

Newsletter

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SUNDAY 20TH JANUARY 2008 - KESWICK VIA M6

Happy New Year and every best wish for 2008!

Steve Maden is on holiday and has passed the responsibility for the newsletter to Marie and myself, he did a fair bit of work on it before he left so the compilation of this newsletter is a 3 way effort, not forgetting the contributions by Roy Haythornthwaite. I will also have to miss this trip, nothing as pleasurable as a holiday though, I am called upon to work at the NEC.

Since the last newsletter we have had a trip to Ribbleshead and Clapham and of course the Annual Dinner Dance. This was an excellent night in a good venue with tasty food and super, smashing company (yes Martin Reynolds was there!). The evening included a welcome appearance by Harry Wharton and Ken Harris, who both used to be regulars on the trips and at the dinner dance, - it would be nice to see them on the monthly trips, if they would get up early enough! Thanks to Marie for organising this function and to everyone who swelled the numbers to make it such a good evening.

There is some sad news to convey and that is the death, at 63 of an ex member, Gordon Wright. Gordon was a member from the 60's to the 80's which included 5 years as a committee member although he had not been out with the club since the 80's. Gordon requested that he only wanted family flowers at the funeral and that donations be made to Burnley Mountaineering Club. I am already in receipt of some donations and, if any club member wishes to make a donation in his memory I am sure that Gill or Roy will accept this. Both Mick Hirst and Roy have written something in the newsletter, and we would like to thank Gordon's family for this kind gesture.

Coaches

As you will have noticed we are using a smaller coach on today's trip. We have agreed that this will be used for Jan, Feb and March - this is to try and offset the losses that we suffered in 2007. We do not want to keep hiking the price up and have members paying for empty seats, we are trying to look after existing members but cannot keep making a loss. During the next 2 months we will be monitoring the situation and decide whether we continue with the smaller coach or revert back to 2 x 49 seaters.

Annual General Meeting 17th March 2008

This is your chance to voice your opinions about the club and it's future. The present committee is willing to stand again but it is up to you, the members, whether you want us to continue or would like to see some changes. If you have any amendments to the constitution, then these must be put in writing, to the secretary, at least 2 weeks prior to the AGM. The constitution and the minutes of the last AGM are on the website.

Craven Mountaineering Club

Have invited us to join them for a 20% discount night at ULTIMATE OUTDOORS, 1 Coach St,

Skipton.

On Thursday 24th January 2008 between 5.30 and 7.30 p.m. This will be followed by a promotional evening and buffet at The Narrow Boat including a demonstration of Memory Map. Craven need to know the numbers for catering purposes so if you are going to attend please put your name on the back of the notice that will circulate around each coach.

Annual Tri Club Quiz with Craven & Upper Wharfedale Cave Rescue.

The date for this annual event is Thursday 13th March and will be held at The Craven Heifer, on the Grassington Road just outside Skipton. This is a good social event where everybody can join in the quiz if they so wish and of course there is usually a good buffet provided. We won the 2007 event, by the skin of our teeth, with Victor answering the third tie-break question correctly. There will be more details in the February newsletter.

Earby Youth Hostel

Roy and I attended the open day organised by the friends of Earby Youth Hostel. Our intention was to attract new members - we did get some interest from visitors to the hostel who took away our details but we will have to wait to see if these bring positive results.

There is a circular passing around the coach giving some details about Friends of Earby YH, if anyone is interested in helping to support this good cause please enter your details.

Slide Show

The details appear elsewhere in the newsletter but please support this event on Wednesday 23rd January 2008.

There is a double bill with 2 of the club's best photographers (Alan Goodall & Mick Foster) accompanied by 2 of the club's best talkers (Peter Walker & Roy Haythornthwaite)

Have a good day and keep safe.

Steve Young

National Mountaineering Exhibition

The N.M.E. closed down on the 24th December, based at the Rheged Centre Nr Penrith, it has run out of funds, sadly despite many attempts, financial backing for this unique display of mountaineering artefacts was unsuccessful.

One wonders why lottery fund monies could not have been obtained, I have seen lists of some of the obscure groups who have been given many thousands of pounds support, it would make your hair curl.

The Exhibition opened in 2001 and I have visited it twice, one of the more macabre exhibits was a severed thumb from the frost bitten hand of an Everest climber, I wonder will they send it back to him ?

Of course the Rheged centre itself is still open, and well worth a visit to see the exhibits and displays on view of differing aspects of lakeland life.

New Path to Ben Nevis

There is now a new path from the Torlundy car park up through the Chapman wood and connecting to the path by the side of Allt a Mhullin leading up to the CIC Hut and the northern aspects of Ben Nevis.

For more info and Map just feed Chapmans Wood into Google on your PC

Roy Haythornthwaite

Gordon Wright (1944 – 2008)



It was with great sadness that I heard this week of the death of Gordon Wright at the age of 63, a former member and committee member of this club in the 1960s, 70s and early 80s. A larger than life figure with his ginger beard and flat cap, Gordon always sat on the front seat of the Burnley coach taking names and in those days was probably the first person that many people met after joining the club.

I personally spent many long days on the fells with Gordon, on monthly trips to the Lakes, camping weekends in Wasdale and on some of the early hut weekends to Deiniolen and Tan-y-Garth.

No matter what the weather or the conditions you could always count on Gordon to come up with a joke or a tale to brighten up the day and then after a good day on the hills there was nothing he enjoyed more than to retire to a local hostelry to enjoy a pint or two and a pipe full of baccy.

Gordon was a man who loved the mountains, a true fellsman who will be sadly missed by all the members of this club who where privileged enough to have enjoyed his company.

Mick Hirst

Gordon was a popular member of the BMC back in the 70's/80's, a keen fell walker, mountaineer and active rock climber, I only met him a couple of times but those who knew him, talk of a man with a tremendous sense of humour and love of the countryside.

Some of the stories about Gordon relate to a man somewhat larger than life, and he would take centre stage in the pub with his climbing mates, I wish I'd known him better.

Sadly he left this world at the early age of 63, leaving many friends; this was reflected in the number who attended his funeral along with his grieving family. I along with Steve our Chairman and a number of BMC members went along to represent our club at this sad occasion.

Even though he hadn't been with the BMC for a number of years the club was obviously still close to his heart, as he requested no flowers at his funeral but donations to the Burnley Mountaineering Club, we have thanked his family on behalf of the club and assured them the donations will be put to good use.

Roy Hayhornthwaite