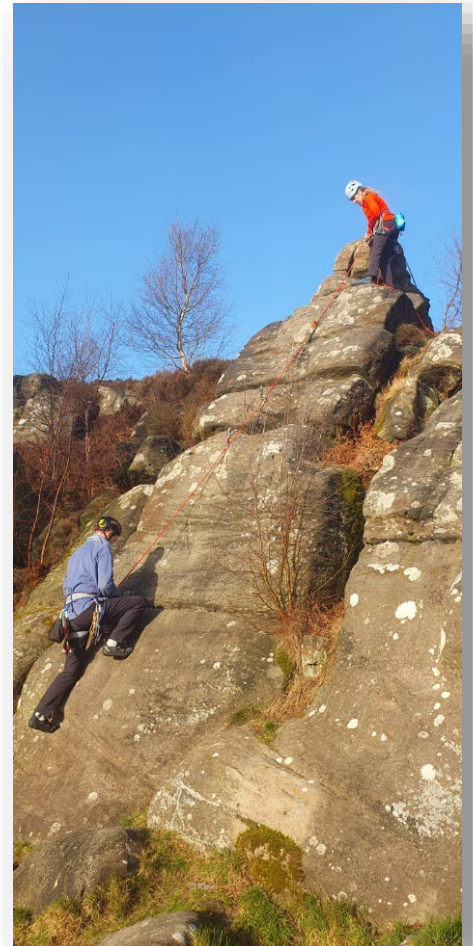
First Ascents

The Worcester Mountaineering Club boasts a wide skill base, from those just starting out, to those with many years of experience behind them. For

members Malcolm and Nicky, it was an opportunity to have some of that experience passed down to them, tackling their first ever trad routes. WMC member Peter Rogers gathered up his trad rack and ventured north to the Peak District to teach them the subtle art of Trad climbing.

At Birchen Edge, both members took up the lead on The Gangplank, a moderate graded climb and a great choice for a first foray into leading trad.

If you're interested in learning to lead trad too, don't forget to sign up to our New to Trad Climber's Meet on 29th-30th April!

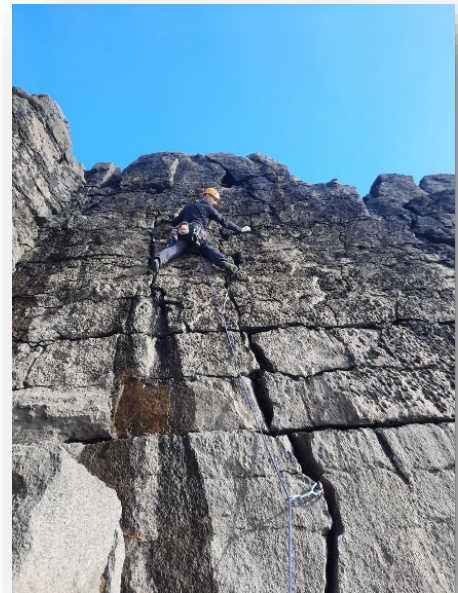




Club News

A Trip to the Seaside

This month, WMC's gutsy Steve duo headed out to Box Bay in Porthcawl for some beautiful seaside climbing in the sun. They took on several routes including *Howards Way* (HVS) and the delightfully named *Estuary Scum on the Welsh Riviera* (HVS 5b). Whilst most of us have been in gloves and hats this February, both Steve Pritchard and Steve Thomas were sporting shorts and t-shirts.



Adventures in Nepal

WMC member Harry Wilson has shared photos of his trek to the beautiful Annapurna Base Camp, which he undertook in

November last year.

Apparently it was warmer at the Base Camp than it was in London upon his return!





An Update on Benji's Recovery

Benji was delighted to spend time with the club at the charity climb on Sunday 26th, and although he's still not allowed to use his left thumb for climbing, can now move it and is on the road to recovery.

Golden Cam Award

Every year at the AGM, attendees come forward to nominate a member of the club for the Golden Cam Award. This award is given in recognition of a member's commitment and efforts made over the year. For 2022, with 16 votes, Rachel Woodliffe was awarded the GCA for going above and beyond her role and supporting the meets throughout the year. Her passion for getting outside and taking part in all elements of outdoor pursuits has been a great motivator and has helped encourage others in the club to get involved.





Upcoming Club Events Winter 2023

March

Presidents Hike in the Forest of Dean

Club Photo Slideshow at The Dragon Inn

Mountaineering Trip to Morocco and the Atlas Mountains

April

22-23rd - Gower Meet

29 - 30th New to Trad Climbing Meet

Side note: Don't forget about our monthly pub meet after climbing, every first Thursday of the month!

Other Upcoming Outdoor Events and Talks

- 9th March - Geographical Journeys: Microlectures with the Royal Geographical Society
[Online and at the RGS in London]
 - 18th-19th March – Outdoor Expo at the NEC [Birmingham]
 - 1st-2nd April – Borderlands Outdoor First Aid Course [Malvern]
- 24th April – *Its all Mental* by James Ketchell, Speakers from the Edge [Worcester]
- 13th-14th May - BMC/BMMS Mountain Medicine Weekend [Hathersage]



Date	Activity Details	Organiser
1 st January	New Year's Day walk	Steve Pritchard
8 th - 13 th January	Winter Mountaineering Meet, Ruacsac Hut, Glen Coe	Steve Pritchard
28 th January	New Year's Meal @ The March Hare, Boughton Hackett	Jeremy Hopkins
11 th - 12 th February	Hiking Meet, Lake District	Rachel Woodliffe
18 th - 25 th February	Joint Winter Mountaineering Trip, Fort William with West Brom MC	Bill Douglas
22 nd February	University Mountaineering Lecture then dinner at The Highfield, Edgbaston, Birmingham	Juliette Edwards
19 th – 24 th February	Ice climbing Trip, Cogne, Italy	Pete Rogers
26 th February	WMC Charity Climb at Redpoint Worcester	Rachel Woodliffe
11 th March	President's Hike – Forest of Dean	Juliette Edwards
16 th March	Ten of the best! slideshow	Juliette Edwards
22 nd – 23 rd April	Gower Meet	David Oliver
April	Indoor Meet TBC	VOLUNTEER PLEASE
March/ April TBC	Caving/Climbing Trip South Wales – collaboration with Cave and Crag Club	Martin Sadler
29 th - 30 th April	New to Trad Climbers' Meet	Steve Pritchard
7 th May	Mountain Biking - Day Trip	Al Watson
13 th - 14 th May	Pembroke Meet – Trad climbing	James Roberts
20 th - 21 st May	Dorset Meet – Sport and Trad climbing	Bernard Lee
May	Indoor Meet TBC	VOLUNTEER PLEASE
June TBC	50 th Anniversary Summer event – Social (not climbing!)	Rachel Woodliffe & Lauraliz Partoon
17 th - 18 th June	Welsh 3000s Meet - Ogwen Valley, North Wales – collaboration with MAM	Juliette Edwards
24 th June	Gritstone Gallop	Luke Green & Juliette Edwards
7 th – 9 th July	Lake District Meet	Andy Graham
15 th July	Wye Valley Day Trip – Sport climbing	Guy Stelmasiak
1 st July	Meander up the Malverns	Luraliz Partoon
29 th - 30 th July	Love the Limestone Meet – Two Dales, Nr Matlock, Peak District – collaboration with MAM	Juliette Edwards
5 th August (tbc)	Water Activity & Paddleboard Experience @ Pillaton Hall Farm, Staffordshire	Luraliz Partoon
12 th - 13 th August	Canoe Trip	VOLUNTEER PLEASE
15 th - 20 th August	President's Summer Meet - Yorkshire – sport/ trad climbing	Juliette Edwards
9 th September	Club BBQ - Malvern	David Oliver
16 th - 17 th September	Cornwall Meet	Rachel Woodliffe
7 th - 8 th October	North Wales Scrambling Meet	Nathan Davenport
14 th October	Peak District day trip	VOLUNTEER PLEASE
7 th – 21 st October	Autumn Sun Climbing Trip - Kalymnos	Juliette Edwards
26 th October	Crag Quiz	Juliette Edwards
23 rd November	Club AGM	Juliette Edwards
2 nd December	Friendly Indoor Club Climbing Comp	Juliette Edwards
8 th - 10 th December	50 th Anniversary Meet, Glan Dena, North Wales	Steve Pritchard